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# Approval as a pharmacist from the EU/EEA/Switzerland

Heruntergeladen am 12.06.2025

<https://fimportal.de/xzufi-services/S1000020010000012247/S100002>

Modul	Sachverhalt
Leistungsschlüssel	99150047001000
Leistungsbezeichnung I	Approval as a pharmacist from the EU/EEA/Switzerland
Leistungsbezeichnung II	Apply for a license to practice as a pharmacist from the EU/EEA/Switzerland
Typisierung	2/3 - Bund: Regelung (2 oder 3), Land/Kommune: Vollzug
Quellredaktion	Hamburg
Freigabestatus Katalog	unbestimmter Freigabestatus
Freigabestatus Bibliothek	unbestimmter Freigabestatus
Begriffe im Kontext	<div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">License to practice as a pharmacist</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">Recognition in Germany</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">foreign degree</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">medicine</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">professional recognition</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">Access to occupation</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">recognition procedure</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">Recognition in Germany</div> , <div lang="en-x-mtfrom-de">Foreign</div>

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	qualification
Leistungstyp	
Leistungsgruppierung	
Verrichtungskennung	
SDG-Informationsbereich	
Lagen Portalverbund	
Einheitlicher Ansprechpartner	Nein
Fachlich freigegeben am	
Fachlich freigegeben durch	
Handlungsgrundlage	<p>§§ 2 ff. Federal Pharmacists' Ordinance (BApO)  <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bapo/_2.html">[www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bapo/_2.html]</a>(<a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bapo/_2.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bapo/_2.html</a>)</p> <p>§§ 20 ff. Licensing Regulations for Pharmacists (AAppO)  <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aappo/_20.html">[www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aappo/_20.html]</a>(<a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aappo/_20.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aappo/_20.html</a>)</p>
Teaser	<p>Would you like to work as a pharmacist in Germany? Then you need state approval. You can also get the approbation with a foreign professional qualification. To do this, you must have your professional qualifications recognised.</p>
Volltext	<p>The profession of pharmacist is regulated in Germany. This means that in order to work as a pharmacist in Germany without restrictions, you need a license. The license is the state authorization for the profession. This means that you are not allowed to work as a pharmacist without a license.</p> <p>You can also obtain a license to practice medicine in Germany if you have a professional qualification from a country in the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.</p> <p>In order to obtain approval, you must have your foreign professional qualifications recognized.</p>

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During the recognition process, the responsible body compares your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification and checks their equivalence. The equivalence of the professional qualification is an important prerequisite for the granting of the license.

A professional qualification from the EU, EEA or Switzerland is usually automatically recognised when you apply for a licence to practice. However, there may be exceptions to this rule. This depends on the country in which you completed your training and when. If you started your vocational training after your country of training joined the EU/EEA, your professional qualification will be automatically recognised.

If your professional qualification does not come from the EU, EEA or Switzerland, different rules apply.

In addition to the equivalence of the professional qualification, you must also fulfill other requirements for the permit to be granted.

You can also apply for the procedure from abroad.

**Erforderliche Unterlagen**

The responsible authority will inform you about which documents you need to submit. Important documents are generally:

- Proof of identity (identity card or passport)
- Marriage certificate (if your name has changed due to marriage)
- CV
- Proof of training
- Evidence of the content of your training:  
List of subjects studied and hours of training you have completed
- Evidence of your relevant professional experience as a pharmacist (e.g. employment references)
- Information on whether you have already applied for a license to practice medicine in Germany
- You do not yet live or work in Germany? Then you may have to prove that you want to work in Germany in this profession. Evidence includes, for example,

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applications for a job, invitations to interviews,  
personal statements

You only need to submit the following documents if your professional qualification was completed before a certain date (deadline). The responsible authority will inform you:

- Certificate of conformity

If there is no certificate of conformity: proof of the content and duration of your training (e.g. list of subjects and grades, study book, diploma supplement, transcript of records)

- Certificate pursuant to Section 4 Paragraph 1b of the Federal Pharmacists' Ordinance that the applicant has been engaged in pharmaceutical activity for at least three years without interruption during the last five years prior to the issue of the certificate.

You usually hand in these documents later. The responsible office will inform you when you should hand in the documents:

- Proof of your personal suitability: Criminal record extract or certificate of good conduct from your country of origin. The proof must be no more than 3 months old when the application is submitted.
- Proof of your health suitability: Medical certificate. The proof must be no more than 3 months old when you submit your application.
- Proof of your German language skills: language certificate.

The prerequisite for approval is general German language skills at level B2. You can also submit the required language certificate during the approval process. You must also take a medical language test at level C1 during the approval process.

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The competent authority will inform you which documents you must submit as a simple copy, a certified copy or the original.

If your documents are not in German, you must submit German translations of your documents. The translations must be made by translators who are officially appointed or authorized.

## Voraussetzungen

- You have a professional qualification as a pharmacist from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland.
  - You want to work as a pharmacist in Germany.
  - Personal suitability: You are reliable to work as a pharmacist and have no criminal record.
  - Medical suitability: You can work as a pharmacist mentally and physically.
  - You have German language skills at the required language level. As a rule, these are general language skills at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and medical language skills at level C1.

## Kosten

The responsible authority will inform you about the costs. The costs generally depend on the effort required for processing.

Additional costs may also arise (e.g. for translations or certifications). These costs vary from individual to individual.

## Verfahrensablauf

- You submit an application for a license to practice as a pharmacist to the responsible authority. You can hand in the application with the documents to the responsible authority or send them by post. Do not send originals. Sometimes you can also send the application electronically. The responsible authority will inform you. The responsible authority will then check whether your training corresponds to the German training and whether all other requirements are met.
  - As a rule, the automatic recognition procedure applies if you began your vocational training after your training country joined the EU/EEA. This means that if

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you also meet all other requirements, your professional qualification will be recognized without an individual equivalence assessment.

- Vocational training that you began before your training country joined the EU/EEA (or that does not correspond to the legal designations) can also be automatically recognized. To do this, you must submit a certificate from the competent authority in your training country that your professional qualifications correspond to the EU's minimum standards ("certificate of conformity"). If your professional qualifications do not correspond to the minimum standards, you must provide evidence of your professional experience. You must have worked as a licensed pharmacist in your home country for 3 years without interruption in the last 5 years before submitting your application. The competent authority in your home country must confirm this to you.

- If you cannot provide a certificate of conformity or do not have enough professional experience, your training must be checked individually. The responsible body will compare your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification. The responsible body will check whether your professional qualification is equivalent. The professional qualification is equivalent if there are no significant differences between your foreign professional qualification and the German professional qualification.

- If your professional qualification is equivalent, your foreign professional qualification will be recognized. The authority can confirm the result in writing. You must still meet the other requirements and prove your language skills. You will then be granted a license to practice as a pharmacist.

- Are there significant differences between your professional qualification and the German professional qualification? Perhaps you can compensate for the differences through your professional experience, other knowledge or skills (lifelong learning). You must provide evidence of your professional experience. Knowledge and skills must be certified by an authority in the state in which you acquired the knowledge or skills.

- However, it may be that the essential differences

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cannot be compensated for by this knowledge. The responsible body will tell you the essential differences and why you cannot compensate for the essential differences through your professional experience. The decision from the responsible body will also state what level of training you have and what level is required in Germany. You will then not be allowed to work as a pharmacist in Germany.

- If your professional qualifications are not equivalent and you cannot compensate for the differences, you can take an aptitude test. The aptitude test examines the essential differences in your professional qualifications. The aptitude test is an oral examination.
- If you pass the aptitude test and meet all other requirements, you will receive your license to practice as a pharmacist.

**Bearbeitungsdauer**

Individual case dependent

**Frist**

No

**weiterführende Informationen**

<https://www.hamburg.de/go/lpa>  
<https://www.hamburg.de/landespruefungsamt/>

**Hinweise**

The licensing procedure involves checking the equivalence of your training (recognition procedure). You can apply for a separate notice of the result of the examination.

Do you only want to offer services in Germany occasionally and for a short period of time? In this case, you usually do not need a state permit. You must meet the following requirements:

- You must be established in another EU, EEA or Switzerland country.
- You must provide proof of your professional qualifications.
- You must report your activity in writing to the responsible authority.

The responsible authority will inform you.

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	<p>You can apply for a European Professional Card (EPC). You can apply online on the European Commission's website. The European Professional Card is an electronic procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications. It is only valid for EU countries and for certain professions.</p> <p>As a late repatriate, you can choose to go through the recognition process according to the laws mentioned here or according to the Federal Expellees Act. You can decide for yourself. The responsible authority will advise you on which process is right for you.</p>
Rechtsbehelf	An objection to a negative decision can be raised within one month after notification to the office specified in the letterhead.
Kurztext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work as a pharmacist in Germany you need a state license (approbation).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a license you can work as a pharmacist.</li> <li>• You can also obtain a license to practice medicine in Germany if you have a professional qualification from the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equivalence of professional qualifications is an important prerequisite for the granting of approval.</li> <li>• It is important where and when you acquired your professional qualification, because sometimes the license is automatically recognized</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ansprechpunkt	
Zuständige Stelle	Authority for Labor, Health, Social Affairs, Family and Integration
Formulare	
Ursprungsportal	Hamburg Service, Hamburg Service (Currently this link is only available in german)