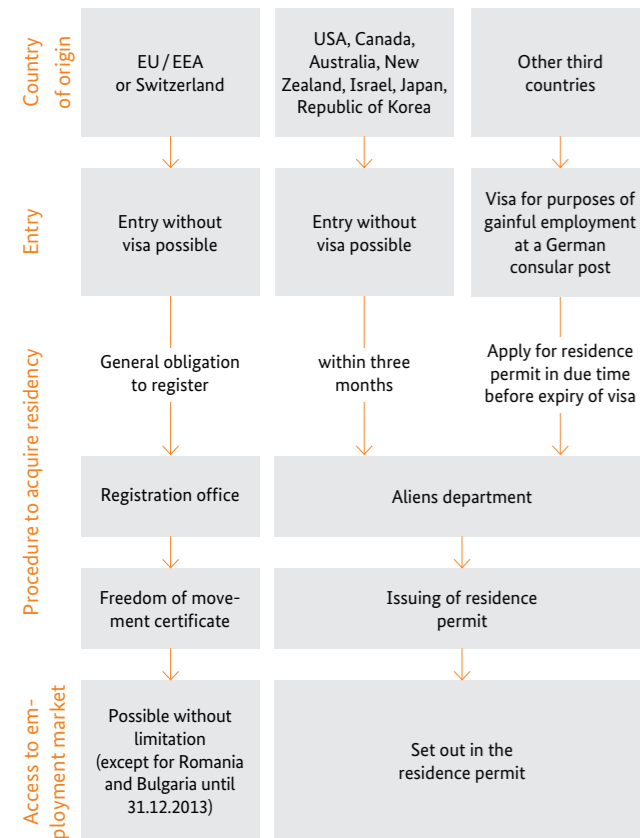




## Access to the employment market in Germany



## Entry, residence and access to the German employment market

Are you planning to move to Germany? Do you want to work in Germany?

- If you are a **citizen of a European Union (EU) state, of the European Economic Area (EEA, i.e. from Liechtenstein, Norway or Iceland) or from Switzerland**, you may enter Germany without a visa.

Due to your freedom of movement you have unlimited access to the employment market. Limited interim arrangements are only valid for Romania and Bulgaria until the end of 2013. You have to register your place of residence at the registry office within three months of entry into the country.

- If you are a **citizen of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea or the USA**, you may also enter Germany without a visa – even if you wish to stay for a longer time and work there. Within three months after entry and before starting work, you must apply for a residence permit at the aliens department in your city, for the purpose of taking up employment.

- If you are from **another country**, you must apply for a **visa** at a German consular office in your home country before entry into Germany. Information regarding which general consulate or embassy is responsible for you and which documents you require can be found at: [www.diplo.de](http://www.diplo.de). If you are already in Germany, apply for a residence permit from the aliens department responsible for your place of residence before your visa expires.

If you have a German degree, a recognised degree or a foreign degree comparable to a German degree and have not yet found a job in Germany, you may apply for a special visa that entitles you to look for work in Germany for the duration of six months. In this case it is that you are able to earn secure your livelihood for the entire period during which you are looking for work.

If you wish to work in Germany, you will additionally require a **residence permit** that expressly allows gainful employment. There are special regulations for highly qualified individuals, researchers and self-employed individuals. Since 1 August 2012 you may obtain a **“Blue EU Card”** if you have a German degree, a recognised degree or a foreign degree comparable to a German degree and earn a minimum salary.

Further information regarding entry, residence and access to the employment market can be found on the web page of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: [www.bamf.de/Aufenthalt-in-Deutschland](http://www.bamf.de/Aufenthalt-in-Deutschland) and [www.bamf.de/Arbeiten-in-Deutschland](http://www.bamf.de/Arbeiten-in-Deutschland).

## Search for Employment

Do you want to work in Germany? Perhaps you already have a job offer, or perhaps you are still looking for a job. Many companies post their job offers on online job exchanges. Apart from this the following internet addresses will be of particular interest to you:

- Job exchange of the Federal Employment Agency: [www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)
- International Placement Services (ZAV): [www.zav.de/arbeiten-in-deutschland](http://www.zav.de/arbeiten-in-deutschland)
- Portal of the Federal Government for international professionals: [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

## The family is coming too

The decision to move to Germany affects the whole family. As a citizen of the EU, the EEA or Switzerland, your spouse and your children can live and work in Germany without limitations. You do not need to apply for a special residence permit. In principle, family members from other countries require a visa for entry. Questions regarding this issue can be addressed to German consular offices or, if you are already in Germany, to the aliens department at your place of residence or the local migration advisory office.

More information on this can also be found at:

- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de); Citizens' service telephone: +49 911 943-6390; email: [info.buerger@bamf.bund.de](mailto:info.buerger@bamf.bund.de)

You and your family will be able to familiarise yourselves better with everyday life, working life and school, if you are able to speak German. Many institutes and language schools offer courses. The Federal Government also funds **language courses**: for instance intensive German courses for fast learners or profession-related language courses. For foreigners who wish to move to Germany to be with their spouses, courses are also offered in their country of origin – in some cases basic knowledge of German must be proven before entry into the country.

Further information on this may be obtained from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: [www.bamf.de/Deutschlernen](http://www.bamf.de/Deutschlernen) and from the Goethe-Institut: [www.goethe.de/Deutschlernen](http://www.goethe.de/Deutschlernen).

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# Recognition of your professional qualification in Germany

## Applying for recognition from abroad

Would you like to work in Germany in the profession you trained for? You are very welcome to do so. Germany needs well-qualified professionals. You have the possibility of having the professional qualification you obtained abroad compared with the requirements for this profession in Germany. In some professions you will require such an evaluation to be able to work in this profession at all. In other professions the recognition of your qualification will improve your chances on the employment market. You can apply for such a procedure before your entry into Germany – regardless of your citizenship and a residence permit.

However, before applying for a recognition procedure, you should find out whether you are permitted to move to Germany and work there. Initial steps regarding this are contained further on in this text.

## Why should I have my foreign professional qualification assessed?

Everyone should know what you are capable of. A comparison of the professional qualification you obtained abroad with the requirements for this qualification in Germany will be important for you, especially if you would like to practice a regulated profession in Germany.

“Regulated” means that you may not practice the profession or use the professional title without a state permit and without rec-

ognition of your professional qualification. Regulated professions in Germany include professions in the health and education sector (such as physician, nurse or educator). Apart from this, there are some professions which have special regulations if you wish to become self-employed (such as a baker or a hairdresser).

In non-regulated professions (such as industrial clerk, mechanic or electrician) on the other hand, you will need no formal recognition of your qualification to practice your profession. In these cases you may apply for a position provided on the employment market without an evaluation of your qualifications. An assessment of your qualifications still makes sense, however, in order to provide employer and companies with a better estimate of your skills and knowledge.

## How does the process work?

On application, your foreign professional qualification is compared with a German qualification. In order to apply, you need to contact the office responsible for your professional group. Information about the offices responsible for the individual groups is available on the Internet ([www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de)) or call (+49 30-1815-1111).

As a first step, you need to decide which specific German professional qualification you would like your qualification compared with. The responsible office will gladly assist you.

Once you have submitted your documentation, it is checked whether any significant differences exist between the qualifica-

tion obtained abroad and the German qualification. Should this be the case, it is checked whether the differences can be compensated by additional certificates or work experience. Should your documentation not be comprehensive enough to evaluate your professional qualification, a qualification analysis, e.g. by the means of work samples or specialist interviews can be performed.

## What results are possible?

If no important differences are determined between your qualification and the German one, the full equivalence of your professional qualification will be certified for you or – if you also fulfil the other requirements – your professional license will be issued. You will thus be able to practice your profession in the same way as you would with a German professional qualification.

Should significant differences between your qualification and the German professional qualification be determined in the process, for non-regulated professions, you will receive notification which explains the differences in detail. You can then apply directly to employers or obtain further individually appropriate training. In the regulated professions, you can compensate for the differences. Depending on the profession, you will have to participate in an adaptation course or undergo a specialist examination.

## How long does the process take?

If all documents are complete the process should not take longer than 3 months.

## How much does the process cost?

The fees are determined by the relevant responsible office. Please find out about the costs prior to submitting and application.

## What documents do I need?

- Application (forms can be obtained from the relevant authority)
- Tabular overview of training and previous work (in German language)
- Proof of identity (identity card or passport)
- Proof of qualification obtained abroad
- Proof of relevant work experience and advanced training
- Declaration that no previous application for equivalence evaluation has been made
- Proof that you intend to work in Germany (not applicable to citizens of the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland as well as residents of these countries)

For regulated professions you will partly require further documentation to obtain a professional license. Find out which documentation, beforehand, from the relevant office.

**Important:** As a rule, all documents must be submitted in German translation and as certified copies. Please find out in advance if you need to order a translation from an officially appointed interpreter or translator.

## Do I have to speak German?

If you want to work in Germany, it is important to know the German language. Knowledge of the language may be required, if it is necessary for practicing the profession. This applies in particular to some of the regulated professions, such as physicians, teachers or specialised health professions. Applicants will only receive licenses for these professions if they have the necessary knowledge of German.

Information regarding language courses is contained in the following paragraphs.

## Where can I obtain information?

How information on the recognition procedure itself, on whether your profession is regulated in Germany, what laws regulate it and which office you are required to go to, to have your qualifications assessed, can be found on the internet. This information and an advisory office in your region can be found in German and English at: [www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de).

Initial information can be obtained by telephone in German and English at the hotline for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees on: +49 30 1815-1111.

