



My  
qualification  
counts!



# Recognition of foreign professional qualifications

# The route to recognition of your professional qualification

1



## Finding reference occupation & getting advice

Search for your profession in the Recognition Finder: [www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/en/finder](http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/en/finder) (in English and German). Here you will find out about German professions and can select your reference occupation. You will discover whether recognition is essential for working in your profession. Or whether you can work in Germany without recognition. Voluntary recognition can also be of advantage for you in your professional future. The Recognition Finder will also provide you with contact details of counselling centres and the competent authority responsible for your application.

**Communication with the competent authority is generally in German.** However, advisory centers often provide guidance in various languages.

**Tip:** Please seek advice before you apply for recognition. Guidance also helps if you cannot find your profession in the Recognition Finder. You will also receive important information about financial support for recognition.



**“Thanks to recognition, I’m now able to work in my dream job in Germany.”**

Olga Gotjur,  
teacher from Ukraine

## The competent authority will evaluate your documents

The competent authority processes your application. You will receive a notification after one month at the latest. This either states that the competent authority has received all the documents, or that you need to submit further documents.

The competent authority compares your professional qualification with the German reference occupation. When doing so, it takes into account your professional experience and other qualifications.

3



2



### Applying

To apply, you must have obtained a professional qualification. This may be completed vocational education and training or a completed degree. You must submit your application for recognition to the competent authority responsible for you. The recognition finder provides information about about the necessary documents.

The cost of recognition differs depending on the profession and the federal state. Generally speaking, recognition costs between €200 and €600. The competent authority will inform you of the exact costs.



**“The company  
is like a small  
family.”**

Tarek Khouli,  
industrial mechanic  
from Syria

4



## Receiving your recognition notice

The recognition procedure normally takes three to four months. You then receive your recognition notice. **Full recognition** means your qualification is fully equivalent to the German qualification.

The outcome in your notice states **no recognition** or **partial recognition**? You may also be able to work without full recognition in your profession. In many cases, you can also complete additional training in Germany. The competent authority will advise you on your options.

5



## Off to work

At [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com) you can find out all about living and working in Germany.

[anerkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://anerkennung-in-deutschland.de)

Information portal of the German government  
for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications.

Lidia Skurat (38) from Russia works as a registered general nurse in North Rhine-Westphalia.

**“With professional recognition, a new chapter in my life started in Germany.”**



Want to find out more about Lidia’s route to recognition? Read her and other stories in various languages at

[www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/en](http://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/en).

## **Working in Germany – what’s involved?**

Do you want to work in Germany in the occupation for which you gained a professional qualification in your home country? Find out about the conditions under which you are permitted to work in Germany at [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com). There are tips on looking for jobs and job listings available as well. You can apply for recognition without a firm job offer. This is also possible from abroad.

Find out about recognition and take advantage of the free guidance services!

[www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/counselling](http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/counselling)

Do you have any questions about recognition and other issues relating to your immigration? The hotline “Working and Living in Germany” is also happy to answer your questions by phone: **+49 30 1815-1111**.



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry of Education and Research

PUBLISHED BY



Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training

IN COOPERATION WITH



Network  
Integration through Qualification



Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training  
Portal “Anererkennung in Deutschland”  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 114 – 116  
53113 Bonn  
Germany  
[anererkennungsportal@bibb.de](mailto:anererkennungsportal@bibb.de)

As of: November 2023

Photos: Robert Funke/BIBB, Anerkennung in Deutschland,  
Cover: BIBB, Anerkennung in Deutschland