



Informations for the
Professional Recognition
for Doctors / Physicians
in Germany

1 Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Doctors

If you completed your medical studies at a European university, your degree will be recognised in Germany, and you will not need a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis). Instead, you can apply for full medical licensure (Approbation).

However, if you obtained your medical degree outside Europe, in what is known as a third country, additional steps are required for your qualification to be recognized. You will need to obtain a temporary medical license (Berufserlaubnis) and eventually the full Approbation, which will allow you to practice medicine without restrictions in Germany and other European countries.

1. Visa for the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications

You must apply for a visa in your home country specifically for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications. This visa allows you to travel to Germany to apply for the recognition of your foreign qualification and, if necessary, to undertake any required adaptation or qualification measures. The visa is usually granted for a period of up to 18 months, although it can be extended under certain circumstances.

Application Submission

The visa application must be submitted in person at the [German embassy or consulate](#) in your home country or the country where you are currently residing. The specific requirements vary depending on the country, but typically, you will need the following documents:

- Valid Passport
- Application for a National Visa
- Proof of professional qualification (e.g. university degree, diploma)
- Letter from the recognition authority (confirming that you are seeking recognition)
- Proof of financial means (e.g. declaration of commitment, blocked account)
- Health insurance for the duration of your stay
- Proof of residence (e.g. rental agreement in Germany)
- Proof of language certificate (B2 level)

What increases the chances of obtaining a visa for the recognition of professional qualifications?

- **Language Proficiency B2:** The first step is to provide proof of sufficient German language skills. Generally, a language certificate at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is required.
- **Preliminary Decision:** This letter from the relevant recognition authority is a crucial part of the visa application for the recognition of your medical qualification in Germany. It indicates that you intend to go through the recognition process in Germany and informs the German embassy that your documents have already been reviewed or that you need to complete specific adaptation measures (such as language courses, the medical language test, or the knowledge test).
- **Offer of an observership placement:** in a German hospital in the federal state of your choice.
- **Registration for the C1 Medical Language Test:** This not only improves your chances of obtaining the visa but also increases the likelihood of securing an observership placement.

Here you can have your intention to seek recognition confirmed:

- [Landesärztekammer Baden-Württemberg](#)
- [Bayerische Landesärztekammer \(BLÄK\)](#)
- [Ärztekammer Berlin](#)
- [Landesärztekammer Brandenburg](#)
- [Ärztekammer Bremen](#)
- [Ärztekammer Hamburg](#)
- [Landesärztekammer Hessen](#)
- [Ärztekammer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)
- [Ärztekammer Niedersachsen](#)
- [Ärztekammer Nordrhein](#)
- [Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe](#)
- [Landesärztekammer Rheinland-Pfalz](#)
- [Ärztekammer des Saarlandes](#)
- [Sächsische Landesärztekammer](#)

- [Ärzttekammer Sachsen-Anhalt](#)
- [Ärzttekammer Schleswig-Holstein](#)
- [Landesärztekammer Thüringen](#)

2. C1 Medical Language Test (Fachsprachenprüfung C1 Medizin)

The C1 Medical Language Test - Fachsprachenprüfung C1 Medizin - is a specialised language exam for foreign doctors who wish to work in Germany and is a key part of the recognition process. Passing the C1 Medical Language Test is a mandatory requirement for obtaining a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) or full licensure (Approbation). Without this certification, you cannot work as a doctor in Germany.

Purpose of the Exam

The purpose of the exam is to assess your language proficiency in the medical field at a C1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). It is a prerequisite for obtaining a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) or full licensure (Approbation) to practise as a doctor in Germany. The exam ensures that you possess the necessary language skills to communicate effectively in everyday medical practice. The focus is particularly on medical terminology and your ability to interact efficiently with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare professionals.

Exam Requirements

To participate in the C1 Medical Language Test, you must provide a German language certificate at the B2 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – CEFR), prove that you have completed your medical studies, and submit the relevant certificates. These certificates must be certified and translated into German if they are not originally in the German language. Generally, you should already have applied for the recognition of your foreign medical qualifications with the relevant State Medical Association or health authority.

Exam Content

The C1 Medical Language Test consists of three main sections:

- **Doctor-Patient Conversation:** In this section, you will conduct a patient interview to take their medical history. The goal is to assess how well you can gather the patient's history and understand their symptoms.

- **Documentation:** You will be required to document the doctor-patient conversation in writing, including the patient's medical history and examination results. This mirrors the written reports you will be expected to produce regularly in clinical practice.
- **Professional Discussion with Colleagues:** In this part, you will engage in a professional conversation with a colleague. You will need to demonstrate your ability to explain medical matters clearly and accurately and to communicate information about a case effectively.

Preparation Recommendations:

- Take specialised language courses that focus on medical terminology and simulate the structure of the exam.
- Regularly practise conducting patient history interviews in German to become more confident in interacting with patients.
- Learn how to write medical reports and patient histories, as this is a key component of the exam.
- Practise discussions with colleagues to expand your medical vocabulary and improve your ability to express yourself clearly in professional settings.

The C1 Medical Language Test is an essential step on your path to recognition in Germany. With thorough preparation, you can ensure that you meet the language requirements of the German healthcare system. In some federal states, it is possible to obtain a temporary medical licence without passing the C1 Medical Language Test, but this is granted only on a provisional basis and is subject to certain conditions. During the period of the temporary licence, you will have the opportunity to complete the C1 Medical Language Test.

Exam Institutions and Costs

The C1 Medical Language Test is typically offered by the State Medical Associations (Landesärztekammern) or state health authorities. Additionally, institutions such as the Goethe-Institut or TELC also offer recognised C1 Medical Language Exams.

The exam fees vary depending on the location and federal state, generally ranging between 300 and 600 euros.

Here you can take the C1 Medical Language Test:

(Fees provided without guarantee)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Fachsprachenprüfung Baden-Württemberg | • 420 € |
| • Fachsprachenprüfung Bayern 1 | • 550 € |
| • FaMed Fachsprachenprüfung Bayern 2 | • 490 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Berlin | • 420 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Brandenburg | • 487 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Bremen | • 530 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Hamburg | • 550 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Hessen | • 650 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | • 600 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Niedersachsen | • 490 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Nordrhein | • 350 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Westfalen-Lippe | • 400 € |
| • FaMed Fachsprachenprüfung Rheinland-Pfalz | • 490 € |
| • Berufsanerkennung Saarland | • 380 € (über Berami) |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Sachsen | • 425 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Sachsen-Anhalt | • 430 € |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Schleswig-Holstein | • keine Angabe |
| • Fachsprachprüfung Thüringen | • 500 € |

2.1 Patient Communication Test

The Patient Communication Test is an important part of the recognition process for foreign doctors in some federal states of Germany. It assesses your ability to communicate effectively with patients in a clinical setting.

Purpose of the Patient Communication Test

The test ensures that, as a doctor, you are capable of conveying medical information clearly, accurately, and in an understandable manner to patients, while also addressing their needs. In addition to medical expertise, the focus is on how well you explain medical issues and respond to patients' questions and concerns.

Where is the test required?

The Patient Communication Test is currently mandatory in Bavaria, Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saxony. Other federal states have either integrated the test into the C1 Medical Language Test or do not require it separately.

Tests Content

- **Doctor-Patient Conversation:** In this part, you will simulate a conversation with a patient, where you take their medical history, explain examinations, and clearly communicate the diagnosis and treatment plan.
- **Empathy:** Your ability to respond to the patient's emotions and concerns, as well as how clearly you answer their questions, will be assessed.
- **Explanation and Consultation:** You will need to inform patients about medical procedures or treatment plans and ensure that they understand your explanations.

Costs

The exam fees vary depending on the federal state and the institution conducting the test, but they typically range between 150 and 500 euros.

Preparation

- Regularly practise doctor-patient conversations, focusing especially on your ability to explain medical terminology in simple, understandable language.
- Work on your empathy skills to effectively address the emotional and practical needs of patients.

3. Hospitation (Internship)

A medical observership is an important part of the recognition process. Securing a placement for an observership significantly increases your chances of obtaining a visa, alongside the recognition letter for your intent to pursue professional accreditation. Physicians from many countries compete to secure a placement in advance, making the demand for observership positions very high. Most hospitals, however, require strong language skills, registration for the Fachsprachenprüfung (C1 Medical Language Test), and proof of an already submitted application for professional licensure.

To help you present yourself professionally and become more visible to employers, we offer you a personal profile in the MedicalTalentPool. This profile stores all your relevant qualifications. Employers with access to the MedicalTalentPool can view your anonymised profile and send you a contact request, which you can choose to respond to if it suits you. There is no obligation to reply, and your personal data and identity remain protected at all times.

Purpose of the Observership

- **Hands-on Experience:** An observership allows foreign doctors to gain practical insights into the daily work routine of a German hospital or clinic. You will learn about workflows, medical procedures, and patient care in Germany.
- **Recognition of Skills:** Through the observership, employers can better assess your skills and knowledge, increasing your chances of securing a permanent position.
- **Language and Integration:** You can improve your German proficiency, particularly in medical terminology, and familiarise yourself with the demands of patient communication in Germany.

Duration of the Observership

Die Dauer einer Hospitation variiert je nach Arbeitgeber und Zweck. In der Regel beträgt sie **ein bis zwei Wochen**. Es können aber auch Hospitationen über mehrere Monate angeboten werden, besonders wenn sie Teil eines strukturierten Anerkennungsverfahrens sind.

Compensation

Since an observership is often considered a training or observational measure, it is generally unpaid. However, in some cases, you may receive a small stipend, or at least the costs for meals and accommodation may be covered. This depends largely on the employer and should be clarified in advance.

Accommodation

Accommodation is often arranged by the hospitals. For short-term observerships, some facilities offer rooms in staff residences or partner hotels. For longer stays, a room or apartment in a residence hall may sometimes be provided. It is important to discuss this with the clinic in advance to ensure you have suitable accommodation.

Additional Benefits

An observership can also help you establish valuable contacts and build a network within the German healthcare system. This can be beneficial not only for securing a permanent position but also for your long-term professional development in Germany.

4. Knowledge Test (Kenntnisprüfung)

The medical Knowledge Test is a crucial part of the recognition process for doctors who completed their medical education outside the European Union and wish to work as a doctor in Germany. This exam is designed to assess whether the medical knowledge and skills acquired abroad are equivalent to those of a doctor trained in Germany.

Purpose of the Kenntnisprüfung

The purpose of the Knowledge Test is to ensure that foreign-trained doctors possess medical knowledge and skills equivalent to those of doctors trained in Germany. It evaluates whether the applicant can safely and effectively practise medicine according to German standards. Passing this exam is a key requirement for obtaining full licensure (Approbation) to work as a doctor in Germany.

Importance for Licensure (Approbation)

Passing the Knowledge Test is often the final hurdle for obtaining the Approbation. Without the Approbation, you cannot work as a fully licensed doctor in Germany without restrictions.

Exam Requirements

To be eligible for the Knowledge Test, you must generally have already passed the C1 Medical Language Test and submitted an application for licensure (Approbation) or a temporary medical

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licence (Berufserlaubnis). You must also have provided all relevant documents, such as certificates and proof of training, to the appropriate authorities.

Content of the Knowledge Test

The exam consists of a written part and an oral-practical component.

- **Specialisations:** The exam typically covers Internal Medicine, Surgery, and sometimes other areas such as Anaesthesiology, Pediatrics, or Emergency Medicine.
- **Practical Exam:** You will often be required to diagnose and treat medical cases in a simulated or real-life situation. Both your theoretical knowledge and practical competence will be assessed.
- **Doctor-Patient Communication:** Your communication skills with patients will also be evaluated during the practical part of the exam.

Duration and Retakes

The Knowledge Test can be retaken if not passed on the first attempt, depending on the federal state and individual circumstances. However, the number of retakes is usually limited.

Preparation Recommendations

- **Preparation Courses:** Enrol in specialised preparation courses that help you prepare for both the theoretical and practical aspects of the Knowledge Test.
- **Self-Study:** In addition to courses, you should dedicate time to thoroughly studying the medical fields covered in the exam.
-

There are specialised preparation courses for the Knowledge Test that focus on the relevant medical fields. Independent preparation through studying medical literature and understanding German treatment standards is also essential. Here are some well-known providers that offer preparation courses for the medical Knowledge Test in Germany:

Here you can find preparation courses for the Knowledge Test:

- **[Freiburg International Academy gGmbH](#)**

Courses on-site: Baden-Württemberg: Freiburg im Breisgau, Heidelberg

Bayern: Landshut

Hessen: Frankfurt am Main

Niedersachsen: Hannover

Nordrhein-Westfalen: Essen

Courses online: yes

- **[Alpha Aktiv Private Bildungsinstitut](#)**

Courses on-site: Baden-Württemberg: Heidelberg

Courses online: yes

- **[Lingoda GmbH & AMBOSS GmbH](#)**

Courses on-site: no

Onlinekurse: yes, exclusively

- **[Thieme - via medici](#)**

Courses on-site: no

Courses online: yes, exclusively

- **[mibeg-Institute](#)**

Courses on-site: Nordrhein-Westfalen: Köln

Courses online: yes

- **[EZplus GmbH](#)**

Courses on-site: Baden-Württemberg: Stuttgart

Courses online: yes

Costs

The costs for the Knowledge Test vary depending on the federal state and typically range between 400 and 1,000 euros. (See table for details)

Here you can take the Knowledge Test:

(Fees provided without guarantee)

Regierungspräsidium Baden-Württemberg	800 €
Regierung Oberbayern	ca. 520 €
Serviceportal Berlin (PDF Download)	540 €
Landesärztekammer Brandenburg	799 €
Ärztekammer Bremen	730 €
Ärztekammer Hamburg	750 €
Ärztekammer Hessen	1.150 €
Ärztekammer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	700 €
Ärztekammer Niedersachsen	830 €
Ärztekammer -Westfalen-Lippe	1.050 €
Landesamt für Soziales Rheinland-Pfalz	1.100 €
Landesamt für Soziales Saarland	500 €
Landesprüfungsamt Sachsen	500 €
Bürgerservice Sachsen-Anhalt	771 €
Ärztekammer Schleswig-Holstein	400 €
Landesverwaltungsamt Thüringen	ca 300 € - 400 €

5. Temporary Medical Licence (Berufserlaubnis)

Once you have passed the C1 Medical Language Test, you can apply for a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) for a specific federal state. Typically, it is the state where you completed your observership. Holding a temporary medical licence means you will receive a salary corresponding to your professional status as a doctor in Germany (see also blog post on salary structures).

Duration and Scope

The temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) for doctors in Germany is usually granted for a limited period and subject to specific conditions. The duration depends on the federal state and individual circumstances, but it is typically issued for a period of two years. The licence is often restricted to a particular hospital or institution where you are allowed to work as a doctor. It gives

you the opportunity to practise medicine in Germany while you continue working towards meeting the necessary requirements for full licensure (Approbation). Under certain circumstances, such as delays in exams or in the recognition of foreign qualifications, the temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) can be extended. The specific regulations vary by federal state. The relevant State Medical Association (Landesärztekammer) or the respective health authority provides detailed information on this matter.

Application Process

The application for a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) is submitted to the relevant state authority responsible for the location where you wish to work. The temporary medical licence for doctors in Germany is typically applied for through the respective state authorities, which are usually the Regional Government Offices (Regierungspräsidien) or State Health Offices (Landesgesundheitsämter).

Here you can apply for the temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis):

- [Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart](#)
- [Regierung von Oberbayern \(für ganz Bayern zuständig\)](#)
- [Landesamt für Gesundheit \(LAGeSo\) Berlin](#)
- [Landesamt für Gesundheit Brandenburg](#)
- [Gesundheitsamt Bremen](#)
- [Hamburger Behörde für Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz](#)
- [Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt Hessen](#)
- [Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)
- [Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Familie](#)
- [Bezirksregierung Arnsberg Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)
- [Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)
- [Bezirksregierung Köln Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)
- [Bezirksregierung Münster Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)
- [Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Versorgung Rheinland-Pfalz](#)
- [Ministerium für Soziales und Gesundheit Saarland](#)
- [Landesdirektion Sachsen](#)

- [Landesverwaltungsamt Sachsen-Anhalt](#)
- [Landesamt für soziale Dienste Schleswig-Holstein](#)
- [Thüringer Landesverwaltungsamt](#)

If you are not offered a position, we can provide you with new job opportunities for the duration of your temporary medical licence and within the federal state where it is valid. [Apply Now](#)

Documents

For the application for a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis), you will generally need to submit the following documents: Proof of completion of medical studies

- Proof of language proficiency (at least B2, often C1 Medical)
- Identification document (passport)
- CV (curriculum vitae)
- Medical certificate of fitness
- Police clearance certificate (within Germany)
- Employment contract or a job offer (in some cases)

Changing Federal States During the Validity of the Temporary Medical Licence

If you plan to move to a new federal state, contact the health authority or medical association of the new state and apply for a new temporary medical licence. You will usually need to provide the same documents as for your previous licence application, such as degree certificates or language proficiency certificates. Complete the application with a statement from your new employer in the new federal state confirming their intention to hire you, along with a copy of your current temporary medical licence from the previous state.

During the transition to a new federal state, your existing temporary medical licence typically remains valid until its expiration date, but only within the state where it was issued. You are not permitted to work in the new state without obtaining a new temporary medical licence.

The requirements for the licence may vary slightly from state to state. You might need to meet additional requirements, such as language exams or adaptation courses, in the new state. Make sure to inform yourself early about the specific regulations in the state to which you are moving.

6. Licensure (Approbation)

The Approbation is the unrestricted licence to practise as a doctor in Germany. If you wish to apply for the Approbation, there are several key steps, requirements, and deadlines to consider. Here is an overview of the registration process, the necessary documents, the costs, and the processing time:

Application Process

The application for the Approbation is submitted to the relevant state authority responsible for the location where you intend to work. The licensing authorities are typically located within the Regional Government Offices (Regierungspräsidien), Health Offices (Gesundheitsämter), or State Medical Associations (Landesärztekammern). The specific authority in charge depends on the federal state in which you are applying.

Here you can submit your application for the Approbation:

(Fees provided without guarantee)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart | • 300 € |
| • Regierung von Oberbayern (ganz Bayern) | • 200 € |
| • Landesamt für Gesundheit (LAGeSo) Berlin | • 192 € - 271 € |
| • Landesamt für Gesundheit Brandenburg | • 176 € - 726 € |
| • Gesundheitsamt Bremen | • no specific information |
| • Hamburger Behörde für Gesundheit | • 170 € - 340 € |
| • Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt Hessen | • 180 € |
| • Landesamt für Gesundheit Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | • no specific information |
| • Niedersächsisches Landesamt | • 100 € - 600 € |
| • Bezirksregierung Arnsberg NRW | • 150€ - 1.000 € |
| • Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf NRW | • 150€ - 1.000 € |
| • Bezirksregierung Köln NRW | • 150€ - 1.000 € |
| • Bezirksregierung Münster NRW | • 150€ - 1.000 € |
| • Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz | • no specific information |
| • Ministerium für Gesundheit Saarland | • 200 € |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Landesdirektion Sachsen | • 145 € |
| • Landesverwaltungsamt Sachsen-Anhalt | • 150 € - 250 € |
| • Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein | • 130 € |
| • Thüringer Landesverwaltungsamt | • no specific information |

Documents

To apply for the Approbation, you will generally need to submit the following documents:

- Application form: The official application form provided by the relevant state authority.
- Degree certificates: A copy of your medical degree (with certified translations if necessary).
- Proof of eligibility for licensure: For EU doctors, proof of licensure in your home country. For doctors from third countries, a certificate confirming that your training qualifies you to practise medicine in your home country.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV): A tabular CV detailing your professional background.
- Language certificates: Proof of sufficient German language skills at the C1 level (general language exam) and a passed C1 Medical Language Test.
- Birth certificate or passport copy: For identification purposes.
- Police clearance certificate: A recent police clearance certificate, no older than 3 months.
- Medical certificate: A doctor's statement confirming that you are physically and mentally fit to practise medicine.
- Proof of work experience: If applicable, evidence of any previous professional experience in the medical field.
- Certified translations: All documents not issued in German must be submitted with certified translations.

The exact requirements may vary slightly from state to state. Therefore, you should check with the relevant authority to confirm if any additional documents are required.

Costs

The fees for the Approbation vary depending on the federal state, but generally range between 100 and 1,000 euros (see table). These fees cover the processing of the application and the

issuance of the Approbation certificate. Additionally, there may be costs for translations, certifications, and possibly further examinations.

Timeframe for issuing the Approbation

The processing time for the issuance of the Approbation depends on various factors, including the completeness of your documents and the workload of the responsible authority. Typically, the process takes between 2 and 6 months. However, it can take longer, especially if additional evidence or examinations are required. In some cases, you may be granted a temporary medical licence (Berufserlaubnis) while waiting for the Approbation, allowing you to work in a medical setting. It is advisable to start the process early, as the recognition of foreign qualifications can be time-consuming.

Do you have further questions? Please contact us:

- via application form: <https://www.medicaltopjobs.de/en/applynow>
- via email: bewerbung@medical-onboarding.de
- via whatsapp: +49 179 3287315
- Please watch also our tutorials for professional recognition on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MedicalTalentNetwork>

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