



# Recognition of Physiotherapists from foreign countries in Germany

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## Legal situation

### For physiotherapists within European Union:

Based on the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, last amended through Directive 2013/55/EU, equality of diplomas is assumed within Europe for citizens of EU and EEA countries and Switzerland. Your Physiotherapy diploma therefore is officially recognized in Germany, but the German authorities have the right to assess cases separately and to impose an adjustment period or an aptitude test. A language test (B2 level) may be demanded.

### For Physiotherapists from outside European Countries:

The law "Gesetz zur Verbesserung der Feststellung und Anerkennung im Ausland erworbener Berufsqualifikationen" came into force 1.4.2012. It gives the legal claim to the applicant for an application procedure.

The assessment of the equality of both diplomas and review of your credentials is carried out by the relevant authority in your future residential district. The relevant authority has to decide within 3-4 months after receiving all application documents. Applicants will receive the legally protected title "physiotherapist" in Germany, if their diplomas in physiotherapy have been proven to be equivalent to German Physiotherapy diplomas. Germany assesses each case separately. If equality of the diplomas is not given and relevant differences were decided the applicant will have a legal



claim for adjustment measures (choice for course of studies, which will be tested with respect to success) or examination of knowledge.

In those cases with differences between the homeland-diploma and the German qualification the professional experience has to be respected.

Application may **only be filed once**. Therefore the applicant must submit a declaration that no application has been sent to another relevant authority. The applicant must demonstrate good knowledge of written and spoken German (B2 level). The equality of diplomas will be tested through criteria such as:

Entrance criteria and duration of the physiotherapy education, subjects and hours, aims of the PT education including possibilities for clinical practice, contents of the practical education and relation of practice to theory, and the type of examination carried out.

## How to get a licence?

If you plan to work in Germany you need to apply for recognition of your Physiotherapy Diploma at the public authority in charge of recognition at your future place of residence. You will find the relevant addresses of authorities of administrative districts in Germany in this database: [Anerkennung und Bewertung ausländischer Bildungsnachweise ANABIN](#)

### Which certificates and knowledge do you normally have to provide?

- ▶ Diploma (translated and notarized)
- ▶ Training and examination order with content and hours
- ▶ Complete academic transcript of your physiotherapy qualifications from your educational institution, to include the subjects taken, hours spent, maybe marks obtained (syllabus)
- ▶ Curriculum Vitae (C. V.), in point form, including reference to your education
- ▶ Post qualification experience in Physiotherapy, if proven
- ▶ Birth certificate and marriage certificate if applicable
- ▶ Knowledge of the German language, written and spoken, certificate of B2 niveau demanded (please ask e.g. Goetheinstitut for language course including exam)
- ▶ Confirmation that no other application for recognition is given at another time or authority
- ▶ Visa, if required: If you are from outside an European Country, please inform at the beginning about visum, Aufenthaltstitel and Access to the German Labour market Please ask the respective public authority at your future place of residence about your Visa (information available at the German Embassy in your country), work and residential permit. With recognition as a "Physiotherapist" and (if necessary a work and residence permit) you are permitted to work in Germany.



## Important Links

Here you will find all the important addresses on an overview page. Texts marked in blue contain a link that takes you directly to the corresponding website. For important information on working and living in Germany please check:

- ▶ Federal Foreign Office - [Information about Germany](#)
- ▶ The Federal Government - [Make it in Germany](#)
- ▶ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees - [Putting people first](#)

Check your job opportunities and work permits in Germany on the following pages:

- ▶ Bundesagentur für Arbeit - [Virtual Welcome Center](#)
- ▶ Bundesagentur für Arbeit - [Arrive App](#)
- ▶ Federal Ministry of Education and Research - [Central Service Agency](#)
- ▶ Federal Ministry of Education and Research - [Recognition in Germany](#)

You can find the migration advice centers of the federal states here:

- ▶ IQ-Netzwerk - [Integration through qualification](#)

The following authorities accept applications for professional recognition as physiotherapists in Germany:

- ▶ Database [Anerkennungs- und Beratungsstellen in Deutschland \(ANABIN\)](#)
- ▶ European Union - [European Professional Card](#) (only for applicants from Europe)

Information about language courses and certifications can be obtained from:

- ▶ Goethe-Institut - [German Exams](#)

For academic recognition (not for working permission) of academic foreign diplomas in Germany please ask:

- ▶ Kultusminister Konferenz - [Central Service Agency for foreign students](#)

We hope this information is helpful for you and wish you the best of luck. We would like to encourage you to become a member of one of our regional Physiotherapy organisations as soon as you begin working in Germany. Membership in a regional Physiotherapy association will allow you to access the professional support and information that our umbrella association, the Deutscher Verband für Physiotherapie (ZVK) e.V. provides.

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