

Working in a profession

For regulated professions, your professional qualifications must be recognised before you may practice the profession or use the job title. Without this recognition, in Germany, you are not permitted to practice the profession which you have a foreign qualification for. Some examples of regulated professions in Germany are: Physician, nurse, lawyer, teacher, educator and engineer.

In Germany, **unregulated professions** include everything known as “vocational training professions” (Ausbildungsberufe) – professions which are taught through a dual practical/theoretical system. For these unregulated professions, you are not required to have a recognition in order to practice the profession. You can immediately apply for jobs in these fields and start working. However, an evaluation of your school-leaving degree can help employers and companies understand your foreign qualifications. Furthermore, a degree that is recognised as equivalent to a German one makes it easier to attend professional development courses.

A special aspect of academia: If you want to practice the profession and have a foreign university degree that does not lead to a regulated profession (e.g. mathematician, economist, journalist), no recognition is required. However, it is possible to receive an individual assessment of your qualification from the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen – ZAB). If the person intends to start a degree programme at a German university or have a foreign academic or exam achievement recognised in Germany (“academic recognition”), they should contact the university they are planning to attend.

Counselling about the recognition process: See “List of addresses for employment and language-course providers”