LANDESAPOTHEKERKAMMER
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Recognition process of foreign educational qualifications

Information for pharmacists with foreign educational qualifications

In order to work as a pharmacist in Germany, in addition to a residence permit for the purpose of gainful employment, a licence (Approbation) or permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) and an application to the state pharmacists chamber of Baden-Württemberg is required.

Other conditions apply for student and research activities. Details should be discussed in advance at the home university or the local academic exchange service. Universities in Baden-Württemberg can also offer assistance. Further information is available on the respective university websites:

University Heidelberg: www.uni-heidelberg.de
University Tübingen: www.uni-tuebingen.de
University Freiburg: www.uni-freiburg.de

Authorities responsible for issuing a licence (Approbation) or permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis):

All those who plan to work as pharmacists in Baden-Württemberg with foreign educational qualifications must contact the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart, Referat 95. There you will receive the application for permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) or licence (Approbation).

Ruppmannstr. 21
70565 Stuttgart
Germany
Internet: https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/themen/bildung/ausbildung/seiten/auslaendische-abschluesse-akad/

Contact person: Andreas Fitzel
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Permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis):

According to the regulations of the Federal Pharmacists Ordinance (Bundes-Apothekerordnung), an application for a permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) can be issued if completed training for the profession of pharmacist can be proven.
The permit may be restricted to certain tasks and areas of work (as a rule, limited to a non-independent and non-managerial activity in public pharmacies in Baden-Württemberg in a professionally dependent position). Thus, the profession of pharmacist may only be practiced under the supervision of licensed pharmacists. The permission may only be issued once, is revocable and limited in time up to a maximum total duration of two years.

The “Application for permission to practice as a pharmacist” must be submitted to the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart. The requirements for obtaining a permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) and the documents which must be submitted with the application can be found in the application form. The application form is also available for download as a PDF file on the website of the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart: https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/themen/bildung/ausbildung/seiten/auslaendische-abschluesse-akad/

Licence (Approbation)

The granting of a German licence (Approbation) to practice as a pharmacist is possible through application to the Regierungspräsidium. The German licence (Approbation) is not linked to German citizenship.

The requirements for obtaining a licence (Approbation) and the documents which must be submitted with the application can be found in the application form.

The application form is also available for download as a PDF file on the website of the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart: https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/themen/bildung/ausbildung/seiten/auslaendische-abschluesse-akad/

Training in the EU or in EEA states and Switzerland

Anyone who can provide evidence of pharmaceutical training in another EU/EEA state or Switzerland will be granted a licence (Approbation) in Germany if

- the diploma is mentioned by name in the Federal Pharmacists Ordinance or is equivalent by means of a certificate of equivalence and
- the training was started after a differently set key date *.
  In the case of training before this cut-off date, either proof of fulfilment of the minimum requirements under EU law for the training (certificate of conformity) or a certificate of at least three years of uninterrupted pharmaceutical activity during the last five years (proof of activity) is required.

  *The Annex to § 4, section 1a, sentence 1 of the Federal Pharmacists Ordinance applies.

Training in third countries (not EU or EEA countries or Switzerland)

Anyone who can provide evidence of pharmaceutical training in a third country shall be granted a licence (Approbation) after providing evidence

- of an equivalent level of training
- or an equivalent level of knowledge by passing an examination

If an application is made for a licence (Approbation), the applicant's training is compared with the German training. For this purpose, an expert opinion is usually prepared by the Baden-Württemberg State Chamber of Pharmacists (Landesapothekerkammer Baden-Württemberg – LAK BW). Conclusive official evidence of the education completed abroad (certificate, subject areas, content and scope of the subjects taught in the course of study as well as practical training) must be submitted with the application. The official certificates may be issued by the university or the applicable health authority. They must be as detailed as possible (e.g., include a curriculum, syllabus, ...) and be available as a German or an English translation, translated by a court sworn translator. Please note that an attachment to the diploma with a tabular list of all subjects and grades is not sufficient. The contents and scope of the pharmaceutical training will be compared with the specifications in Annexes 1, 8, 13, 14 and 15 of the Licensing Regulations for Pharmacists (Approbationsordnung für Apotheker). Furthermore, official proof of pharmaceutical activities within

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the profession of a pharmacist in the country of origin or country of training must be submitted. This does not mean proof of employment, but an extract from the law describing all activities, tasks and responsibilities connected with the profession of a pharmacist in the country of origin or training (comparable in Germany to § 1a (3) of the Pharmacy operating regulations [Apothekenbetriebsordnung]). This certificate must be issued by the competent health authority or chamber of pharmacists or as a minimum have its accuracy officially confirmed by these institutions and must also be available in a German or an English translation.

If, after a detailed examination of the documents, substantial differences in training are identified, the applicants must take a theory exam. The theory exam shall relate to the subjects of Pharmaceutical Practice and Special Areas of Law for Pharmacists as well as to one of the subjects in which substantial differences have been identified pursuant to § 4, section 2, sentence 8 of the Federal Pharmacists Ordinance (Bundes-Apothekerordnung). In the assessment test, the applicant shall demonstrate that he/she has the knowledge and skills required to exercise the profession of pharmacist.

According to § 22d Licensing Regulations for Pharmacists (Approbationsordnung für Apotheker), the theory exam is an oral examination that can be repeated twice. The theory exam is taken at the LAK BW. A fee of 600€ is charged for the implementation the theory exam.

Registration with the Chamber of Pharmacists and the Bavarian Pension Chamber (Bayerische Versorgungskammer)

Immediately after the licence (Approbation) or permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) has been granted, pharmacists must register as members with the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Pharmacists. If the employment relationship changes after registration as a member, this must also be reported. All compulsory members of LAK BW are also compulsory members of the Bavarian Pharmacists' Association. A separate registration with the Bavarian professional pension scheme for pharmacists (Bayerische Apothekerversorgung) is necessary. Pharmacists can request exemption from compulsory insurance in the statutory pension scheme within three months of starting work in favor of the pension scheme.

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Bayerische Apothekerversorgung

Postfach 81 01 09
81901 Munich
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Telefax: +49 89 92357041
E-Mail: bapv@versorgungskammer.de
Internet: www.bapv.de

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Contact person at the LAK BW regarding the recognition procedures for foreign educational qualifications

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Further information on working in Baden-Württemberg

Before commencing work in Germany, you must clarify whether you need a work and/or residence permit. You can find information regarding work and residence permits at the following institutions or at your local Foreigners' Registration Office (Ausländeramt):

Visa and residence permit:

- Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt):
  https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/service/visa-und-aufenthalt

Work permit:

- Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit):
  www.arbeitsagentur.de
- Central foreign and professional placement service of the Federal Employment Agency
  https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/zav/startseite

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