

Recognition of Physiotherapists from foreign countries in Germany

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. The German authorities occasionally assess cases separately or 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 will give the legal claim to the applicant for an application procedure and improve recognition of physiotherapists. The relevant authority has to decide within 3-4 months after receiving all application documents.

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. 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. Applications 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. 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 can all applicants 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 the database **Anabin (Anerkennung und Bewertung ausländischer Bildungsnachweise)** www.anabin.kmk.org > Anerkennungs- und Beratungsstellen in Deutschland > Suche nach Stellen für Berufe - Physiotherapeut/in.

Which certificates and knowledge do you normally have to provide?

- Diploma (translated and notarized)
- Training and examination order with content and hours
- **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*
www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/LernenUndArbeiten/ArbeiteninD_node.html
- Curriculum Vitae (C. V.), in point form, including reference to your education
- Complete academic transcript of your physiotherapy qualifications from your educational institution, to include the subjects taken, hours spent and marks obtained (syllabus)
- 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

What else is important for you to know if you want to work in Germany?

Please ask the respective public authority at your future place of residence about your:

- work permit
- residential permit
- Visa (information available at the German Embassy in your country)
With recognition as a "Physiotherapist" and (if necessary a work and residence permit) you are permitted to work in Germany. You will receive information concerning vacant positions

Please inform with the help of www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/for-qualified-professionals/working

Academic recognition and physiotherapy studies:

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

Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen

Lennéstraße 6 D-53113 Bonn

Tel.: 0228 -501229 or -50 13 01

zab@kmk.org

www.kmk.org/zab/zentralstelle-fuer-auslaendisches-bildungswesen/zeugnisbewertung-fuer-auslaendische-hochschulqualifikationen.html

For physiotherapy studies in Germany please ask directly at universities and find all addresses through www.physio-deutschland.de – Fachkreise- Beruf-Bildung- Studium or inform about entry conditions at universities and apply with supply of www.uni-assist.de .

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. www.physio-deutschland.de – Mitglied werden.