

Recognition of veterinary licence to practise in Lower Saxony

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1. General

If you want to work in Germany as a **veterinarian** with a foreign qualification, you need a **state approval**, a so-called "licence". **The licence is an unrestricted work permit.** You definitely need this if you are doing veterinary work in a clinic in Germany or if you want to set up your own practice.

If you have acquired an additional veterinary specialization abroad and a qualification as a specialist veterinarian, you can apply for the **recognition of this specialist veterinarian name** in Germany, for this you must already have a licence to practise as a veterinarian.

Even with a degree acquired abroad, you can **apply for a licence to practise** in Germany. As part of the approval process, the responsible body checks the **equivalence of** your qualification with the corresponding German qualification. You can only be approved if your training is recognized as equivalent.

If you only want to work as a veterinarian in Germany for a limited period of time, you can apply for a **temporary work permit**, which is usually issued for up to four years. It can only be extended in special individual cases. The temporary permit is limited to a maximum of four years. An extension is possible, for example, if you started an apprenticeship as a specialist veterinarian immediately after receiving your permit, but could not complete the apprenticeship within the four years through no fault of your own. The extension is possible for a maximum of three years. The prerequisite for it being granted is that you **can demonstrate** that you have **completed medical training**. The work permit does not include recognition of your professional qualifications acquired abroad. You can also apply for a licence to practise with a limited work permit. If you obtained your degree in a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland, a work permit can only be issued in exceptional cases. As a rule, a licence to practise should be issued to holders of these degrees.

In general, an application is possible at any time, but it is subject to a fee and there will always be a decision on a case by case basis!

The parallel application in several federal states is not possible!

Sources:

<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/tools/berater/de/berater/prepage/5>

Bundestierärzteordnung, Tierärzte-Approbationsverordnung

<https://www.support4vetmed.de/>

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/bericht-zum-anerkennungsgesetz-1705280>

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/fachkraeteeinwanderungsgesetz-1563122>

2. Procedure

Who can apply for the recognition process?

You can apply for a licence to practise medicine as a veterinarian in Germany if you have a professional qualification in veterinary medicine. Your competent body (*see 3.*) decides on the recognition of your qualification obtained abroad as part of the approval process. The application for a licence to practise veterinary medicine can be made regardless of your nationality, the origin of your degree and your residence status.

HOW DOES THE RECOGNITION PROCESS WORK?

Procedure for EU / EEA / Switzerland degrees As a rule, the procedure for **automatic recognition** according to Directive 2005/36 / EC applies: your degree is recognized without an individual equivalency check. Qualifications obtained prior to the accession of the educating state to the European Union will be automatically recognized if you provide a certificate from the competent authority of the educating state stating that the academic education completed before accession complies with the minimum standards of Directive 2005/36 / EC.

Procedures for qualifications from non-EU / EEA countries and for EU qualifications that cannot be automatically recognized

The responsible body **checks** whether your qualification obtained abroad is **equivalent** to the corresponding German qualification. Your degree will be recognized as equivalent if there are no significant differences between your foreign degree and the corresponding German degree. In addition to the **academic education**, the responsible body also takes into account your **professional experience** acquired at home or abroad. Significant differences identified can be compensated for by relevant professional experience.

WHAT RESULTS ARE POSSIBLE?

You will be approved if **your degree** is **equivalent** and the other requirements for obtaining **your** licence have been fulfilled, including sufficient knowledge of the German language.

If there are major differences between your degree and the corresponding German degree, you have the option, to take an exam to demonstrate the equivalence of your level of knowledge (see appendix). After passing the exam, the licence is issued.

Failure to pass the exam as part of a previous application to obtain a work permit does not prevent an application for a licence. The exam can be retaken.

WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE USUSALLY REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION?

1. Application form
2. Proof of identity (identity card or passport), or if applicable, registration certificate
3. short CV
4. officially certified copy of the qualification / certificate of education, and where relevant, further qualifications
5. tabulated overview of your academic education, if applicable also about your previous employment
6. Certificates of your relevant work experience
7. *Certificate of entitlement to practise the profession in the country of origin and documents proving that the applicant wants to pursue the profession in Germany (not applicable for EU / EEA / Switzerland qualifications)*
8. medical certificate of medical fitness (not older than one month)
9. official certificate of good conduct (not older than one month)
10. Declaration of whether a judicial criminal proceeding is pending

If the documents are not written in German, they must also be submitted as a **certified translation**. If officially certified copies are not expressly requested, you can also provide simple copies of your documents. However, as the process progresses, you will often need to provide the original documents or the certified copies.

Details of which documents are requested by which authority, can be seen in Annex 1 . Basically, what is needed is always decided on a case by case basis.

WHAT DOES THE PROCEDURE COST?

The cost of the process **varies**. It depends on the effort in each case and on the legal regulations in the individual federal states. Your competent licensing authority sets the exact costs individually and informs you about them. For a rough assessment, see Appendix 2. Additional **costs** may arise (eg for translations and certification, or compensatory measures). These costs are individual.

DO YOU NEED KNOWLEDGE OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE?

In order to obtain the licence to practise / work, you must have sufficient knowledge of German. You must have a command of **the German colloquial and medical terminology**. Usually at least **language level B2**. Usually in addition, or as an alternative, you have to take **an exam** to prove your knowledge of medical terminology. This exam is based on **language level C1**. Precise regulations are a matter for the state (see Appendix 1).

3. Competent authorities

Where the profession should be carried out in Lower Saxony:

Tierärztekammer Niedersachsen
Fichtestraße 13
30625 Hannover
Telephone: +49 511 655 118 20
Fax: +49 511 655 118 28
E-Mail: mail@tknds.de

Contact person:
Herr Lorenz
Telephone: +49 511 655 118 30

Appendix

1. Required documents in Lower Saxony:

- Application for a licence to practise veterinary medicine (please use the form)
- Proof of identity (e.g. copy of passport)
- Declaration of intent that the medical profession will be practiced in Lower Saxony
- Tabulated and chronological curriculum vitae with degree course, professional career and other periods up to the present day (signed by hand)
- Evidence of a completed training (diploma, examination certificates and other qualifications)
- If relevant: EU certificate of conformity (certificate from the competent authority of the training state (within EU / EEA / Switzerland), which shows that the training meets the minimum requirements of Art. 24 EU Directive 2005/36 / EC)
- If relevant: EU certificate of rights acquired (certificate from the competent authority of the state within the EU / EEA / Switzerland, in which the profession has so far been practiced that you can be shown to have worked continuously and legally without restrictions for at least 3 years during the last 5 years before the certificate was issued, in accordance with Article 23 of EU Directive 2005/36 / EC)
- IMI declaration of consent (please use the form)
- Certificate of Good Standing (certificate of no objection from the competent authority of the state in which the medical profession was previously practiced. This does not apply if the medical profession has never been practised.)
- Proof of the German language skills required to practise medicine:
 - Proof of language proficiency at B2 level

- Specialist language test: Information on the specialist language test can be found in the "Information sheet for specialist language test for doctors" (Lower Saxony Association for Approval as of January 2020)
- If you are currently resident abroad or currently reside abroad: current certificate from the police or judicial authorities in the country of origin stating that no judicial proceedings are pending.
- If you live in Germany: Official certificate of good conduct according to document type " O " (This must be applied for at the Residents' Registration Office and must not be older than three months. When applying, the intended purpose must be indicated as "Approval BÄO")
- Declaration of impunity (Please use the form)
- Medical certificate (please use form): this should be issued by a practising physician in Germany or a consulting physician from the local German Embassy (not older than three months)

German translations of all foreign-language documents (made by a publicly appointed interpreter or translator certified on oath)

Application documents must always be submitted in the original or in a copy officially certified by a notary or public authority.

The delivery of the licence is only possible within Germany.

2. Costs

The responsible body will inform you about the exact costs for applying for the licence. The cost often depends on the effort required for processing the application.

Additionally, individual costs may arise (e.g. for translations or certification).

federal state	costs	Processing time	Number of cases
Bayern	200 - 500 €	no information available	no info available
Franken	200 - 500 €	Approx. 4 weeks	Approx. 50 / year
Baden-Württemberg	€ 250-350	if the documents are complete, the procedure takes max. 4 weeks	"Hundreds"
Hessen	€ 150-350	after receipt of all requested documents max. 4 months	"varies"
Rheinland-Pfalz	€ 63-350	Max. 1 month after receipt of the complete application documents	Approx. 40 / year
Saarland	€ 152	if the documents are complete max. 4 weeks	Approx. 20 / year
Thüringen	€ 190-350	if the documents are complete, the procedure takes max. 4 months	No details given.
Sachsen	€ 130-380	usually in 4 months after all necessary documents are available	No details given.
Sachsen-Anhalt	€ 125-265	if the documents are complete, the procedure takes max. 4 months	no info available
Nordrhein-Westfalen	€ 200	Approx. 1 week after receipt of all documents	Approx. 70 / year
Bremen	€ 170-850	Processing time about 4 weeks	"low"
Niedersachsen	€ 160	More than 12 weeks	Approx. 30 / year
Hamburg	€ 120 - € 350	1 - 2 weeks after the equivalence assessment	Approx. 20 / year
Schleswig-Holstein	€ 152	if all evidence is available and all requirements are met approx. 4 weeks	Approx. 40 / year
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	€ 150-200	if all evidence is available and all requirements are met approx. 4 weeks	Approx. 40 / year
Berlin	€ 190-350	if the documents are complete, the procedure takes max. 4 months	no details given
Brandenburg	€ 270 - 550	if all evidence is available and all requirements are met, e.g. knowledge test: approx. 3 weeks	no details given

Low-wage earners can also apply for a grant for the recognition process. Eligible for subsidy are the costs incurred when submitting the application, in particular fees and translation costs, up to a maximum of € 600 / person. If the applicant is registered with the job center, the costs will be covered.

3. Procedure for EU degrees

*vet. med. Degree/Qualification
a member state of the EU, the EEA or Switzerland*

long-term work planned in Germany

Application for a license to practice with the responsible authority (see 3.) necessary



Submission of all required documents depending on the authority (see Appendix 1)

1. Application form
2. Proof of identity (identity card or passport), if applicable, registration of residence certificate
3. short curriculum vitae
4. officially certified copy of the certificate of education, if relevant, further qualifications
5. Tabulated overview of your education and training courses, if relevant also about previous employment
6. Certificates of your relevant work experience
7. medical certificate of health suitability (not older than one month)
8. official certificate of good conduct (not older than one month)
9. Declaration of whether judicial criminal proceedings are pending

automatic recognition of the equivalent qualification



Approval granted

4. Procedure for a degree/qualification outside the EU

international vet. med. Degree

long-term work planned in Germany

limited period in Germany

Application for a licence to practise with responsible authority (see 3.) necessary *

Application for a limited work permit (max. 7 years °)

° limited to 4 years, in exceptional cases extendable by a further 3 years, tied to employment contract

Checking equivalence

if there are no significant differences in training, the degree/qualification is recognized as equivalent

if there are significant differences, these must be compensated for by up to 15 proficiency examinations ** (see Appendix)

Evidence to be provided ***:
Knowledge of German at B2 level
if relevant passed proficiency examination

Submission of all required documents
(see Appendix 1)

Approval

* in the meantime, it is possible to practise with a limited work permit

** can be reduced through work experience

*** Duration: learn German approx. 1.5 years; Take knowledge tests after about 1.5 years

5. Proficiency examination

The scope of the proficiency examination is decided differently for each individual case. Depending on the country of origin and the scope of training, up to **15 proficiency examinations** must be taken, whereby professional experience can have a balancing effect. In particular, legally-relevant subjects such as food hygiene and the European pharmaceutical regulation play a role here, since the legal provisions of third countries differ from those in the EU.

The state office appoints an examination committee. Each examiner has the task of making an expert statement on the question of the level of knowledge of the applicant. The state office sets for each of the relevant subjects being examined, the place and time of the examination for each subject, and invites the applicant to the exam at least 14 days before the exam date.

The exam for each subject takes place in German as an individual examination in the form of a specialist discussion (30 min.), It can also contain practical parts (30-120 min.) The members of the examination board are obliged to maintain confidentiality. The exam is not open to the public.

The content of the examination is based on the veterinary examination (§ 29) of the Ordinance on the Approval of Veterinarians - (TAppV) with the inclusion of § 28 TAppV.

1.	Animal breeding and genetics including animal assessment (§ 28 TAppV)
2.	Animal welfare and ethology (§ 29 No. 2 TAppV)
3.	Animal nutrition (§ 29 No. 3 TAppV)
4.	Control of animal diseases and infection epidemiology (§ 29 No. 8 TAppV)
5.	Medicines and narcotics law (§ 29 No. 10 TAppV)
6.	Poultry diseases (§29 No. 11 TAppV)
7.	Radiology (§29 No. 12 TAppV)
8.	General and special pathological anatomy and histology (§29 No. 13 TAppV)
9.	Food science including food hygiene (§ 29 No. 14 TAppV)
10.	Meat hygiene (§29 No. 15 TAppV)
11.	Milk science (§29 No. 16 TAppV)
12.	Reproductive medicine (§29 No. 17 TAppV)
13.	Internal medicine (§29 No. 18 TAppV)
14.	Surgery and anesthesiology (§29 No. 19 TAppV)
15.	Forensic veterinary medicine, professional and professional law (§ 29 No. 20 TAppV)

Based on the exam, the examiner writes an expert testimony for the appropriate subject and states whether the candidate has an equivalent level of knowledge in terms of the federal veterinarian regulations or not.

The examination in failed subjects can be repeated twice. The chairperson or a member of the examination board nominated by him / her must be present at the second repeat examination. If an examination is failed after two repetitions, the examination is finally failed. A further repetition is not allowed. Failed examination subjects in other federal states count towards the number of repetitions allowed.