Visa for the purpose of recognition of foreign qualifications (pursuant to section 16d of the German Residence Act) – how does it work?

The recognition of your foreign qualifications (vocational education and training or higher education) is a way to be able to take on qualified employment in Germany. If the competent authority for the recognition procedure determines that you require further specialist knowledge, language skills or practical experience in order to achieve full recognition, you can obtain these qualifications in Germany. Section 16d of the German Residence Act (AufenthG) offers non-European professionals the possibility of acquiring a visa to enter Germany for this purpose.

What does this involve?

1. Submitting application for professional recognition from abroad to the competent authority for recognition
   - Assessment notice: lacking some qualifications
     - Do you have sufficient German language skills (usually level A2) to complete a relevant qualification programme?
       - yes
         - Registration for suitable school-based or company-based training programme in Germany, according to the individual requirements named in the assessment notice (usually maximum 18 months)
       - no
         - Language course in native country or in Germany (Entry pursuant to § 16f AufenthG)
   - Assessment notice: full equivalence
   - Employment as a qualified professional is possible (in regulated professions after authorisation to practise has been granted)

2. Visa application (pursuant to § 16d AufenthG) at diplomatic mission abroad (embassy or consulate general)

3. Local immigration authorities issue the residence permit

4. Participation in school-based or company-based training programme for the purpose of recognition

After full recognition:
- Temporary residency permit for job search (maximum 12 months) or for qualified employment
How do I do this?

The procedure must be well planned and can last many months. You will receive free expert guidance and support. The overview lists the most important places for further information and personal advisory sessions for a more accurate assessment of your individual circumstances:

**Online information**

Working in Germany - the German government’s website for qualified professionals from around the world: [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

Information portal of the German government for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications: [www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de)

**Individual initial consultation**

Hotline Working and Living in Germany


**Locally-based individual recognition guidance from ProRecognition in:**

Algeria, Egypt, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, India, Iran, Italy, Columbia, Poland and Vietnam.

[www.ahk.de/wir-foerdern/berufsanerkennung](http://www.ahk.de/wir-foerdern/berufsanerkennung)

**Central Service Agency for Professional Recognition**

Comprehensive guidance and assistance throughout the process of the recognition procedure and advice on suitable qualification programmes

ProRecognition and the Central Service Agency for Professional Recognition work closely with regional expert advice centres of the **Network “Integration through Qualification (IQ)”** and other advice centres in Germany.

**What financial support is available?**

In addition to living costs in Germany, other costs will arise during the recognition procedure and training. If you have already found a concrete job offer, your employer may be able to support you. Various public funding possibilities also become available as soon as you live in Germany. An individual case evaluation alone can determine whether you are eligible for this. For more information contact the advice centres listed above or visit:


Please note: this is a simplified explanation of the entry process pursuant to § 16d AufenthG. For more information and an evaluation of your individual circumstances please contact the listed advice centres. Version: February 2020