What do foreign physicians need to do in order to work in Germany?
What is required?

- **Visa / residence permit**
  (non-EU citizens)

- **Work permit**

- **Temporary or full license to practise**

- **Recognition of foreign specialist diplomas**
Full or temporary license to practice

- Required in order to work as a physician:

  **Full license to practise (Approbation)**
  - No time limits or regional limits, valid for life, Germany-wide

  **Temporary license to practise (Berufserlaubnis)**
  - Valid for a limited time (maximum 24 months)
  - Limited to the respective federal state
  - Limited to specific activities and/or places of employment
  - Additional conditions possible

- Apply to the competent registration authority for the federal state in which you want to work/live
What else do I need to be aware of?

Processing time:

The temporary license to practise (Berufserlaubnis) is issued more quickly, usually applied for by most physicians as the first step.

What is the goal of your time in Germany?

Scientific work
Learning special methods
Experience abroad

Temporary license to practise can be enough!

Bear in mind restrictions:
• Time – max. 2 years!
• Location
• Conditions? Only scientific work? Place of employment definite?

Additionally applying for a full license to practise might be better
Registration authorities of the 16 federal states

- Schleswig-Holstein: Landesamt für soziale Dienste
- Hamburg: Landesprüfungsamt
- Bremen: Senatorin für Wissenschaft, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz
- Lower Saxony: Niedersächsischer Zweckverband zur Approbationserteilung
- Mecklenburg-West Pomerania: Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales
- Brandenburg: Landesamt für Arbeitsschutz, Verbraucherschutz und Gesundheit
- Saxony-Anhalt: Landesverwaltungsamt
- Berlin: Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales
Registration authorities of the 16 federal states

North Rhine-Westphalia: Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf

Hesse: Hessisches Landesprüfungs- und Untersuchungsamt im Gesundheitswesen

Thuringia: Thüringer Landesverwaltungsamt

Saxony: Landesdirektion Sachsen, Abteilung Inneres, Soziales und Gesundheit

Rhineland-Palatinate: Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Versorgung

Saarland: Landesamt für Soziales, Zentralstelle für Gesundheitsberufe und Landesprüfungsamt

Baden-Wuerttemberg: Landesprüfungsamt für Medizin und Pharmazie

Bavaria: Regierung von Oberbayern
Requirements for full license to practise*

Basic medical training within the EU, EEA and Switzerland

Basic medical training in a non-EU/EEA country

“Respectable and reliable”: certificate of good conduct and a criminal record extract

Fitness to practise: medical certificate

Sufficient knowledge of the German language to practise the profession!
- B2 certificate from Telc, TestDaF or Goethe and
- German medical language proficiency examination at level C1

* The requirements also apply for obtaining the temporary license to practise – only the German medical language proficiency examination is not required by all federal states.
Requirements for full license to practise

Basic medical training within the EU, EEA and Switzerland

Normal scenario: Approbation (full license to practise)
Training started and completed after the country joined the EU

“Old” qualification
With certificate of conformity / proof of professional experience:
⇒ Approbation (full license to practise)

“Old” qualification without conformity certificate or professional experience: individual assessment of training
⇒ Approbation (full license to practise), aptitude test (Eignungsprüfung) may be required first

This (currently) still applies for medical training qualifications from the UK!
Requirements for full license to practise

- Basic medical training in a non-EU/EEA country
  - Proof of 6 years of training with at least 5,500 hours of instruction
  - Comparison of training content and hours with the German Licensing Regulations for Physicians (ÄApprO) to assess equivalence
    - Proficiency test (Kenntnisprüfung)*
      - 2 repeat attempts possible
    - Approbation (full license to practise)

* Comparable with the Third State Examination for Physicians in Germany
Recognition of foreign specialist diplomas

Specialist diploma obtained abroad

Travel to Germany

Berufserlaubnis/Approbation (temporary/full license to practise)

Apply to the State Chamber of Physicians (Landesärztekammer) for recognition
17 State Chambers of Physicians

- Ärztekammer Schleswig-Holstein
  www.aeksh.de

- Ärztekammer Hamburg
  www.aerztekammer-hamburg.org

- Ärztekammer Bremen
  www.aekhb.de

- Ärztekammer Niedersachsen
  www.aekn.de

- Ärztekammer Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
  www.aek-mv.de

- Landesärztekammer Brandenburg
  www.laekb.de

- Ärztekammer Sachsen-Anhalt
  www.aeksa.de

- Ärztekammer Berlin
  www.aerztekammer-berlin.de
17 State Chambers of Physicians

- Ärztekammer Nordrhein [www.aekno.de](http://www.aekno.de)
- Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe [www.aekwl.de](http://www.aekwl.de)
- Landesärztekammer Hessen [www.laekh.de](http://www.laekh.de)
- Landesärztekammer Thüringen [www.laek-thueringen.de](http://www.laek-thueringen.de)
- Sächsische Landesärztekammer [www.slaek.de](http://www.slaek.de)
- Landesärztekammer Rheinland-Pfalz [www.laek-rlp.de](http://www.laek-rlp.de)
- Ärztekammer des Saarlandes [www.aerztekammer-saarland.de](http://www.aerztekammer-saarland.de)
- Landesärztekammer Baden-Württemberg [www.aerztekammer-bw.de](http://www.aerztekammer-bw.de)
- Bayerische Landesärztekammer [www.blaek.de](http://www.blaek.de)
Applying for recognition of foreign specialist diplomas

Documents to be submitted to the competent State Chamber of Physicians:

- Written application for recognition (Antrag auf Anerkennung)
- Approbation or Berufserlaubnis (full or temporary license to practise in Germany)
- Proof of identity
- Completed specialist training and professional experience in tabular form

Automatic recognition in accordance with EU Directive 2005/36/EC
- Specialist diploma (original or certified copy)
- Conformity certificate if applicable

Individual equivalence assessment
- Proof of speciality training and if necessary proof of professional experience (originals or certified copies)
- Official translation of the documents in German
Overview

Who is responsible for what in Germany?

Full or temporary license to practise

Registration authority
(Approbationsbehörde)

Federal state in which the physician will be working

Foreign specialist diploma

State Chamber of Physicians
(Landesärztekammer)

What do you need to apply?

- Required documents/proof with official translations
- Time – several months!
  - Exception: straightforward EU recognition
- Money to cover costs

What else is important?

Good preparation and acquiring the necessary language skills
Good to know

- Procedures are basically standardised – but there are differences in the details
- The authorities are not interlinked
- Central Advisory Board for Health Professions (Gutachtenstelle für Gesundheitsberufe, GfG)
  - Supports the registration authorities with assessing the equivalence of training qualifications from third countries
  - Registration authorities order the equivalence assessment, costs are to be covered by the physician
  - No general involvement!
- Agencies do not offer any advantages regarding the decision by the authorities
Links

- https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/visabestimmungen-node
- https://www.aerztekammer-berlin.de/10arzt/15_Wiederbildung/16_Fragen_Antworten/17_11Anfragen-auslaendischer-Aerzte/index.html
- https://www.bq-portal.de/
- https://www.netzwerk-iq.de/
Thank you for your attention!