Recognition of education and training (school and vocational) certificates in the state of Hesse

Refugees who have already completed vocational training in their home country can ask for their diplomas/certificates to be recognised. Recognition of vocational qualifications is always useful; for some professions, the so-called regulated professions, it is even a requirement for being allowed to practise your vocation in Germany.

Important contacts in matters of recognition of education and training (school and professional) certificates

Central authority for the recognition of national and foreign educational certificates (State Education Authority Darmstadt):

Proof of school education and vocational diplomas/certificates that have been obtained abroad may be officially recognised. You can, for example, apply for your proof of education abroad to be recognised as equivalent to a German school-leaving diploma. A fee will be charged for the process of examining and evaluating your application.

Rheinstraße 95
64295 Darmstadt
Telephone: 06151-36822
Further information: https://schulaemter.hessen.de/schulbesuch/bildungsnachweise/auslaendische-schulische-abschluesse

Advisory services for matters of recognition and qualification provided by the IQ Network Hesse: www.hessen.netzwerk-ig.de/en/ig-network-hesse-our-services.html

The IQ Network Hesse offers initial advisory services concerning the recognition of your qualifications from abroad. These services are aimed at people who have obtained a diploma/certificate of having successfully completed school, university or vocational training and would like to know if and how these qualifications could be recognised in Hesse. Beramí e.V., a provider of further education, offers face-to-face consultation for Frankfurt residents as well as advice on qualification matters for people whose leaving diplomas have been recognised only partially. These consultations take place at the Agentur für Arbeit Frankfurt (Southern Hesse).

Please note that even if you have a temporary residence permit, you can apply for a subsidy of up to €600. For further information about financial support in matters related to recognition, go here: https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/anerkennungszuschuss.php

For regulated professions, the process of evaluating and recognising foreign university diplomas and similar certifications is carried out by the authorities designated for these professions by law. You can find an overview of which professions are “regulated” in Germany in the “ananin” database here: http://anabin.kmk.org/no_cache/filter/anerkennungs-und-beratungsstellen-in-deutschland.html (rider “Suche nach Stellen für Berufe”)

Recognition of regulated professions in Hesse

The following is a list of the most common regulated academic professions and the contact details for the relevant authorities.

International Teaching diplomas/degrees
Landesschulamt und Lehrkräfteakademie, z.Hd. Renate Niggemeyer
Rothwestener Straße 2-14
34233 Fuldatal
Telephone: 0561-8101-133
Email: Renate.Niggemeyer@lsa.hessen.de

Law exams taken abroad and questions of admission to legal articling (pursuant to §112a of the German Judiciary Act)
Hessisches Justizprüfungsamt
Prüfungsabteilung I
Zeil 42
60313 Frankfurt am Main
Telephone: 069-1367-2665 und -2667 (Monday to Friday 09:00-12:00)
Qualifying examination for people qualified and entitled to practise law as an independent Lawyer
Justizprüfungsamt des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
Martin-Luther-Platz 40
40212 Düsseldorf
Telephone: 0211-8792276

Architects: Entry into the “List of Architects” and entitlement to use relevant professional titles in architecture
Architekten- und Stadtplanerkammer Hessen
Bierstadter Straße 2
65189 Wiesbaden
Telephone: 0611-17380
Email: info@akh.de

Entitlement to use relevant professional titles in the field of Engineering
Ingenieurkammer Hessen
Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 6
65189 Wiesbaden
Telephone: 0611-974570
Email: info@ingkh.de

Obtaining a licence to practice, and admission to be trained as, Doctor, Dentist, Psychotherapist or Pharmacist
Hessisches Landesprüfungs- und Untersuchungsamt im Gesundheitswesen
Walter-Möller-Platz 1
60439 Frankfurt
Telephone: 069-1567712

Obtaining a licence to practice as Veterinarian
Regierungspräsidium Gießen
Schanzenfeldstraße 12
35578 Wetzlar
Telephone: 0641-3035436 und 0641-3035439

Examinations for Translators and Interpreters
Amt für Lehrerbildung
Staatliche Prüfungen
Rheinstraße 95
64295 Darmstadt
Telephone: 06151-3682550

Social Work: equivalence assessment of a foreign university education in the field of social work in order to obtain state approval
People who have completed their higher education for social work abroad may be granted the right to use the title “Staatlich anerkannte Sozialpädagogin / Staatlich anerkannter Sozialpädagoge bzw. –arbeiterin/-arbeiter” or „Staatlich anerkannte Heilpädagogin/Staatlich anerkannter Heilpädagoge“, i.e. they can receive state approval of such title pursuant to EU Directive 2005/36.
Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
Fachbereich 4
Nibelungenplatz 1
60318 Frankfurt/Main
Contact Ms Anne Uibel, Email: uibel.anne@fb4.fra-uas.de, Tel.: 069-1533 2653
Recognition of leaving diplomas from higher education institutions for non-regulated professions

In the case of non-regulated professions it is the employer who decides whether the qualification obtained abroad meets the requirements for the job in question. As a rule, such qualification can be proven directly by showing the leaving diploma or certificate and relevant translations.

Additionally, since January 2010 it is possible to obtain a general assessment of foreign higher education qualifications from the “Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)” at the secretariat of the Standing Conference of the German Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (ZAB Postfach 2240, 53012 Bonn). For further information go to: www.kmk.org/themen/anerkennung-auslaendischer-abschluesse.html (in German). The application must be submitted directly to the ZAB. A fee will be charged for such a general evaluation. For further information, please send an email to zabservice@kmk.org

Further information can be found here: https://wissenschaft.hessen.de/studium/auslaendische-hochschulabschluesse/berufliche-anerkennung/nicht-reglementierte-berufe

Recognition / Assessment of higher education qualifications for additional studies

If you have already obtained a degree in higher education abroad and would like to continue your studies in Germany, the relevant higher education institution will evaluate your degree to see if it is sufficient for you to pursue further studies. Many German higher education institutions use the service provider uni-assist for this evaluation. For an overview of all German higher education institutions that employ uni-assist’s services, see: https://www.uni-assist.de/en/tools/uni-assist-universities/. The leaflet “Applying via uni-assist” offers information on how to apply; for refugees it is possible to apply free of charge.

If the higher education institution of your choice does not use uni-assist, please contact the institution directly to find out about their application process.

Further links (some are only available in German)

https://wissenschaft.hessen.de/studium/auslaendische-hochschulabschluesse/berufliche-ankennung/reglementierte-berufe
www.hessen.netzwerk-ig.de/en/ig-network-hesse-our-services.html
www.hessen.netzwerk-ig.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ig/Angebote/Englische_Website/Getting-foreign-qualifications-recognized-in-hesse.pdf

Please note that we cannot guarantee that the information given above is complete and correct.