



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Energy



---

# Foreign Professional Qualifications: Assessment and Evaluation

---

*The Information Portal for Foreign  
Professional Qualification*



German companies need more skilled personnel. In some sectors and regions, there are already hardly any more skilled workers available on the labour market. Companies find it very difficult to recruit not only graduates, but also increasingly skilled workers.



The German federal government's Skilled Labour Strategy builds on making use of the whole potential – both in Germany and abroad. This includes all those already living in Germany who have foreign professional qualifications. Furthermore, we need to integrate the people in the labour market who have come to Germany for humanitarian reasons. But Germany also needs more international qualified professionals.

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications has proved to be an important instrument to secure skilled labour. To be able to assess foreign professional qualifications, we need reliable information on the contents and the level of professional qualifications in the relevant vocational training systems. This is where the BQ Portal comes in. The BQ Portal ([www.bq-portal.de](http://www.bq-portal.de)) pools all the relevant information on foreign professional qualifications and vocational training systems on one work and knowledge sharing platform.

This comprehensive information enables professional chambers to carry out uniform and valid assessments of foreign vocational and further training qualifications. Companies also benefit from the BQ Portal. It provides valuable information that enables them to assess the professional qualifications of foreign applicants.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Altmaier

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

## **BQ Portal – The information portal for foreign professional qualifications**

The BQ Portal fosters transparency and consistency. It is the only service in Germany to provide comprehensive information on foreign professional qualifications and vocational training systems.



Benefits:

- consistent assessment of foreign professional qualifications
- easy sharing of information and networking between chamber employees
- continuous expansion of knowledge and available information
- guidance for companies on the recruitment of foreign professionals

The BQ Portal fosters acceptance of foreign professional qualifications within Germany. It also helps qualified professionals with non-German roots to successfully integrate into the German labour market and German society.

## Country and professional profiles: the heart of the BQ Portal

The BQ Portal is being continuously updated with the insights of expert professionals and academics. Country and professional profiles, assessment results, and practical examples are always being added at [www.bq-portal.de](http://www.bq-portal.de). This special combination of expert professionals and academics helps to ensure the high quality and reliability of the information provided.

*“Every day I receive requests regarding different professional qualifications obtained all over the world. To be able to properly process these, I need reliable information on foreign vocational training systems and qualifications. The BQ Portal is really helpful! I can get all the information I need in just a few clicks.”*

Dilek Intepe, Unit for Vocational Training, Berlin Chamber of Skilled Crafts



*“I was already impressed when I found a professional profile on the BQ Portal that matched an application I was looking at. What I found really fantastic, though, was the fact that the formal assessment was also attached – that really saved me a lot of work!”*

Silke Lorenz, Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications, Leipzig Chamber of Skilled Crafts



## A tool that benefits all sides

Raising the skills level and integrating people from Germany and abroad into the job market is at the centre of the Federal Government's work to ensure that Germany has a sufficient supply of skilled labour. The Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act came into force in April 2012. Under this act, anyone who has obtained professional qualifications abroad can have these assessed to determine equivalence to German qualifications. This is all made possible by the BQ Portal, which is there to support:

- Chambers of Skilled Crafts, Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Chambers of Agriculture, and competent bodies for liberal professions, which can find valuable information and practical guidelines on how to evaluate foreign qualifications
- Companies who require further information to better assess the equivalence of the foreign qualifications held by their applicants
- Recognition advisors who can better orientate those seeking recognition by using the country and professional profiles

### Contact

Project Office for the BQ Portal  
c/o Cologne Institute for Economic Research  
Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 21, 50668 Cologne  
Phone: +49 221 4981 873  
Email: [projektbuero@bq-portal.de](mailto:projektbuero@bq-portal.de)

The BQ Portal is implemented on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The Cologne Institute for Economic Research (IW) and the ]init[ IT company have been commissioned with the implementation of the project.



Find out more at:  
[www.bq-portal.de](http://www.bq-portal.de)



The BQ Portal is winner  
of the EPS Award 2015

## Imprint

### Publisher

Published by the Federal Ministry for  
Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)  
Public Relations Division  
11019 Berlin  
[www.bmwi.de](http://www.bmwi.de)

### Status

February 2020

### Print

MKL Druck GmbH & Co. KG,  
48346 Ostbevern



### Design and production

PRpetuum GmbH, 80801 Munich

### Illustrations

BQ-Portal / Title, p. 3  
Handwerkskammer Berlin / p. 4  
Maik Lehmann PHOTOGRAPHIE / p. 4  
Steffen Kugler / BPA / p. 2

