



## Recognition of Regulated Crafts

In order to register one of the 41 regulated professions with the Chamber of Skilled Trades and Crafts (Handwerkskammer), you will need to have your professional qualification officially recognized and evidenced by a specific exceptional permission (Ausnahmebewilligung zur Eintragung in die Handwerksrolle). Please notice that the recognition only applies to individuals from other EU and EEA Member States.

In order to do so, you may apply to have your international vocational training accredited to you, if you can provide evidence that this training is approximately equivalent to a similar German program for the specific skilled trade. For some French and Austrian skilled trades bilateral agreements have already been established to ease this process.

Even if your vocational training is not entirely equal to a similar German program, you may opt to have part of your training accredited to you and earn the rest of the German professional qualification by either taking an aptitude test or taking part in a training program to cover the remaining German coursework.

Instead of accrediting vocational training, you may also have your professional qualification recognized based on a combination of work experience and training. In this case all work experience must be evidenced by a formal certificate from the appropriate authority in your home country. Experience and training are recognized in case of

- $\geq 6$  contiguous years working self-employed or as a company manager in a specific skilled trade which were completed no more than 10 years ago
- $\geq 3$  contiguous years working self-employed or as a company manager following a vocational training period of  $\geq 3$  years in a specific skilled trade
- $\geq 4$  contiguous years working self-employed or as a company manager following a vocational training period of  $\geq 2$  years in a specific skilled trade
- $\geq 3$  contiguous years of self-employed work and  $\geq 5$  years experience as an employee in a specific skilled trade which were completed no more than 10 years ago
- $\geq 5$  years experience in a management position, including  $\geq 3$  years of on-the-job technical experience and oversight for  $\geq 1$  company department in addition to  $\geq 3$  years of vocational training in a specific skilled trade
- $\geq 6$  Years work experience including  $\geq 4$  years in a management position after completing a vocational training program that has been recognized in Germany for the specific skilled trade

Professional qualifications for the skilled trades in the health sector are exempt from this rule and can only be recognized on the basis of vocational training received.



If your home country does not regulate and you also have received no accredited vocational training for the regulated trade you would like to perform in Germany, you will additionally need to prove that you have worked full time (either self-employed or as a company manager) at least two of the last ten years in the specific skilled trade.

Individual support with the relevant administrative regulations and procedures will be provided by the points of single contact by the end of 2009.