

Fact sheet
for the decision on state recognition
and authorization to take up or practice the profession

- state-recognized social pedagogue or state-recognized social worker
- state-recognized curative pedagogue
- state-recognized childhood pedagogue

Please read carefully to the end

1. decision on the authorization to take up or practice the profession

State recognition is required in order to work in North Rhine-Westphalia as a specialist in the field of social work/social pedagogy, childhood education and curative education. For persons who have acquired a certificate of training abroad and intend to work in North Rhine-Westphalia in a profession that corresponds to their professional qualification, the Law on the Determination of the Equivalence of Foreign Professional Qualifications in North Rhine-Westphalia (BQFG NRW) applies. Since the professions of state-recognized social pedagogue/social worker, state-recognized childhood pedagogue and state-recognized remedial pedagogue are regulated, i.e. their admission or practice is linked to certain professional qualifications, a corresponding authorization is required.

State recognition is granted for foreign degrees in the field of social work/social pedagogy, childhood pedagogy and curative education in North Rhine-Westphalia after a fully completed, similar and equivalent foreign course of study (Bachelor's level) in a relevant accredited course of study at a state or state-recognized higher education institution in the country of training. If applicable, further proof of authorization to practice the profession (state or professional examination, year of recognition and/or professional license) may be required in accordance with the respective regulations of the country of training.

A further requirement for state recognition is personal reliability, which is determined on the basis of an official certificate of good conduct (§§ 30 Para. 5, 31, 32 BZRG) and a declaration of no criminal record. Both will be requested separately in due course.

The district government is responsible for issuing the above-mentioned authorization,

- in whose administrative district the applicant is registered with residence or
- in the absence of residence in North Rhine-Westphalia in whose district the future place of work is located.

The procedure is initiated upon application. Applications must be submitted to Dezernat 24 of the responsible district government (see below for contact details).

2. equivalence assessment

The formal and material equivalence of the foreign professional qualification is determined as part of the decision on the authorization to take up or practice a profession in the field of social pedagogy/social work, curative education or childhood education. The determination of equivalence

always requires that the training acquired abroad is a comparable qualification to the German training.

a. Formal equivalence / similarity

Formally equivalent, similar training exists if

- it is at university level, i.e. it concludes with an academic degree (Bachelor, Diplom),
- it is a degree in social work/social pedagogy/childhood pedagogy/medical pedagogy, insofar as a corresponding degree can be obtained in the country,
- if no corresponding degree can be obtained in the country of training, this degree must be recognized in the corresponding country for activities in the fields of social work/childhood pedagogy/medical pedagogy (classification)
- if the training is considered fully completed in the country of training and a corresponding professional license is available.

It may be necessary to obtain an opinion from the Central Office for Foreign Education in Bonn (ZaB) to determine the level of the qualification or the completion of the training. This expert opinion is commissioned by the district government during the procedure. Applicants can also request a so-called certificate evaluation from the ZaB. However, this is not a prerequisite.

If formal equivalence/similarity cannot be established, state recognition cannot be granted. Formal equivalence cannot then be established retrospectively, e.g. through compensatory measures.

b. Material equivalence (significant differences in content)

The second step is to check whether and to what extent there are significant differences in content compared to a German degree in social work, childhood education or curative education. The differences are significant if the proven skills and knowledge acquired as part of the foreign professional training

- differ significantly in terms of content or duration of training from those acquired in German courses of study in social work, childhood education, curative education and
- the corresponding skills and knowledge represent a significant prerequisite for practising the profession of a state-recognized social pedagogue, social worker, childhood educator or curative educator.

The following content-related criteria are applied:

- Competence in the relevant areas of German law and administration, competence in the profession and science of social work/childhood education/special education (knowledge of the history, relevant theories, fields of work, concepts of action and methods of social work, childhood education or special education),
- Competence in questions relating to the integration and use of scientific content in social work, childhood education or special education, in particular pedagogical, psychological and sociological knowledge,
- Competence in questions relating to the ethical foundations of social work, childhood education or special education and

- Competence in reflecting on social practice. Proof of supervised professional practice in a field of social work, childhood education or curative education of at least 100 days, i.e. 800 hours (e.g. professional recognition year, practical semester) is required.

Other qualifications or proven relevant professional experience can be taken into account when determining the significant differences. Qualified evidence that includes a detailed job description (e.g. a qualified, detailed job reference with job description) is particularly suitable. The proof must be submitted as a copy (in the case of employment abroad) with a qualified translation into German (see translation checklist).

In order to determine the equivalence or the essential differences of a foreign educational qualification in the field of social work/social pedagogy, childhood education or curative education, it may be necessary to obtain an expert opinion from a relevant university of applied sciences to assess the comparability of the content.

c. Compensatory measures/suitability test

If a positive decision on material equivalence is not possible on the basis of the documents submitted in the application procedure, one or more compensatory measures must be completed. In this way, the significant differences identified can be compensated for and deficits offset.

Compensatory measures are

- a maximum three-year adaptation period, which can be assessed,
- an aptitude test that relates exclusively to the applicant's professional knowledge.

The applicant's existing professional qualifications are taken into account when designing the compensatory measures. The content of the compensation measures is limited to the significant differences identified. Applicants have the choice between completing an adaptation period and taking an aptitude test. For the implementation of the compensatory measures

- the TH in Cologne or the FH in Bielefeld or in Münster (social work),
- the Fachhochschule Südwestfalen in Soest or the TH in Cologne (childhood education)
- and the KathO Münster (curative education).

Applicants can choose one of the aforementioned universities to complete the compensatory measures. German language skills at level B2 are required to complete a compensatory measure. Proof of this must be provided to the respective university of applied sciences before the start of a compensatory measure.

3. granting of authorization

In order to be granted authorization, personal reliability must be proven after successful completion of the above-mentioned compensation measures by submitting a current criminal clearance certificate and a current official certificate of good conduct. These will be requested separately in due course.

IMPORTANT information

on the documents - please note!

All information provided in the application must be supported by suitable documents. Please send all documents without folders or document covers. These are not required and will not be returned but disposed of. The required documents must be submitted as copies.

IMPORTANT!!!: Please never send originals. Translations must also be submitted as copies. Originals, including original translations, will be accepted but cannot be returned later. All documents will be scanned and the seals broken. The documents are only archived electronically. You will then have to have your documents translated again at a later date at a corresponding cost.

You will be asked to submit the application with the application documents by post. Reference is made to the validity of the OZG: <https://service.wirtschaft.nrw/online-antraege>. Further information: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php>

It is possible to send the application and supporting documents by e-mail.

IMPORTANT!!!: In this case, please send one pdf-file per document with translation. To do this, you must first copy the entire document (with translation) (including the back pages if necessary) and then scan the copy as a whole into a pdf-file. Please do not send individually scanned pages!

In the case of documents not written in German, translations must be prepared in German by a publicly appointed or sworn interpreter or translator (§ 12 Abs. 2 Satz 2 BQFG). The list of corresponding addresses in Germany can be found in the following database: <https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/de/Suchen>. Exceptions for translations from translation agencies/notaries licensed in other European countries are decided on a case-by-case basis.

The translations must contain a translator's note confirming that the translation was made on the basis of the original document or at least an officially certified copy. The original translation must be firmly attached to the copy of the document by the translator. This connection must not be loosened! For further information, see "Translation checklist" in the download area.

It is important that the translator's connection is not loosened even when copying and that it remains recognizable and traceable in the copy. If necessary, the reverse side must also be photocopied. Submitted original translations cannot be issued later (see above).

We reserve the right to request further documents and evidence in individual cases. If there is any doubt as to the authenticity of a document, the original or an officially certified copy can be requested.

Contact person (responsibility according to place of residence)

Bezirksregierung Arnsberg

Dezernat 24 –Sozialberufe

Seibertzstraße 1

59821 Arnsberg

Anerkennung.Sozialberufe@bra.nrw.de

Bezirksregierung Detmold

Dezernat 24 –Sozialwesen

Leopoldstraße 15

32756 Detmold

05231/71-0

Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf

Dezernat 24 –Sozialwesen

Cecilienallee 2

40474 Düsseldorf

Tel.: 0211/475-0

Bezirksregierung Köln

Dezernat 24 –Sozialwesen

50606 Köln

Tel.: 0221/147-0

Bezirksregierung Münster

Dezernat 24 –Sozialwesen

Domplatz 1-3

48143 Münster

Tel.: 0251/411-0