

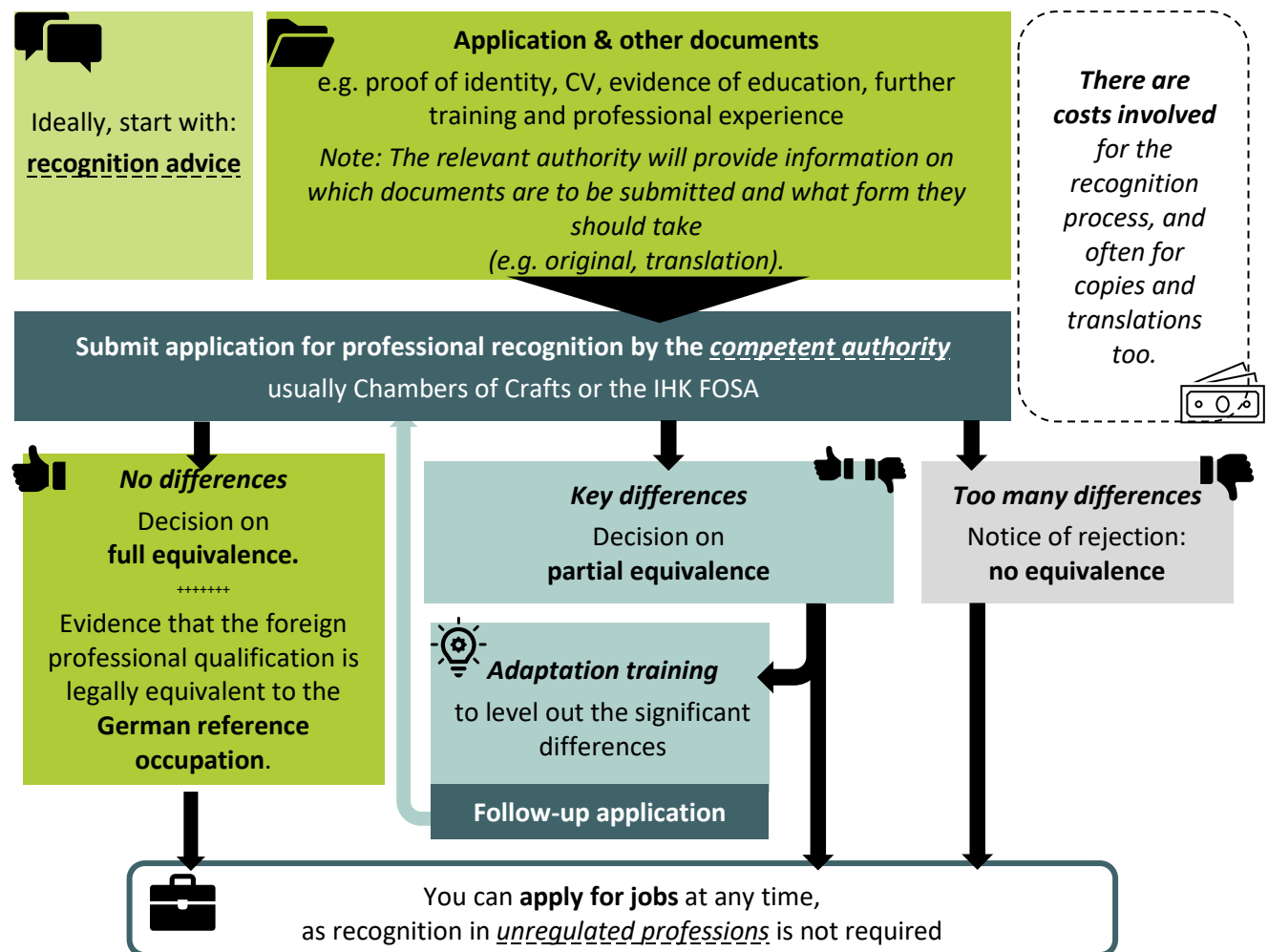
Your experience counts: Recognition of qualifications in dual vocational training occupations

Information sheet about the video on the ► [IQ YouTube channel](#)

Professional recognition can raise many questions at first. But you don't have to go through it alone. In this information sheet, you will find the key information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in dual vocational training occupations.

Please note: Recognition is not strictly necessary in dual occupations. However, it can have its advantages. It is best to ask at an advisory centre whether it is possible and advisable to have your qualification recognised.

How does the recognition process work?



Key terms relating to recognition

You can learn **dual vocational training occupations** in a company whilst attending a vocational school. Responsibility for organising the training lies with the Chambers of Skilled Trades (HWK), the local

Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHK) and the Chambers of Agriculture. The IHK FOSA (IHK Foreign Skills Approval) is generally responsible for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in IHK-recognised occupations. Examples of dual occupations include: office administration assistant, industrial mechanic, baker and bricklayer.

You can find information about these occupations on the [Recognition Portal](#) and from the Federal Employment Agency.

Dual vocational training occupations are **not regulated**, which means that, in this occupation, you can often work in Germany even without formal recognition.

However: **Recognition has its advantages:**

- ✓ You will receive an official certificate confirming your qualification.
- ✓ Employers can better assess your training.
- ✓ This will improve your chances of finding a job.
- ✓ This recognition can be helpful during salary negotiations.
- ✓ It can also be important for further education and training.

In a **survey**, people who had already gone through a recognition process in a non-regulated profession confirmed the positive effects of (partial) recognition, citing, in particular, *better opportunities in the labour market and employment commensurate with their qualifications*. ([Böse et al., 2025](#))

Important: If you wish to **set up your own business** in a skilled trade – in other words, run your own business – then specific rules apply. You will often need a master craftsman's certificate or a recognised equivalent qualification (= recognition) to do this.

From real-life experience: In some professions, employers only recruit people as skilled workers if they have full equivalence, because there are certain safety regulations that require this. It is therefore generally highly recommended to seek recognition in the reference occupations of **electronics technician** and **motor vehicle mechatronics technician**. ([Roser et al., 2025](#))

Advice! You'll find support here.

Are you still unsure which German occupation would suit your vocational qualification?

In that case, a recognition and qualification advisory service may be able to help answer your questions, including the following:

- What is the equivalent German occupation?
- Which body is responsible for recognising my profession?
- Can I receive financial support?
- How do I find a suitable qualification or further training course?

You can find **advice centres** in your local area

- on the [Recognition Portal](#) and, of course,
- on the homepage of the [Network IQ – Integration through Qualification](#).

Have you already checked which German occupation corresponds to your qualification?

In that case, you can contact the [IHK FOSA](#), the [Chamber of Crafts](#) or [Chamber of Agriculture](#) in your region.

Good to know: Vocational language courses

Would you like to improve your German language skills for working in your profession? If so, you can enquire at an advice centre. Alternatively, you can search directly on the Employment Agency's website for a vocational language course near you: [Vocational language courses](#) | [Federal Employment Agency](#)

Good to know: Further options

Do you have a lot of work experience but no formal professional qualifications?

Then your professional skills can be formally assessed and certified in a [validation process](#). This involves experts from professional bodies assessing your skills in a particular profession by setting practical tasks and conducting interviews. You will then receive a certificate showing one of the following results:

- Your skills correspond exactly to the German profession.
- Or: Your skills largely correspond to the profession.

If there are any gaps in your knowledge, you can make use of specialist learning resources to acquire new knowledge step by step. These **partial qualifications** are available in many professions, for example: electronics, the construction industry, energy and building services engineering.

At a glance: Support & additional information

The **Network IQ – Integration through Qualification** has been working since 2005 to improve labour market opportunities for people with a migration background, where the key interest is ensuring that vocational qualifications obtained abroad lead to sustainable and appropriately skilled employment. There are numerous opportunities for advice and training. **Website:** <https://netzwerk-iq.de/>

'Recognition in Germany' is the Federal Government's information portal for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications. It is available in ten languages and provides skilled workers with details on the recognition of qualifications in various occupations.

Website: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>

Testimonials from international skilled workers

Would you like to find out how other skilled workers have made a success of their move to Germany?

Then this is where you can find reports and videos from various professional fields:

- **in writing:** <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/success-stories.php>
- **as videos:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLi6NNH61dVedRsSNjcgZUZzKSXS8XJWU>

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