

## Information sheet

### Recognition of foreign qualifications in regulated non-university health care professions

---

#### Contact details

Swiss Red Cross  
Health & Integration Department  
Training Division  
Qualification Recognition Service  
Werkstrasse 18  
CH - 3084 Wabern

Information provided by telephone Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 12:00 a.m. on +41 58 400 44 84.  
Normal fixed network and mobile rates apply.

Fax: +41 58 400 45 60  
E-mail: [registry@redcross.ch](mailto:registry@redcross.ch)  
Internet: [www.redcross.ch/anererkennung](http://www.redcross.ch/anererkennung)

#### Authority

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) is in charge of recognizing foreign qualifications and currently provides recognition for the following regulated, non-university healthcare professions:

##### *Qualifications at secondary level II*

- Healthcare specialist
- Podologist

##### *Qualifications at tertiary level*

- Biomedical analyst
- Dental hygiene
- Ergotherapy
- Dietitian
- Midwife
- Medical massage
- Medical radiology
- Naturopathy
- Medical theatre technologist
- Orthoptist
- Nurse
- Physiotherapist
- Podologist
- Paramedic
- Ambulance technician

## Stage 1: Mandatory preliminary evaluation

The first stage before the actual recognition procedure is a mandatory preliminary evaluation. The preliminary evaluation is free of charge and will tell you whether your qualification can in principle be recognized. The specific professional requirements are verified as part of the actual recognition procedure (see Stage 2, Applying for recognition).

We need various documents to be able to evaluate your file depending on the country and the course curriculum. To receive your personalized registration form for the preliminary evaluation, please send us an e-mail with the following information: nationality, year of graduation, country where the course was taken and name of the qualification. Or you can call us.

## Stage 2: Applying for recognition

If the preliminary evaluation is positive, you will automatically receive the personalized application form, provided you fulfil the following conditions:

- You are the holder of a professional title that has been awarded by the government concerned or by an official body recognized by that government, *and*
- You are a citizen of an EU/EFTA country, *or*
- If you are not a citizen of an EU/EFTA country, you are legally resident in Switzerland, *or*
- You are a cross-border worker employed in Switzerland.

You complete the application form and return it to us by post along with the following documents marked here with a cross. Most of the documents must be submitted as notarized copies, which means additional costs.

### General prerequisites for recognition:

As part of the recognition procedure the SRC compares a foreign professional qualification with an equivalent Swiss professional qualification, if the holder of the foreign qualification can provide a certificate on level B2, in one of the official languages (German, French or Italian), which are required to execute the profession in Switzerland.

Proof of language skills must be provided, if

- You have **not** completed your professional training in one of these three languages; or
- You have **not** completed a language qualification or a language test with at least level B2 ([www.sprachenportfolio.ch](http://www.sprachenportfolio.ch))

Citizens of an EU/EFTA country can provide proof of their linguistic proficiency in the course of the recognition procedure. Citizens of third countries need to provide the proof of language proficiency (level B2) already *during the procedure of the preliminary evaluation*.

An information sheet on the level of language skills and information about the legal basis can be found on our website.

### Special conditions:

You will be informed of any special conditions for recognition once your dossier has been examined. If there are any gaps in your foreign qualification, you will need to undergo complementary training in Switzerland. You cannot start this complementary training until you have received the preliminary legal decision.

Once your application for recognition is complete and you have paid your administration fee, it takes about three months for your file to be evaluated and a preliminary decision or a recognition decision to be issued. If the preliminary decision is issued with a requirement for complementary training, you must take into account that extra time must be allowed to complete this complementary training.

Recognition of foreign qualifications is carried out on behalf of the Swiss government for a fee to cover costs without profit. The fee covers the following:

- Administrative handling of the application
- Expert analysis, research and appraisal in the individual assessment procedure
- Overheads
- Entry in the National Registry for Healthcare Professions NAREG ([www.nareg.ch](http://www.nareg.ch))

Depending on the amount of administrative and content-related work involved, the recognition procedure can cost up to a maximum of CHF 1,000\*. In addition to the administrative fee there will also be charged a registration fee by the National Registry for Healthcare Professions NAREG (except for the recognition of qualifications at secondary level II). **Please note that, depending on the recognition procedure, you will receive either one invoice or two partial invoices.**

\* In the event that recognition should involve complementary training or an aptitude test, there will be additional costs. The applicant will be charged these costs directly by the institution providing the complementary training.

There are various recognition procedures:

- A simplified, harmonized EU procedure (only for foreign qualifications in nursing and midwifery **and** in accordance with EU Directive 2005/36/EC; appendix 5.2.2 and/or 5.5.2!) – 1 invoice
- Standard procedure without complementary training – 2 partial invoices
- Standard procedure with complementary training – 2 partial invoices

**You can find detailed information about costs on our website, under the particular profession that interests you.**

### **Purpose of recognition**

- Enables professional mobility throughout Switzerland
- Freelance practice: On completion of the recognition procedure and receipt of the cantonal authorization it is possible to practise the profession as a freelance. Other legal regulations apply for the invoicing of services related to the basic health insurance.
- Access to further training
- Direct entry in the professional registry

### **Legal basis**

Qualifications are recognized in accordance with the following legislation:

- EU-Directive 2005/36/EC dated 7 September 2005, or
- Swiss Vocational Training Act dated 13 December 2002, and
- Swiss Vocational Training Ordinance dated 19 November 2003, or
- Swiss Higher Education Act dated 30 September 2011, and
- Swiss Higher Education Ordinance dated 23 November 2016