

Attaining the German “Approbation” for foreign physicians

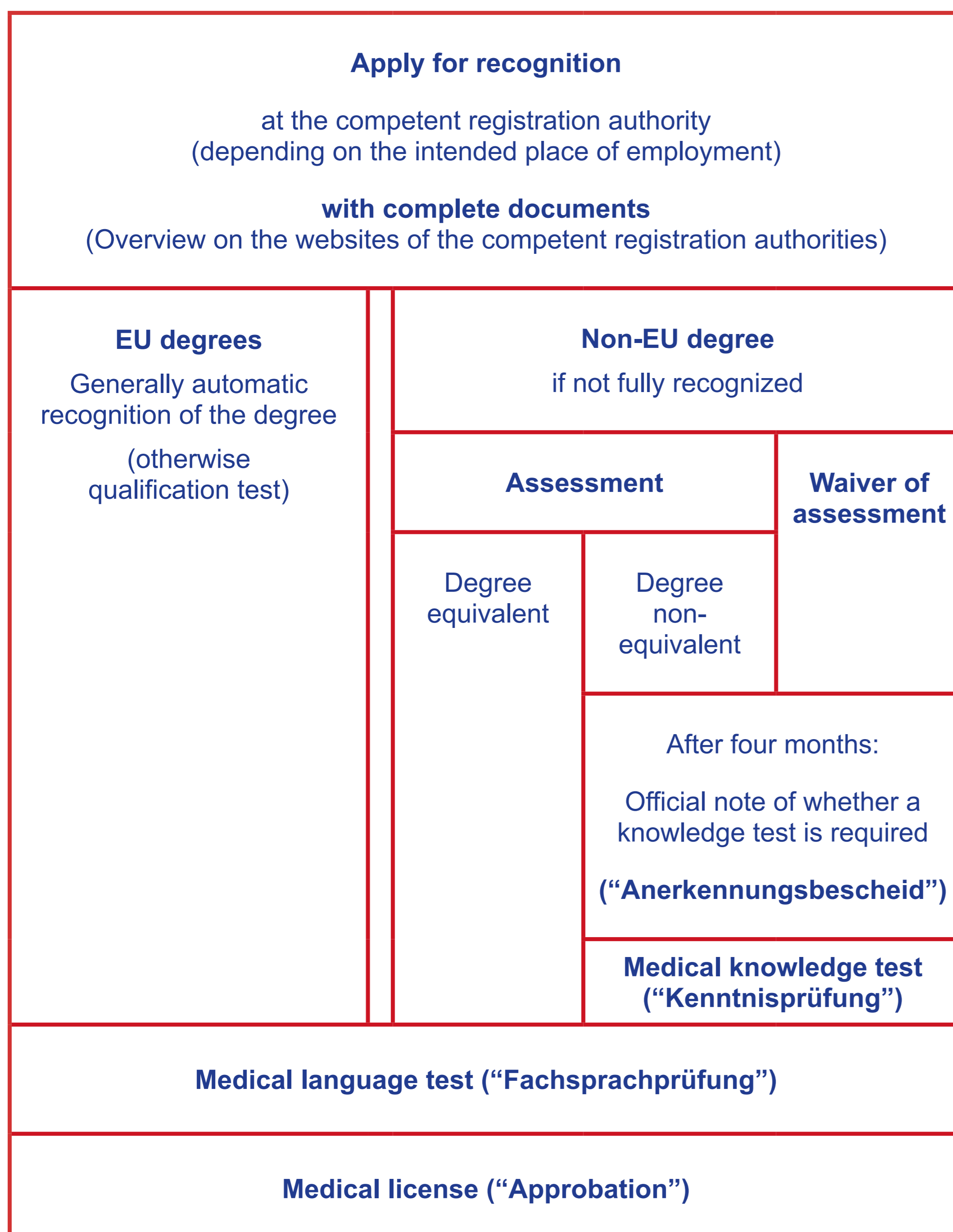


Physicians from all over the world preparing for the German “Approbation” at the mibeg-Institut Medizin

First steps: Apply for medical license

- Acquisition of very good **general German language skills** (level B2–C1) – help provided by employment agencies and job centers.
- Compilation of **complete documents** including certified copies and translations of all certificates. Important: Only applications with complete documents can be processed.
- Help is provided by the **recognition counseling centers**.
- **Application for medical license** (“Approbation”) to practice as a physician at the competent registration authority. These state authorities will register applicants for the medical language and knowledge test, accordingly. On the website **anerkennung-in-deutschland.de** you can find the competent registration authority for a certain Federal State.
- **Qualified preparation** for the recognition tests. Information on publicly-funded trainings is located at kursnet.arbeitsagentur.de.
- The competent registration authority informs about costs involved. There is a possibility for **financial aid**.
- Information, tips, links and addresses can be found on **anerkennung-medizin.de** and **anerkennung-in-deutschland.de**.

Ways and means to the medical license (“Approbation”)



Good to know

- Without an **“Approbation”** or a **“Berufserlaubnis”** (work permit), the medical profession must not be exercised.
- Education completed in the **EU** is usually automatically recognized. However, the recognition still has to be officially applied for.
- If the education is completed in a non-EU country, a temporary **work permit** may be requested from the competent body before obtaining the license to practice. For this, a medical language test needs to be passed successfully. Physicians with a temporary work permit have to work under the instruction and guidance of a licensed physician.
- A **knowledge test** (“Kenntnisprüfung”), organized by the Landesprüfungsamt, is carried out if the education is not equivalent to the German level. The knowledge test can be repeated twice, so an intensive preparation is important.
- In almost all federal states, the **medical language test** (“Fachsprachprüfung”) is taken by **State Chambers of Physicians** (“Ärzttekammern”).
- **Academic degrees or PhDs** conferred in foreign accredited institutions may be held. Unless the degree has been obtained in the EU, the awarding institution must be included in parentheses. A conversion of foreign acquired degrees or titles into domestic is not permitted.
- **Foreign specializations** may only be used with the approval of the State Chambers of Physicians. After receiving the medical license, documents including further education contents and times must be submitted to State Chambers of Physicians in order to verify the use of the German analogue.
- The German healthcare sector welcomes qualified physicians in numerous clinics and practices, research institutions and public health departments.