EUROPE · GERMANY · NON-EU PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

DE How to register as a pharmacist in Germany

The full licence is the Approbation als Apotheker. It is governed by federal law (Bundes-Apothekerordnung) and issued by the licensing authority of the federal state where you plan to work. Licence or registration: **Approbation als Apotheker**. Regulator: **Licensing authority of each federal state (Bundesland)**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

NEW FROM 1 NOV 2026 The knowledge exam (Kenntnisprüfung) is now the standard route for degrees from outside the EU (BApO §10c). The document-based curriculum comparison happens only if you choose it within 4 weeks of applying, and that choice is binding. Many state web pages still describe the old procedure, so confirm with your authority.

Who decides what	
State licensing authority	Receives your application, issues the Approbation and the Berufserlaubnis.
State Chamber of Pharmacists	Runs the pharmacy language exam. In some states it also organises the Kenntnisprüfung.
State examination commission	Three state-appointed examiners conduct the Kenntnisprüfung.
German mission and immigration office	Decide visas and residence permits. Separate from registration.
Employer	Decides hiring. A licence is not a job offer.

Who can apply

- A completed pharmacy qualification that gives direct access to the profession in the country where you trained, plus proof you may practise there.
- Work experience is not a legal requirement. It matters only on the opt-in comparison route.
- The law does not ask non-EU graduates to repeat the German practical year.
- You must be personally reliable and medically fit.
- You can apply from abroad, but must show you intend to work in that state.
- Apply in one state only.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1. **Learn German to B2**
   A recognised general B2 certificate. Authorities expect B2 plus pharmacy language at C1; NRW asks for a certificate under 3 years old.
   Time: 12–18 months (est.) · Cost: set by test centre
2. **Apply for the Approbation**
   Choose one federal state. Send degree, transcript, licence to practise, good-standing, police and medical certificates, CV and sworn translations.
   Time: up to 3 months · Cost: €100–750
3. **Pass the Fachsprachenprüfung**
   Pharmacy language exam at the state Chamber of Pharmacists. It tests language, not pharmacy knowledge.
   Time: 1–3 months wait (est.) · Cost: €250–400
4. **Optional: Berufserlaubnis**
   Temporary, supervised, non-managerial work for up to 2 years in total while you prepare.
   Time: up to 2 years · Cost: €100–750
5. **Pass the Kenntnisprüfung**
   Oral state exam in German on the content of the German final pharmacy exam. States must offer a date within 6 months of applying.
   Time: within 6 months · Cost: €315–710+
6. **Receive the Approbation**
   Permanent licence valid in every German state.
   Time: after passing

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Language requirements

- General German at B2 with a recognised certificate.
- Pharmacy German at C1, proven by the Fachsprachenprüfung.
- All exams are held in German.

Read this before you plan

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. The Approbation gives no right to enter, stay or be hired. Visas are decided by German missions and immigration offices.
- No pharmaceutical work is allowed before a Berufserlaubnis or Approbation, and nothing in this process is guaranteed.
- National visa fee €75; recognition-visa proof of funds in 2026: €1,091 per month.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

Fachsprachenprüfung (FSP)

ONSITE

- About 60 minutes, 3 parts
- Patient consultation
- Written documentation
- Talk with a colleague
- Repeatable, fee each time

In person at the state Chamber of Pharmacists in Germany. Not offered online or abroad.

Kenntnisprüfung (KP)

ONSITE

- Oral, in German
- 30–60 minutes each
- 3 examiners
- Practice, law and 4+ core subjects
- 2 repeats allowed

In person in Germany before a state commission. Not offered online or abroad.

Official fees	Amount
Approbation Berlin 100–430 · Bavaria 400–500 · BW about 450 · NRW 150–700 · Saxony 490	**€100–750**
Fachsprachenprüfung, per attempt Hamburg 250 · BW 300 · Berlin, Nordrhein 375 · Bavaria 400	**€250–400**
Kenntnisprüfung, per attempt Berlin 315 · BW 600 · Bavaria up to 690 · NRW from 710	**€315–710+**
Berufserlaubnis (optional) Bavaria 100 per year · Berlin 150 · Saxony 490	**€100–750**
Expert report Only on the opt-in comparison route (NRW, Saxony)	**from €1,773**

BW = Baden-Württemberg, NRW = North Rhine-Westphalia. Translations, courses and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- Proof of identity
- CV in table form
- Pharmacy degree and transcript
- Certificate that you may practise in the country of training
- Certificate of good standing
- Police certificates, home country and Germany
- Medical certificate of fitness
- Declaration that no procedure runs in another state
- Sworn translations into German or English

Expected time

- Authority confirms receipt within 1 month and decides within 3 months of complete documents (4 months on the opt-in comparison route).
- You must be able to sit the Kenntnisprüfung within 6 months of applying; it is offered at least twice a year.
- Real cases can take longer: Bavaria says some exceed a year.

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Two routes under BApO §10c

- Standard: go straight to the Kenntnisprüfung. Decision deadline 3 months.
- Opt-in: document comparison, chosen within 4 weeks and binding. Deadline 4 months, more documents, possible expert report from €1,773.
- The comparison route can still end in the Kenntnisprüfung.

Visas, pay and next steps

Checked 20 November 2026

Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Recognition visa (§16d)	For qualification measures and exams after the German authority has issued a notice. Missions in Pakistan ask for the notice, a suitable programme and German A2. Up to 24 months, extendable to 3 years.	Open
Opportunity Card (§20a)	For job search or recognition measures; up to 1 year; average 20 hours of work a week. It does not allow work as a pharmacist without a licence.	Open
EU Blue Card (§18g)	Needs a job offer and the licence granted or promised. 2026 thresholds: €50,700 standard; €45,934.20 for listed shortage groups, which include pharmacists.	Changes yearly
Skilled worker permit (§18b)	For licensed academic professionals with a job offer.	Open

If you are applying from Pakistan

- Embassy Islamabad covers Islamabad, Punjab, KP, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan; Consulate General Karachi covers Sindh and Balochistan.
- Work and recognition visas are filed through the Consular Services Portal.
- Embassy checklists ask for degrees attested by the HEC.
- National visa fee €75, paid in rupees. No waiting time is published.
- The missions state that agents have no connection to them.

Pay and funding

- Collective agreement 2026 (ADEXA/ADA, community pharmacies, most of Germany): licensed pharmacist €4,166 gross per month in year 1. Valid to 31 Dec 2026.
- Actual pay depends on employer, region and whether the agreement applies.
- Recognition grant: up to €600 towards procedure costs, only for people already living in Germany.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Applying in several states at once. Choose one.
- Treating the anabin database or a ZAB statement as the licence decision.
- Choosing the comparison route by default.
- Relying on an old state web page. Ask for the post-reform leaflet.
- Assuming a licence brings a visa or a job.

How ASGHCA supports you

- German language support
- International Career Mapping: consult, assess, roadmap, prepare
- Documentation and registration guidance
- English test preparation: IELTS, PTE and OET
- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
- Webinars, CPD sessions and a lifetime community

ASGHCA offers education and guidance. Regulated immigration advice is referred to authorised professionals.

Official sources, all checked 20 November 2026: BApO §§4, 10c, 11 and AAppO §§20c–20f, 22d, 23 (gesetze-im-internet.de) · anerkennung-in-deutschland.de · state authorities (service.berlin.de, bayernportal.de, brms.nrw.de, rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de, lds.sachsen.de) · state Chambers of Pharmacists · pakistan.diplo.de · make-it-in-germany.com · adexa-online.de.

www.asghca.com
Book a free career-mapping consultation · LEARN | GROW | GO GLOBAL
Dr. Afifa Saghir (RPh), Founder & CEO · Registered Pharmacist in Pakistan and Australia

inquiry@asghca.com
WhatsApp +92 335 0051800 · +61 491 787 335 · UK +44 7587 013834
Instagram & TikTok @asghcaofficial · facebook.com/asghca

Important: general information prepared from official sources, not legal or immigration advice. Fees, rules and dates change; always confirm with the competent authority before paying or applying. Durations marked (est.) are ASGHCA planning estimates, not official figures. ASGHCA provides education and career guidance and is not a regulator, law firm or licensed immigration adviser. ASGHCA does not guarantee exam success, registration, employment, sponsorship, visas or residence. For visa matters consult the official mission or an authorised adviser.