EUROPE · GERMANY · NON-EU PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

DE Pharmacist registration 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. Facts 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.

1	2	3	4	5	6
German B2	Apply	Fachsprachprüfung	Berufserlaubnis	Kenntnisprüfung	Approbation
general certificate	state authority	pharmacy German, C1	optional, max 2 yrs	oral state exam	full licence
12–18 months (est.)	up to 3 months	1–3 months wait (est.)	up to 2 years	within 6 months	after passing

The route, step by step

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

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.

Fachsprachenprüfung (FSP)

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- 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.

Timelines

- 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.)

Keep these separate

- 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.

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

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Sources (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. **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.