EUROPE · SWITZERLAND · NON-EU/EFTA PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

CH Pharmacist registration in Switzerland

Pharmacy is governed by the federal Medical Professions Act (Medizinalberufegesetz, MedBG). The Medical Professions Commission (MEBEKO) at the BAG decides on foreign diplomas, and the canton where you work issues the licence to practise on your own responsibility. Facts checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

NO DIRECT RECOGNITION A pharmacy degree from outside the EU/EFTA cannot be recognised in Switzerland. For pharmacists, the BAG lists one route to the federal diploma: a master's in pharmacy at a Swiss university, then the federal exam. The clinical-experience shortcuts on the same BAG page are for doctors, not pharmacists.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Language B2 DE, FR or IT	**MedReg entry** optional, supervised	**MEBEKO** federal diploma form	**Swiss master** university decides	**Federal exam** eidg. Prüfung	**Diploma** then cantonal licence
12–18 months (est.)	up to 5 months	up to 5 months	2–3 years (est.)	1 session a year (est.)	after passing

The route, step by step

1. **Reach B2 in a national language**
   MedReg entry needs at least B2 in the language of work: a CEFR certificate under 6 years old, a degree taught in that language, or 3 years of work in it in the last 10.
   Time: 12–18 months (est.) · Cost: set by test centre
2. **Optional: register your foreign diploma**
   MEBEKO can enter a non-recognised diploma in MedReg if it allows supervised practice where it was issued and meets minimum training hours. This does not admit you to the federal exam.
   Time: up to 5 months · Cost: CHF 800–1,200
3. **Ask MEBEKO about the federal diploma**
   MEBEKO decides the conditions for obtaining the federal diploma. Send the form by post with certified copies, never originals.
   Time: up to 5 months · Cost: CHF 800–1,000
4. **Complete a Swiss master's in pharmacy**
   Universities decide admission, study places and how much prior study counts. A MEBEKO decision gives no right to a study place.
   Time: 2–3 years (est.) · Cost: set by university
5. **Pass the federal exam in pharmacy**
   Three parts: written multiple choice, a practical compounding exam and an OSCE. For the 2026 session, registration closed on 31 March 2026.
   Time: 1 session a year (est.)
6. **Receive the federal diploma**
   You are entered in MedReg. To run a pharmacy on your own responsibility you also need a federal postgraduate title and a cantonal licence.
   Time: after passing

Official fees	Amount
MedReg entry of a foreign diploma For supervised work only. Paid by bank transfer, in one payment.	**CHF 800–1,200**
Request for the federal diploma MEBEKO decision on the conditions for the federal diploma.	**CHF 800–1,000**
Language entry in MedReg Optional but recommended by the BAG.	**CHF 50–100**
Indirect recognition Only if an EU/EFTA state already recognised your diploma and you are a Swiss or EU/EFTA national.	**CHF 800–1,000**
Federal exam and cantonal licence Exam fees are invoiced later; cantonal fees vary. No figure verified.	**not published here**

Exam pattern: online or onsite?

Federal exam in pharmacy ONSITE
3 parts, each must be passed · MC: 150 questions, types A and Kprim · MC subjects: pharmacotherapy, law and economics · Practical: compound a medicine in small quantity

Timelines

- MEBEKO sends an acknowledgement within 1 month by email, then processing currently takes up to 5 months. The BAG says these times are not binding and cannot be sped up.
- Applications are handled in order of arrival. There is no online tracking.
- Federal exam registration for 2026 closed on 31 March 2026. Check the BAG exam page for the next session dates.

Typical total: About 3–5 years (est.)

Keep these separate

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. A MEBEKO decision or MedReg entry gives no right to enter, stay or be hired. Permits are decided by cantonal migration offices and the SEM.
- A MedReg entry of a foreign diploma covers supervised work only. Own-responsibility work needs the federal diploma, a postgraduate title and a cantonal licence.
- Employers must check that a supervised pharmacist is in MedReg and has the language skills needed. Cantonal health authorities decide on supervised employment.

How ASGHCA supports you

- 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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inquiry@asghca.com
WhatsApp +92 335 0051800 · +61 491 787 335 · UK +44 7587 013834
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Sources (checked 20 November 2026): MedBG SR 811.11, Arts. 12, 15, 33a, 34, 36 (fedlex.admin.ch) · bag.admin.ch: third-country diploma procedures (FR and DE), MEBEKO, MedReg, Eidgenössische Prüfung in Pharmazie, MEBEKO Richtlinien PHM 2025 · sem.admin.ch: basis for admission to the employment market · admin.ch: Federal Council 2026 quotas · schweiz-pakistan.eda.admin.ch: national visa and work visa documents. **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.