



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

Swiss Confederation

Overview of authorities and institutions

Recognition of foreign qualifications

**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI
Contact point for the recognition
of foreign qualifications
Einsteinstrasse 2, CH-3003 Bern
Tel +41 (0)58 462 28 26
E-mail: kontaktstelle@sbfi.admin.ch
www.sbfi.admin.ch/diploma**

Introduction

In Switzerland, the authorities or institutions responsible for recognising foreign qualifications differ depending on the occupation or profession concerned. This information sheet provides an overview of the various occupations and professions as well as the corresponding authorities and institutions that you should contact when applying for recognition.

Please note that your foreign qualification must be **issued or recognised by the national authorities** of the country where you obtained it in order for it to be recognised in Switzerland. It is also important to know that not all occupations and professions are regulated in Switzerland. In such cases, recognition of your foreign qualification will not be required.

If your occupation or profession is **not regulated** in Switzerland, you may carry out this occupation or profession without having to apply for recognition of your foreign qualification. Your ability to work will depend solely on labour market conditions. The decisive factor in such cases will be your ability to find an employer to hire you.

If your occupation or profession is **regulated** in Switzerland, you will need to contact the corresponding Swiss authority or institution to apply for recognition of your foreign qualifications. Regulated occupations and professions include those that are subject to legal restrictions and can therefore only be carried out by holders of a specific qualification.

Responsibility of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

The SERI is responsible for recognising the following foreign qualifications for holders wishing to carry out specific occupations or professions in Switzerland:

Upper-secondary level qualifications relating to vocational education and training (VET)

Social care, industry, craftsmanship, trade, commerce, HORECA, hospitality services, services, etc.

Tertiary-level A qualifications for specific professions (Fachhochschule)

- Engineering and IT
- Architecture, construction and planning
- Chemistry and life sciences
- Agriculture and forestry
- Economics and services
- Design
- Health care
- Social work
- Performing arts
- Applied linguistics

VET teachers (Berufschullehrer/innen)

For information, contact:

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Other authorities and institutions responsible for recognising foreign qualifications

Health care

You hold an upper-secondary and tertiary-level B qualification in a health care field and would like to work in Switzerland.

Contact:

Swiss Red Cross (SRC)

Contact point for recognition
of foreign qualifications

Postfach, CH-3084 Wabern

Tel. +41 (0)58 400 44 84 (Mo-Fr, 08.00 am – 12.00 am)

Web site: www.redcross.ch

Doctors, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists, chiropractors

You are a doctor, dentist, veterinarian, pharmacist or chiropractor and would like to work in Switzerland.

Contact:

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)

MEBEKO, Schwarzenburgstrasse 157, CH-3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)58 462 94 83

Web site: www.bag.admin.ch

MEBEKO-Ausbildung@bag.admin.ch

Teachers, special education teachers, speech therapists, psychomotor therapist

You are a teacher, special education teacher, speech therapist, psychomotor therapist and would like to work in Switzerland at an upper-secondary school within the general education sector.

Contact:

Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors
of Education (EDK)

General Secretariat, House of the Cantons

Speichergasse 6, Postfach 660, CH-3000 Bern 7

Tel. +41 (0)31 309 51 31

Web site: www.edk.ch

Psychology

The Psychology Professions Commission (PsyCo) is responsible for recognition of foreign higher education qualifications as well as continuing education and training qualifications in areas falling within the scope of the Psychology Professions Act (PsyPA, SR 935.81).

Contact:

Psychology Professions Commission (PsyCo)
Secretariat, Schwarzenburgstrasse 157, CH-3003 Bern
Tel. +41 (0)58 464 38 18
psyko@bag.admin.ch

Osteopaths

You are an osteopath and would like to work in Switzerland.

Contact:

Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors
of Health (GDK)
Legal Services, House of the Cantons
Speichergasse 6, Postfach 684, CH-3000 Bern 7
Tel. +41 (0)31 356 20 20
Web site: www.gdk-cds.ch

Geometrical engineers

You are a geometrical engineer and would like to do cadastral surveying in Switzerland.

Contact:

Federal Office of Topography (Swisstopo)
Federal Committee on Geometrical Engineering
Seftigenstrasse 264, CH-3084 Wabern
geometerkommission@swisstopo.ch
Web site: www.cadastre.ch

Accountants and auditors

You are an accountant or auditor and would like to obtain authorisation to work in Switzerland.

Contact:

Eidgenössische Revisionsaufsichtsbehörde RAB
Postfach 6023, CH-3001 Bern
Tel. +41 (0)31 560 22 22, Web site:
www.revisionsaufsichtsbehoerde.ch

Lawyers and notaries

You are a lawyer or notary and would like to work in a legal capacity in Switzerland.

Contact:

The judicial authorities of the Canton where you would like to work.

Holders of tertiary-level A qualifications

You are a holder of a tertiary-level A qualification.

Contact:

swissuniversities
Swiss ENIC
Effingerstrasse 15, Postfach
CH-3000 Bern 1
Tel. +41 (0)31 335 07 43 / 45
Web site: www.enic.ch

Holders of upper-secondary level academic qualifications

You are a holder of an upper-secondary level academic qualification obtained outside of Switzerland (e.g. Abitur, Matura, Fachabitur, Berufsmaturität) and would like to study in Switzerland.

Contact:

The corresponding tertiary-level A institution.

Undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students

You would like to enrol in a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral degree programme at a Swiss tertiary-level A institution.

Contact:

The corresponding tertiary-level A institution.

VET trainers

You would like to train upper-secondary level VET students at a host company and are looking for information about available training programmes for VET trainers.

Contact:

Local cantonal office responsible for vocational and professional education and training.

Web site: www.sbbk.ch

Gastronomists

You are a gastronomist and would like to open up an establishment in the hotel, restaurant and catering (HORECA) sector in Switzerland. You are looking for information about authorisations and cantonal innkeeper permits (*kantonaler Fähigkeitsausweis, Wirtepatent*). Authorisations to run establishments in the HORECA sector vary from Canton to Canton.

Contact:

The labour office in the Canton where you would like to open your establishment.

Web site: www.ch.ch

Self-employed and entrepreneurs

You would like to work in a self-employed capacity or set up your own business.

Contact:

Cantonal labour office

Web site: www.ch.ch