

Recognition of foreign qualifications in non-university health care professions

Information sheet

Swiss Red Cross
Health & Integration / Vocational Training
Qualification Recognition Service
Werkstrasse 18
3084 Wabern, Switzerland

Information provided by telephone Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 12:00 a.m. on the premium rate number 0900 733 276. Calls are charged at CHF 2.50 per minute.

The first 90 seconds are free of charge.

Fax: 031 960 75 60

E-mail: registry@redcross.ch

Internet: www.redcross.ch and www.bildung-gesundheit.ch

Legal basis

On the basis of an official remit from the Federal Office for Professional Education & Technology (OPET), the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) carries out the following tasks:

The recognition of foreign qualifications in health-care professions in accordance with the Swiss Law on Vocational Training dated 13 December 2002 (www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c412_10.html) and the ordinance on vocational training dated 19 November 2003 (http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c412_101.html) and the Law on Professional Universities (http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c412_101.html).

Authority

In accordance with Art. 75⁴ BBV, the Swiss Red Cross currently provides recognition for the following qualifications:

Qualifications at secondary level II

- Community nursing
- Podology
- Health care
- Medical massage

Qualifications at tertiary level

- Dental hygiene
- Ergotherapy
- Nutrition counselling
- Obstetrics
- Medical radiology
- Medical laboratory assistant
- Medical theatre technology
- Orthoptics
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Paramedic

Preliminary ruling

The preliminary ruling will tell you whether your qualification can in principle be recognized and informs you of any conditions you must fulfil to have it recognized.

The preliminary ruling can be attached to job applications. This document is often required by future employers or by health insurers for the purpose of calculating benefits.

To enable a preliminary ruling to be issued, please submit the following documents:

- The duly completed form applying for a preliminary ruling and/or the application documents: http://www.redcross.ch/activities/health/hocc/pdf/redcross_anmeldeform_071128_d.pdf
- A copy of your qualification (diploma, certificate, etc.)
- The copy of the training confirmation, i.e. a detailed list of the training courses stating the exact number of attendance hours in the individual subjects (theory) and the number of practical training sessions (subjects with weeks/hours), with the date, signature, and the official stamp of the school.
- Depending on the country: registration certificate recognized by the government
- A brief curriculum vitae (CV)

We require copies of the original documents and, if necessary, a certified translation. It is only necessary to provide a translation when the documents are not in one of the following languages: German, French, Italian, or English.

Preliminary ruling to third parties

(employer, consultants, associations, etc.): For data-protection reasons we require the express written consent of the applicant (with the exception of the authorities).

Costs

The cost of a preliminary ruling is CHF 120.--

The preliminary ruling is not part of the recognition procedure and can therefore be requested independently.

Should the preliminary ruling state that complementary courses are necessary, we draw your attention to the fact that these can only be passed as part of the recognition procedure after you have received the legal partial decision.

<p><i>Documents may be sent by post, fax or e-mail. Telephone enquiries are possible in the mornings on the premium rate number 0900 733 276.</i></p>

Recognition

Purpose

- **Enables professional mobility throughout Switzerland**
- Freelance practice: On completion of the recognition procedure and receipt of the cantonal authorization it is possible to practise the profession as a freelance. Other legal regulations apply for the invoicing of services related to the basic health insurance.
- **Easier access to further training**
- **Direct entry in the professional registry**

Recognition procedure

If you would like to submit a request for recognition you should send us the completed application form for a preliminary opinion and/or application documents.

Please note that you may only apply for recognition if you meet the following conditions:

- You are the holder of a professional title that has been awarded by the government concerned or by an official body recognized by that government.
- You are a citizen of an EU/EFTA country.
- For citizens of non-EU/EFTA countries: you are legally resident in Switzerland or you are working in Switzerland as a cross-border worker,

You will be informed of any special conditions for recognition once your dossier has been examined. **Please note that, if there are any gaps in your training, relevant additional training must be completed in Switzerland.**

Please note that the complementary courses can only be passed as part of the recognition procedure after you have received the legal partial decision.

Decision deadline

You will receive a decision within three months of submission of your complete dossier.

Costs

Recognition of foreign qualifications is carried out on behalf of the Swiss government for a fee to cover costs without profit. The fee covers the following:

- Administrative handling of the application
- Expert analysis, research and appraisal in the individual assessment procedure
- Maintaining the professional registry
- Overheads

Depending on the amount of work involved (administrative, content-related) the recognition procedure costs between CHF 500 and CHF 940.

In the event that recognition should involve complementary training or an aptitude test, additional costs will be charged. These costs will be invoiced to the applicant directly by the institution providing the complementary training.

Language skills

As part of the recognition procedure you must demonstrate a sufficient level of ability in one of the national languages (German, French, or Italian).

We consider your language skills to be acceptable if:

- Your first language (mother tongue) is German, French, or Italian; or
- You have completed your professional training in one of these three languages; or
- You have completed a language qualification or have successfully completed a language test of at least level B2 (www.sprachenportfolio.ch)

Information about the level of language skills can be found at: www.redcross.ch and www.bildung-gesundheit.ch