Mebeko Recognition in Switzerland

A comprehensive overview of the recognition process for medical qualifications

Introduction

The recognition of foreign medical qualifications in Switzerland is a complex process that requires thorough preparation and accurate information. The Medical Professions Commission (MEBEKO) is the competent authority that decides on the recognition of qualifications and the granting of professional practice permits for medical professionals.

Who needs Mebeko recognition?

All medical professionals who completed their training abroad (from EU or EFTA countries) and wish to work in the healthcare sector in Switzerland require recognition of their foreign diploma by Mebeko . This includes doctors, dentists, pharmacists, chiropractors , veterinarians, and optometrists.

Requirements for recognition

Recognition involves several steps and requirements that must be met:

1. Recognition of training

The training must have been completed in a country whose degree programs are recognized by Switzerland. A list of these countries can be found at the end of this guide.

2. Language skills

level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is generally required.

3. Professional experience

Depending on the profession and the country of training, a certain number of years of professional experience or internships in the medical field may be required.

The recognition process

1. Application

The first step is to submit an application for recognition to Mebeko . This must include various documents, including:

- Copy of diploma and academic transcripts
- Evidence of professional experience
- Language certificates
- CV
- A letter of motivation

2. Review of documents

Mebeko examines the submitted documents and decides whether further steps are necessary, such as taking additional exams or internships.

3. Recognition or conditions

After successfully reviewing the documents and, if applicable, fulfilling additional requirements, Mebeko will grant recognition of the diploma. In some cases, conditions may be imposed that must be met before the recognition is finally granted.

4. Procedure for diplomas from EU/EFTA countries

Two procedures are available for persons with diplomas from an EU/EFTA country:

Direct recognition of a diploma

To apply for direct recognition of a diploma from an EU/EFTA country, all of the following requirements must be met:

- You are a citizen of Switzerland or an EU/EFTA member state, or your spouse is a citizen of one of these states.
- Your diploma (including any additional certificates) corresponds to the designation contained in EU Directive 2005/36/EC or the EFTA Agreement.
- Your diploma (including any additional documents) was issued by the authority referred to in the EU Directive or the EFTA Convention.

Registration of non- recognizable foreign diplomas

If your diploma originates from an EU/EFTA country, but neither you nor your spouse are Swiss or EU/EFTA nationals, the diploma will not be recognized. However, you can register the diploma instead. To submit such an application, the following requirements must be met:

- The diploma entitles the holder to practice a profession in the country of origin under professional supervision (e.g. as an assistant doctor) in the relevant medical profession .
- The training acquired abroad meets the minimum requirements with regard to the number of hours/years of theoretical and practical instruction at a university or college of recognized equivalent level.

EU Directive 2005/36/EC and the EFTA Convention establish the standards and procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications in the Member States. This directive aims to promote the mobility of professionals within Europe and ensure that qualifications are comparable and equivalent. It defines specific requirements and minimum standards for various professions, including medical professions .

5. Costs of recognition

Recognition of a diploma by Mebeko is associated with certain costs. The exact amount depends on various factors, such as the extent of the required examinations and adaptation training. In general, the fees for the recognition process range from approximately CHF 800 to CHF 1,500. These costs include administrative fees, processing costs, and the costs of any additional examinations and adaptation training. It is advisable to inquire about the exact fees from Mebeko in advance to avoid unexpected expenses.

Additional examinations and adaptation training

If Mebeko determines that the foreign qualification does not fully meet Swiss requirements, additional examinations or adaptation training may be required. These serve to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills required to practice the profession in Switzerland.

Frequently asked questions about Mebeko recognition

1. What is the Mebeko ?

Mebeko is the Swiss Medical Professions Commission , which is responsible for the recognition of foreign medical qualifications.

2. How much does the recognition process cost?

The fees for the recognition process range from approximately CHF 800 to CHF 1,500. These costs include administrative fees, processing fees, and the costs of any additional examinations and adaptation training.

3. What documents are required for recognition?

Required documents include proof of education, certificates, a copy of your passport or identity card, a certificate of professional experience and possibly other specific documents.

4. How long does the recognition process take?

The duration of the recognition process can vary and depends on the completeness of the submitted documents and the individual review process. It can take several months.

5. Do I have to take additional exams or training courses?

If Mebeko determines that the foreign training does not fully meet Swiss requirements, additional examinations or adaptation training may be required.

6. Where can I find detailed information about the recognition process?

Detailed information can be found on the official Mebeko website :
Gesuch einreichen für ein Diplom der Medizinalberufe

7. Are there counseling centers that offer support?

Yes, there are various advisory centers and organizations that offer support in the recognition of medical qualifications and provide assistance with applications and preparation for additional examinations.

8. Can I apply for the recognition process online?

Yes, the recognition process can be applied for online via the Mebeko website .

9. What happens if my degree is not recognized?

If the qualification is not recognized, you may be able to complete the necessary adaptation training or additional examinations to achieve recognition.

10. Who decides on the recognition of my degree?

Mebeko makes the decision on recognition based on the submitted documents and examination results.

11. Do I have to be a resident of Switzerland to start the recognition process?

No, you do not need to be a resident of Switzerland to apply for recognition. However, it is helpful to be in Switzerland to complete any necessary adaptation training or additional examinations.

12. Will my professional experience abroad be taken into account?

Yes, professional experience abroad is taken into account and can influence the recognition of the qualification.

13. Is there a way to check the status of my application?

check the status of your application via the Mebeko online portal.

14. Which languages do my documents need to be translated into?

Documents must be submitted in one of the official languages of Switzerland (German, French, Italian) or in English.

15. Can my documents be submitted electronically?

be submitted electronically via the Mebeko online portal.

16. Are there any deadlines I need to observe?

There are no fixed deadlines, but you should ensure that all required documents are submitted completely and on time to avoid delays.

17. What are the most common reasons for refusal of recognition?

Common reasons for rejection include incomplete documents, missing evidence of education or professional experience, and significant differences between the foreign education and the Swiss requirements.

18. Is a supporting language proficiency test required?

Depending on the profession and canton, a language proficiency test may be required to ensure that you have sufficient knowledge of the respective official language.

19. How can I prepare for possible additional exams?

It is advisable to inform yourself about the content of the supplementary exams early on and to use appropriate preparation courses or materials. Advisory centers can also provide support in this regard.

20. Is there a way to view my exam documents?

Yes, you have the right to inspect your examination documents. However, this must be requested from Mebeko.

This overview is intended to help you better understand the Mebeko recognition process and prepare accordingly.

We will be happy to support you to ensure that your recognition process runs smoothly.

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