



Recognition of Qualifications

Foreign qualifications are not always valid in Switzerland. Under certain circumstances, it is possible to have qualifications accredited. This is a requirement for some professions.

Accreditation

Persons with foreign qualifications can, under certain circumstances, have them accredited in Switzerland. Accreditation confirms that the foreign qualification is the equivalent of the Swiss qualification. Regulated professions (e.g. healthcare professionals, teachers, etc.) require accreditation. Which agency is responsible for the accreditation process is dependent upon the profession or training. A fee is charged for the accreditation process. The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI is responsible for answering general questions regarding the accreditation of foreign diplomas. (Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation SBF | Secrétaire d'État à la formation, à la recherche et à l'innovation SEFRI)

Qualification Assessment

An accreditation process is not necessary for unregulated professions. For these professions it is possible to request that the level of qualification be determined (Niveaubestätigung | Attestation de niveau). This process determines the status of a foreign diploma relative to the Swiss education system. Such an assessment can be helpful in finding employment. Additional information is provided by the national information center for the recognition of foreign qualifications (Nationale Kontaktstelle für Diplomanerkennung | Point de Contact national pour la reconnaissance de diplômes) or the Vocational guidance and information centers BIZ (Berufsberatungs- und Informationszentren BIZ | Centres d'orientation professionnelle OP).

Professional Qualification Later in Life

Adults with professional experience who do not have a recognized qualification can still obtain a Swiss qualification through vocational education and training or professional education and training. The process varies according to previous training, experience, and age. Good German language skills are an essential prerequisite (Level B1/B2 CEFR). Interested persons can, for example, obtain information and advice free of charge from the vocational guidance and information centers BIZ (BIZ | OP). Obtaining a professional qualification improves one's position in the job market and grants access to continued education.



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Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-bern.ch/en/school-and-education/recognition-of-qualifications