Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

Information sheet EDK – SRC – SWU and SERI
Recognition of Ukrainian qualifications for the purpose of carrying out a professional activity in Switzerland

25 march 2022

No restrictions on carrying out unregulated professional activities

All professional activities that do not appear in the indicative list published by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (List of regulated professional activities in Switzerland) are not restricted and may therefore be carried out without any specific preliminary formalities. While there is no need for a certificate confirming that the level of education and training for the foreign qualification matches that provided within the Swiss education system, such a level certificate can be obtained in Switzerland if desired. A formal equivalence procedure, however, is not advisable due to the cumulative requirements that must be met (see below).

Regulated professional activities

Only a few professional activities are considered to be regulated in Switzerland; these may only be carried out after the given foreign qualification has been recognised by a competent Swiss authority as being equivalent to a corresponding Swiss qualification. More detailed information regarding certain professional activities can be found at the bottom of the following webpage: https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications/recognition-procedure-on-establishment/regulated-occupations-and-professions.html

Some professional activities require a specific level of language proficiency in German, French or Italian, e.g. activities relating to teaching (level C2) or those relating to healthcare, social work and childcare (level B2).

The criteria used to assess the education and training underlying the given foreign qualification are determined on the basis of documentation deemed relevant by the competent Swiss authority. In the absence of specific documentation, information may be taken from official online sources (e.g. level, duration, structure and content of education and training). In hardship cases, the fee for the recognition procedure may be reduced.

All three of the following cumulative requirements must be met:

- The level of education training must be at least the same;
- The duration of education and training must be at least the same;
- The content of education and training must be comparable and must include a workplace training portion, or the qualification holder must have obtained relevant work experience.

Where direct equivalence is not possible (one or more of the cumulative requirements have not been met), compensatory measures will be requested, either in the form of an aptitude test or a traineeship. The equivalence decision will then be made once the requested measures have been taken.

Different authorities are responsible for different areas of recognition:

- The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)[1] is the national contact point for initial inquiries regarding the recognition of foreign qualifications. It is also the specific competent authority for the recognition of upper-secondary level vocational qualifications and tertiary-level professional qualifications. SERI offers a hotline[2] for general inquiries (i.e. not related to a previously submitted application).
- The Swiss Red Cross[3] is the competent authority for the recognition of vocational and professional qualifications relating to healthcare (see list[4]); the Federal Office

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1 https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications.html

2 pointdecontact@sbfi.admin.ch; Tel.: +41 58 462 28 26, from Monday to Friday, from 9:30 to 11:30

3 https://www.redcross.ch/en/our-services/healthcare-professions-recognition-and-registration

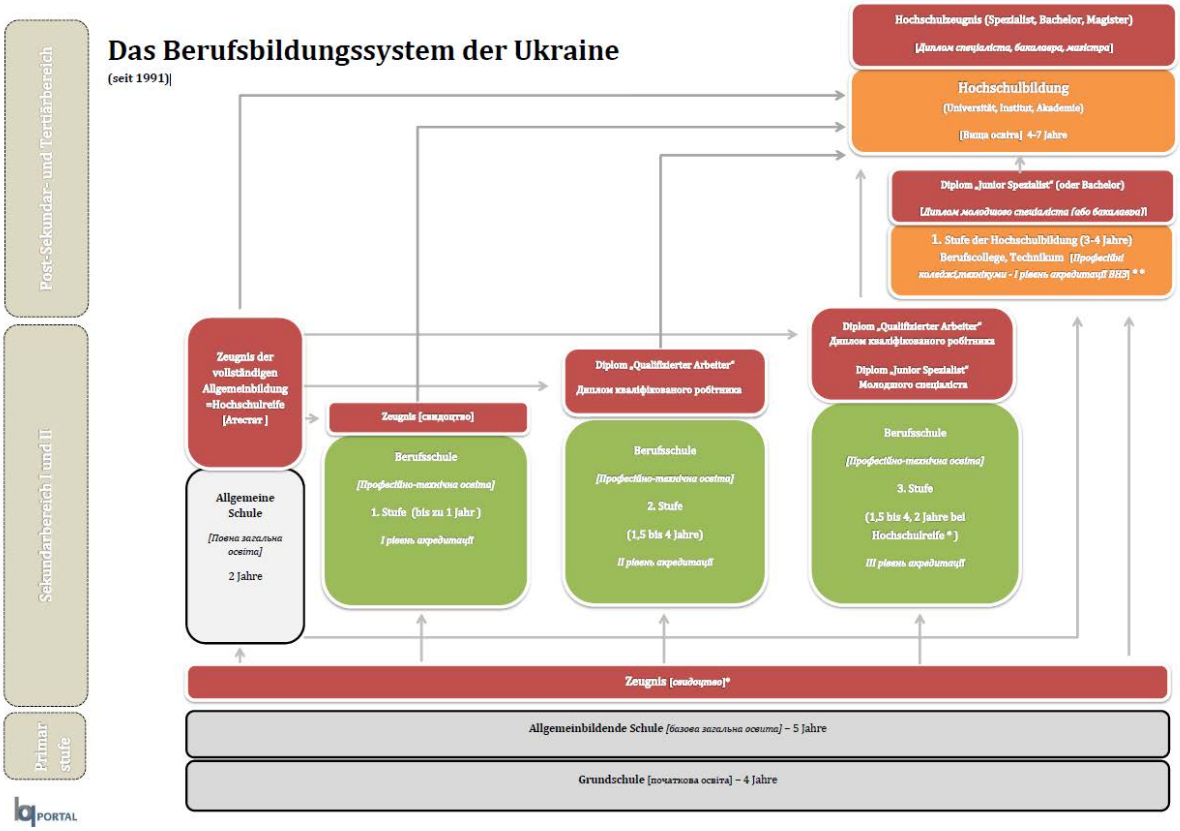
4 Healthcare assistants, podiatrists, dental hygienists, medical radiology technicians, biomedical analysis technicians, operating room technicians, orthopaedic technicians, emergency medical technicians, medical masseurs, naturopaths, nurses, occupational therapists, midwives, dieticians, optometrists and osteopaths

of Public Health (FOPH), and specifically the Swiss Commission for Medical Professions (MEBEKO), is responsible for the recognition of foreign qualifications relating to medical professions.

- The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) is responsible for the evaluation and recognition of foreign qualifications relating to teaching, pedagogy and therapy (special education, speech therapy, psychomotor therapy). The application for recognition must be submitted online. Information and contact details can be found on the EDK website[5]. Applicants covered by this note (status S) must have a teaching qualification and prove their language skills in a Swiss national language (level C2). In exceptional cases, the certificate may be produced during the procedure and the fee may be reduced. A request for exemption must be submitted.
- swissuniversities, which is part of the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC), can issue a level certificate for job seekers who hold a higher education qualification that provides access to a non-regulated professional activity[6]. If the desire is to enrol in a study programme at a Swiss university, then it is important to note that each higher education institution in Switzerland establishes its own admission criteria and requirements; swissuniversities recommends that you contact the university concerned directly to obtain more detailed information.

[5] https://www.edk.ch/fr/themes/reconnaissance-des-diplomes/diplomes-etrangers
[6] https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/service/recognition/swiss-enic

Ukrainian system of vocational and professional education and training[7]



[7] Source: BQ Portal, Germany, https://www.bq-portal.de/en

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