

Nostrification and professional recognition in the healthcare and social care professions

Training programmes for healthcare professions (such as registered nursing professionals and nursing assistants) are based on different training concepts and education systems in different countries, just as they are in other professions.

In Austria, healthcare and social care professions may only be practised by individuals who can demonstrate the qualifications required by law. In the case of qualifications obtained abroad, this requirement is met through:

- Recognition (qualifications obtained in an EU or Switzerland)
- Nostrification (qualifications obtained in a third country, i.e. outside the EU)

As part of the recognition or nostrification procedure, the competent authority must assess whether the training completed abroad is equivalent to the corresponding Austrian training programme.

Where full equivalence is established, the competent authority formally confirms the equivalence of the foreign qualification by means of an official decision. Equivalence must be established for both the theoretical and practical components of the training. If the training is not equivalent in terms of content and/or duration, either in certain areas or in its entirety, and has not provided sufficient knowledge and skills required to practise the profession in Austria, the applicant must complete supplementary training.

Responsibility for conducting nostrification and recognition procedures lies either with the Federal Ministry of Health in Vienna or with the Governor of the Province of Salzburg, depending on the country in which the training was completed.

Here you can find out which authority is responsible: [Berufsanerkennung in Österreich](#).

Healthcare and Nursing Professions (Gesundheits- und Krankenpflegeberufe)

Registered Nursing Professionals, Nursing Specialist Assistants and Nursing Assistants

In the field of healthcare and nursing professions, the terms recognition and nostrification are used differently in everyday language and in relation to the responsibilities of the competent authorities.

The website nursinginaustria.at, established on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, provides guidance to help you determine whether your qualification requires recognition or nostrification.

www.salzburg.gv.at

Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung

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Nostrification

Nostrification is for nursing professionals who wish to work in Austria and completed their training in a third country (outside EU or swiss). During the nostrification procedure, the competent authority assesses whether the training completed abroad is equivalent to the corresponding Austrian training programme in terms of its overall scope, content and acquired competencies, taking relevant professional experience into account.

If certain elements required for equivalence are missing, the applicant must complete supplementary examinations, additional training and/or practical placements.

Depending on the nursing profession, nostrification procedures are conducted by different authorities or institutions.

Nursing Specialist Assistant and Nursing Assistant

Nostrification of professional qualifications obtained in third countries for the professions of Nursing Specialist Assistant and Nursing Assistant is carried out by the Governor of the Province of Salzburg (Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government).

Who can submit an application?

Applications may be submitted by individuals who have successfully completed training in one of these professions in a country outside the European Economic Area (= EU Member States, Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) and who either:

- have their main residence in Salzburg; or
- intend to move their place of residence, place of employment or professional establishment to Salzburg.

Where must the application be submitted?

Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government
 Department 9 - Hospitals and Healthcare
 Unit 9/01 - Health Law
 Pfeifergasse 7
 5020 Salzburg
 Austria
 Email: gesundheitsrecht@salzburg.gv.at

Registered Nursing Professionals

Nostrification procedures for registered Nursing Professionals are carried out by Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences. In the Province of Salzburg, the responsible institution is Salzburg University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Salzburg). The university's general guidelines for the nostrification of foreign academic qualifications provide detailed information about the procedure, how to apply, the required documents and the relevant contact person.

Recognition

All Nursing Professionals – registered Nursing Professionals, Nursing Specialist Assistants and Nursing Assistants – who obtained their qualifications in the EU or Switzerland and wish to work in healthcare and nursing professions in Austria require an official recognition decision.

To obtain recognition of a nursing qualification, an application must be submitted to the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. The application must bear the applicant's personal signature.

Federal Contact Point for Recognition of Nursing Professions:
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
Radetzkystraße 2
1030 Vienna
Austria
General enquiries about recognition: anerkennung@sozialministerium.gv.at

Social Care Professions (Sozialbetreuungsberufe)

Diploma Social Care Worker

There are four areas of specialisation:

- Elderly Care (Diploma Social Care Worker - Elderly Care, A)
- Family Care (Diploma Social Care Worker - Family Care, F)
- Disability Care (Diploma Social Care Worker - Disability Care, BA)
- Disability Support (Diploma Social Care Worker - Disability Support, BB)

Diploma Social Care Workers perform all the duties carried out by qualified social care workers. However, they do so on the basis of more advanced, scientifically grounded training, with a higher degree of independence and personal responsibility.

In addition to their direct care responsibilities, Diploma Social Care Workers undertake conceptual and planning tasks relating to the organisation and delivery of care services. They have the skills required to coordinate staff and provide professional guidance to employees and assistants in matters relating to social care.

Diploma Social Care Workers contribute to the further professional development of the services offered by their organisation or institution. They also implement quality development measures and processes, such as reflection and evaluation using recognised methods and instruments.

Their scope of practice includes an area of independent professional responsibility. For the specialisations of Elderly Care, Family Care and Disability Care, it also includes nursing duties within the scope of authority of a nursing assistant. For the Disability Support specialisation, it includes assistance with basic care.

Qualified Social Care Worker

There are three areas of specialisation:

- Elderly Care (Qualified Social Care Worker - Elderly Care, A)
- Disability Care (Qualified Social Care Worker - Disability Care, BA)
- Disability Support (Qualified Social Care Worker - Disability Support, BB)

Qualified Social Care Workers are trained professionals who help shape the living environments of people who face disadvantages in managing their lives due to age, disability or other difficult life circumstances.

They possess extensive knowledge of the many aspects of living with disadvantages and can provide a wide range of support, assistance and care. Their work covers all aspects of daily life, from managing everyday activities to finding meaning and purpose in life.

The distinctive feature of this profession is not a high degree of specialisation in narrowly defined fields or a focus solely on nursing care. Rather, it lies in bringing together all the skills and competencies required to provide comprehensive, person-centred support that takes account of people's everyday lives and immediate living environments.

Qualified Social Care Workers take a holistic view of the specific life circumstances of older people, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged individuals. They respond to individual needs through targeted measures. In doing so, they help improve and/or maintain people's quality of life, support the development of a social environment in which they can live well, and contribute to ensuring that they can live with dignity.

Qualified Social Care Workers collaborate with all the people involved in the lives of those requiring support and with all relevant care providers. Depending on individual needs, they work particularly closely with experts in fields such as therapy, medicine, law, health care and nursing. In their professional practice, Qualified Social Care Workers are committed to the generally recognised principles of social care based on scientific evidence. These include normalisation of living conditions, integration and self-determination.

Their scope of practice includes an area of independent professional responsibility.

For the specialisations of Elderly Care and Disability Care, it also includes nursing duties within the scope of authority of a nursing assistant. For the Disability Support specialisation, it includes assistance with basic care.

Home Helper

A Home Helper supports people who require care and assistance. These are people of all ages who, due to old age, health impairments or difficult social circumstances, are unable to manage their own care and daily needs independently.

Home Helpers assist with household management and activities of daily living, encouraging individuals to carry out activities independently and supporting the principle of helping people to help themselves. Their clients are often people who wish to remain in their own homes, supported living units or shared accommodation despite requiring assistance.

As an important link between the client, their social environment and all other people involved in their care, Home Helpers work as part of a team alongside home nursing services and staff from mobile care and support services.

Household-related tasks must be carried out independently and responsibly, taking into account the instructions of the person receiving care and the guidance provided by professionals in the social care or healthcare sectors.

Assistance with basic care may only be provided under the instruction and supervision of healthcare professionals.

The profession may only be practised within institutions whose legal entities implement quality assurance measures appropriate to the responsibilities associated with the profession. Independent self-employed practice as a Home Helper is not allowed under the applicable framework.

Who can submit an application?

Any person intending to practise a social care profession in Salzburg under a professional title regulated by the Social Care Professions Act may submit an application.

Competent Authority
Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government
Department 9 - Hospitals and Healthcare
Unit 9/01 - Health Law
Pfeifergasse 7
5020 Salzburg
Austria
Email: gesundheitsrecht@salzburg.gv.at

Medical Assistance Professions (Medizinische Assistenzberufe)

For the following medical assistance professions (MAB), nostrification procedures are conducted by the Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government, provided that the qualification to be nostrified was obtained in a third country:

- Disinfection Assistant
- Plaster Cast Assistant
- Laboratory Assistant
- Autopsy Assistant
- Surgical Assistant
- Medical Practice Assistant
- X-ray Assistant
- Medical Specialist Assistant
- Surgical Technical Assistant

The Federal Ministry in Vienna is responsible for recognising equivalent qualifications obtained in an EU Member State or Switzerland.

Qualifications obtained in third countries

Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government
Department 9 - Hospitals and Healthcare
Unit 9/01 - Health Law
Pfeifergasse 7
5020 Salzburg
Austria
Email: gesundheitsrecht@salzburg.gv.at

Qualifications obtained in EU member states or switzerland

Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
Radetzkystraße 2
1030 Vienna
Austria
Email: anerkennung@sozialministerium.gv.at

Other Healthcare Professions (Weitere Gesundheitsberufe)

For the following additional healthcare professions, nostrification procedures are conducted by the Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government, provided that the qualification to be nostrified was obtained in a third country:

- Emergency Medical Technician (Rettungssanitäterin/Rettungssanitäter)
- Paramedic (Notfallsanitäterin/Notfallsanitäter)
- Medical Masseur (Medizinische Masseurin/Medizinischer Masseur)
- Therapeutic Masseur (Heilmasseurin/Heilmasseur)
- Dental Assistant (Zahnärztliche Assistentin/Zahnärztlicher Assistent)
- Prophylaxis Assistant (Prophylaxeassistentin/Prophylaxeassistent)

The Federal Ministry is responsible for recognising equivalent qualifications obtained in an EU Member State or Switzerland.

Qualifications obtained in third countries

Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government

Department 9 - Hospitals and Healthcare

Unit 9/01 - Health Law

Pfeifergasse 7

5020 Salzburg

Austria

Email: gesundheitsrecht@salzburg.gv.at

Qualifications obtained in EU member states or switzerland

Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Radetzkystraße 2

1030 Vienna

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Email: anerkennung@sozialministerium.gv.at

Time-Limited Professional Development Placements for qualifications obtained abroad (Zeitlich begrenzte Fortbildung bei Ausbildung im Ausland)

Medical-Technical Professions (Section 53 MTD-Gesetz 2024)

Individuals who hold a certificate confirming successful completion of training in a medical-technical profession outside Austria, where that training is equivalent to the corresponding Austrian qualification, may be authorised to work in that profession for professional development purposes. Such work must be carried out under the instruction and supervision of a member of the relevant medical-technical profession. Authorisation is granted by the Governor of the relevant province for a maximum period of two years.

This arrangement is intended for professional development, not for training towards an initial qualification. It is therefore available only where the applicant has completed an appropriate, high-quality training programme abroad and successfully obtained the relevant qualification.

Professional development activities under this provision do not constitute professional practice within the meaning of Section 28. Consequently, no registration in the Austrian Health Professions Register is required.

The requirement that the completed training be equivalent to an Austrian qualification in a medical-technical profession means that the qualification must at least be eligible for nostrification under the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHG) or meet the equivalence requirements for recognition under the European Economic Area (EEA) rules pursuant to Section 44.

The maximum duration of two years is intended to prevent attempts to circumvent EEA recognition or nostrification procedures. Professional development activities under this provision cannot continue beyond the two-year limit.

A lack of knowledge in fundamental subjects precludes participation in professional development activities under this provision. Adequate language skills are also essential, even when the activity is carried out solely for professional development purposes.

Since professional development is the primary objective, the responsible physician is subject to a particular duty to provide instruction and supervision.

Therapeutic Masseur (Section 44 MMHmG)

Individuals who hold a certificate confirming successful completion of training outside Austria that is equivalent to Austrian training as a therapeutic masseur and authorises them to practise the profession in the country where the training was completed may carry out therapeutic massage activities for professional development purposes for up to six months, provided that the Governor of the province in which the professional development is to take place grants authorisation.

The activity may only be carried out under the instruction and supervision of a suitably qualified person. Insufficient knowledge of fundamental professional subjects or inadequate language skills precludes participation in these activities.

The staff of our Welcome Center is happy to provide advice and support throughout the nostrification and professional recognition process.