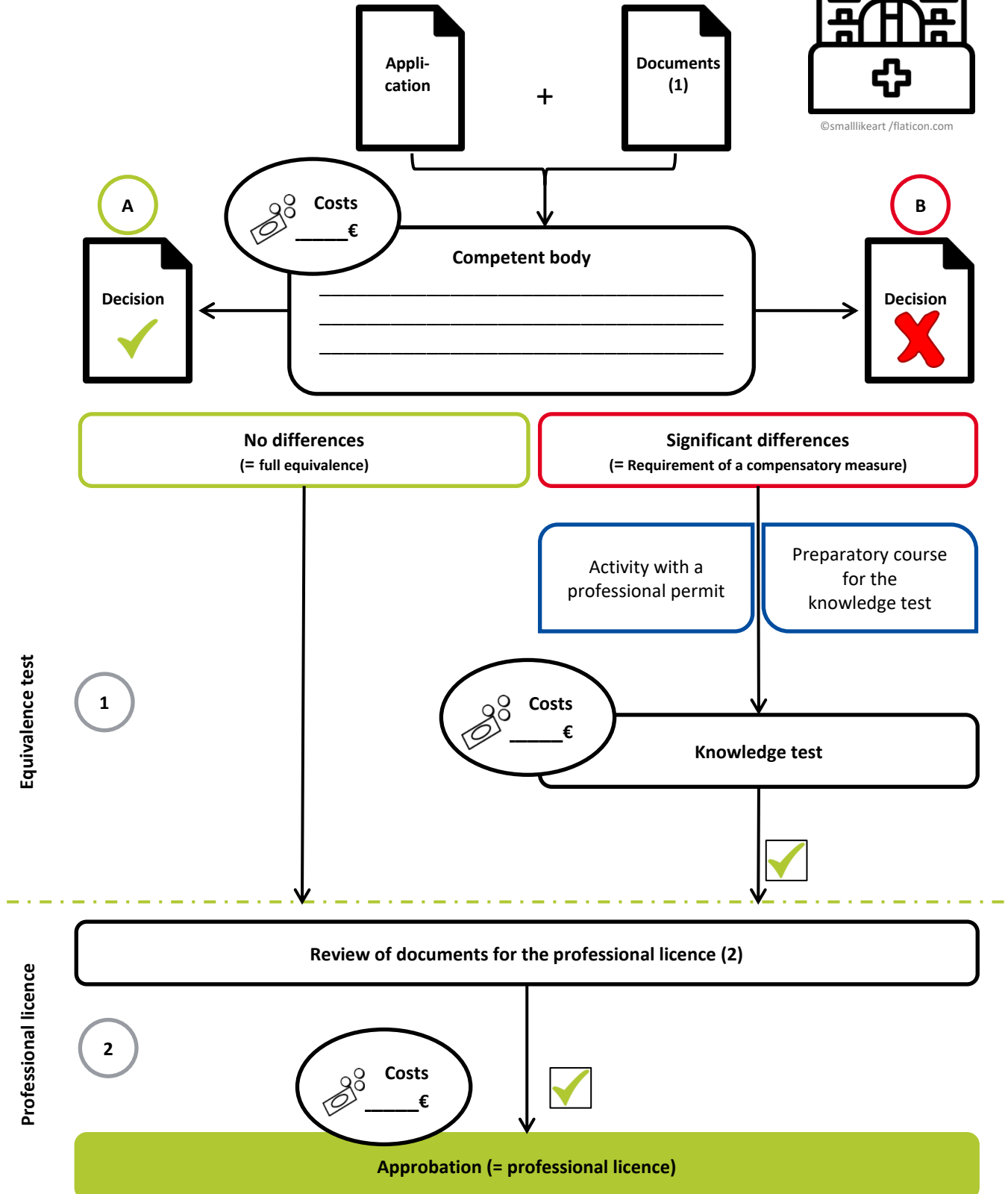


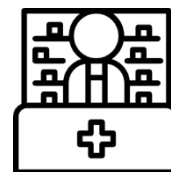
## Pharmacists with degrees from third countries: The path to approbation

(Last updated: July 2022)



## Pharmacists with degrees from third countries: The path to approbation

In order to be allowed to work as a pharmacist in Germany, you need state recognition, i.e. a so-called approbation, to practise as a pharmacist. In order to obtain your approbation, a check must be conducted as to whether your degree from abroad is equivalent to a German degree as a pharmacist.



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To do this, you must submit an application to a “Anerkennungsstelle” (recognition body). This certifies a person’s professional recognition. Processing the application costs money. The review of your application takes place in two steps:

1. **Review of equivalence:** The recognition body checks whether the content of your vocational training corresponds to a German qualification as a pharmacist (content review). The recognition body can offer you to have the health professions assessment body (or an external assessor) conduct the respective assessment.
2. **Review of the professional licence (approbation):** The recognition body checks whether you are granted the licence to practise (approbation). This will only be checked once the content check has been completed. You can only work as a pharmacist in Germany without restrictions if you receive the approbation (licence to practise).

You must submit an officially certified copy of the following documents:

Documents for the assessment of equivalence (1)	Documents for the professional licence (2)
• Completed application form	• Language certificate C1
• Proof of identity	• Certificate of health-related suitability
• Curriculum vitae	• Official certificate of good conduct (“amtliches Führungszeugnis”)
• Training certificates and final certificates	• Criminal background check
• Overview of subjects and grades	• Certificate of good standing
• Proof of professional licence in the home country	•
• Evidence of professional experience	•
•	•

### (A) Decision on full equivalence

Once you have submitted your application, the recognition body will check the documents submitted. In doing so, it compares whether there are differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany (content check). Proven professional experience will also be taken into account in the review. The competent body will send you the result in a decision by post. If there are no differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany, then you will receive a decision on full equivalence. This means that your professional qualification is equivalent to the German qualification as a pharmacist.

### (B) Decision with the requirement of a compensatory measure

However, there may also be differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany. Your decision will then state that you have to take a knowledge test. The knowledge test is a verbal examination and is based on the contents of the German state final examination for pharmacists. In order to prepare for the knowledge test, you can attend a preparation course.

In addition, you can work with a professional permit during this time. A professional permit is valid for a maximum of 2 years. You must apply for the professional permit separately. With a professional permit, you are only allowed to do certain jobs, and a pharmacist checks that you are doing everything correctly. If you have successfully passed the knowledge test, you will receive a notice of full equivalence and it will be reviewed as to whether you will be granted an approbation to practise as a pharmacist.