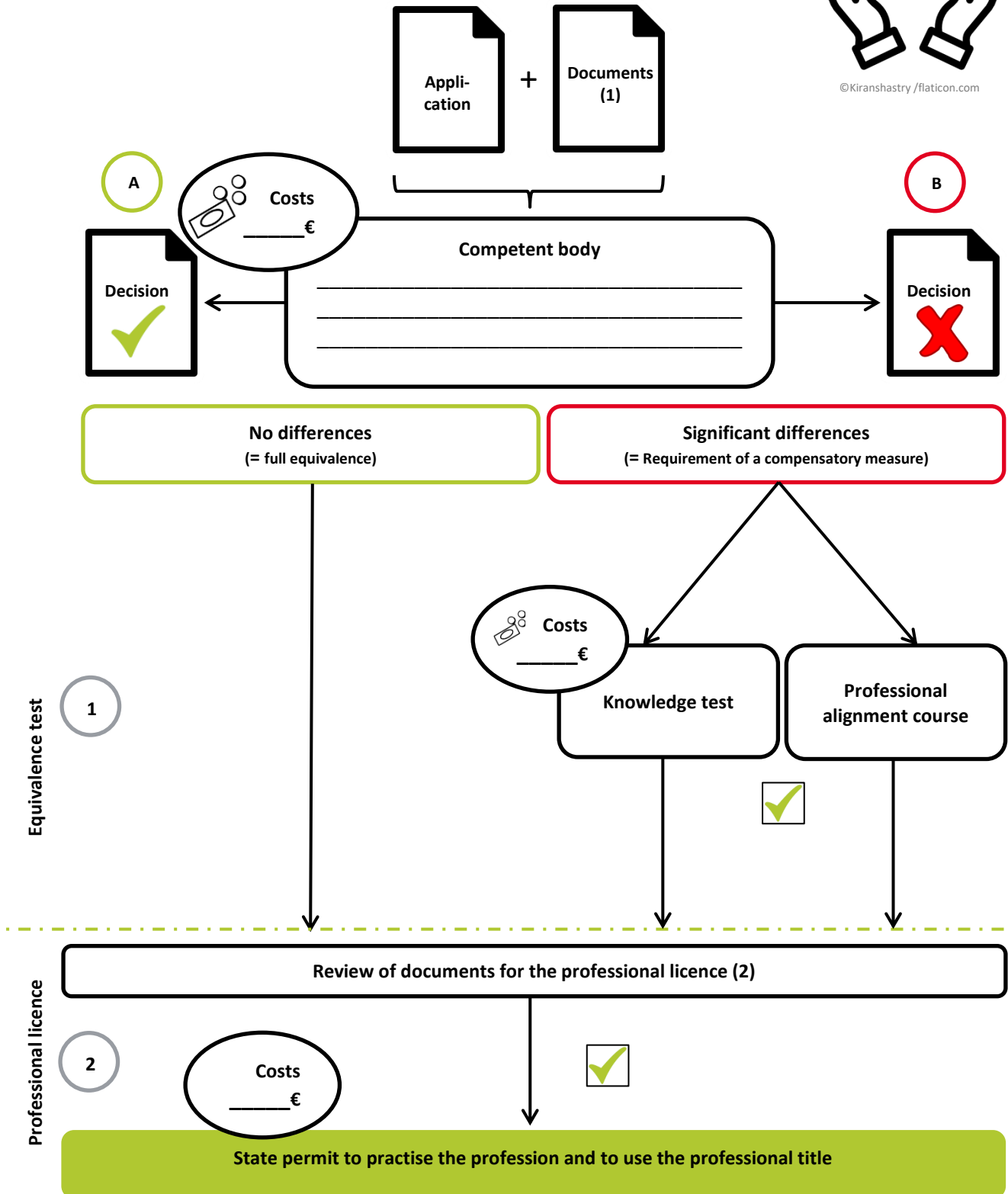


**Nursing specialist with a qualification from a third country:
The path to professional recognition**

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In order to be allowed to work as a nursing specialist in Germany, you need a state permit that entitles you to use the job title and to practise the profession. In order to obtain this permit, you must have it checked whether your qualification from abroad is equivalent to a German qualification as a nursing specialist.

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 nursing specialist (content review).
2. **Review of the professional licence:** The recognition body checks whether you are granted a professional licence. This will only be checked once the content check has been completed. You may only work as a nursing specialist in Germany if you are granted permission to use the professional title.

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

<u>Documents for the assessment of equivalence (1)</u>	<u>Documents for the professional licence (2)</u>
• Completed application form	• Language certificate
• Curriculum vitae	• Official certificate of good conduct (“amtliches Führungszeugnis”)
• Training certificates and final certificates	• Certificate of health-related suitability
• Proof of identity	•
• 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). Verified professional experience will be taken into account during 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 nursing specialist.

(B) Decision regarding significant differences

However, there may also be differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany. Your decision will then state that you can either take a knowledge test or complete an “Anpassungslehrgang” (professional alignment course) of no more than three years. The knowledge test comprises a practical and a verbal examination, and is based on the contents of the state examination to become a nursing specialist. In order to prepare for the knowledge test, you can attend a preparation course.

During a professional alignment course, you have the opportunity to already carry out your practical activity. This happens under the guidance of a qualified professional. If you have successfully completed the knowledge test or the professional alignment course, you will receive a notification of full equivalence.