



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

# MEDICAL SPECIALISATION IN GERMANY

Doctors have an exciting and wide-ranging profession. You can choose from more than 30 specialist areas in Germany, from ophthalmology to forensic medicine. That is one reason why many who are just starting their studies find a future as a doctor particularly attractive.

## STUDYING MEDICINE IN GERMANY BASIC FACTS

A degree course in Medicine takes about six years and concludes with a German Medical Licensing Examination. It is not divided into bachelor's and master's courses. Admission to a medical course is highly competitive and is centrally coordinated. Throughout Germany, a Numerus Clausus is applied. This is a course entrance restriction based on the grades received in the German Abitur, the school leaving certificate. Additionally, some universities also require the "Medizinertest" (officially known as the Test für Medizinische Studiengänge (TMS) -Test for Degree Courses in Medicine). This is a subject-specific study aptitude test that rates understanding of scientific and medical problems.

German is the exclusive course and examination medium in the subject area of medicine (human, dental and veterinary medicine). This necessitates solid proficiency in German language to be able to follow lectures and eventually to talk to patients. Some Universities conduct additional aptitude tests. Following are accepted German language proficiency tests.



### ACCEPTED LANGUAGE TESTS

Goethe-Institut

telc

ÖSD



## REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING

The requirements for specialist training are not uniform across Germany. Each federal state regulates it differently. The authority lies with Germany's medical associations. For your advance training as a specialist, the federal state in which you live or want to work makes the rules.

- [German Medical Association](#)
- [German Dental Association](#)
- [German Association of Veterinarians](#)

You can read more information about medical education in Germany [here](#).

Scientific skills also play a major role, especially in the first semesters. The so-called Physikum, the examination at the end of the basic course, comprises basic subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, and anatomy. Tenacity, empathy, and an ability to deal with stress are necessary to successfully complete a degree course in medicine. All qualities that are also important later in your career.

The following table offers an overview of the structure of medical education in Germany:

	Stage	Duration	Concludes with
1	<b>Pre-clinical Phase</b> Covers fundamentals of natural scientific and medical study	2 years	Intermediate Medical Examination (Physikum)
2	<b>Main Phase (Stage I &amp; II)</b> Covers core subjects through lectures, practicals, internships, and seminars	1+2 years	Stage I & II Medical Examinations by the State
3	<b>Practical Phase (Stage III)</b> Covers clinical training; surgery, internal medicine, elective Berufserlaubnis (temporary license to work as a doctor under supervision) for maximum 2 years	1 year	Stage III Medical Examination by the State
4	Approbation		Medical License
5	Facharzt (Specialisation)	5-6 years	Approbation as Facharzt/Specialist

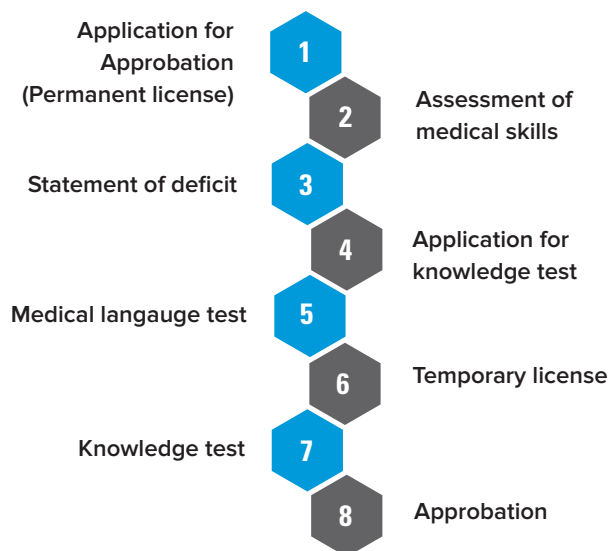


# GOING FOR SPECIALISATION IN GERMANY AFTER MBBS FROM INDIA

The Indian MBBS degree does not correspond to the official Medical Licensing Examination of Germany. It reflects a stage of proficiency approximately commensurate with Stage II of Clinical Studies. Thus, as an Indian MBBS degree holder needs to seek entry at the third stage of German medical education. This will require Berufserlaubnis (temporary license). It eventually leads to Approbation (permanent license). One can then start specialisation. Depending upon your specialisation, the studies take 5 to 6 years, at the end of which you can get the license to practise as a specialist (Approbation as Facharzt).

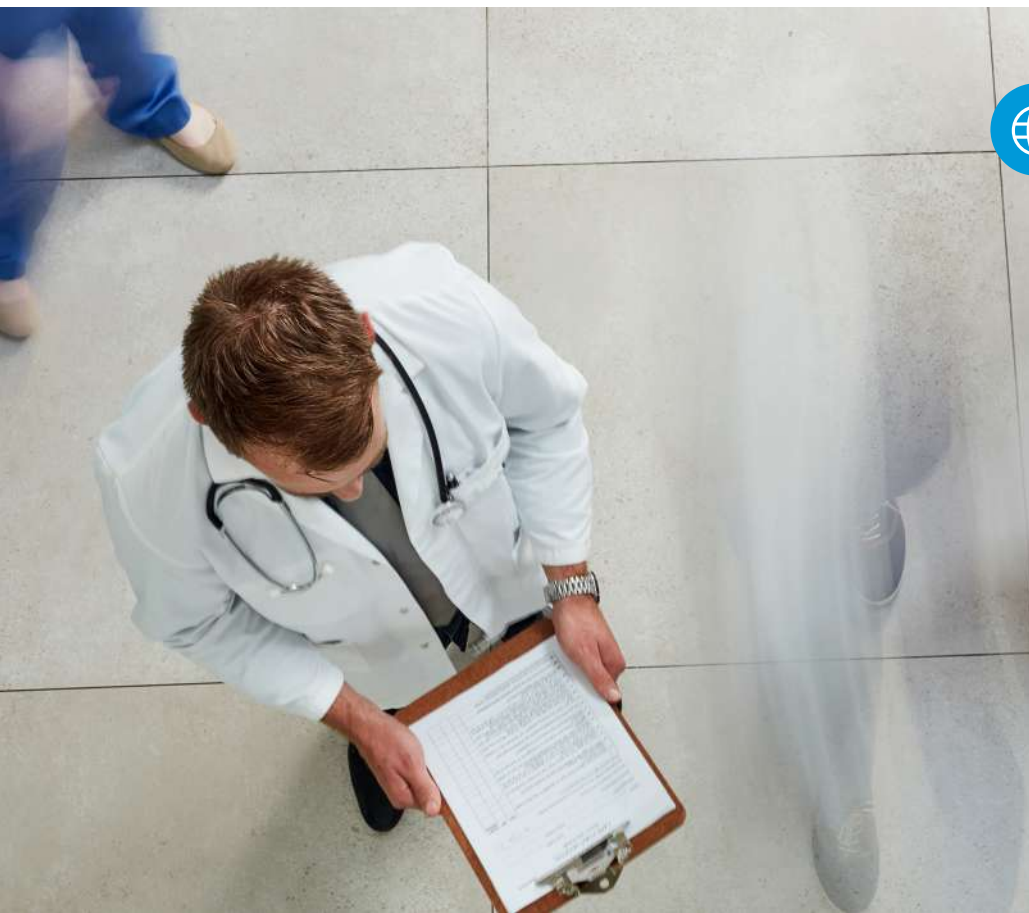
What is 'Berufserlaubnis'?	What is 'Approbation'?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permits work under supervision</li> <li>Valid for 2 years, cannot be renewed</li> <li>Only valid in State of issue</li> <li>Pre-requisite for Approbation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permits independent work</li> <li>No limitation of validity</li> <li>Enables employment across Germany</li> <li>Pre-requisite for specialisations</li> </ul>

# STEPS TOWARDS APPROBATION



# RECOGNITION OF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Healthcare professions are regulated on a state level. To obtain a license you need to apply for the recognition of your qualifications. For more details you may want to contact [ProRecognition](#), an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



## IMPORTANT WEBLINKS

- [www.daad.in](http://www.daad.in)
- [www.study-in-germany.de](http://www.study-in-germany.de)
- [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)
- [www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at)
- [www.telc.net](http://www.telc.net)
- [www.prorecognition.in](http://www.prorecognition.in)
- [www.bundesaerztekammer.de](http://www.bundesaerztekammer.de)
- [www.bzaek.de](http://www.bzaek.de)
- [www.bundestieraerztekammer.de](http://www.bundestieraerztekammer.de)