

From educational qualifications to occupational qualifications

- In Germany, your **educational qualifications** have a major influence on the job you can do. For example, you have to prove that you have the required school qualification if you apply for a job or a training course. You need a copy of your school certificate/examination. Certificates of any further training courses you have done are also helpful.
- It's not enough to have the necessary knowledge and skills to do a job. You usually need an **occupational qualification**. This is a written confirmation that you have completed vocational training/an apprenticeship.
- You generally need to have passed a school leaving qualification (Schulabschluss) to start vocational training/an apprenticeship. The requirements can vary according to the job you want to train for.
- In Germany there are five possible school leaving qualifications: Hauptschulabschluss, Mittlere Bildungsabschluss, Fachhochschulreife, fachgebundene Hochschulreife and Allgemeine Hochschulreife.
- Each school leaving examination in Germany always offers a route towards further qualifications.
- The **Berufsabschluss** (occupational qualification) is written confirmation that you have the knowledge and skills for a specific job. The Berufsabschluss enables the adolescents to get a paid job in a suitable area of work. A Berufsabschluss also offers opportunities to develop your career further.
- Even if you have already attended school in another country, you need a **school-leaving qualification that is recognised in Germany (Schulabschluss)**. This also applies to the Berufsabschluss (occupational qualification).
- If you have questions about the recognition of educational qualifications and occupational qualifications, you can get in touch with the following professionals or institutions: Social workers, sworn translators, the Jugendmigrationsdienst (jmd), Berufsinformationszentrum (BIZ), etc.
- If children already have a concrete idea about the job they would like to do, it is important that parents find out about the career with their child: What is the job called? What educational route leads to this job? What educational qualifications does my child need?
- Every person follows their own educational path. Children can have different interests, they can have either a lot of knowledge and ability or not so much, and sometimes they can choose a school or also a career that does not suit them.
- The economic situation can also influence in which job you can earn a lot of money. If a job is in demand, the earning potential is usually also good. If the job is very popular, and many people are qualified to do it, the earning potential can sink.
- Jobs require different educational paths, educational qualifications and occupational qualifications. You don't need to have a long period of training for all jobs. Jobs can have many different requirements.

- There are usually many different jobs in a specialist field.
- For example in the healthcare field you can attain occupational qualification as a specialist for internal medicine, a medical assistant, a nurse, a laboratory assistant, etc.
- In the construction industry there are occupational qualifications such as architectural draughtsman, bricklayer, engineer and many other specialised jobs.