

### M 3.1 Recognition of School-leaving Qualifications

You can apply for the recognition of your school-leaving qualification for the following types of schools: „Hauptschule“ (secondary school until year 9), „Realschule“ (secondary school until year 10) or university entrance qualification (after 12 years of school, as general entrance qualification or restricted to related subjects)

If you have not finished school, you cannot get recognition. If you want to finish school in Germany, the respective school management and local school authority are responsible.

**Note:** You do need recognition of your school-leaving qualification to begin a vocational training at a school (Berufsfachschule or Fachschule).

#### Requirements

„Hauptschule“ (secondary school after year 9)	„Realschule“ (secondary school after year 10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ at least <b>nine</b> consecutive school years of general schooling (exception: entitled persons according to the Federal Law on Refugees and Exiles (“Bundesvertriebenengesetz”): <b>eight</b> consecutive school years )</li> <li>▪ successful attendance of the following subjects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ first language</li> <li>▪ mathematics</li> <li>▪ one subject in sciences</li> <li>▪ one subject in social sciences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ at least <b>ten</b> consecutive school years of general schooling</li> <li>▪ successful attendance of the following subjects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ first language</li> <li>▪ foreign language</li> <li>▪ mathematics</li> <li>▪ one subject in sciences</li> <li>▪ one subject in social sciences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Technical Colleges	Grammar School / High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ twelve years of school attendance</li> <li>▪ entitles to study at universities of applied science, but <b>not</b> at universities</li> <li>▪ equalisation of the leaving certificate is only possible, if the county of origin differentiates between universities and universities of applied science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ twelve years of school attendance</li> <li>▪ entitles to study at universities and universities of applied science</li> </ul>

Colleges and universities are responsible for the classification during their approval procedures.

#### Responsible authority

Sächsisches Landesamt für Schule und Bildung  
Standort Dresden, Zeugnisanerkennungsstelle

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Großenhainer Straße 92  
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In Kooperation mit:

Das Förderprogramm „Integration durch Qualifizierung (IQ)“ wird durch das Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales und den Europäischen Sozialfonds gefördert

For information on the procedure see: <http://www.schule.sachsen.de/3683.htm> and [http://amt24.sachsen.de/ZFinder/verfahren.do;jsessionid=QS-KnjcH2G2oUv0jZR3xwQK6.zufi2\\_2?action=showdetail&islandesimpressum=false&modul=VB&id=35396!0](http://amt24.sachsen.de/ZFinder/verfahren.do;jsessionid=QS-KnjcH2G2oUv0jZR3xwQK6.zufi2_2?action=showdetail&islandesimpressum=false&modul=VB&id=35396!0)

Here you find the „**Antrag auf Anerkennung ausländischer Zeugnisse**“ (application for the recognition of foreign certificates): <https://www.schule.sachsen.de/622.htm?id=279>

You need **German translations** of all foreign documents (exception: English-language original documents). They need to be translated by a sworn translator, who you can find under <http://suche.bdue.de>

**Costs:** 30 to 400 €      **Duration:** several months

#### **Alternatives in case of non-recognition:**

If you can get no or no full recognition of your qualification, you have the following possibilities:

1. Complete schooling in Germany

- at a vocational school
- at an evening school
- by distance education
- at educational providers

Evening school:

To get a school-leaving certificate for “Hauptschule”, it can take from 9 to 12 months with 2 to 3 evenings of schooling per week. To graduate from “Realschule” or grammar school it takes 2 resp. 3 years with 4 to 5 evenings of schooling per week.

2. If you have already finished a foreign vocational training and have several years of work experience: You can have your certificates of vocational training and/or proofs of work experience checked, if you have the necessary general education for graduation in Germany.
3. For some vocational trainings you do not need a recognised qualification. If you have at least two years of training in a recognised profession, you will get the leaving certificate from “Hauptschule” with the certificate from vocational school. Further information is available at vocational schools. Usually, the requirement is the leaving certificate of the 8th form of general schooling.
4. If you have completed a vocational training or have three years of work experience you can complete schooling at technical colleges or grammar schools. Sometimes course fees can be covered by financial support from the Federal Training Assistance Act - in German: “Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz” - BaföG. For more Information please consult with “Sächsische Bildungsagentur”.
5. There are also exams for outsiders who have not finished school. If you can pass such an external exam, you can get a school certificate. Please consult with “Sächsisches Landesamt für Schule und Bildung”.

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