



# Recognition of foreign diplomas and qualifications

**Qualifications play a crucial role for non-Swiss nationals who wish to work in Switzerland. Some professions require you to have the qualifications that you gained outside Switzerland formally recognised by a designated authority. In Switzerland, different recognition authorities are responsible for different professions.**

## What do we mean by recognition of qualifications?

You have completed your education/training in a country outside Switzerland and have been awarded an academic or professional qualification. You can ask the relevant Swiss recognition authority to assess your qualification for «comparability» with qualifications issued in Switzerland.

## Regulated and non-regulated professions

Regulated professions are professions that are regulated by law. A list of regulated professional activities can be found here: [www.sbf.admin.ch](http://www.sbf.admin.ch) → EN → Education → Recognition of Foreign Qualifications → Recognitions and Competent Authorities → Regulated Professional Activities and Fact Sheets → List of regulated professional activities in Switzerland.

If you intend to work in a **regulated profession** that appears in this list, you will need to have your qualification formally **recognised (confirmed as equivalent)**. To do this, you must apply to the relevant recognition authority.

If you intend to work in a **non-regulated profession**, you do not need to have your non-Swiss qualification formally recognised. In this case, your qualification entitles you to access the job market directly. Nevertheless, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) recommends that anyone intending to work in a non-regulated profession obtains a **level certificate**. This indicates the level that your qualification holds within the Swiss education system. Level certificates can be useful when looking for work.

## Questions about the recognition of qualifications

A charge is made for recognising your qualification and the recognition process takes several weeks. Therefore, please consider the following questions before applying for recognition:

### Qualification/starting point

- What profession did you learn outside Switzerland?
- What qualification did you obtain? Is it a vocational or an academic qualification?
- What profession does your qualification entitle you to pursue in the country where it was awarded?

### Aim

- What profession do you want to pursue in Switzerland?

### Legal requirements

- Is this a regulated profession in Switzerland?
- Is recognition of your qualification required by law?

### Formalities

- Can you provide an original certificate?
- Have you had the certificate translated into one of Switzerland's national languages (German, French or Italian)?
- Proof of language proficiency is often required if you wish to work in a regulated profession. Do you have adequate language skills (generally level B2 to C2 in one of Switzerland's national languages)?

### Procedure

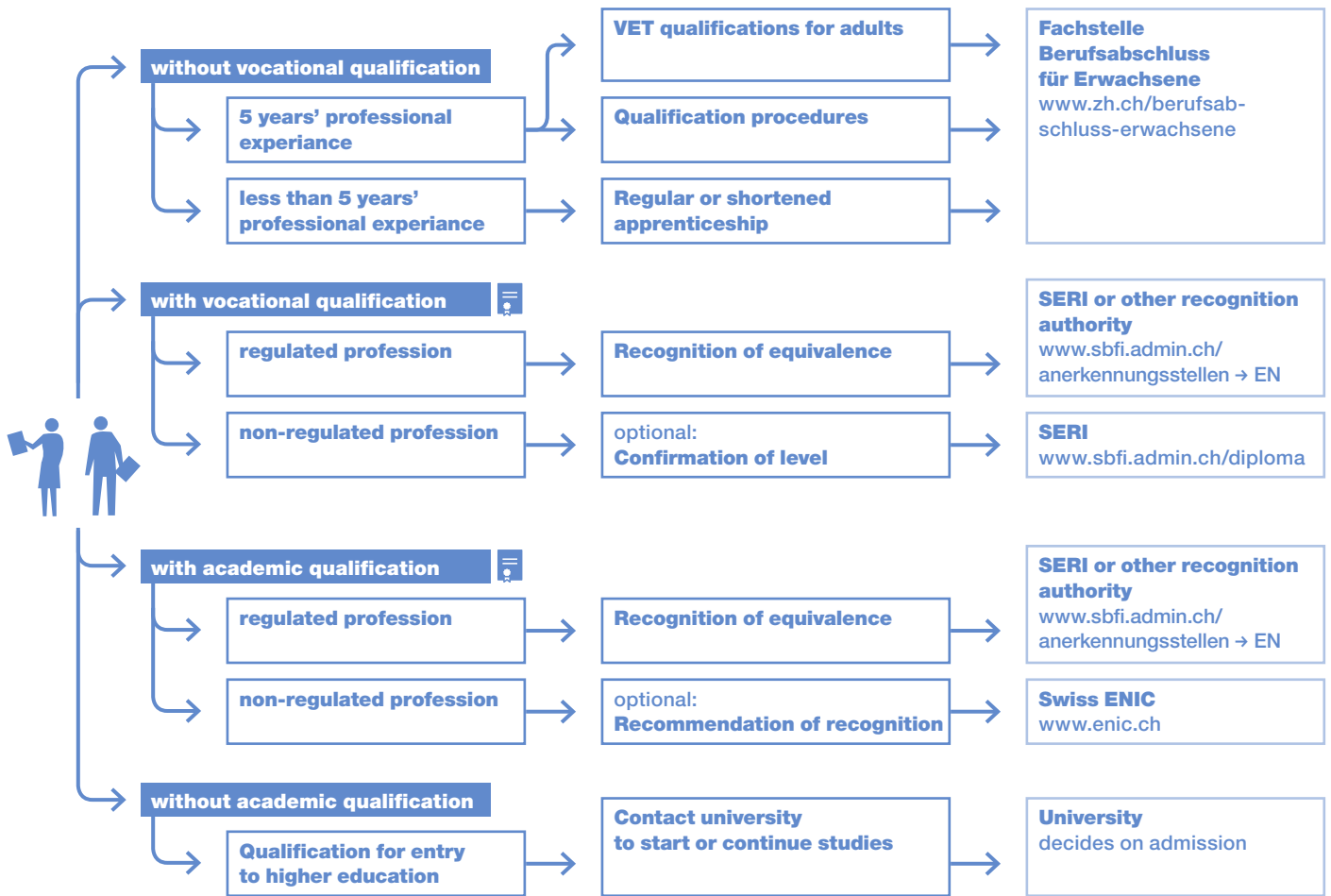
- Which authority do you need to contact? You will find useful information at

[www.sbf.admin.ch/anerkennungsstellen](http://www.sbf.admin.ch/anerkennungsstellen) → EN

**SERI** provides a **contact point** to deal with general questions relating to the recognition of non-Swiss qualifications:

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), contact point for the recognition of professional qualifications  
Tel. +41 (0)58 462 28 26  
[contactpoint@sbfi.admin.ch](mailto:contactpoint@sbfi.admin.ch)  
[www.sbf.admin.ch/diploma](http://www.sbf.admin.ch/diploma)

## Recognition and the relevant authorities



Quelle: Integrationsförderung Stadt Zürich

### SERI procedure

#### 1. Enter your data on the online platform

First enter all of the relevant data on the online platform [www.sbf.admin.ch/becc](http://www.sbf.admin.ch/becc) → EN and upload any accompanying documents. Click to submit your request for a preliminary check.

#### 2. SERI carries out the preliminary check

SERI will carry out a preliminary check of the documents and will inform you of the subsequent steps and the costs involved. You may have to submit further documents.

#### 3. SERI examines and assesses your application

After receiving all the documents and the processing fee, SERI will examine and assess your application.

#### 4. SERI reaches decision

After examining and assessing your documents, SERI will send you its decision by post, along with details of your right to appeal.

### Compensatory measures

What if SERI feels that the duration or content of the training for a regulated profession that you received outside Switzerland differs substantially from those of a Swiss qualification? You can remedy this by taking an aptitude test or undertaking supplementary training. After successfully completing these measures, you may submit another application for recognition (equivalence).

### Is assistance available in other languages?

For support in other languages/a list of interpreters and further tips, contact your local Integration Office. The Swiss Association of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters (ASTTI) can provide details of translators: [www.astti.ch](http://www.astti.ch). Charges are made for translation and interpreting services.