

Information on delays regarding the start of operations of the digital application for statements on a foreign vocational qualification by the ZAB

Since 1 March 2024, third-country nationals have been able to apply for a residence permit under section 16d (3) of the German Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG*) (recognition partnership) and section 19c (2) of the Residence Act in conjunction with section 6 of the Ordinance on the Employment of Foreigners (*Beschäftigungsverordnung, BeschV*) (employment in selected professions with extensive practical work experience).

To do so, they have to ask a competent German authority for confirmation

- that their foreign university degree is officially recognised in the country in which they acquired the degree; or
- that their foreign vocational qualification is officially recognised in the country in which they acquired the qualification and that it required at least two years of training.

Applicants can request the statement of comparability for foreign university degrees online through the website of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB): <https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>.

However, it is not yet possible to submit online applications for statements on a foreign vocational qualification to the ZAB. We expect the online application to be available by the end of April 2024 at <https://zab.kmk.org/en/dab>.

Providing statements on a foreign vocational qualification is a new task of the ZAB. Currently, we are still in the process of transferring the tasks from the federal states to the ZAB and building the necessary resources. Therefore, applicants are asked to refrain from submitting applications for statements on a foreign vocational qualification in any other form to the ZAB until the online form is available at <https://zab.kmk.org/en/dab>.

The authorities issuing residence permits (visa offices for applications from abroad; foreigners authorities for applications in Germany) will do their best to keep delays in the application procedure to a minimum.

We will issue a notification as soon as we know the exact date online applications will be available.

1 March 2024