

Information on the Medical Language Exam (FSP) for foreign doctors in Rhineland-Palatinate

Valid from 2023-07-26, last edited version: 2024-03-23

Application for the exam

Application must be in writing, **preferably by e-mail**. The required form can be downloaded from the website of the District Medical Association of Rhine Hesse. Please note that an application can only be processed if you have applied for a work permit or license to practice in Rhineland-Palatinate and have received a **qualified confirmation** of reception from the **Federal State Office for Social Affairs, Youth and Welfare (LSJV) in Koblenz** (title of the written confirmation: 'Qualifizierte Eingangsbestätigung').

Please attach the following documents / information to the application form (**all as single PDF**):

1. Short **curriculum vitae (Required)**.
2. Copy of the **qualified confirmation** of receipt (see above) that you have applied for a work permit / license to practice medicine (**Required**).
3. Copy of **passport / ID card (Required)**.
4. Copy of a **language certificate (B2 or higher) (Required)**.
5. If available, **evidence of a job offer in Rhineland-Palatinate**
6. If available, **evidence of an ongoing or completed work shadowing in Rhineland-Palatinate**
7. If possible, a **mobile number and an email address** at which you can be reached **at short notice**.

Exam fee information

The examination fee is 425.00 euros. **The examination fee is only to be transferred after being requested to do so.**

For the correct assignment, it is necessary to specify the purpose of use, which you will receive with the request (sample: "FSP / " followed by your registration number)

The bank details are:

Apo Bank, BIC: DAAEDED, IBAN: DE56 3006 0601 0104 4854 16
Account holder: Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen,

An examination date cannot be allocated as soon as the examination fee has been credited to the account of the Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen (District Medical Association of Rhine Hesse).

If you cancel an allocated appointment at short notice (up to 2 weeks before your examination date) - no matter for what reason - or do not show up, the exam fee will be forfeited. In the event of cancellations or requests to change the appointment (must be in writing by e-mail), which arrive earlier than 14 days before the appointment, half of the amount paid is due as a processing fee. I.e. an additional payment of half the examination fee has to be made for the new date.

Please note

No telephone information is given. Only written information is valid.

Before you send an e-mail, please first read all the information that is available on the website of the Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen (<https://aerztekammer-mainz.de/wbKenntnispruefung.php>). (As well as this information sheet.)

On the day of the exam, you must legitimize yourself by presenting your identity card or passport!

After entering the examination rooms mobile phones, tablets and other electronic aids are to be handed over to the supervisor at the registration desk without being asked. They will be returned to you after the exam.

While waiting and writing parts of the exam, you will sit in a room that can be monitored by a video camera.

To complete all parts of the exam, you have to expect 3 to 3.5 hours including waiting times.

Additional information about the examination procedure can be found on the next page.

Examination Board and Exam result

The Examination Board consists of two people with experience in medicine (mostly both are licensed doctors, but at least one). Both have German as their mother tongue.

You will be informed of the exam result - determined according to the evaluation scheme - directly at the end by the chairman.

If you pass the exam, you will receive a certificate (original). **If you fail, no certificate will be issued.**

The exam can be repeated. **The recommendation made by the Examination Board regarding the preparation time until the retake can only be changed for compelling personal reasons (e.g. expiry of the visa, new job offer in Rhineland-Palatinate). They have to be proven in writing.**

A possible next examination date also depends on when free dates are available at all. The recommendation of the examination board therefore does not mean a guarantee for this date.

For each re-registration, the current registration form must be downloaded from the website again, completed and submitted, and the examination fee must be paid again.

Examination procedure

The exam consists of several sections that have different values for the overall result:

1. **Comprehension test** with three parts (Time: 20 + 5 min.)
 - a. Translation of 20 words from medical terminology into the patient's German
 - b. Translation of 20 German medical terms into the Latin / Greek words used in the communication between doctors.
 - c. Understanding three exam questions for a schematic drawing of the body.
2. Free partly medical conversation. (Time: 10 - 15 min.)
3. Conversation between doctor and patient **medical history (anamnesis)/ patient information** in patient's everyday language. (Time: 20 + 5 min.)
4. Writing a medical history with the information from the **anamnesis interview** as well as **suspected diagnosis(es)** (Time: 20 min.) and written **requests for the examinations** previously communicated to you orally. (Time: 5 min.)
5. Answering questions after **reading** e.g. medical findings or a doctor's letter (understanding of written texts) and after **hearing** information transmitted by telephone (acoustic understanding) (Time: 20 min.)
Oral communication **between doctors in the technical language typical for the profession** (report to a colleague [senior physician] e.g. about the anamnesis interview or the information provided in writing or acoustically or other medical topics). (Time: 15 - 20 min.)

To 1:

You should prepare for the test by learning terms from medical dictionaries such as **Pschyrembel: Medizinisches Wörterbuch** or **Marc Deschka: Wörterbuch Medizin pocket** or other materials in which the medical terms are translated into German. What is required is not the explanation of the term, but the translation into a German term. (e.g. antebrachium = forearm / not: part of the arm above the hand).

To 2:

Here, the examiners will have a conversation with you to assess how well you understand questions and how well you can verbalize answers.

To 3:

It is not a question of taking a complete medical history without errors, but the interview serves to test how well you speak, understand, and how you understand the content of the patient's statements and questions and respond to them in a meaningful way. So make sure to give the patient answers to his questions immediately and not to work on your medical history questions first. **If you fail to observe this information you will lose a considerable amount of assessment points and will risk fail the test.**

To 4:

Both for the collection of the medical history (3), as well as for the subsequent written form (4), you will be provided with a form each, which can be downloaded from the homepage of the 'Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen'. All facts from the medical history have to be written down as proof of the correct understanding.

To 5:

You will receive a medical text (1 page) and three questions in writing as well as forms for answering the questions. There are also two short phone calls, the contents of which you have to write down.

At the end you will also have a specialist consultation from doctor to doctor. This is not a test of your medical knowledge, but a test of your ability to express yourself well and to be able to communicate with each other in technical terms. **Medical errors or lack of medical knowledge are not assessed.**

Sections 1 to 5 can be checked in different sequences.

Each part of the exam must be completed with a minimum score assigned to it, otherwise the entire exam will not be passed. As soon as **the required minimum number of points is not achieved** in a completed part of the examination, the **examination will be terminated**.

Achieving minimum scores in all parts is not sufficient for passing the entire examination. Minimum score results must be compensated by good scores in other parts of the examination. A total score of all parts of the exam is required that is above 60%.

Please note:

With a work permit you can work in a hospital or a practice for a fee salary. However, you can only begin your professional training for a specialist qualification (Weiterbildung) after you have received your license to practice medicine.

The reason for this is an amendment to the Healthcare Professional Act of the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate, which stipulates: Further training can only begin if "the doctor has received basic medical training in accordance with Section 3 (1) sentence 1 No. 4 of the Federal Medical Regulations in the Version of April 16, 1987 (BGBl. I p. 1218) in the currently valid version (license) or has an equivalent level of training or an equivalent level of knowledge that can be demonstrated by taking a knowledge test."