

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

Valid from 2020-05-18, last changes: 2020-06-19

Application for the exam

Application must be in writing. 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:

1. Short curriculum vitae
2. Copy of the **qualified confirmation** of receipt (see above) that you have applied for a work permit / license to practice medicine.
3. Copy of a **language certificate**
4. If available, **evidence of a job offer in Rhineland-Palatinate**
5. If available, **evidence of an ongoing or completed work shadowing in Rhineland-Palatinate**
6. 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 currently 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 termed until the examination fee has been credited to the account of the Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen (District Medical Association of Rhine Hesse).

If you cancel at short notice (up to 2 weeks before your exam date) or fail to 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.

An exception to this can only be made if you were prevented for an important reason (e.g. illness).

A corresponding written confirmation (e.g. medical certificate) must be sent as proof of this.

Please note

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

Before you send an e-mail to deutschpruefung@aerztekammer-mainz.de, 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 is monitored by a video camera.

To complete all parts of the exam, you have to expect 2.5 to 3 hours including waiting times.

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

Exam result

You will be informed of the result directly after the exam.

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

The exam can be repeated. You should heed the recommendation made by the Examination Board regarding the preparing time until the retake. For each repetition, a new written application form and a new transfer of the examination fee is required.

Examination procedure

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

1. **Comprehension test** with three parts
 - 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 conversation
3. Conversation between doctor and patient lasting 20 minutes concerning **medical history (anamnesis)/ patient information** in patient's everyday language
4. Writing a medical history with the information from the **anamnesis interview** as well as **suspected diagnosis(es)** and **requests for examinations** previously communicated orally.
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) and **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).

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 you taking a complete anamnesis without any errors. The interview serves to examine how well you speak, understand and how you react to statements and questions of the patient. 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:

A form will be made available to you for taking the medical history (3) and then writing it down (4), which can be downloaded from the website of the 'Bezirksärztekammer Rheinhessen'.

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 phone calls, the contents of which you have to write down. 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 1-5 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**.

In order to pass the entire exam, the achievement of only minimum scores in one part or even several parts must be compensated for by above-average good scores in other parts of the exam. A total score of all parts of the exam is required that is above 60%. This cannot be achieved by adding up the minimum number of points from all parts of the exam.

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 ~~as a~~ 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. "