

Information on the occupational language examination in German (Fachsprachenprüfung)

Registering for the exam

- Examination dates are offered at least once a month a year. Information on the exact dates can be found on the website of the Baden-Württemberg State Chamber of Pharmacists (Landesapothekerkammer Baden-Württemberg – LAK BW)
 - The application for the licence (Approbation) or permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) must be submitted to the Regional Council of Stuttgart (Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart) before registering for the examination. The occupational language examination in German is administered by the LAK BW. Please register for the occupational language examination in writing by filling out the registration form on the website of the LAK BW: www.lak-bw.de/aus-fort-weiterbildung/ausbildung/apotheker-auslaendischebildungsabschluesse.html
- **Exam fee:** € 250.00
- **Withdrawal after registration for the exam:** You will be charged a processing fee of 50 € if you withdraw from the exam before the exam date. The complete examination fee of 250 € will be due in full if you fail to attend the exam without informing us beforehand.
- **To register for the exam, please contact:**
Landesapothekerkammer Baden-Württemberg
Isa Güthler
Telephone: 0049 711 99347 18
isa.guethler@lak-bw.de
- **Please present the following documents on your exam date:**
 - Admission to the exam by the Chamber of Pharmacists
 - Valid original photo ID, e.g., identity card, passport, residence permit.
- **Retaking the exam:** The occupational language examination can be repeated as often as required.

Occupational language examination - Examination process

- The chairperson of the examination board will inform you about the examination procedure as well as the role of the individual examiners during the examination.
- The duration of the examination is 60 minutes plus preparation time.
- The examination is divided into three parts:
 - 1: simulated conversation between pharmacist and patient
 - 2: written examination
 - 3: simulated conversation between two pharmacists

Preparation:

- You will receive the written task and the professional information for the medicinal product, in which all passages important for the examination are highlighted.
- The information serves as the basis for the subsequent oral and written parts of the examination.
- According to your assessment, you may also mark important passages of the professional information for the medicinal product and make notes.

Permitted aids:

- Permitted aids during the entire examination, which are provided by the examination committee:
 - the professional information for the medicinal product,
 - if applicable, finished medicinal product packages or devices for demonstration

- medical and pharmaceutical reference works, e.g., Pschyrembel - Clinical Dictionary; Hunnius - Pharmaceutical Dictionary,
- paper and pencil.
- During the preparation and the examination, you are allowed to make notes which must be handed in after the examination
- The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is not allowed during the examination.

Examination:

1. Simulated talk between pharmacist and patient (20 minutes)

- You inform and advise a patient about a medicinal product, medicinal product-related problems and possible medicinal product risks in the context of dispensing medicinal products. In particular, you inform the patient about the proper use, storage and disposal of the medicinal product and explain possible side effects or interactions.
- In doing so, use terms that are understandable to laypersons and - if possible - refrain from using specialist terms.
- At the end of this part of the examination, you give a monologue presentation of approximately 5 minutes which will include providing a statement on a topic related to your profession which will be given to you in the examination.

2. Written examination (20 minutes)

- In the written part of the examination, you fill out the report form of the Drug Commission of German Pharmacists (Arzneimittelkommission der deutschen Apotheker - AMK) "Report on adverse drug reactions" due to an adverse drug reaction.
- In addition, you write a short, formal e-mail or fax closely related to the context of everyday pharmacy work. Pay attention to the structure of the text with salutation, introduction, order of content points and conclusion.

3. Simulated conversation between two pharmacists (20 minutes).

- You inform another pharmacist about the patient, the side effect and, if applicable, about details in the product information.
- At the end of this part of the examination you translate pharmaceutical terms into layman's language. The translation is done in writing in one or just a few words as well as orally in a joint discussion with the examination board. An example for the translation of the technical terms is the word "mycosis" which is translated as "fungal disease". The pharmaceutical terms might also be Latin terms and terms from the individual and bulk preparation. Other examples of pharmaceutical terms are radix, alopecia or thrombosis.

Assessment criteria for the occupational language examination:

In the assessment of specialist language, particular emphasis is placed on profession-related communicative skills. Pharmacists must be able to converse in a confident, structured and clear manner. Here it is important that the examination candidate can react flexibly to individual interview situations and clearly express themselves spontaneously. An extensive vocabulary combined with fluent speaking skills are important prerequisites. The candidate must be able to grasp the content of narratives or written texts and be able to reproduce them correctly and comprehensively, both orally and in writing. When preparing for the occupational language examination in German, it should be noted that memorised case studies are not sufficient to pass the examination. The examination ultimately assesses whether the candidate is able to cope linguistically with the everyday work of a pharmacist with all their individual and varied tasks.

Notification of the examination result:

- After the examination, you will be notified of the result after it has been assessed by the examination board.
 - If you pass the examination, you will receive a certificate.
 - If you do not pass, you will receive an information sheet.

C1 occupational language examination in German - preparation options

In the occupational language examination in German for pharmacy, pharmaceutical terminology skills in German in a profession-specific context must be demonstrated, oriented towards **language level C1**. A CEFR B2 language certificate in German is a prerequisite for registration for the occupational language examination. It is strongly recommended that candidates have also successfully completed a German course at C1 level.

ABDA guidelines of the registered Federal Association of German Pharmacists (ABDA – Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Apothekerverbände e. V.) and AMK report form

To prepare specifically for the occupational language examination, you can use the exam overview as a guide. Practise simulated patient interviews and filling out the AMK report form. The ABDA guidelines on self-medication can provide assistance in this regard:

www.abda.de/themen/apotheke/qualitaetssicherung0/leitlinien/leitlinien0

The AMK report form can also be found online on the ABDA homepage:

www.abda.de/themen/arzneimittelsicherheit/amk/amk-berichtsboegen

Specialist literature

By reading specialist literature (e.g., Pharmazeutische Zeitung, Deutsche Apotheker Zeitung) you can learn pharmaceutical terminology. Look up technical terms in suitable reference works (e.g., Hunnius, Pharmaceutical Dictionary).

You can subscribe to the Pharmazeutische Zeitung free of charge for up to 15 months. As proof of eligibility, the submission of the licence (Approbation) application or the letter from the licensing authority stating the need for an occupational language examination is sufficient.

APOPRACT

The LAK BW offers you free participation in the APOPRACT courses, which take place in Reutlingen, Freiburg, Heidelberg and Karlsruhe approximately every six weeks. Information on the APOPRACT courses is available on our website: www.lak-bw.de/aus-fortweiterbildung/ausbildung/apotheker/pharmazeutische-arbeitszirkel

Dates can be requested directly from the facilitators.

Work shadowing in a pharmacy / assistance with pharmaceutical-commercial activities

Anyone who has studied pharmacy abroad and has not yet received a permit to practice the pharmacist profession (Berufserlaubnis) or licence (Approbation) is not permitted to carry out pharmaceutical activities in accordance with § 1a (3) Pharmacy Operations Ordinance (Apothekenbetriebsverordnung). Thus, the completion of a "pharmacy internship" is not possible. Nevertheless, you can apply to do work shadowing in a pharmacy in order to get to know the activities of the pharmaceutical staff (without directly performing these activities). Alternatively, you can help out in the pharmaceutical commercial area.

Preparatory courses

The preparatory courses of the various providers usually comprise daily lessons over several months. Some of the seminars are eligible for funding through education vouchers from the employment agencies and job centres. Please contact the providers directly for more information.

- **Specialised language for pharmacy**

- **ONLINE compact course for pharmaceutical terminology to prepare for the occupational language examination**

- The ONLINE compact course prepares candidates for the occupational language examination in German and addresses the linguistic challenges of working in a pharmacy. It is aimed at colleagues who already have a very good command of German (C1). In the course, knowledge of pharmaceutical terminology and technical language is deepened and refreshed in a short time. The course deals, for example, with technical terms in the areas of dosage forms, medicinal teas, laboratory equipment, pharmacology and package leaflets. In addition, counselling interviews and oral and written communication in the pharmacy are practised.

- Further information at:

- www.lak-bw.de/aus-fort-weiterbildung/fortbildung/seminarplan Pharmacy terminology.

- **Job-related German course for pharmacists and pharmacists at the Deutsche Angestellten-Akademie (DAA) in Stuttgart**

- This course is aimed at qualified pharmacists and pharmacists who wish to work in Germany and who already have a basic knowledge of the German language.

- Further information at:

- <https://daa-stuttgart.de>

- **Professional communication for foreign pharmacists / pharmacists (academic health professions) at the EZplus in Stuttgart**

- The course is aimed at pharmacists and pharmacists who have been trained abroad, who wish to take their occupational language examination in Germany in front of the State Chamber of Pharmacists and who wish to obtain a German licence (Approbation).

- Further information at:

- <https://www.ezplus.de/de/berufliche-kommunikation-fuer-auslaendische-apotheker-pharmazeutenpharmazie-b2-c1-medizin.html>

- **Pharmacist Course - Preparation for Language Examination & Licence (Approbation) of the Berlin Association for Integration (BGI Berliner Gesellschaft für Integration in Berlin)**

- The course is aimed at pharmacists trained abroad and prepares them for the German language examination (level C1) of the Chamber of Pharmacists and the recognition examination (Approbation).

- Further information at:

- https://www.bgi-berlin.de/Apothekerkurs_1

- **Intensive course in pharmaceutical terminology**

- Seminar run by the mibeg Institute of Medicine for pharmacists coming from abroad to prepare for the occupational language examination in front of the relevant State Chamber of Pharmacists.

- Further information at:

- <https://www.mibeg.de/medizin/intensivkurs-fachsprache-pharmazie/>