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Access to the profession of pharmacist is regulated on a nationwide basis in the Bundes-Apothekerordnung (BApO) in the version promulgated on 19 July 1989 and last amended on 18 April 2016. The universities of the Federal Republic of Germany impose restrictions on admission. Study places are allocated centrally by the Foundation for Admission to Universities.

Pharmaceutical training is regulated in the German Licensing Regulations for Pharmacists (AAppO).

According to § 1 AAppO the pharmaceutical training includes

- a four-year academic education in pharmacy at a university,
- an eight-week clinical traineeship,
- practical training of twelve months and
- the pharmaceutical examination, to be taken in three sections.

The standard period of study within the meaning of the Higher Education Framework Act is four years.

The practical training is subdivided into

- six months in a public pharmacy, and
- six months, which can be completed in
 - a. in a public pharmacy,
 - b. in a hospital pharmacy or army pharmacy,
 - c. in the pharmaceutical industry,
 - d. in a university institute or other suitable scientific institutions, including those of the German army,
 - e. with a drug investigation authority or a comparable institution, including one of the German army.

The examination sections of the Pharmaceutical Examination are taken as follows:

- The first section after having studied Pharmacy for at least two years,
- The Second Section, after passing the First Section of the Pharmaceutical Examination and having studied Pharmacy for at least four years,
- the Third Section, after passing the Second Section and completing the subsequent practical training.

The final certificate is recognized in all states of the European Union.

The license as a pharmacist is granted on application by the competent authority of the country in which the applicant has passed the Third Section of the Pharmaceutical Examination.