

# Medical Language Exam

Requirements – Structure – Evaluation

## ÄRZTLICHE FACHSPRACHENPRÜFUNG

Voraussetzungen – Ablauf – Bewertung

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# Language Requirements

- Prerequisite for temporary (Berufserlaubnis) or permanent (Approbation) medical licence is that applicants have the language skills required for professional activity (Bundesärztleordnung)  
[https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/b\\_o/index.html](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/b_o/index.html)
- Physicians must have general language skills at B2 (GER-B2) level (with a certificate) and professional medical language skills at C1 level (Conference of Health Ministers 2014).
- Medical language examination only takes place at the instigation of the Saxony state directorate (Landesdirektion Sachsen)
- The State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony conducts this exam

# Who has to take FSP?

- State directorate checks which language skills the applicant already has.
- Already existing language skills have to be proven by a certificate when you apply for the license to practice medicine.
- The applicant doesn't have to take this exam, if he/she:
  - is fluent in written and spoken German (e.g. as a native speaker)
  - has completed at least ten years of general education at a German school
  - has completed at least three years of apprenticeship in German

# Registration for the exam (FSP)

- In cases where a medical language examination is necessary, the state directorate forwards the required data to the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony
- The State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony informs the applicant about the procedure of the medical language examination and suggests examination dates.
- Applicant can choose two of these dates.
- A personal registration for the examination is not necessary. The administrative fee of 425,- EUR for the language examination has to be transferred to The State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony, after which the applicant will be invited to the examination.
- The examination will take place at the earliest 4 weeks after receipt of payment. If it is not possible to attend the examination, the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony must be informed at least 2 weeks before the date of the examination.
- After that, non-attendance and cancellation of the appointment is only possible for good cause (illness) and with immediate notification.

# The Structure of the Exam

- The exam is practice-oriented
- It is an individual exam
- It serves to determine the medical language skills in oral and written communication required for the medical profession.
- The examination board consists of three members, at least two of whom are physicians.
- At the beginning, the examination board introduces itself and asks you to briefly introduce yourself (previous career, further goals). Examination is divided into three parts of 20 minutes each

# Part I: Doctor-Patient-Conversation

- You collect an anamnesis of the patient (current complaints, previous illnesses, medication, family).
- Patient provides information on state of health (role of patient is assumed by member of the examination board)
- You can take notes (also possible in mother tongue)
- You explain suspected diagnoses to the patient and make suggestions for further examinations / treatments
- You respond to possible queries from the patient. You use a language that is understandable for patients and relatives (i.e. medical laypersons).

## Part II: Written Documentation/Doctor's report

- You document the anamnesis and the further procedure in writing in German and in complete sentences.
- You will receive a prepared structured form for this purpose.
- You can use the notes you made during the doctor-patient consultation.
- A medical dictionary will be provided.
- No other aids may be used.
- The aim is to fulfil the general documentation obligation as well as to provide comprehensible and complete information to the doctors who continue to treat the patient after you.

# Part III: Doctor-Doctor-Conversation

- You introduce the patient to a medical colleague as a part of handing over procedure.
- You pass on the information gained in the doctor-patient conversation to a medical member of the examination board.
- You discuss suspected and differential diagnoses, diagnostic measures and therapies.
- The German medical terminology must be used in this part of the exam.
- At the end of the exam, you will be asked to translate a list of medical terms (12) into the corresponding “colloquial” words



# Evaluation of the Exam

- Members of the examination board jointly assess the examination according to a uniform, structured scheme.
- The candidate is informed of the result immediately after the examination.
- The examination result is then communicated to the Landesdirektion Sachsen. Further processing takes place there.
- In case of failure, the entire examination can be repeated as many times as necessary till you pass.
- The fee must be paid again for each examination.

# Further Information:

- Questions on permanent or temporary medical licence to Landesdirektion Sachsen:  
[www.lids.sachsen.de/soziales/index.asp?ID=8104&art\\_param=684](http://www.lids.sachsen.de/soziales/index.asp?ID=8104&art_param=684)
- Questions about FSP to Sächsische Landesärztekammer:
  - E-Mail: [fachsprachenpruefungen@slaek.de](mailto:fachsprachenpruefungen@slaek.de)
  - Telefon: +49 (0)351 8267-318 (Frau Barzik)
- Consultation for foreign doctors:
  - Mail: [foreigndocs@slaek.de](mailto:foreigndocs@slaek.de)
  - Web: [Aufnahme ärztlicher Tätigkeit im Freistaat Sachsen - Sächsische Landesärztekammer \(slaek.de\)](http://www.slaek.de)