

Manual for recognition and registration of foreign degree holders

(The Medical Registration Council of the Royal Dutch Medical Association)

Preface

Since January 18th 2016, new rules have entered into force regarding doctors who submit an application to the RGS for recognition and registration as a specialist on the basis of a specialist's degree obtained in a foreign country. These rules are laid down in the Besluit buitenslands gediplomeerden of the College Geneeskundig Specialismen (CGS). The implementation rules that the RGS has adopted in this context are contained in the Beleidsregels buitenslands gediplomeerden.¹

The main change concerning the recognition and registration of foreign degree holders is that the RGS makes a distinction between the recognition of a degree obtained abroad and the entry of a doctor in the specialists register). Since January 18th 2016 doctors have become subject to additional registration requirements. In this new situation, the doctor must be able to demonstrate that he or she has practised his or her specialty to a sufficient degree (Section 4.3), that he/she has participated in further training to a sufficient extent (section 4.4) and that he/she has mastered the Dutch language to a sufficient extent (Section 4.5). Another change is the replacement of the assessment traineeship and the individual training program by the adaptation period (Section 3).

A doctor with a foreign specialist's degree who wants to practise his/her profession in the Netherlands and therefore wants to be registered as a specialist must submit an application for recognition and an application for registration to the RGS. The RGS handles both applications simultaneously. The doctor can submit both applications to the RGS on one form and the RGS will inform the doctor of its decision on both applications in a single letter.

In this manual, the RGS guides the doctor through the application process for recognition and registration as a specialist and explains the way in which it has implemented the new regulations. First of all, the RGS explains the possibilities for the doctor to obtain recognition of his/her qualification (Sections 1 and 2), after which the RGS explains the adaptation period a doctor might have to undergo in the context of his/her application for recognition (Section 3). Finally, the RGS explains the application for registration (Section 4).

¹ You can find the applicable text of the Besluit buitenslands gediplomeerden via <https://www.knmg.nl/opleiding-herregistratie-carriere/cgs/regelgeving-1.htm> and the Beleidsregels buitenslands gediplomeerden via <https://www.knmg.nl/opleiding-herregistratie-carriere/buitenlandse-artsen/erkenning-en-registratie.htm>

Section 1 Automatic recognition

Section 1.1 Which professional qualifications are eligible for automatic recognition?

Directive 2005/36/EG (hereinafter: Directive) sets minimum requirements for training in regulated specialised medicine offered in countries where it is applicable. These minimum requirements relate to the contents and duration of the specialists' training programmes.

The Directive is applicable to all countries that are members of the European Economic Area. Pursuant to Decision 2011/467/EU, the provisions of the Directive also apply to Switzerland.

As an illustration, a list follows below of countries that are members of the European Union and the European Economic Area (reference date: January 1st, 2016).

European Union:

Austria	Italy
Belgium	Latvia
Bulgaria	Lithuania
Croatia	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	Netherlands
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Ireland	United Kingdom

European Economic Area:

All European Union countries
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

In Annex V of the Directive, all regulated specialist training programmes are listed which are offered in these countries and meet the minimum requirements set in the Directive. Because these specialist training programmes meet the European minimum requirements, professional qualifications obtained after completion of one of these programmes are recognised by the competent authorities in the Member States, without assessing the substance of the training programmes taken: automatic recognition.

To be eligible for automatic recognition, the professional qualifications must therefore be listed in Annex V of the Directive.

Section 1.2 Documents required for the application for recognition and registration²

For assessment of an application for recognition, the RGS will request professional qualifications in the confirmation of receipt in any case. In addition, the RGS may request at least the following additional documents:

- Certificate of Conformity;
- Certificate of Acquired Rights.

Because the RGS handles the applications for recognition and registration at the same time, in the confirmation of receipt it also requests the documents required for the application for registration. These are at least the following documents:

- Certificate of Current Professional Status;
- Evidence that the doctor has sufficient proficiency in the Dutch language;
- Evidence of entry in the Dutch register of medical doctors (BIG-register);
- Statement regarding the work performed by the doctor;
- Summary of the continuing medical education undertaken by the doctor.

Example of automatic recognition

A Belgian doctor submits an application to the RGS for recognition of his professional qualifications in internal medicine. He hands over a certificate of 'Bijzondere beroepstitel van geneesheer-specialist', issued on July 1st 2015 by the Minister authorised for Health in Belgium. Because the names of the specialised medicine and the authority match the (Annexes to) the Directive and the training was started and completed after the accession of Belgium to the EU, the RGS recognises the professional qualifications automatically.

Example of recognition after receipt of an additional document

A Hungarian doctor submits an application to the RGS for recognition of his professional qualifications in general surgery. He hands over a 'Szakorvosi bizonyítvány', issued on January 1st 2005 by the competent authority in Hungary. The professional qualifications of the Hungarian doctor are listed in the Annexes to the Directive. Hungary acceded to the EU on 1st May 2004. The doctor started his training as a surgeon before the accession date. In that case, the RGS cannot automatically assume that the training taken meets the requirements contained in the Directive. At the request of the RGS, the Hungarian doctor hands over a certificate issued by the competent authority in Hungary, showing that the training undergone meets the requirements of the Directive. Based on this certificate, the RGS recognises the professional qualifications of the Hungarian doctor without assessing the content of the training undergone for equivalence to the Dutch training in general surgery.

Section 1.3 Confirmation of receipt, completion of the application and decision period

The RGS must confirm receipt of an application for recognition of professional qualifications within a month and at the same time state which documents need to be enclosed with the application.

The RGS must decide on the application for recognition as soon as possible and in any case within three months. The decision period starts on the date on which the RGS receives the application. The time needed by the doctor to complete the application will not be deducted from the three-month decision period. In requesting the documents and suspending the decision period, the RGS must act in accordance with the Netherlands General Administrative Law Act (Awb).

² You will find an explanation of the documents referred to in this manual in the annex to this manual.

Example of a suspended decision period

On February 1st, the RGS receives an application for recognition and registration from a British neurologist. On February 3rd, the RGS confirms receipt of his applications and requests the missing evidence of professional qualifications. The RGS sets a period of four weeks for this. On March 1st the RGS receives the evidence of his professional qualifications, but the certification is missing. The RGS gives the British neurologist one more opportunity to submit the correct certified evidence within four weeks. On April 1st the RGS sends a letter to confirm the deadline. On April 20th, the RGS receives the requested evidence. The decision period does not run in the periods in which the RGS offers the doctor the possibility to complete his application. The RGS must take its decision by June 17th at the latest.

This is how it looks in a diagram.

1-2	3-2	1-3	1-4	20-4	17-6
Decision period	Suspended decision period	Decision period	Suspended decision period	Decision period	Deadline decision
Period from receipt of the application until the time when the RGS requests the missing documents.	Period in which the doctor supplements the application or the four-week period expires unused.	Period from receipt of the requested documents until the time when the RGS requests the missing documents once again.	Period in which the doctor supplements the application or the four-week period expires unused.	Period from receipt of the requested documents until the time when the RGS decides on the (complete) application.	

Section 2 Recognition based on the general system and the 'third country' degree

Section 2.1 Which professional qualifications can be recognised on the basis of the general system?

Professional qualifications which, even though they were obtained in the European Economic Area or Switzerland, are not eligible for automatic recognition are assessed on the basis of the provisions of the general system of recognition of professional qualifications of the Directive. This may cover professional qualifications that are not listed in Annex 5.1.3. or 5.1.4. of the Directive, or professional qualifications that were obtained in a specialty that has no equivalent in the Netherlands.

If the professional qualifications obtained are covered by the general system, the procedure referred to in Section 2.3 and following will apply to the application for recognition.

Section 2.2 Which professional qualifications are so-called 'third-country' degrees?

Professional qualifications that were not obtained within the European Economic Area or Switzerland are degrees from a 'third country'. Under the Decision on Foreign Degree Holders, the procedure referred to in Section 2.3 and following also applies to the application for recognition of these professional qualifications.

The Directive applies only to nationals of a Member State of the European Economic Area or of Switzerland. This means that if the doctor is not a national of one of these countries, the recognition procedure referred to in Section 2.3 also applies, even if the doctor possesses professional qualifications that are eligible for automatic recognition. By 'national of a Member State', however, the RGS also means a national of a third country, if he/she possesses the status of long-term resident.³

Section 2.3. Documents required for the application for recognition and registration⁴

For the assessment of an application for recognition, in the confirmation of receipt of the application, the RGS will request a professional qualification in any case. In addition, the RGS can request at least the following additional documents for the assessment of the application for recognition:

- Curriculum of specialist training;
- Evidence of the work experience gained after completing the specialist programme;
- Summary of continuing medical education the doctor has attended;
- Curriculum Vitae.

Because the RGS handles the applications for recognition and registration simultaneously, in the confirmation of receipt it also requests the documents required for the application for registration. These are at least the following documents:

- Certificate of Current Professional Status;
- Evidence that the doctor has sufficient proficiency in the Dutch language;
- Evidence of entry in the BIG-register.

³ Directive 2003/109/EC regulates the status of third-country nationals in the EU who are long-term residents. Third-country nationals who have resided legally and continuously within the territory of a Member State for five years are eligible for long-term resident status (Article 4 Directive 2003/109/EC). Long-term residents enjoy the same treatment as nationals as regards, among other things, the recognition of professional qualifications (Article 11(1)(c) Directive 2003/109/EC). For this reason, the RGS considers the provisions of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications applicable to long-term residents as well.

⁴ You will find an explanation of the documents referred to in this manual in the annex to this manual.

Section 2.4 Assessment of the training undergone

Section 2.4.1 Assessment method

The RGS assesses the substance of the specialist training programme undergone by the doctor for equivalence with the Dutch programme in the same specialty. For this assessment, the RGS relies on the specific Besluit for the relevant specialty and the applicable national training plan for that specialty. The RGS checks whether the programme components that should be dealt with during the Dutch programme were also dealt with during the programme undergone by the doctor. The RGS also assesses whether the training components correspond in terms of nature, contents and duration.

Section 2.4.2 Results of the assessment

If the RGS finds that the specialist programme undergone by the doctor is equivalent to the Dutch programme, it recognises the professional qualifications obtained by the doctor in the relevant specialty.

If the RGS finds that the programme is not equivalent to the Dutch programme, it will assess whether the continuing medical education undergone and/or work experience gained by the doctor after completion of the training compensate the deficiencies in the programme. In case the deficiencies are compensated, the RGS recognises the professional qualifications obtained.

If the RGS finds that the continuing medical education and work experience do not compensate the deficiencies in the programme, the RGS assesses whether the doctor can compensate the deficiencies by undergoing an adaptation period. The adaptation period has a duration of at least three months and at most three years (see Section 3).

If the deficiencies are so large that they cannot be compensated by undergoing an adaptation period, the RGS rejects the application for recognition. The doctor will have to undergo the Dutch programme for the specialty in question in order to ultimately be eligible for registration as a specialist.

Section 2.5 Recognition after completion of the adaptation period

If the RGS finds that the doctor is eligible for an adaptation period, it will decide to assign the application for recognition on the condition that the doctor completes the adaptation period successfully. In its decision, the RGS will advise the doctor on the contents and duration of the adaptation period to be completed. Recognition is possible only after the doctor successfully completes the adaptation period.

After the RGS receives a final assessment from the trainer or the head of the training institute showing that the knowledge and competency of the doctor are equivalent to those of a medical specialist trained in the Netherlands and the doctor is able to practise the specialty independently in the Netherlands, it will recognise the professional qualifications.

If the RGS receives a final assessment from the trainer or the training institute showing that the knowledge and competency of the doctor are not equivalent to those of a medical specialist trained in the Netherlands or the doctor is unable to practise the specialty independently and properly in the Netherlands, it will decide to reject the application for recognition. The RGS will also decide to reject an application for registration. The RGS will inform the doctor of these decisions in a single letter. Objection to these decisions is possible.

Section 2.6 Confirmation of receipt, completion of the application and decision period

The RGS must confirm the receipt of an application for recognition of professional qualifications within a month and simultaneously state which documents must be added to the application. The RGS must decide on the application as soon as possible, and in any case within three months. The decision period starts on the date on which the RGS receives the application. The period can be extended once consecutively by one month. The RGS must inform the applicant of this before the decision period expires.

If a doctor is eligible for an adaptation period, the RGS will also postpone the decision on the application for registration. Registration cannot, after all, take place before the foreign qualifications have been recognised. After the adaptation period has been completed, the RGS will take a decision on the application for recognition as well as the application for registration. In case of an adaptation period, the RGS will assume that the doctor agrees with the suspension of the decision period for registration.

Example of recognition after an adaptation period

On March 1st 2016, the RGS receives an application from a South African doctor for recognition of his professional qualifications in urology. On March 6th 2016, the RGS confirms receipt of the application and informs him of which documents are needed to complete the application. On April 4th 2016, the RGS receives the missing documents and the application for recognition is complete. The RGS assesses, on the basis of the available documentation, whether the programme in urology in South Africa is equivalent to the Dutch programme in urology. As a result of the assessment, on June 1st 2016 the RGS decides to recognise the qualifications of the South African doctor if he has successfully completed an adaptation period. The RGS recommends an adaptation period of a year and a half fulltime, thereby indicating which components the programme should comprise.

On December 15th 2016, the RGS gives the South African doctor permission to undergo an adaptation period between January 1st 2017 and July 1st 2018. On June 15th 2018, the RGS receives the final assessment from the trainer, showing that he must be considered able to practise the specialty of urology independently in the Netherlands. Further to that, the RGS decides to recognise his South African professional qualifications on July 1st 2018.

Section 3 Adaptation period

Section 3.1 Start and contents of the adaptation period

After announcing the decision in which the RGS determines that the doctor will be eligible for recognition of his/her professional qualifications after completing an adaptation period, the doctor must start the adaptation period within a year. The doctor is responsible for finding his/her own training spot.⁵

It is up to the trainer or head of the training institute (hereinafter: the trainer) to determine the contents and duration of the adaptation period. In doing so, the trainer must take account of the advice of the RGS, as set out in the decision by the RGS to have the doctor undergo an adaptation period. The doctor must take into account that the RGS must approve the plan prepared by the trainer regarding the contents and duration of the adaptation period before the period starts.

Section 3.2 During the adaptation period

Section 3.2.1 Actual supervision

Actual supervision during adaptation period can be conducted by all members of the training group. The trainer is responsible for the duration, contents, evaluation and feedback of the adaptation period to the RGS. In adaptation period under supervision of the training institute, the head of the training is responsible for the duration, contents, evaluation and feedback to the RGS. In that case, the practice trainers can (also) conduct the supervision.

Section 3.2.2 Interim change and termination

Interim change to the duration and contents of the adaptation period is possible. The trainer must substantiate the basis for shortening and/or extending the adaptation period. The trainer can, for example terminate the adaptation period early if the care of patients is endangered or if the doctor is demonstrably unable to learn to an adequate extent. The trainer must inform the RGS of this immediately, stating the reasons.

Section 3.2.3 Interim assessment

During the adaptation period, the trainer or head of the training institute must discuss its progress with the doctor every three months and record it on the forms adopted by the RGS. The trainer must see to it that the RGS will receive these assessment forms.

Section 3.3 Final assessment

At the end of the adaptation period, the trainer must assess whether the knowledge and competency of the doctor are equivalent to those of a medical specialist trained in the Netherlands and whether the doctor is able to practise the specialty independently and properly in the Netherlands. The trainer must set out the final assessment in writing and see to it that the RGS has this at its disposal.

Section 3.4 Adaptation period with a provisional BIG registration

Doctors with a provisional BIG registration (a degree from outside the EU almost equivalent to a Dutch degree) can also start an adaptation period. The idea behind this is that the doctor may combine the introductory period for the purpose of obtaining a full BIG registration with the adaptation period for the purpose of obtaining recognition as a specialist by the RGS. The RGS assesses per case whether this is among the possibilities.

⁵ You can find a list of recognised training institutes via www.knmg.nl/opleiding-herregistratie-carriere/opleiders-en-opleidingsinrichtingen/procedure.htm

Example of undergoing an adaptation period

A doctor from a third country submits an application to the RGS for recognition of her professional qualifications in rheumatology. She hands over a certified diploma issued by the competent authority in the country of origin. The RGS finds that the training duration of six years is equivalent to that of the Dutch training in rheumatology. The training in the third country consisted of four years of internal medicine followed by two years of rheumatology. This is not equivalent to the training in the Netherlands, which consists of three years of internal medicine and three years of rheumatology. The RGS concludes that there is a training deficiency of one year in rheumatology. In addition, the RGS establishes that the two years in which the doctor was trained in rheumatology differ from the Dutch programme on several components. The RGS decides that an adaptation period can compensate the deficiency in duration and contents of the doctor's training. The RGS recommends that the adaptation period should last for two years.

The RGS receives a plan from the doctor for an adaptation period for the duration of two years, signed by a recognised rheumatology trainer. Because the contents of the plan are also in accordance with the recommendation by the RGS, it decides to give the doctor permission to undergo the adaptation period in conformity with the presented plan. After a year, the RGS receives a written notice from the trainer, showing that, given the development of the doctor's competency, she must be considered able to practise the specialty rheumatology independently after a year and a half of the two years. The RGS decides to consent to shortening of the adaptation period.

A year and a half after the start of the adaptation period, the RGS receives the final assessment, substantiated and signed by the trainer, showing that the doctor is able to practise rheumatology independently and responsibly.

Section 4 Registration

Section 4.1 Application for registration

After the RGS has established that the doctor's professional qualifications as a specialist are eligible for recognition, it will assess whether the doctor is eligible for registration as a specialist. The RGS will assess the application for registration as indicated from Section 4.2.

Section 4.2 Documents required for the application for registration⁶

The RGS can request at least the following documents for assessment of the application for registration:

- Certificate of Current Professional Status;
- Evidence that the doctor has sufficient proficiency in the Dutch language;
- Evidence of entry in the BIG-register;
- Statement regarding the work performed by the doctor;
- Summary of continuing medical education the doctor has attended.

In the event that the RGS receives the application for registration within three months after issue of the professional qualifications of the doctor, the RGS will not request the statement of work and the summary of continuing medical education the doctor has attended. If the RGS receives the application more than three months but less than five years after the issue of the professional qualifications, it will not request a summary of continuing medical education the doctor has attended.

Section 4.3 Assessment of the requirement of work

If the doctor's professional qualifications were issued more than three months prior to the moment the RGS receives the application for recognition and registration, the RGS will assess whether the doctor has worked at least sixteen hours a week in the specialty concerned from the issue of the professional qualifications to the date on which the application is received.

In assessing the application, the RGS will also count work performed without the doctor possessing registration as a specialist in the country concerned (for example in the event of work performed in the Netherlands under supervision), albeit that the RGS may evaluate this work differently from work performed as a registered medical specialist.

Section 4.4 Assessment of the requirement of continuing medical education

If the doctor's professional qualifications were issued more than five years prior to the moment the RGS receives the application for recognition and registration, the RGS will also assess whether the doctor has undergone at least 40 hours a year of continuing medical education from the issue of the professional qualifications. The RGS will assess only whether the doctor has met the requirement of continuing medical education in the five years prior to the application.

Section 4.5 Language proficiency test

In order to be eligible for registration as a specialist, the doctor must demonstrate to the RGS that he/she has proficiency in the Dutch language to a sufficient extent to communicate understandably with patients and colleagues. The RGS therefore requires the doctor to submit recent evidence of having completed a Dutch language test at B.2 level, as referred to in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The doctor can also demonstrate to the RGS that he/she possesses a language level equal to B.2 of the CEFR in a different way.

In cases in which an application for entry as a doctor in the BIG register and an application for registration as a specialist with the RGS are submitted at the same time, the CIBG will test the doctor trained abroad for

⁶ You will find an explanation of the documents mentioned in this manual in the annex to this manual.

Dutch language proficiency. The RGS will comply with the language test performed by the CIBG administers in the context of the application for registration as a doctor. Because the regulations of the CIBG relating to the language test were not ready at the time of publication of this Manual, the RGS will postpone testing of language proficiency until the time the CIBG has this test administered.

Section 4.6 Entry in the specialists' register

In the case that the doctor has provided all documents needed for the application for registration, and the RGS establishes that the doctor has fully met the requirements for registration, the RGS will enter the doctor in the relevant specialists' register for the duration of five years. The RGS will determine the start date of the registration as the date on which the application for registration is complete.

Section 4.7 Registration after completing the adaptation period

In case a doctor completes an adaptation period successfully (see Sections 2.4 and 3), the doctor will be able to practise his/her specialty independently and properly in the Netherlands. This results in a decision for recognition. By completing the adaptation period, the doctor meets the registration requirements, as far as work and continuing medical education are concerned. The RGS decides to register the doctor as a specialist, provided there is no question of a competency-limiting measure and the doctor can demonstrate that he/she has proficiency in Dutch to a sufficient extent.

The effective date of the registration is the day following the day on which the adaptation period is completed successfully.

Example of an application for registration, professional qualifications older than five years

On June 1st 2016 the RGS receives an application from a French doctor for recognition of his professional qualifications and registration as a neurologist. The professional qualifications were issued by a French university on January 1st 2010 and are eligible for automatic recognition under the Directive. With his application, the French doctor provides a Certificate of Current Professional Status and evidence showing that he has been registered as a doctor from May 15th 2016 in the BIG register. The CIBG has established that the French doctor has sufficient proficiency in the Dutch language. He also provided a statement regarding the work he has performed and documentation on continuing medical education he has undergone. His application is complete on July 15th 2016.

Because the professional qualifications on the date of receipt of the application were issued more than five years ago, the RGS assesses whether the French doctor has met the requirements between June 1st 2011 and June 1st 2016 for work and continuing medical education. Based on the documents provided, the RGS establishes that during that period, the French doctor performed patient-related work 35 hours a week on average during that period as a neurologist and participated in 250 hours of continuing medical education. In the decision of August 1st 2016, the RGS recognises the professional qualifications and enters the French neurologist in the Neurology Register on July 15th 2016 for the duration of five years, i.e. until July 15th 2021.

Annex to the RGS Manual for Foreign Degree Holders

Documents: explanation and formal requirements

1. Professional qualifications

As a professional qualification, the RGS accepts a copy of the diploma obtained after completing the specialist programme. The copy must be provided with a stamp of either a civil-law notary registered in the Netherlands or the competent authority that issued the original certificate. A sworn translation of the document into Dutch or English must be appended, unless the original was drawn up in Dutch, English or German. If the stamp on the copy is not original, the RGS may inquire at the issuing authority regarding the authenticity of the certificate of the professional qualifications obtained.

2. Certificate of Conformity

This is evidence that the specialist training the doctor has undergone abroad took place in conformity with the requirements defined in the Directive. The RGS may request the doctor to submit a Certificate of Conformity if the doctor started his/her specialist training before the reference date as included in Annex 5.1.2. or 5.1.4. of the Directive. The RGS may also request a Certificate of Conformity if the name of the qualification does not match the qualification included for the country in which the specialist training was undergone in Annex 5.1.2., 5.1.3., or 5.1.4. of the Directive. If, in these cases, the RGS receives the certificate of the qualification together with a Certificate of Conformity, it can recognise the professional qualification without substantively assessing the training undergone by the doctor, as referred to in article B.3., third paragraph of the Decision on Foreign Degree Holders. If the Certificate of Conformity submitted is a copy, the RGS sets the same requirements for it as for a copy of the professional qualification.

3. Certificate of Acquired Rights

This is evidence that in the five years preceding the issue of that certificate, the doctor has practised the specialty concerned legally for at least three years. The RGS may request the doctor to submit a Certificate of Acquired Rights if the doctor started his/her specialist training before the reference date included for the country in question in Annex 5.1.2. or 5.1.4. of the Directive. If in this case the RGS receives the certificate of the qualification from the doctor together with a Certificate of Acquired Rights, it can recognise the qualification without substantively assessing the training undergone by the doctor as referred to in article B.3., third paragraph of the Decision on Foreign Degree Holders. If the Certificate of Acquired Rights submitted is a copy, the RGS sets the same requirements for it as for a copy of the qualification.

4. Certificate of Current Professional Status

The Certificate of Current Professional Status (also called a Certificate of Good Standing) is a document issued by the competent authority in the country in question, showing that at the time of the application, no profession-restricting measure is applicable to the doctor (suspension/cancellation).

The doctor must in any case submit to the RGS a Certificate of Current Professional Status, issued by the competent authority in the country in which he/she completed his/her specialist training. The doctor must also submit a Certificate of Current Professional Status for the country in which he worked as a specialist after completing his/her specialist training. These documents may not be older than three months. If the doctor submits a copy of a Certificate of Current Professional Status, this copy must be provided with an original stamp of either by a civil-law notary registered in the Netherlands or the competent authority that issued the original certificate. A sworn translation of the document into Dutch or English must be appended, unless the original was drawn up in Dutch or English.

5. Certificate of registration as a doctor in the BIG register

The certificate of registration in the BIG register of doctors must in any case show the date of first registration in the BIG register.

6. Curriculum of specialist training

Regarding the education curriculum, the RGS requests the doctor to provide:

- the standard curriculum of specialist training that was applicable in the country of origin of the diploma at the time of the programme undergone by the doctor in the specialty concerned and
- a survey indicating how the doctor organised his/her programme as a specialist, with respect to the programme requirements applicable in the country of origin.

From these documents combined, the nature, content and duration of the programme components undergone during the specialist programme must be evident in detail, so that the RGS can make a comparison with the Dutch programme requirements of the relevant specialty. The RGS can contact the authority that provided one or both programme curricula for confirmation of the programme undergone by the applicant.

7. Evidence of proficiency in the Dutch language

The evidence of language proficiency must show that the doctor has sufficient proficiency in Dutch to communicate understandably with patients and colleagues. The RGS therefore requires the doctor to submit recent evidence of having completed a Dutch language test at B.2 level, as referred to in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The doctor can also demonstrate to the RGS in another way that he/she possesses a language level that is the same as B.2 of the CEFR.

8. Statement of activities

It must be evident from the statement of activities performed for how many hours a week on average the doctor performed patient-related work as a specialist. The doctor must use the statement of activities of foreign degree holders format adopted by the RGS. This format is available on the website of the KNMG. A sworn translation of the statement of activities into Dutch or English must be appended, unless the original was drawn up in Dutch or English.

9. Summary of continuing medical education undertaken

The doctor must submit a summary in the format adopted by the RGS of continuing medical education he/she has undertaken in relation to the specialty for which he/she has applied for registration. This summary must contain at least the following information:

- Subject of the activity in question;
- Provider of the activity;
- The date when and location where the activity took place;
- The number of hours that the activity took.