

# Factsheet Physiotherapist Mobility to the Netherlands



Version: Fall 2019

## Preliminary remark

It is possible to gain experience in physiotherapy in the Netherlands prior to a recognition procedure. Under the supervision of a BIG-registered physiotherapist, you can gain such experience in the Netherlands. The position is comparable to that of an intern following a traineeship during a course of study. You cannot call yourself a physiotherapist, this is only possible after completion of the BIG registration.

## Step 1 – Submission application for recognition

The competent authority to which applications for recognition of physiotherapists must be submitted is the CIBG. Fill in the [Application Form](#) "erkenning beroepskwalificaties en verklaring vakbekwaamheid" and the [Annex](#) "beroepscompetenties fysiotherapeuten". Submit the application by post to the CIBG or hand it in personally. You will receive a confirmation stating whether any additional documents need to be sent.

## Step 2 – Processing of the dossier



The commission is responsible for dealing with the dossiers and issuing an opinion to the Minister of Health, who ultimately takes the decision to grant recognition. The Commission assesses whether there is equivalence with the learning outcomes in the "Besluit opleidingseisen en deskundigheidsgebied fysiotherapeut". You can be invited to explain your qualifications and skills at the meeting of the commission. Recognition is based on the training, work experience and possible courses.

## Step 3 – Result recognition procedure



If recognition cannot take place, compensatory measures will be imposed. Compensatory measures are imposed in case of substantial differences. In that case, the differences between the Dutch and foreign education are so great that they cannot be bridged by your work experience and possible certificates. In general, Belgian training shows more similarities with the Dutch training for physiotherapists. German training courses vary more. As a result, adaptation periods are more often required from German graduates than from Belgian graduates. Compensatory measures, however, are determined on a case-by-case basis. It is advisable, if possible, to take an adaptation period instead of an aptitude test: this way, you get to know Dutch practice with a potential future employer. The average duration of the adaptation period is 6 to 18 months, but it can take up to 3 years. At the end of the adaptation period, the CIBG will carry out a check. If it appears during the adaptation period that you are progressing faster, the supervisor can contact the CIBG so that a possible shortening of the adaptation period can be discussed.

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In the case of an adaptation period, the CIBG refers you to the internship coordinator of designated educational institutions in order to set the adaptation period in motion. Alternatively, the aptitude test is taken at a university of applied sciences (*hbo-instelling*): you take a knowledge test and examine a patient.

## Common differences

- Specialisation of professions in neighbouring countries (NL has more general professions)
- Level differences (especially of older diplomas)

## Step 4 – Labour market access

Once the recognition decision has been received, the BIG registration must be applied for in order to gain access to the labour market. After recognition, the application for registration with a diploma older than 5 years must also meet [additional requirements](#).



## Explanation documents

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| Proof language knowledge                          | - Level B2 language knowledge in accordance with the Common European Training Framework of Reference for Languages is required. There are several possible ways of demonstrating language skills. Any language certificate can be delivered as long as it was issued less than 2 years ago. Alternatively, a Dutch diploma in primary or secondary education or a diploma from a Dutch course of study in physiotherapy is considered as sufficient proof of language knowledge. Do you not have any such proof? In that case you must take a <a href="#">language test</a> . |
| Certificate of Current Professional Status (CCPS) | - Proof that there are no restrictions to exercise the profession. You must provide a CCPS from the Member State where the diploma was obtained and from the Member States where you have worked in the profession for more than three months after obtaining the diploma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ For Belgium the <a href="#">FPS Health</a> can be contacted</li><li>▪ For Germany the <a href="#">Landesgesundheitsamt</a> / <a href="#">Landesamt</a> can be contacted</li></ul>  |
| Certificate of good conduct                       | - Proof that you do not have criminal convictions in the country where the diploma was obtained and in all countries where you have worked in the profession for more than three months after obtaining the diploma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ For <a href="#">Belgium</a>, the municipality of your place of residence or the Central Criminal Record (if you do not live in Belgium) can be contacted.</li><li>▪ For <a href="#">Germany</a> the <i>Bundesamt für Justiz</i> can be contacted.</li></ul>  |

## Further information?

The CIBG organises [information sessions](#) where applicants can ask questions about the procedure. Nuffic is the [Dutch Assistance Centre](#) for the Professional Qualifications Directive.

## Attention!

- There are 3 procedures for recognition at the CIBG. Applicants with diplomas from EU countries follow the procedure “Erkenning van beroepskwalificaties”
- Completeness of documentation is essential: the processing time only starts with a complete file.
- This Factsheet is strictly informative in nature, no rights can be derived from it.

## Costs

Recognition procedure	Free
BIG-registration	€ 85



## Possible additional costs

- Certified translations (in case of documentation not in NL/EN/FR/DE)
- Costs language test
- Costs Certificate of Current Professional Status
- Costs Certificate of good conduct

## Contact details authority

Application by post:

CIBG  
Erkenning buitenlandse diploma's  
Postbus 16114  
2500 BC The Hague

Visitor's address:

CIBG  
Hoftoren  
Rijnstraat 50  
2515 XP The Hague

Telephone 0900 89 98 225 (from the Netherlands)  
+31 70 340 66 00 (from abroad)

Website <https://www.bigregister.nl/buitenlands-diploma>