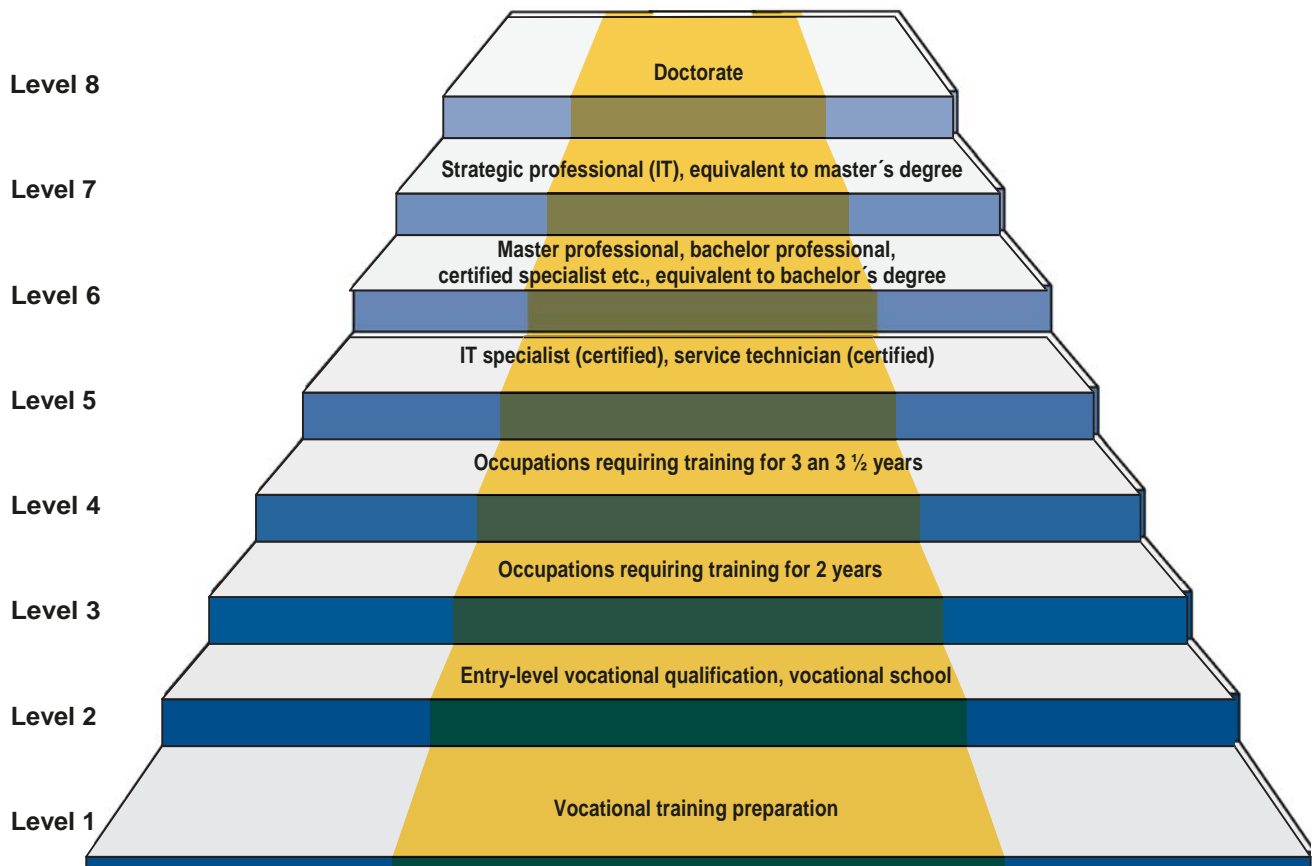


German Qualifications Framework (GQF)



What is the German Qualifications Framework?

Explanations on the GQF/EQF reference on the Chambers of Commerce and Industry certificate

The EU member states have different education systems with many different qualifications. This makes it difficult to assess which competences a qualification obtained in another EU member state comprises. The EU Commission has therefore developed the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). It aims to create transparency across national borders and therefore promote the mobility of employees throughout Europe. The EQF differentiates between eight qualification levels. The higher the level, the higher are the subject-specific and personal competences obtained.

On 1 May 2013 the German Qualifications Framework (GQF) came into force. It transfers the eight-level EQF model to the German education system. For graduates of vocational training programmes in Germany the following applies: Vocational education and training qualifications with a two-year training period are allocated to Level 3, vocational education and training qualifications with a three-year and 3 1/2-year training period are allocated to Level 4 and advanced qualifications like bachelor professional (Fachwirt + Meister) and master professional are allocated to Level 6.

These advanced qualifications are therefore at the same level as a bachelor's degree from higher education institutions. The respective GQF level and the EQF level corresponding to this are indicated accordingly on training and advanced training certificates.

Allocation to the GQF and EQF can, for example, help graduates with applications, present their own professional competence in a comprehensible way to potential employers in another EU member state but also in Germany, and clarify the equivalence of certain vocational qualifications with academic ones. The Qualifications Framework can also be used to plan one's career path and, if necessary, to choose suitable further education measures. The GQF and EQF can also make credit transfer easier for already attained educational achievements as part of exams and also facilitate access to educational programmes. There are no legal rights established by the allocation, however.

More information on the GQF and EQF can be found at www.dqr.de