



## General information and level of education (2011)

- Number of residents: 22 million
- Age structure: 0-24 years: 53.3 %/25-54 years: 37.9 %/55 and older: 8.7 %
- Residents aged 15-24: 4.4 million (about 440,000 persons per age cohort)
- Illiteracy rate: 15 % of persons over the age of 15
- Enrolment rate: 97% of an age cohort
- Proportion in secondary education: 70% of an age cohort
- Proportion in government-run vocational training: 16 % of an age cohort
- Proportion with a Graduate degree: 15-20 % of an age cohort
- Expenditure on education: 5.1 % of GDP
- Languages: Arabic, commonly spoken foreign languages: English and French

## Immigration and integration in Germany

- Immigration in 2015: approx. 430,000 registrations
- Asylum applications in 2016: 268,866 applications
- Rate with protective status in 2015: 96 %, adjusted protective status: 100%
- Syrian population in 2015: approx. 366,000 (2010: 30,000)
- Syrian employees with social security insurance benefits in 2015: 13,006 (2010: 5,100)
- Unemployed Syrian job-seekers in 2016: 262,765 (2010: 10,000)
- Applications for recognition of vocational qualifications 04/2012 - 12/2015: 1,914 applications
- The most frequent profession in the recognition process: Doctor

## Education system

- **History:** The education system is of French origin
- **Structure:** strongly centralised education system with standardised, government-approved curricula
- **Government-run training courses:** Initial training in agriculture, trade and industry at the technical secondary schools, prerequisite: 9 years Compulsory school, duration: 3 years (mainly theoretical, depending on occupation practical part of vocational education provided in workshops and laboratories), then specialisation in technical institutes is possible, duration: 2 years (incl. at least 1-month internship)
- **Number of Vocational training:** approx. 20 in technical secondary schools (2013/2014)
- **Non-government training courses:** Since 2011, private, fee-based institutions, some of which have been accredited by the government, and training courses offered by aid organizations (UNRWA, UNHCR, UNESCO, IRC, etc.), as well as traditional employer-intern vocational training ("learning by doing it").
- **For more information** please visit the Country Profile for **Syria** at [www.bq-portal.de](http://www.bq-portal.de)

**Would you be willing to employ refugees in your company? You can find more Information on:**  
[www.kofa.de/fluechtlinge](http://www.kofa.de/fluechtlinge)

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## **"After certification everything gets better"**



**In Syria Wessal Alkhalil ran her own dental laboratory with six employees. After she fled to Germany, she completed a qualification analysis, and adaptation qualification training - and today, she is once again working in her profession. As of Apr 2017, she begins the Master School.**

A colourful 3D shot of a denture turns on the monitor. Right next door, the matching denture is slowly milled from a zircon block. During a visit to Wessal Alkhalil's new workplace of in Hamburg-Eppendorf, the Syrian woman shows how this state-of-the-art technology of dentistry works and how the blanks are processed later. Only a few months ago her life looked completely different. In mid-2014, the dental technician fled to Hamburg before the war in Syria. In Damascus, the 37 years old had her own dental laboratory with six employees. Arriving in Hamburg, she was left with nothing.

In August 2014, the experienced specialist turned to the recognition service of the Hamburg Chamber of Crafts. The first step in her recognition procedure was a qualification analysis, as she was unable to take any documents with her on the run - in her case a practice week in the Hanseatic Dental Workshops. Here she showed experts and trainers what she has learned in her job. Result: her education was recognised as partially equivalent. For full recognition, an adaptation qualification has been arranged with Höfs & Ristau Dentaltechnik, with individual measures. For example, she had to acquire the skill of processing tooth-colouring materials. She intended to attend a language course anyway. After five months, it was done: in February 2016, she received full certification, based on her apprenticeship.

As a certified specialist, she immediately found a permanent job - in a dental practice in Hamburg-Eppendorf. The practice with integrated dental laboratory is one of only a few in Hamburg to offer 3-D technology already, and just a few months ago, it acquired the new milling machine. "I was amazed when Mrs. Alkhalil reported in the interview that she also used this technology in her dental laboratory in Damascus", reports Dr. Peter Weiss. "She absolutely convinced me, professionally and personally."

With the professional recognition of her Syrian education, for Alkhalil, the end is still not in sight, she strives for more: The specialist now wants to obtain the degree of 'Master Dental Technician,' and during the weekends, has been taking classes at the Master School since April 2017, at the weekend. Her boss bears the costs for this. 'After the certification, everything gets better.' I'm more than happy, smiles Alkhalil.

**You can find further testimonials at [www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de) You can find out how to support the recognition process as a company at [www.bq-portal.de](http://www.bq-portal.de)**

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