



PROFESSIONAL TRAINEESHIP (general definition)

Professional Traineeship is a period of pre-qualification professional practice carried out in any country under the supervision of a competent person or body authorised by the Competent Authority and is designed to allow those with only four years' academic training to meet the minimum requirements of article 46 of the Professional Qualifications Directive.

This should not be confused with Professional Practice Experience, which is lawful full-time or equivalent part-time pursuit of a profession (generally lasting two years and required in the majority of Member States in addition to academic qualifications, to satisfy access to market requirements).

The Professional Traineeship may include the acquisition of theoretical knowledge related to professional practice and generally addresses the professional maturation of graduates and the development and refinement of practice-related skills.

Some Member States require an assessment of the knowledge obtained in the Professional Traineeship before accession to the profession is granted.

Though the Professional Traineeship usually takes place immediately after the completion of academic education, according to the Professional Qualifications Directive – and the reality of some European countries – part of the Professional Traineeship may take place after at least three years of academic study; the rest must be undertaken after completion of the academic study course.

At least one year of the Professional Traineeship shall build upon the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the study course.

If Professional Traineeship is a registration requirement in your country and you decide to undergo this professional traineeship in another EU Member State, please check whether the Competent Authority in your country will recognise professional traineeships undertaken in other EU Member States.