

WILL MY QUALIFICATION BE RECOGNISED

*Golden rules on academic qualification
recognition for students in the
European Higher Education Area*



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WILL MY QUALIFICATION BE RECOGNISED?

The most famous oracle in the ancient Greek world was the Delphic oracle: you asked a question, and the deity gave an answer through a priestess. In the last 20 years 48 European Higher Education Area (EHEA) countries have been working together to build clear, transparent and fair recognition procedures and criteria, and to avoid the "oracle effect" in the field of recognition: when you move to another country and want your qualification recognised you don't need to ask some god living far away on a sacred mountain «Will my qualification be recognised?» and wait for the divine answer, but you can rely on a network of information centres, professionals and authorities dedicated to giving you a clear answer.

WHO SHOULD I ADDRESS MY QUESTION ON RECOGNITION TO?

You can ask the higher education institution (HEI) where you want to study, or the ENIC-NARIC centre in the country you want to study in.

WHAT ARE THE ENIC-NARIC CENTRES?

The ENIC and NARIC centres are the national information centres on recognition. The ENIC-NARIC network has a website with a section dedicated to you as an individual that wants to study/work abroad. In this website you can also find the complete list and the contacts of the 55 national information centres.



**DID YOU
KNOW
THAT?**

**Did you know that...
there is an international convention
regulating recognition?**

The Lisbon Recognition Convention was signed by 54 countries of the European region and regulates recognition procedures. In each country that signed the LRC there is a National Information Centre on recognition.

**Did you know that...
assessment of your qualifications
is a right?**

According to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, students and graduates have the right to see their qualifications assessed. This means, of course, that they must collaborate in providing the necessary information to carry out the assessment.

RECOGNITION: 5 GOLDEN RULES

Will your qualification be recognised or not? If you want to succeed a

ASK FOR INFORMATION

To help you save time when deciding which higher education institution to choose or which programme to enrol in, here is a list of important questions to check:

- what the final qualification you receive will be;
- how many ECTS credits you will have;
- the nature of the qualification (academic/professional);
- the status of the qualification and of the HEI (accredited/not accredited);
- the level according to the Bologna cycles;
- the academic rights (which further academic programmes you can enrol in with your qualification).

Keep in mind that the decision on future recognition of your qualification will rely on these details. The course you choose today will determine what you can study and where you can work tomorrow!



LOOK FOR QUALITY

When you choose your HEI, look for ones that are accredited/quality-assured by the competent authority. There are a number of institutions that do not undergo the process of quality assurance: their qualifications might be relevant in the labour market but not recognised for academic purposes. If the institution is not official, and even if it is of high quality, it is possible that your qualification will not be recognised. By accredited institutions we mean an institution that has been authorised by the competent authority. You can refer to the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) for information on authorised quality assurance agencies.



And have your qualification recognised you should know the rules of the game.

BE AWARE OF (SUBSTANTIAL) DIFFERENCES

The European higher education systems are all different. Country members of the EHEA have been working for more than 20 years to bring their higher education systems closer, but this does not mean that education is already the same across the board. There are differences and while this does not necessarily prevent recognition, differences can lead to a partial recognition, or even to a denial, when they are so relevant that they are defined as “substantial” (length of degree courses, accreditation, thesis or no thesis at end of degree etc.). What is considered a substantial difference in one country, might not be “substantial” in another, so check what your future path will be before deciding your course now.



DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRY TALES (NO SHORTCUTS)

If an institution is telling you that you can get a qualification with zero effort but simply by paying some cash, well then, there is probably a worm in Snow White's apple. Look out for so-called “diploma mills”, non-accredited institutions claiming to be accredited, which sell meaningless academic qualifications. Make sure that any institution is accredited before giving them your money, and if you have any doubts contact the ENIC-NARIC centre.



GET INVOLVED

According to the Lisbon Recognition Convention the criteria guiding the recognition process should be clear, transparent and coherent. Recognition in each country is the responsibility of the competent authority, but there are different stakeholders that are part of the game: Ministries, ENIC-NARIC centres, higher education institutions, quality assurance agencies and National Unions of Students. At the end of the day, however, you are personally involved: keep in mind the 5 golden rules and be proactive!



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More information:

www.cimea.it | www.ehea.it | www.enic-naric.net

www.eqar.eu | www.esu-online.org

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