

## General Information on the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

### I. What is recognition?

The Act on Recognition regulates the recognition of degrees obtained at foreign higher education institutions.

Based on Section 3 of the Act, during the recognition process the authority declares the legal force of the foreign degree equivalent to the legal force of a degree obtainable in Hungary.

The recognition of the level of the qualification and the professional qualification testified by it belongs to the sphere of competence of the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (Hungarian ENIC) within the Educational Authority, while the nostrification of scientific degrees is done by the Hungarian higher education institutions. The only exception is the recognition of the foreign Candidate of Science and Doctor of Science degrees under international agreements. For further information see Point II. 6.

The resolution on the recognition of the level of qualification determines which Hungarian qualification is equivalent to the foreign degree, thus, whether the foreign degree is equivalent to a Hungarian *alapfokozat* (Bachelor degree) or *mesterfokozat* (Master degree), or to a qualification obtainable at postgraduate specialist training.

The resolution on the recognition of professional qualification declares the professional qualification testified by the foreign degree identical to a professional qualification testified by a Hungarian Bachelor or Master degree, or to professional qualification obtainable at postgraduate specialist training (for example: lawyer, general practitioner, civil engineer, etc.).

### II. What documents do not fall within the authority of the Hungarian ENIC?

The following documents and procedures do not fall within the authority of the Hungarian ENIC:

**II.1.** If you only wish to use your foreign certificate or degree to certify language competency, according to Government decree No. 137/2008. (V.16.) you do not need to have the qualification recognised.

**II.2.** If you obtained a certificate of primary education or secondary education, or a certificate testifying vocational qualification abroad, their recognition is described in another information bulletin.

**II.3.** If you completed a period of study abroad (you did not obtain any degree or final certificate), you need to turn to the Hungarian higher education institution where you wish to continue your studies in order to have the partial studies recognized.

**II.4.** If you want to use your foreign degree for continuing education in Hungary, the recognition procedure falls within the authority of the institution where you wish to continue your studies. (This recognition is only valid for further studies, thus, it does not make the qualification recognised to pursue a profession, or in respect of other laws, e.g. the decree on the equivalency of language examinations, either.)

**II.5.** The recognition of religious professional qualifications testified by foreign degrees belongs to the authority of those Hungarian church higher education institutions that are entitled to award equivalent Hungarian degrees. The procedure is done in two stages: first, the Hungarian ENIC recognizes the level of the qualification, following which one can turn to the chosen institution for the recognition of the professional qualification.

**II.6.** The recognition of scientific degrees issued by a foreign higher education institution falls within the authority of those Hungarian higher education institutions which are entitled to offer PhD training and award scientific degrees in the field of study testified by the foreign degree. During this procedure the higher education institution examines whether the degree issued abroad is equivalent to a PhD or DLA degree obtainable in Hungary. The nostrification is done by the university chosen by the applicant, it is not a prerequisite to have the level of the qualification recognised. (Nevertheless, it is possible to

request the recognition of the level testified by the foreign scientific degree from the Hungarian ENIC. See Point V.2. about documents required for this.)

**II.7.** If an international agreement stipulates so, the Doctoral Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences decides on the nostrification of scientific degrees. The degrees of "Candidate of Science" obtained abroad may be considered here.

**II.8.** The recognition of *medical or pharmacist specialist degrees* falls within the authority of the National Directorate General for Hospitals (Országos Kórházi Főigazgatóság). Address: 1085 Budapest, 24. Horánszky Street, ground floor 010, phone: 06-1-919-3336, website: <https://www.enkk.hu/index.php/en/>.

**II.9.** If you have a *language examination certificate* obtained abroad, its nostrification belongs to the sphere of competence of the Language Examination Accreditation Department within the Educational Authority (Oktatási Hivatal Nyelvvizsgáztatási Akkreditációs Osztály). Address: 1055 Budapest, Szalay utca 10-14. Tel: (+36-1) 374-2135. Website: <https://nyak.oh.gov.hu/default-eng.asp>.

II.10. If as citizen of a European Union member state <sup>[1]</sup> or another state <sup>[2]</sup> that falls under the same jurisdiction as EU member states in respect of the mutual recognition of certificates and degrees (home country) you wish to have a degree recognised which falls under European directives, you should consult the *Professional Recognition under the European Directive* heading.

### III. Who may request the recognition of his/her degree?

The recognition of a degree can be requested by anyone who certifies his/her personal particulars and Hungarian residence when handing in the application. For lack of Hungarian residence the recognition procedure cannot be started.

Personal particulars may be certified

- in the case of Hungarian citizens and immigrants by a Hungarian identification card, passport or driving licence, in the case of citizens of a European Union member state <sup>[1]</sup> or another state <sup>[2]</sup> that falls under the same jurisdiction as EU member states in respect of the mutual recognition of certificates and degrees (home country) by a document used for identification in the home country,
- in the case of other persons by a residence or settlement permit or visa issued for employment or family reunion purposes.

Hungarian domicile must be proved with an *official certificate testifying address*.

In the case of recognition for continuing education or for the inclusion of partial studies which falls within *the competence of the educational institutions*, the certification of Hungarian domicile is not required.

### IV. Which procedure to chose?

In order to decide this, you ought to consider the purpose for which you need to have your degree recognised, namely, what you want to use the degree for after its recognition.

According to experiences the following purposes are the most frequent for recognition:

1. For continuing studies (e.g.: to participate in PhD training),
2. To practice a profession in Hungary, but according to the Hungarian regulations the condition for doing so is to have the foreign degree recognised,

1. Recognition for the purpose of continuing studies falls within the competence of the higher education institution where you wish to continue your studies. This form of recognition does not provide any other rights but the continuation of studies.

2. If you need recognition because you want to practice your profession, you must request the recognition of both the *level of qualification* and the *professional qualification* testified by your degree

from the Hungarian ENIC. The recognition of the level of qualification is always the prerequisite for the recognition of professional qualification.

According to the Recognition Act, the recognition of a degree does not exempt from the completion of further requirements prescribed by law for the practice of a certain profession. The resolution only certifies the professional qualification the applicant possesses.

Accordingly, in the case of certain professions the fulfilment of *additional condition(s)* might be necessary in order to work, for example, the membership of a chamber or the completion of an examination. That is why we suggest that the applicant should inquire about the requirements for the practice of the given profession at the ministry or chamber supervising compliance with regulations of the profession.

## **V. Recognition of the level of qualification**

### *V.1. General Information*

The recognition of the level of qualification testifies that the foreign degree is equivalent to a qualification obtainable at Hungarian higher education (Bachelor or Master degree, or a qualification obtainable at postgraduate specialist training).

*Two types* of requests can be submitted to the Hungarian ENIC: either *you determine* which level Hungarian qualification you wish to have the level of your foreign degree made equivalent to, or *you assign Hungarian ENIC to determine* it.

In the first case, Hungarian ENIC determines whether it is possible to recognize the degree as the level of qualification *indicated in your request*. If there are no legal obstacles, Hungarian ENIC passes decision according to the request, or else, Hungarian ENIC turns down the request.

In the second case, Hungarian ENIC passes decision by considering *all* qualification levels obtainable in Hungary.

When recognising, Hungarian ENIC takes into account the legal status of the foreign higher education institution, the nature of the degree, the length of studies and the study requirements. It is prescribed by law that the foreign higher education institution issuing the degree is recognised (accredited) and the degree testifies a higher education degree under the law of the home country.

### *V.2. Documents required for the recognition of the level of qualification*

For the recognition of the level of the qualification the following documents should be attached to the request:

- The *certified* copy of the original degree.
- The certified copy of the original registration book (certificate, extract or transcript issued by the higher education institution with regard to the length of the training, course requirements - courses and exams taken).
- The *certified* translations of the above documents. Except for documents issued either in English, Czech, French, German, Russian, Romanian or Slovak, in which cases typed, not certified translations are also accepted (e.g. done by the applicant).
- In the case of degrees acquired in *postgraduate education*, or a degree testifying the acquisition of a second-cycle qualification obtained in a multiple-cycle higher education system (e.g. a Master's degree), the copy of the basic degree and - if needed - its certified translation.
- The copy of the money transfer postal order certifying the posting of the *fee*.
- If you send your request by *mail*, the copy of your *personal particulars* and of the *official certificate testifying address*.
- An authorization must also be submitted if an authorized person represents the applicant. In this case, the copy of the applicant's *personal particulars* and the *official certificate testifying address* must also be attached.

The Hungarian National Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI) (Budapest, 5<sup>th</sup> district, Bajza u. 52., and its branch offices, website: [www.offi.hu](http://www.offi.hu)), the foreign representations of the Hungarian Republic or a Hungarian authorised public notary are entitled to make certified translations.

*Only translation made from the original degree is accepted!*

A Hungarian public notary, the OFFI and the foreign representations of the Hungarian Republic are entitled to make certified copies.

If the request is received without the above-mentioned attachments, and if they are not supplemented later either, the procedure must be terminated.

Hungarian ENIC might ask for additional documents (e.g. previously obtained degrees, secondary school leaving certificate, etc.), or might request the applicant to present the original documents the copies of which were handed in.

If you request the recognition of the *level of qualification* and the *professional qualification* testified by the degree *in one procedure*, see point VI.2. for additional documents.

## **VI. Recognition of the professional qualification**

### *VI.1. General Information*

The recognition of professional qualification certifies that the holder of the degree possesses the qualification testified by the foreign degree and the basic knowledge necessary for acquiring similar professional qualification in Hungary. During this procedure the applicant's complete professional background is evaluated.

The conditions for recognizing professional qualification are that the Hungarian ENIC recognizes the level of qualification and the holder of the degree fulfils the compensation measures (e.g. aptitude test, additional examinations, preparing diploma thesis) if prescribed. If Hungarian ENIC's recognition is conditional, the resolution also contains recommendation on completing these measures (place, means, and deadline).

Similarly to the recognition of the level of qualification, *two types* of requests may be handed in to the Hungarian ENIC: you either specify which Hungarian professional qualification you want to have the professional qualification testified by your degree recognised as, or you assign the Hungarian ENIC to determine the professional qualification.

In the first case, Hungarian ENIC determines whether it is possible to recognize the qualification as the professional qualification indicated *in your request*. If there are no legal obstacles, Hungarian ENIC passes decision according to the request, or else, Hungarian ENIC turns down the request.

In the second case, Hungarian ENIC passes decision by considering *all* professional qualifications obtainable in Hungary.

Hungarian ENIC brings the resolution on the recognition of the professional qualification based on the opinion of experts who are acknowledged teachers and researchers, or in some cases, representatives of professional chambers, or invited experts specific to the given field of study.

It is not possible to recognise the professional qualification if the given professional qualification *cannot be obtained* in Hungarian higher education, or if the system of the Hungarian and foreign training are *so different* that the recognition is not possible even by completing compensation measures. In this case, the applicant can request written information about the content of the degree from the Hungarian ENIC. Such information has no legal effect, it does not make the qualification recognized, but it might help those who possess a qualification which cannot be obtained in Hungary receive fair treatment in the labour market.

## VI.2. Documents required for the recognition of professional qualification

The following documents are also required for the recognition of professional qualification:

- the certified copy of the original degree and two further copies of it photocopied,
- the certified copy of the original registration book (certificate, extract or transcript issued by the higher education institution with regard to the length of the training, course requirements - courses and exams taken) and two further copies of it photocopied,
- the certified translation of the above documents, except for documents issued either in English, Czech, French, Russian, Romanian and Slovak, in the case of which typed, not authentic translations are also accepted (e.g. done by the applicant), and two further copies photocopied,
- two copies of the detailed professional curriculum vitae,
- 1 copy of the portfolio in the case of architects and artists,
- in the case of general practitioners, dentists, veterinarians and pharmacists, 1 certified copy and 1 certified translation of the certificate on taking the state exams and on the defence of the diploma thesis, and two copies of these, or 1 original copy of the diploma thesis,
- a certificate from the Customer Service Office of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the case of a state scholarship holders, if the degrees were issued before 1<sup>st</sup> May 1995, or the applicants started their studies before 1<sup>st</sup> May 1995 and finished them before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2000.

If the applicant does not hand in the documents mentioned above, for lack of information necessary for the procedure, Hungarian ENIC terminates the case.

## VII. How long does the procedure take?

Hungarian ENIC passes decision *within 45 days* when recognising the level of qualification and *within 60 days* when recognising the professional qualification - if the applicant has provided all necessary documents and there is no need for additional documentation.

When calculating the deadline of the actual procedure the time period elapsing between the request for additional documents and the date when these are received does not count towards it.

During the procedure for the recognition of the professional qualification within the deadline of 60 days Hungarian ENIC may pass the following decisions: 1. recognizes the professional qualification, 2. determines that the given professional qualification can be recognised but the completion of compensation measures is needed, 3. it rejects the application.

If the Hungarian ENIC prescribes the completion of compensation measures, it determines the deadline for their completion in its resolution. After handing in the certificate concerning the fulfilment of all compensation measures, Hungarian ENIC shall pass decision and recognize the professional qualification *within 21 days*.

Hungarian ENIC shall send the resolution by mail as a registered letter to the applicant or his/her authorized representative.

## VIII. How much does the procedure cost?

*According to the regulations in force the procedure is free of charge.*

## IX. Legal remedy

The applicant may appeal free of charge against the Hungarian ENIC's decision within 15 days of receiving the decision. It should be posted to the Hungarian ENIC but addressed to the minister responsible for education.

There is no redress against the resolution of the minister through administration, but the re-examination of the resolution might be requested from the Court of Budapest by entering an action within 30 days of announcing the resolution.

## **X. What are the office hours?**

Information bulletins, request forms and postal order forms can be obtained from the Customer Service Office of the Educational Authority, and the request may also be personally handed in here. The information bulletins and the request form can also be downloaded from the [www.ekvivalencia.hu](http://www.ekvivalencia.hu) website. If the request is sent by mail, it should be addressed to the Hungarian ENIC and preferably sent as registered mail. (Address: Educational Authority, Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre, H-1363 Budapest Pf. 112.).

**For office hours for the Customer Service Office** please check the link below:

**[Office hours for the Customer Service Office](#)**

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<sup>11</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

<sup>12</sup> Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland