



Recognition of Foreign Qualifications: Information for Individuals Seeking to Study in the United States

NOTE: THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND USNEI DO NOT EVALUATE FOREIGN DEGREES OR QUALIFICATIONS. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR SUCH EVALUATIONS TO US OR SUBMIT DIPLOMAS OR OTHER RECORDS FOR REVIEW. REFER TO THE LINKS BELOW.

See [Visiting the United States](#) for important information about the process of coming to the United States.

The competent U.S. authority for recognizing your previous education and qualifications will be the U.S. school or higher education institution in which you seek to enroll. Therefore, you need to contact the international admissions office (undergraduate or graduate) for instructions on what to do and how to get your education evaluated. Some institutions and schools perform the evaluation themselves, but most will refer you to a credential evaluation service.

See [Institutions and Programs](#) for information and links concerning accredited U.S. schools and higher education institutions.

SELECTING A CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICE

If the U.S. school or institution recommends that you use a specific credential evaluation service, then use the service, or one of the services, recommended by the international admissions office.

If not, then you can select a credential evaluation service yourself. You can search for credential evaluation services on the Internet, but you should know that there is no federal or state regulation of such services. However, there are two national associations of credential evaluation services that have published standards for membership, affiliations to national and international higher education associations and are frequently linked to and used by federal agencies, state agencies, educational institutions and employers.

[National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#) is an association of 19 credential evaluation services with admission standards and an enforced code of good practice.

[Association of International Credentials Evaluators \(AICE\)](#) is an association of 10 credential evaluation services with a board of advisors and an enforced code of ethics.

Neither the U.S. Department of Education nor USNEI endorses or recommends any individual credential evaluation service.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Credential evaluations are not free. The cost will vary according to the complexity of the case and the amount of documentation you can provide.

Obtain English translations of any non-English documents, preferably notarized, prior to submitting any documents to a credential evaluation service.

U.S. educational institutions and credential evaluation services evaluate applicants on an individual case basis, and they look for many factors in making an admission decision, not just your diplomas. This is how evaluations are done for U.S. citizens as well. Therefore, you can expect that different institutions and services may evaluate you differently according to their criteria.

Even though the international admissions office will process your application, it is a good idea to let the subject faculty in which you want to study know that you are applying. The faculty may have a positive role in the admissions decision, especially for graduate level studies (master's and research doctorate), and may be more familiar than the admissions office about your capacity to do work in their specific subject area.

Credential evaluation services provide procedures to appeal their recommendations. Do not appeal to the U.S. Department of Education – the federal government has no role in credential evaluation appeals. Use the procedure provided by the credential evaluation service and the institution to which you are seeking admission.

Go to **Professional Recognition** for information on U.S. regulated professions and their credential evaluation procedures, in case you are applying to a professional school or to a residency or internship program for persons holding first-professional degrees.

See also: **Information for Persons Seeking to Work in the United States**
 Professional Recognition
 Visiting the United States

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