

Regulations Regarding the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Academic Credentials for Institutions of Higher Education

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(These Regulations are made in Chinese, which shall prevail in case of any discrepancy between the English translation and the Chinese original.)

- Article 1 These Regulations are enacted in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 28 of the University Act.
- Article 2 The assessment and recognition of foreign academic credentials for institutions of higher education shall be transacted in accordance with these regulations.
- Article 3 Terms herein are defined as follows:
1. Assessment and Recognition: means the course of verification, examination and recognition of foreign academic credentials.
 2. Reference list: means the list of names and addresses of foreign academic institutions accredited by the foreign government concerned or foreign accreditation agencies .
 3. Verification: means to ascertain the authenticity of any foreign graduation certificates, diplomas, certificates of study etc. validated by overseas consulates, representative offices, agencies of the country or other bodies authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as overseas agencies) as well as the certificate of entry and exit dates and other related certificates issued by the authority of entry and exit.
 4. Examination: means to examine and prove whether or not the school is accredited in its home country in accordance with foreign graduation certificates, diplomas, certificates of study etc as well as matters concerning their admission requirements, term of study and curriculum etc..
 5. Recognition: means to confirm that the documents relating to the academic credentials after verification and examination to be equivalent to domestic academic credentials for academic institutions of the same kind.
- Article 4 To apply for assessment and recognition of foreign academic credentials, students shall submit the following documents to the institutions of higher education for verification, examination and recognition:
1. A photocopy of proof of foreign academic credentials authenticated by an overseas agency of the Republic of China;
 2. Photocopies of transcripts for all the years of coursework for the foreign qualification verified by overseas agencies of the Republic of China;
 3. A certificate of entry and exit dates, issued by the competent authority of immigration. However, foreign citizens or overseas Chinese are exempt from this requirement, and graduates with high school academic credentials are exempt from this requirement.
 4. Other relevant documents.
- Documents referred to in Subparagraph 3 shall include the studying period (from starting to ending) of foreign academic credentials.

Article 5 To transact the assessment and recognition of foreign academic credentials, institutions of higher education shall follow the following procedure:

1. Verifications and recognition for academic credentials of foreign institutions of higher education listed in the reference list or of foreign high schools shall be transacted in accordance with these Regulations; in case of any doubt, the recognition shall be carried out after examination in accordance with Article 6 and Article 7; if necessary, explanation for the doubt shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education along with related supporting documents as aids for the recognition.
2. Verifications and recognition for academic credentials of foreign institutions of higher education not listed in the reference list or of art qualifications shall be carried out after examination in accordance with Article 6 and Article 7; if necessary, explanation for the doubt shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education along with related supporting documents as aids for the recognition.

Article 6 Applicants shall submit the Letter of Consent in English on the authorization of examination and related documents to institutions of higher education for examination of foreign academic credentials. The institutions of higher education shall apply to overseas agencies of Republic of China for examination assistance.

For countries in which the Republic of China does not have any overseas representative agency, applicant seeking verification or recognition of academic credentials shall apply to the overseas school from which they graduated for English documentation regarding the conditions of study, information about whether or not the school is accredited in its home country, and transcripts. These documents shall send by applicant directly to institutions of higher education for examination.

Article 7 Items in foreign academic credentials that institutions of higher education apply to the overseas agencies for examination assistance are as follows:

1. admission requirements.
2. term of study.
3. curriculum.
4. whether or not the school is recognized by the competent educational authority or by a relevant accreditation agency in the home country.
5. other necessary items.

Article 8 Terms and conditions for recognition of academic credentials awarded in foreign countries:

1. The diploma shall be awarded by an academic institution listed in the ROC Ministry of Education's reference list. Those not listed in the reference list shall be accredited by the foreign government concerned or foreign accreditation agencies.
2. The term of study and curriculum shall be the same as those prescribed by the equivalent ROC academic institutions.

Article 9 The enrollment period as mentioned in Subparagraph 2 refers to one of the following: at least 32 months of enrollment prior to conferral of a bachelor's degree, at least 8 months of enrollment prior to conferral of a master's degree, or at least 16 months of enrollment prior to conferral of a

doctor's degree; Concurrent enrollment at master's and doctoral programs shall last for at least 24 months prior to degree conferral; at least 16 months in local schools of enrollment prior to a bachelor's degree by colleges graduates or equivalent.

With regard to the prescribed principles and comparing the domestic and foreign academic systems, institutions of higher education shall make judgment according to the academic system, activities of the school during the term of study as well as the entry-exit records in the country of which the foreign academic credentials are held by the applicants. Term of study of applicants with outstanding performance during the study of bachelor's degree may be reduced according to the academic system and actual situation of the foreign academic institution.

In circumstances where international academic exchange programs prescribe double degree enrollment at both a foreign university and a ROC university, the enrollment period at both universities may be held concurrently. At least 32 months of enrollment is required prior to conferral of a bachelor's degree. At least 12 months of enrollment is required prior to conferral of a master's degree. At least 24 months of enrollment is required prior to conferral of a doctor's degree. Paragraph 1 does not apply in such circumstances.

In circumstances described in the previous paragraph, course credits taken at both universities may be held concurrently. Course credits taken at either university shall be no less than one third of the total course credits.

Article 10 For curriculum defined in Subparagraph 2 of Article 8, if the courses are carried out via distance learning in schools complying with stipulations of Subparagraph 1 of Article 8, or via international academic exchange programs in domestic public or accredited private institutions of higher education, the credits shall comply with the stipulations of distance learning in ROC.

Article 11 The followings are ineligible for recognition of academic credentials awarded in foreign countries:

1. Diploma of correspondence programs.
2. Certificate of attendance for programs such as training courses, seminars, and so forth.
3. Obtaining the candidate status for a Doctor's degree while not completing the Doctor's degree shall be accredited as the Master's degree.
4. Doctor's degree conferred after the mere completion of a dissertation, without either enrollment or completion of courses
5. Honorary degrees.
6. Diploma of programs administered in non-Mandarin speaking region, with Mandarin serving as the language of instruction, excluding High School diploma.
7. Diploma of programs administered by branches of foreign academic institutions not accredited by the Ministry of Education or Diploma obtained from agencies in the name of foreign academic institutions recruiting students in ROC.

Article 12 If any documents provided by an applicant are found to be forged or falsified in any way, the accreditation for the diploma of the applicant shall be cancelled, in case of any criminal responsibility; the applicant shall be transferred to the prosecuting authority for legal treatment.

Article 13 These Regulations shall be effective as of the date of promulgation.