

Guidelines for Recognition of a Foreign Degree

Academic qualifications awarded outside Italy do not have a legal value in Italy. In order to be able to use your qualification in Italy, you must have your degree officially recognised.

Italian universities are the competent authority for the recognition of foreign academic qualifications in accordance with their organisational and educational freedoms, their regulations and/or any inter-governmental agreements.

You can also request a ministerial recognition of a qualification with the sole aim of applying to a public competition or for employment purposes. To find out more, see the CIMEA website.

<https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-procedure-riconoscimento-titoli>

Permanent degree recognition (*riconoscimento diretto or equipollenza*)

Permanent degree recognition gives a legal value to your qualification.

This form of recognition is permanent and is recognised throughout Italy and can only be awarded by universities.

Temporary degree recognition (*riconoscimento finalizzato or equivalenza*)

Temporary degree recognition certifies the equivalency of a qualification for a specific purpose. It is granted by the Italian Ministry and is only valid for the purpose for which it was requested (e.g. in order to apply to a public competition).

How to apply for degree recognition and possible outcomes

You may need to have your degree recognised for different reasons:

- a) **to obtain permanent degree recognition (*riconoscimento diretto*)**. In this case you are awarded an Italian academic title with a legal value which is analogous to your foreign qualification. In this case the teaching unit you applied to will compare and evaluate all of the elements stipulated in the International Copenhagen Conference (2005): degree level, workload, quality, profile and learning outcomes (see Notes below).
- b) **to prove you meet university admission requirements**. In this case the educational institution you applied to verify that your qualification **meets** admission **requirements**, or rather, that it corresponds to the same level of education as the Italian qualification and fulfils any other requirements (e.g. requirements for admission to a master's degree).

For the recognition of postgraduate degrees, click here:

<https://portale.units.it/en/study/postgraduate>

For degree programmes with non-competitive admission:

- Your application for permanent degree recognition must be submitted according to the procedure and deadlines for that academic year.
- Your application to prove you meet university entrance requirements should be submitted according to the procedure found here: <https://portale.units.it/en/international/destination-units/degree-seeking-students>.

For degree programmes with competitive admission, you will need to check the relevant call for applications for details on how to submit your application. There may be different procedures and deadlines. Calls for application are published on the dedicated webpage for each degree programme <https://portale.units.it/en/study/degree-courses>.

The University of Trieste does not accept applications for permanent recognition for degree programmes in **medical and healthcare fields**.

The fees for the evaluation of your academic career and for the eventual awarding of direct recognition are published every year on the **University Fees and Waivers page**.

Degree recognition by law

The recognition of some academic qualifications awarded by certain countries (e.g. Austria, Ecuador, Slovenia) falls under the remit of inter-governmental agreements. In these cases, an application for recognition can be submitted at any time of the year according to the procedures stipulated by the individual agreements. Degree recognition is awarded by law. The fees payable for this form of recognition are the same as for other forms of degree recognition.

Procedure and requirements for permanent degree recognition

In order to apply for permanent degree recognition you must submit, along with your application, legalized and translated copies of the necessary documents.

Your application will only be considered complete after you have submitted all the required documents and paid all the required fees.

In order to apply for permanent degree recognition, you have to have completed a dissertation (for bachelor's degrees – EQF 6) and/or have submitted a final thesis (for master's degrees – EQF 7). You should submit a copy of the dissertation or thesis translated in Italian or English, or submit a copy in its original language accompanied by an abstract in Italian or English.

The University can only accept an application for permanent degree recognition if it offers a degree course which is analogous to the course completed abroad and if the degree course is currently offered for all of the required years of study. In the case that a course has been withdrawn, there should still be some students enrolled.

Applications are received by the Admissions Office and sent to the relevant department for evaluation. If their verdict is positive, this evaluation must be subsequently approved the Academic Senate.

Once the procedure has been concluded, a rectoral decree is issued and the degree certificate is issued. The University cannot, however, issue any form of certification with details of exams in as far as direct degree recognition concerns the academic title as a whole rather than the student's academic career.

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Notes

Level: the level of the applicant's academic title or its correspondence with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). 1st level = EQF 6, 2nd level = EQF 7)

Workload: measured by the number of hours required for the award of 1 university credit. (e.g. 1ECTS/CFU = 25 hours of lectures, personal study, laboratory work or other educational activities).

Quality: defined by the presence (or absence) of a national system for quality assurance which exists outside universities (equivalent to the Italian ANVUR) and which evaluates the quality of institutions, their teaching and their degree courses.

Profile: the nature of the qualification which should be **academic** and not **professional**, that is, it should include elements connected to research (e.g. for master's degrees the writing of a thesis by the candidate)

Learning outcomes: the knowledge that the candidate has gained. This is intended in a broad sense and includes knowledge and skills both theoretical and practical as well as specialised skills in a certain area.

Glossary ENIC-NARIC (in English): <http://ear.enic-naric.net/emanual/glossary/glossary.aspx>