

INFORMATION BULLETIN

2009

**RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS
&
EQUIVALENCE OF DEGREES**



ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
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AN INTRODUCTION :

The Inter University Board (IUB) was established in 1925 and was renamed as the ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES (AIU) in 1973. The need of an organization in India for equivalence of degrees between the universities in India and abroad was felt since long, after the establishment of three premier Universities (Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in 1857) and therefore, the Inter University Board was formed as an Autonomous Body.

The Evaluation Division was also established ever since with the inception of IUB/AIU.

Evaluation Division was entrusted with the task of recognition and assessment of degrees and diplomas awarded by the recognized Universities in India and abroad for purpose of admission to higher studies. This is one of the main objectives that AIU took upon itself and since been carrying out effectively for the last eighty five years.

AIU is the only recognized body in India for granting academic equivalence of degrees/diplomas not only within the country but also to other similar bodies in foreign countries.

In acknowledgement to the works done by the Division since its inception the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi, vide their letter No. Dated 13th May, 1995 issued a Notification that the equivalence done by AIU will be valid for the purpose of higher education as well as employment in the country.

Since then the Division started issuing Equivalence Certificates to individuals and till date the Division is facilitating the Universities also in granting Admission to various degree level programmes.

Not only to the Universities, AIU also provides it services for equivalence to various Central & State Employment agencies viz. Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi and State Recruitment Boards .

The Division, besides Ministry of Human Resource Development, GOI, also facilitates to other Federal Ministries of India, to formulate the proposals on mutual recognition of degrees under Educational Exchange Programmes.

The Division continue to provide assistance on the status of foreign qualifications to Universities, Ministries of the Government of India, Union Public Service Commission, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and other Agencies concerning with the nomination/selection of foreign students in Indian Universities. The application forms of all the foreign students who are sponsored under various Central Government Scholarships/Ministries are sent to us, in order to assess their eligibility, to the courses in which they are seeking admission in Indian Universities. As the Division has established accountability as a reliable accrediting source/agency on the assessment/certification of equivalence of qualifications, we receive a number of enquiries from Credential Evaluation Service Agencies in other countries, as well.

PROCEDURE ADOPTED TO ACCORD EQUIVALENCE

The equivalence is established on course to course basis. Normally the proposal for equivalence of foreign qualification is received through Indian Mission abroad or through the University concerned. For this purpose the information on the following points is obtained through Indian Mission abroad/Foreign Mission in India.

- Structure from Primary to University education
- Entry requirements
- Name of the course certificate/degree
- Accreditation status of the University/Institution in the home Country
- Syllabus/course curriculum and regulation of the course
- System of evaluation
- Requirement for passing percentage
- Parity of the degree outside the country –documentation thereof
- Sample copy of the degree and academic transcript
- Any other relevant information

Each case for equivalence is examined with reference to International documentation available with us. These include “International Handbook of Universities (Published by IAU); Commonwealth Universities Yearbook (Published by ACU); International Guide to qualifications in education – British Council Publication; American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officer (AACRAO) publication; World Guide to Qualification in Higher Education – UNESCO Publication; Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education – an American Council on Education Publication. Supporting information is also obtained from Foreign Mission in New Delhi. Where ever necessary, the matter is also referred to International Agencies like United State Educational Foundation in India, British Council Division, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) etc.

The Three basic components taken care of for granting equivalence are :

- Duration of the course
- Eligibility requirements and
- Course Curriculum in comparison to that of Indian Universities

In case all the three components are equivalent to that of Indian Universities, Opinion is sought from the Experts on that particular field. Then their Report is placed before the Evaluation Committee for their approval. The decision of the Evaluation Committee is further forwarded to the Standing Committee for their confirmation.

+2 LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

Since AIU has already accorded equivalence to the Secondary stage qualification of most of the countries, world over, the students having obtained foreign qualifications do not face any problem to join Bachelor’s degree programmes at Indian Universities.

However, there are a few countries, whose +2 level qualification have not been accorded equivalence due to their deficient system of school education i.e. Brazil,

Philippines, Myanmar, Turkey etc. while some of them – Denmark, Greece, Algeria, Bolivia etc. have never approached us.

In case the system of education, duration of the course (i.e. 10+2/3) or the nomenclature of the Certificate issued on completion of the programme, is similar to those we have already accorded equivalence, AIU accords equivalence to +2 level qualifications.

It would also be appropriate to mention here that AIU accepts the 10 year Secondary and 12 year Higher Secondary/Intermediate/Pre-University/Senior Secondary Examinations conducted by the approved Boards, whose names have been included in the list brought out by the Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE), Delhi.

The following is a list of +2 level qualifications recognized by AIU and their nomenclatures:

- i) 12 years Baccalaureate Certificate of Afghanistan, France, Iraq and Tunisia
- ii) 12 years General Secondary Education Certificate of the Ministry of Education - Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries.
- iii) GCE/IGCSE/GCSE examinations of the approved British Examination Bodies from Singapore, Hong Kong and Mauritius with 5 subjects at ORDINARY Level and 2/3 subjects at ADVANCED LEVEL passes in Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Mathematics and English are essential.
- iv) High School Diploma from accredited Schools of USA
- v) Intermediate/Senior Secondary/Higher Secondary examinations of the approved Boards in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal
- vi) 12 year Secondary Stage qualification of National Examinations Board of the Ministry of Education, - Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania
- vii) 12-year Secondary Stage examination conducted by various Provinces in Canada and Australia
- viii) GCE “Ordinary and Advanced” level examination of the Department of Education, Government of Sri Lanka
- ix) 12 year STPM examination of Malaysia
- x) 12 year Secondary Stage qualification of Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Republic of Vietnam and Yemen Arab Republic
- xi) “Abitur” examination of Germany
- xii) 12 year High School Diploma awarded by the accredited American Schools/International Schools in other countries following American System of Education.

BACHELOR & HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The Bachelor and Master degree programmes of most of the countries have also been accorded equivalence by AIU. (Details of which are given in our publication – EQUIVALENCE OF FOREIGN DEGREES.

Full time Bachelor degree programmes pursued by the candidates, on the campus of the University of its origin, have been accorded equivalence.

Off Campus programme pursued by the candidates, in other countries, offered by the Universities, without the permission of the Ministry of Education of the concerned Government of that country, have not been accorded equivalence.

The Universities, for which the equivalence has not been accorded by AIU in particular, are still dealt on the basis of the system of education prevalent in that country. In case the Eligibility requirements, Duration of the Course and Course curriculum remains the same as that of Indian universities, AIU accords equivalence to them also.

It would be important to mention here that the duration of the Bachelor's degree programme in India is 3 years (except Professional degrees) however, at most of the countries of the world Bachelor's degree is of 3 – 4 year. Therefore, for admission in Master's degree programme AIU considers the total length of study as 15 years (10 + 2 + 3, except Professional degrees) and issue equivalence.

Some of the European universities allow their students to complete their degree programmes in a shorter duration. Such degrees which are shorter in duration are not accorded equivalence by AIU. AIU, however, considers such proposal on the basis of their merit in case the concerned university furnishes a certificate to the effect that the candidate has completed all the requirements of graduation.

1-Year Master Degree programmes of foreign universities have also not been accorded equivalence by AIU. AIU do not issues ECs in such cases.

Apart there are a number of foreign universities which are also operational in India. AIU do not accords equivalence to the degrees awarded by them. Only the Institutions which are operational with the prior permission of AICTE are accorded recognition.

AIU does not grant equivalence to the degrees awarded by any accredited foreign university for the programmes offered in India, in collaboration with Indian/Academic Institutions and the examination is conducted and degree awarded by their parent university located abroad. Only the programmes which are pursued full time on the Campus of the University of its origin, are being accorded equivalence.

Diploma Level programmes offered by some of the foreign universities too have not been given equivalence by AIU, especially the Vocational Stream examinations.

So far, Degrees awarded through ON LINE and DISTANCE MODE have also not been accorded equivalence by AIU.

HOW TO APPLY

Students having obtained their qualifications from abroad or under foreign system in India, are required to obtain an Equivalence Certificate from AIU.

Students can fill the enclosed form and apply to us. (Annexure – I).

In case the certificates have not been authenticated by our Mission the form can be submitted with the Original Certificates.

Students having obtained their qualifications from abroad for which the certification has been done in their Regional Languages i.e. Russian, French, Spanish, German etc. are required to get their Certificates translated from the authorized translators and get them authenticated from their Embassies or Indian Mission in their respective Countries before submitting to us.

Students intending to join Master's level programmes at Indian Universities, based on their Bachelor degree programmes are also required to submit their Grade 12 Certificates, as well, at the time of evaluation.

NOTE: NO EQUIVALENCE WILL BE ISSUED IN THE ABSENCE OF CERTIFICATES OR ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS.