

USNEI

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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 THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW. REFER TO THE LINKS BELOW.

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 regarding how to have your previous education evaluated. Some institutions and schools will perform the evaluation themselves while many will refer you to a credential evaluation service.

SELECTING A CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICE

If the U.S. school or institution recommends that you use a specific credential evaluation service, then use that service. If the U.S. school or institution does not recommend a specific credential evaluation service, then you can select a credential evaluation service yourself. You can search for credential evaluation services on the Internet, but please note that there is no federal or state regulation of such services. Neither the U.S. Department of Education nor USNEI endorses or recommends any individual credential evaluation service or any individual association of credential evaluation services.

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.