

# USNEI

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## Recognition of Foreign Qualifications: Information for Individuals Seeking to Work 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:

1. The U.S. employer, for those seeking to obtain work in an unregulated occupation; or
2. The appropriate state or territorial licensing authority for the jurisdiction in which you want to work, for those seeking to practice a regulated profession.

You will need to contact the human resources office of your prospective employer or a state licensing board for instructions on what to do and how to get your education evaluated. Some might perform the evaluation themselves, but most will refer you to a credential evaluation service.

### SELECTING A CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICE

If the U.S. employer or state licensing board recommends that you use a specific credential evaluation service, then use that service. Many professions use or recommend specialized credential evaluation services.

If no service is recommended, 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. 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. Prior to submitting any documents to a credential evaluation service, you will also need to obtain English translations of any non-English documents, preferably notarized.

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

U.S. professional licensing authorities evaluate applicants on an individual case basis and must apply applicable state law to the review of all “out-of-state” applicants, whether from another U.S. jurisdiction or another country. State laws vary, and you can expect that different state authorities may make different decisions as to full or partial recognition of your qualifications. Some states, in some professions, might not recognize foreign qualifications at all.

Educational qualifications do not automatically serve as professional work or licensing qualifications in the United States. Both employers and licensing authorities will usually expect, or require, additional steps before you are fully qualified to work, such as experience, internships or apprenticeships, examinations, supervised probations, additional education or training, background checks, and possibly others.

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 employer or professional licensing board with which you are seeking a job or the right to practice.