

UNIVERSITY PORTAL PAGE: Recognition of foreign qualifications

Contents of the "Regulations" section:

Applications for the recognition of foreign qualifications (bachelor's and/or master's degrees) must be submitted to different administrations depending on the purpose for which recognition is requested.

- 1) Applications for **academic recognition** of foreign qualifications must be submitted to an Italian university.
- 1) Requests for **professional or non-academic recognition** of qualifications (e.g. to participate in a public competition or access a regulated profession), **recognition for a specific purpose (equivalence)** of foreign qualifications are contained in a provision (issued only for the reason indicated and valid only if used for that purpose, and must be submitted and the provision reissued whenever the reason for interest arises again), in relation to certain cases provided for in Article 38 of Legislative Decree 165 of 2001, Presidential Decree 189 of 2009 and Article 12 of Law 29 of 2006 (the last two references concern, the first, the procedure for the recognition of qualifications acquired in countries that are signatories to the Lisbon Convention of 11 April 1997, the second, the procedure for assessing the equivalence of qualifications and EU certifications acquired in the European Union, in countries that are signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or in the Swiss Confederation).

The equivalence of a foreign qualification allows you to participate in a competition without being awarded an Italian qualification or without following the procedure for obtaining academic recognition.

EU and non-EU citizens may, in fact, participate in Italian competitions provided that they submit a declaration of equivalence of the qualification obtained abroad.

For the purposes of recognition (equivalence), the application must be submitted on the appropriate form, attaching the required documents, to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Department of Public Administration - P.P.A. Office - Recruitment Service) and, at the same time, to the Ministry of University and Research (MUR). In this regard, please consult the ministerial websites.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION:

Excerpt from the CIMEA website:

"Article 2 of Law 148 of 2002 establishes that *the competence for the recognition of cycles and periods of study abroad and foreign qualifications, for the purposes of*

1. *access to higher education,*
2. *continuation of university studies and*
3. *the attainment of Italian university qualifications,*

is attributed to universities and higher education institutions, which exercise this competence within the scope of their autonomy and in accordance with their respective regulations, without prejudice to bilateral agreements on the matter.

Therefore, these procedures are carried out directly by higher education institutions (universities or AFAM).

- *Procedure for the evaluation of foreign first, second and third cycle final qualifications for the purpose of obtaining a corresponding Italian first, second and third cycle final qualification. The aim of this procedure is to issue an Italian final qualification, i.e. one that has legal value in our system.*

Historically, this procedure is identified with the term 'equivalence', even though Law 148/2002 no longer uses this term.

Pursuant to [Art. 1, paragraph 28-quinquies, point 3.2 of Law 15/2022](#), Italian higher education institutions shall confer legal value on foreign higher education qualifications, foreign research doctorates and foreign academic qualifications obtained in the artistic, music and dance, regardless of citizenship, shall be provided by Italian higher education institutions pursuant to [Article 2 of Law No. 148 of 11 July 2002, No. 148](#), even for qualifications obtained in countries other than those that are signatories to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, done at Lisbon on 11 April 1997, ratified pursuant to [the aforementioned Law No. 148 of 2002](#).

The assessment of a foreign qualification for this purpose may produce different results:

- a) the award of the corresponding Italian qualification without the requirement to take further examinations or submit final papers (direct recognition); this procedure is referred to as '**direct recognition**' or '**direct equivalence**' (very rare cases);*
- b) the requirement to take additional examinations/obtain additional credits and/or submit final papers to complete the part of the study programme not covered by the foreign qualification, in order to obtain the corresponding Italian qualification; this procedure is referred to as '**course abbreviation**'.*

*In order to apply for the corresponding Italian qualification, the foreign qualification must meet **all** of the following criteria:*

- *be an official qualification of the first, second or third cycle of the foreign system of reference, issued by an official institution of the foreign system;*
- *allow entry to the same second or third cycle courses in the foreign reference system and/or confer the same academic rights;*
- *present the same elements of a disciplinary nature as the corresponding Italian qualification (number of credits, duration, academic nature and/or research elements, etc.);*
- *there must be an Italian qualification with which the foreign qualification can be compared, both in terms of type and subject area.*

These requirements apply to all students with foreign qualifications, regardless of their nationality, both for qualifications issued in European Union (EU) countries and in non-EU countries.

All detailed information can be found on the CIMEA website, where you will find some useful links:

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

<https://www.cimea.it/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico>

University Student Regulations <https://www.unisalento.it/regolamenti-studenti>

"Art. 16 Recognition of foreign academic qualifications pursuant to Law No. 148 of 21 July 2002, the University may recognise a foreign academic qualification for the purposes of admission to, continuation of, and attainment of Italian university qualifications. The recognition process, initiated by a specific application accompanied by the required documents, concludes with a resolution by the Academic Senate, adopted on the basis of the opinion expressed by the Faculty Council responsible for the degree programme comparable to that completed abroad by the applicant. Equivalence to the Italian qualification is declared, for the purposes of awarding the qualification, by a rector's decree. In the event that only partial recognition of credits acquired in relation to study activities and exams taken and passed is granted, the interested party may enrol in an intermediate year of the Italian degree programme with a shortened course in order to complete the training programme and take the final exam. Enrolment will only be permitted if the application for recognition has been submitted within the enrolment deadlines set out in the General Study Manifesto and subject to verification of knowledge of the Italian language by the competent teaching body.

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Contents of the section 'Procedure for requesting recognition of foreign qualifications at the University of Salento'

The procedure for requesting recognition by the University of Salento of an academic qualification obtained abroad is as follows:

The application, drawn up in accordance with the model published here, must **be submitted to the Department** offering the bachelor's/master's degree programme for which recognition is sought, attaching the following documentation:

- a copy of an identity document or, for non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy, a copy of their residence permit;
- the foreign academic qualification for which recognition is sought, in original or certified copy, with the relevant legalisation or 'apostille' stamp, official translation into Italian and declaration of value issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular representation responsible for the territory;
- original certificate or certified copy of the exams taken abroad, indicating the mark obtained in each exam and the final degree mark for obtaining the foreign academic qualification, with a sworn translation into Italian
- programme of exams taken, accompanied by a sworn translation (**on the letterhead of the foreign university**) of the above exams with the relevant official or sworn translation into Italian.
- Copy of the bank transfer receipt for the amount of €300.00 to be paid into the bank account held by the University of Salento, IBAN IT65U0526279748T20990001100 - reason for payment: contribution for recognition of foreign qualification.

The application for recognition, accompanied by the required documentation, will be submitted to a Departmental Teaching Committee, which will assess the admissibility of the request and subsequently submit it to the Departmental Council for approval.

If accepted, the recognition procedure will be initiated according to the following process:

- 1) Opinion of the teaching committee of the degree programme for which recognition is requested;
- 2) Opinion of the Teaching Council of the degree programme concerned
- 3) Opinion of the relevant Department Council
- 4) Opinion of the Academic Senate
- 5) Procedure under the responsibility of the Teaching, Research and Third Mission Area for the issue of the rector's decree conferring the degree

The parchment and degree certificate will be issued after the Rector's decree conferring the Italian degree has been issued.