



INFORMATION BROCHURE



Equivalence of Foreign Degrees

**ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
16 Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg,
New Delhi 110 002**

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EQUIVALENCE OF FOREIGN DEGREES



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AN INTRODUCTION:

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 (IUB)** was established in **1925** as an Autonomous Body and was renamed as the **ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES (AIU)** in 1973.

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

Evaluation Division was entrusted with task of assessment of degrees and diplomas awarded by accredited foreign Universities for the purpose of admission to higher studies. This is one of the main objectives that AIU took and since then has been carrying out effectively for the last eighty eight 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 March 1995** issued a Notification that **“those foreign qualifications which are recognized/equated by the AIU, are treated as recognized for the purpose of employment to post and services under the Central Government”**.

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

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

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 Continues 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.

The Division has established accountability as a reliable accrediting source/agency on the assessment/certification of equivalence of qualifications. It also receives number of enquiries from Credential Evaluation Service Agencies in other countries.

The equivalence is provided on course to course basis only after the proposal for equivalence of foreign qualification is received from an Indian Mission aboard or from the university concerned. For this purpose the information on the following point is obtained:

- Structure from Primary to University education
- Entry requirements
- Nomenclature 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
- 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 Officers (AACRAO) publication; World Guide to Qualifications 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. Wherever necessary, the matter is also referred to International Agencies like United States Educational Foundation in India, British Council Division, German Academic Exchange Service (DADD) etc.

Each case of equivalency is referred to the Expert(s) for their Expert opinion and after the opinion is received, the same is placed before the Equivalence Committee for consideration and approval and finally is being placed before the Governing Council for their ratification.

The Policy adopted by AIU to accord equivalence to the degree is as follows:

“AIU accords equivalence to the degrees pursued by the candidates, full time on the campus of the university of its origin, provided the eligibility requirements, duration of the course etc. remains the same as that of Indian Universities”.

Thus, AIU issues equivalence certificates only for the degrees which are pursued full time on the campus of the university(s) subject to fulfillment of the above parameters.

The three basic components which play a vital role in the determination of the equivalence are:

1. Eligibility requirements
2. Duration of the programme
3. Course curriculum etc.

Till few years back AIU followed the same Policy, but after the increase in students' mobility and also the numbers of universities where from the students have obtained their degrees from various parts of the world, AIU found it difficult to examine each and every case of equivalence and therefore, the equivalence is now established on the basis of the following parameters:

1. Eligibility requirements
2. Duration of the programme
3. Accreditation status of the University(s)

Thus AIU continues to issue equivalence certificate in respect of degrees pursued full time on the campus of the university, of its Origin, provided the duration of the course and eligibility requirements remains the same as that of Indian Universities.

AIU facilitates the students by issuing Equivalence certificates to those students who have obtained their degrees by fulfilling the above parameters, from accredited foreign universities.

Degrees which are offered by the foreign accredited universities but are pursued either partly or fully in India are not accorded equivalence by AIU. AIU also does not issue equivalence certificates for the degree which are lesser in duration as compared to the Indian degrees. Similarly, no Equivalence is issued for Diploma(Technical/Short term) level programmes conducted in various part of the world.

Since the basic eligibility requirements for Bachelor Degree Programme in India is Grade 12 OR an Equivalent Examinations, keeping in view the fact that maximum students who intend to join Indian Universities are for Bachelor Degree Programme, AIU has already accorded equivalence to the School Level Examinations of a good number of Countries of the World so far.

AIU has already accorded Equivalence to some of the most popular Systems of School Education of the world i.e. the British System (GCE 'O' & 'A' Level) , American System (High School Diploma), International Baccalaureate awarded by

the International Baccalaureate Organization Geneva, Switzerland, French International Baccalaureate, 12 year General Secondary School Certificate Examination conducted in most of the Gulf countries etc, so far.

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

- i) 12 years Baccalaureate Certificate of Chad, Gabon, France and Tunisia
- ii) International Baccalaureate Diploma awarded by International Baccalaureate Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.
- iii) 12 years General Secondary Education Certificate of the Ministry of Education Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries.
- iv) GCE/IGCSE/GCSE examinations of the approved British Examination Bodies, with Minimum 5 (Five) subjects in A, B, C Grades including English at ORDINARY("O") Level and 2/3 subjects at ADVANCED ("A")LEVEL has been equated with +2 stage qualification. Candidates intending to join Professional courses are required to have passed the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Mathematics in ADVANCED LEVEL & English at AS LEVEL.
- v) 12 Year High School Diploma from accredited Schools of USA
- vi) Intermediate/Senior Secondary/Higher Secondary examinations of the approved Boards in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal
- vii) 12 year Secondary Stage qualification of National Examinations Board of the Ministry of Education, Ethiopia, Sudan.
- viii) 12-year Secondary Stage examination conducted by various Provinces in *Canada and Australia
- ix) ** GCE "Ordinary and Advanced" level examination of the Department of Education, Government of Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong & Mauritius.
- x) 12 year STPM examination of Malaysia
- xi) 12 year Secondary Stage qualification of Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Republic of Vietnam and Yemen Arab Republic
- xii) "Abitur" examination of Germany
- xiii) *** 12 year High School Diploma awarded by the accredited American Schools/International Schools in other countries following American System of Education.
- xiv) Pre University Certificate Examination of the Ministry of Education, Iran
- xv) 12 year Secondary School Certificate Examination of the Ministry of Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- xvi) 12 Year Secondary School Certificate Examination of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Iraq
- xvii) 12 Year Senior School certificate Examination of West African Examinations Council (WACE) in A, B, C Grades on a scale of 1-4 (A-1, B-2, B-3, C-4) conducted in the countries of Nigeria etc.
- xviii) EXAMEN D'ETAT of the Ministry of Primary, Secondary & Professional Education in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- xix) 12 year Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination with more than 5 (Five) subjects in the Grades A, B, & C of the Kenya National Examinations Council, Nairobi, Kenya.
- xx) Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination with minimum 2 (Two) Principal Passes & 2(Two) Subsidiary Passes of the National Examinations Council of Tanzania.
- xxi) Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education Examination with minimum 2 (Two) Principal Passes & 2(Two) Subsidiary Passes of the Uganda Examinations Board
- xxii) 12 year Certificat D'Enseignement Secondaire Generale (D'Humanities General) of the Ministry of National Education, Republic of Burundi
- xxiii) Eritrean Secondary Education Certificate of the Ministry of Education ,State of Eritrea
- xxiv) Baccalaureat De L' Enseignement Secondaire General (Baccalaureat of General Secondary Education) of the Ministry of National Education, Republic of Cameroon
- xxv) Baccalaureat De L' Enseignement DU Second Degre (Baccalaureate of Secondary Education) of Republic of Chad.
- xxvi) Higher School Certificate Examination of Department of Education, Papua New Guinea.

* Candidate having passed Ontario Secondary School Diploma of the Ministry of Education, Ontario should have acquired minimum 6 (Six) "U/M" (University Preparatory Courses).

** Candidates having passed O and A level Examinations should fulfill the same conditions as prescribed at Sr. No. (IV)

*** High School Diploma awarded by the American Schools in USA and other parts of the world should be accredited either by the State Departments of Education OR by Six Regional Accrediting Agencies in USA:

1. Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.
2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
3. North Central Association of Schools and Colleges.
4. Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.
5. Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

AIU does not accept High School Diploma (GED)/other school qualifications pursued through ONLINE/ DISTANCE Mode

During the last five years the work of equivalence has increased tremendously as the flow of a students from foreign countries especially from African, South American and other parts of the World has increased.

The equivalence issued by AIU is accepted by Centre/State Employment Agencies, including UPSC etc. in addition to Indian Universities.

BACHELOR & HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The Bachelor and Master degree programmes of most of the countries have also been accorded equivalence.

Full time 3 Year Bachelor degree programmes pursued by the candidates, on the campus of the University of its origin, have been accorded equivalence with the corresponding Bachelor degree of an Indian University for the purpose of Admission to Higher Course.

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 etc. 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 Conventional Bachelor's degree programme in India is 3 years (except Professional degrees) however, in 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 issues equivalence.

Some of the European universities allow their students to complete their Bachelor degree programme (Fast Track Bachelor Degree) in a shorter duration. Such degrees which are shorter in duration (Less than 3- 4 years) are not accorded equivalence by AIU. Degrees which are supplemented by Diploma will not be accorded equivalence until 3 years consolidated Academic Transcript mentioning therein year 1, year 2, year 3 are issued by the awarding university. Two Year FAST TRACK Bachelor Degrees awarded by the Universities are not accorded Equivalence.

Master Degree programs which are less than 2 years in duration of foreign universities have also not been accorded equivalence by AIU. AIU does not issue Equivalence Certificate in such cases.

Apart from these, there are a number of foreign universities which are also operational in India. AIU does not accord equivalence to the degrees awarded by them.

Equivalence is not accorded 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 in INDIA and the 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 are also not equated.

AIU DOES NOT ISSUE EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATES FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAMMES OBTAINED IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE, NURSING, DENTISTRY, HOMOEOPATHY, PHARMACY, PHYSIOTHERAPY, VETERINARY & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LAW etc. (ALSO FOR 3 YEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY BRITISH & OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE).

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 Application Form and apply to AIU by post.

In case the certificates have not been authenticated by our Mission the Application 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 REQUIRED CERTIFICATES.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

AIU House, 16 Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg, New Delhi -2

(EQUIVALENCE DIVISION)

APPLICATION FORM FOR EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

1. NAME (Mr./Ms.)
2. POSTAL ADDRESS
3. E. MAIL
4. CONTACT/MOBILE NO
5. EXAMINATION PASSED
6. NAME OF SCHOOL/ INSTT/ UNIIVERSITY
7. NAME OF THE COUNTRY
8. COURSE TO BE PURSUED
9. DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED

- i)
- ii)
- iii)
- iv)

10. DETAILS OF FEES*

11. Name of Bank

12. DD No

Amount Rs

Date

Place.....

Signatures

Documents to be Enclosed:

- (a) Copy of the Degree /Diploma/ Certificate
- (b) Copy of the Academic Transcript
- (c) Documentation on the Accreditation Status of the Instt. (Applicable only for the candidates, those who have studied under US System of Education)

(Documents at (a) and (b) should be authenticated by Indian Mission)

- (d) A Copy of the Passport & Visa Or I-20 in case of students having studied in US.
- (e) A letter from the University stating therein the period of your full time studies on the campus of the awarding university i.e. date of start of course and completion, thereof.

Equivalent amount of **US \$ 200** acceptable in Indian currency payable through Demand Draft favoring '**Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi**'

NOTE : The candidates intending to join Medical programme are required to have studied the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English, and those intending to join Engineering should have studied Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and English in Grade 11 and 12



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