

# Recognition and Equivalency of Qualifications



**What is meant by Recognition?**

**What is meant by Equivalency?**

*"A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education  
and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its  
stakeholders"*

The Barbados Accreditation Council Act, 2004-11 stipulates that the **Barbados Accreditation Council** is responsible to "*advise on the recognition of foreign based institutions and their awards.*"

In this role, the Council:

1. provides authoritative and accurate information about local and foreign-based post-secondary or tertiary education, educational providers and programmes of study; and
2. gives advice or information about recognition matters and equivalency of qualifications locally.

### ***What is meant by Recognition?***

Recognition is the formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the appropriateness of a local and foreign-based qualification to access education and/or employment in the receiving country.

There is a need in Barbados for the:

1. ***Recognition*** of programmes of study and qualifications attained overseas by citizens of Barbados;
2. ***Recognition*** of qualifications attained by non-nationals;
3. ***Recognition*** of programmes of study and qualifications offered by foreign-based institutions operating in Barbados; and
4. ***Recognition*** of programmes of study pursued by nationals and non-nationals overseas.

Post-secondary or tertiary education and educational providers should be recognized/accredited within the country of origin.

## *What is meant by Equivalency?*

An equivalency is a determination by a competent authority that a particular programme of study or course has attained a comparable recognized standard.

The purposes of determining equivalencies include facilitating:

1. Articulation arrangements between educational providers, and other issues related to the transfer of students to other educational institutions; and
2. Entry of graduates of the programmes into the workplace.
3. Determining the comparability of foreign qualifications to local awards in order to facilitate the free movement of skilled nationals.

## **Documentation required for Recognition and Equivalency:**

- a. Application form (*completed, signed and legible*)
- b. Originals, and copies to be certified, of credentials and qualifications
- c. Certified translation of the credential/qualification in English (*if the original document is not in English*)
- d. Official academic transcript(s) to be sent directly to the **Barbados Accreditation Council** by the educational provider(s) attended
- e. Documentation of courses/programmes, for example, curriculum, course description, syllabus, and hours of study/credits.
- f. All other relevant documents attesting the path of education
- g. Documentation of change of name, for example, marriage certificate or deed poll, if your name has changed since the documents were issued



For further information please contact:

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