

Guidelines for the Recognition of Foreign Academic Research PhD Qualification pursuant L. 15/2022

Purposes

The process of academic recognition for equivalence is aimed at evaluating a university qualification awarded abroad for the purpose of obtaining a similar Italian qualification. The equivalence implies the detailed verification of the correspondence of level and content between the foreign qualification and the Italian qualification. The foreign qualification recognized as equivalent has the same legal value as the corresponding Italian qualification.

Requirements

For the academic recognition of foreign PhD qualifications, the foreign qualification being assessed must always comply with the following characteristics:

- be an official third-cycle PhD qualification of the reference foreign system, issued by an official institution of the same system;
- confer the same academic rights in the reference foreign system;
- present the same nature and disciplinary elements of the corresponding Italian qualification in terms of duration, which must not be less than three years, nature of research and methods of obtaining;
- there must be a PhD in the same sector with which the foreign qualification can be compared, both in terms of type and disciplinary field activated by the University of Parma.

These requirements apply to all students with a foreign PhD qualification, regardless of their nationality, be their qualification attained in the European Union (EU) or outside of it. Italian citizens, foreign citizens RESIDENT on Italian territory, or foreign citizens who have applied to a competitive examination at the University of Parma for which a doctoral degree is required as an entry qualification may apply for recognition.

Documentation to be presented for recognition purposes

Those interested in obtaining the recognition of a PhD qualification must submit the following documentation:

- a) Application with duty stamp addressed to the Rector of the University of Parma, accompanied by a valid ID and *codice fiscale* (tax ID number);
- b) Copy of the foreign university PhD qualification to be recognised;
- c) Academic Transcript issued by the competent foreign higher education institution certifying the elements and activities of the PhD course carried out as well as an indication of the number of years, or Diploma Supplement of the qualification to be recognized if issued by a foreign institution;

- d) Certificate of Comparability of the PhD qualification from a foreign university issued by CIMEA (Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence). Alternatively, it is possible to present a “Declaration of Value on Site” issued by the competent diplomatic delegations;
- e) Statement of Verification of the foreign university qualification of PhD issued by CIMEA;
- f) PhD thesis in PDF format, indicating the author, accompanied by a summary written in Italian or English;
- g) Copy of the foreign university qualification that gave access to the PhD;
- h) Academic Transcript of the exams taken or Diploma Supplement of the foreign university qualification which gave access to the PhD;
- i) Curriculum vitae/studiorum listing any further qualifications, publications, research and teaching activities, especially those carried out during the PhD course in one of the main Community languages (English, French, Spanish, German);
- j) payment of the contribution for the recognition of equivalence of qualifications in the amount established by the Competent Academic Bodies;

For all requests for recognition with a PhD course, it will be necessary to attach the same documentation relating to the qualification that gave access to the PhD and to provide the originals upon request. If the previous qualification was obtained from an Italian university, it is necessary to attach the self-certification of the qualification itself, as well as of the exams passed.

The entire documentation, if drawn up in another language, must be accompanied by a certified translation into Italian or a certified translation into one of the main community languages (English, French, Spanish, German).

Evaluation process

The assessment of the application for recognition is carried out by the Teaching Board of the Research PhD Course for which the interested party has sent request. The Teaching Board will formulate its opinion, normally within 90 days of receipt of the entire documentation requested, taking into account the provisions of current legislation and the guidelines proposed by the Ministry of University and Research through Cimea, in order to determine the equivalence to the national qualification.

The assessment carried out by the Teaching Board may produce the following results:

- direct release of the corresponding Italian PhD qualification to be submitted for approval by the Academic Senate and, in case of approval of the same, a Rectoral Decree of equivalence;
- refusal to recognize the foreign qualification in the event of a substantial difference;
- a conditional release with the obligation to fulfil the academic requirements set by the Teaching Board for the achievement of the corresponding Italian PhD qualification;