



FACTSHEET

Division Higher Education, 07.05.2019

Application for recognition of teaching qualifications or qualifications in special needs education, speech therapy or psychomotor therapy obtained abroad

What is it about?

Since the entry into force of the CH-EU agreement on the free movement of persons, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) has been responsible for recognising teaching qualifications and qualifications in special education (early childhood special needs education and special needs education in schools), speech therapy and psychomotor therapy obtained abroad, in order to establish, if applicable, their equivalence to corresponding Swiss qualifications. Applications for recognition must relate to qualifications issued by institutes of higher learning on completion of State-recognised courses in member States of the European Union, and enable the profession in question to be practised without restriction.

Principles of recognition

Examinations are carried out in accordance with the principles set out in Directive 2005/36/EC, the minimum requirements included in the [Swiss regulations on Recognition](#), and the judgements of the European Court of Justice. If substantial differences exist between the two training courses, recognition can generally only be granted after the successful completion of "compensation measures".

Recognition of qualifications issued by non-EU States

Holders of a diploma from a non-EU country can also apply for recognition. Examinations of their qualifications are generally carried out in accordance with the minimum requirements stipulated in the Swiss regulations on recognition.

Language requirements

Very good skills in one of the Swiss national languages are required. Information on language requirements can be found in the [Language Requirements Factsheet](#).

The recognition procedure

Holders of foreign qualifications submit an application for the recognition of their qualification to the EDK assessment centre using the form provided. As soon as the administrative fee has been paid and all formal conditions are met, the application is submitted for examination to the competent Committee of Experts. The course will then be assessed to determine its equivalence with the course leading to the same type of qualification in Switzerland.

If, after comparison, the two courses are found to be equivalent, the General Secretariat of the EDK will recognise the qualification as being valid throughout Switzerland.

If the two courses are basically comparable but substantial differences exist between the course imparted in the country of origin and the Swiss course, the person must complete compensation measures, unless said differences are not already compensated for by the person's professional experience and/or continuing education.

If the discrepancies with the Swiss course are such that the two courses cannot be considered to be comparable, the application for recognition will be rejected.

Evaluation of a professional qualification obtained in an EU member State takes a maximum of four months from the time the complete application pack reaches the General Secretariat of the EDK. For qualifications obtained in third countries, the processing period can take considerably longer.

Compensation measures

Compensatory measures are usually taken in the form of a supplemental training course at a Swiss educational institution. Information on the procedures for completing compensation measures and a list of available institutions and their contact persons can be found in the [Compensation Measures Factsheet](#).

Costs

Administrative fees are charged for processing applications for recognition (see the application form for details). The fees are used to cover part of the costs of the procedure.

The costs related to compensation measures must be paid by the person applying for recognition of their qualification. The exact amount will be communicated when the individual measures are decided on, it will be payable directly to the educational institution in question.

Costs relating to the authentication and translation of personal documents required for the application (listed in the application form) are also to be paid by the applicant.

Effect of Swiss recognition

Unlike Cantonal recognition, Swiss recognition of a foreign qualification by the EDK authorises persons obtaining it to practice in all Cantons of Switzerland. Nationwide recognition is not limited in time.

Recognition of a foreign qualification guarantees the same rights of access to the profession as the corresponding Swiss qualification, but it does not confer a right to employment. It relates exclusively to the formal qualifications and does not affect the current legal status to practice the profession.

The Cantons may apply their own conditions regarding employment.

Application for recognition

The completed application pack, including the duly completed and signed form (available at <http://www.edk.ch/dyn/16429.php>), must be sent to the following address:

Conférence suisse des directeurs cantonaux de l'instruction publique CDIP
Maison des cantons
Reconnaissance des diplômes
Speichergasse 6, Case postale
3001 Berne
Switzerland

If your questions have not been answered by the information above or on the website, please do not hesitate to contact our staff: email: diplom@edk.ch, Tel.: +41 (0)31 309 51 31, Monday to Friday between 8.30 and 11.00.