

**MECHANISM FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF
QUALIFICATIONS
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA**

Wishing to further enrich and expand cooperation in education and research between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia; and

Recognising that the fair and timely recognition of education qualifications will enhance student and researcher mobility, and will further learning and employment opportunities for graduates and researchers of the Australian and Indian education systems; and

Acknowledging that clear and efficient recognition processes will lay the foundation for strengthened institutional collaboration between Australian and Indian education institutions;

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia agree to establish a mechanism to improve arrangements for the recognition of Australian and Indian education qualifications as follows:

1. The Participants hereby establish a Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (the Mechanism).

Objectives

2. The objectives of this Mechanism are to:
 - (a) Establish qualifications recognition arrangements to facilitate mobility between Australia and India;
 - (b) Minimise barriers to the recognition of qualifications in a timely manner, leading to better outcomes for Australian and Indian students, graduates, academics, researchers and education and training institutions;
 - (c) Establish an effective, efficient and sustainable means for cooperation and ongoing dialogue in qualifications recognition and quality assurance; and
 - (d) Undertake information sharing and capacity building, to implement recognition best principles and practices.

Scope

3. Recognition outcomes below may be outside the scope of this Mechanism where access to higher education is regulated by professional bodies. In such cases, each Participant will encourage its relevant professional bodies to facilitate bilateral discussions to support the recognition of the relevant qualifications.

Implementing Authorities

4. The implementing authorities for this Mechanism are the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for the Government of India, and the Department of Education, for the Government of Australia, or their successor entities performing similar recognition functions (the Implementing Authorities).
5. The Participants acknowledge that implementation of the decisions on the recognition of overseas qualifications is the responsibility of their respective designated authorities and are subject to domestic laws, regulations, policies and procedures.

Recognition of Australian qualifications in India

6. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Government of India and their designated authorities will recognise all Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications awarded by:
 - (a) Australian state and territory curriculum assessment and certificate authorities
 - (b) Higher education providers, approved and regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA);

- (c) Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or a state-based vocational education and training regulator.

7. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Government of India will deem graduates with the following AQF qualifications to be holding the comparable Indian qualification for the purposes of admission to higher education:

- (a) AQF Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is comparable to Indian Senior School Certificates and will provide admission to bachelor degree programs;
- (b) AQF certificate IV, diploma, advanced diploma and associate degree qualifications will provide admission to bachelor's degree programs and, where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted;
- (c) AQF bachelor degrees will provide admission to master's degree programs;
- (d) AQF bachelor honours degrees will provide admission to master's degree programs and doctoral degree programs, where appropriate.
- (e) AQF graduate certificate and graduate diploma qualifications will provide admission to master's degree programs, and where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted.
- (f) AQF masters degrees will provide admission to a doctoral degree programs; and
- (g) AQF doctoral degrees will be deemed comparable to Indian doctoral degrees to support academic and researcher mobility.

8. The Government of India will deem graduates with the qualifications listed in paragraph 7 to be holding comparable Indian qualifications for the purposes of general employment, where such qualifications are required.

9. Provisions with regard to the events of *force majeure* and qualifications delivered online:
- (a) In the event of *force majeure*, qualifications as listed in Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 delivered either partially online or fully online or through any other mode will be recognised as comparable.
 - (b) Qualifications delivered online will be considered for comparability by designated authorities of the Government of India.
10. Qualifications awarded through transnational education arrangements outside Australia will be considered comparable.

Recognition of Indian qualifications in Australia

11. The Department of Education of the Government of Australia will recognise all Indian:
- (a) Senior secondary education qualifications awarded by a relevant board or council of senior secondary education or awarded by any other authority empowered by the Government of India;
 - (b) technical and vocational education and training qualifications awarded by institutions approved by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and/ or National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and/or its equivalent body and State Councils for Vocational Training (SCVT).
 - (c) higher education qualifications awarded by institutions authorised by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), as well as other equivalent bodies.
12. The Department of Education of the Government of Australia will deem graduates with the following Indian qualifications to be holding the

comparable AQF qualification for the purposes of admission to higher education:

- (a) Indian Senior School Certificate (or its equivalent in India) is comparable to the Australian senior secondary certificate of education and will provide admission to AQF bachelor degree programs;
- (b) Indian technical and vocational education and training sub-degree qualifications are comparable to AQF sub-degree qualifications, where appropriate.
- (c) NSQF Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications will provide admission to AQF bachelor degree programs and; where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted;
- (d) Undergraduate certificate and undergraduate diploma qualifications will qualify for admission to AQF bachelor degree programs at appropriate levels, and where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted.
- (e) Bachelor's degrees will provide admission to AQF graduate certificate, graduate diploma and masters degree programs, and where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted.
- (f) Bachelor's degrees (honours/research), Postgraduate diplomas¹ and master's degrees will provide admission to AQF masters degree programs (including research masters degrees) and/or AQF doctoral degree programs, and where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted.
- (g) NSQF Bachelor's degree and Postgraduate Diploma qualifications will provide admission to AQF masters degree programs and; where appropriate, credit transfer will be granted;
- (h) Doctoral degrees will be deemed comparable to AQF doctoral degrees to support academic and researcher mobility.

¹Postgraduate Diploma is pursued after Bachelor's Degree and is of one/two-year duration. In India a two-year Postgraduate diploma will qualify for admission to doctoral programmes, provided it is considered equivalent to a Master's degree as per extant norms of the regulatory bodies in India.

13. The Government of Australia will deem graduates with the qualifications listed in paragraph 12 to be holding comparable Australian qualifications for the purposes of general employment, where such qualifications are required.
14. Provisions with regard to the events of *force majeure* and qualifications delivered online:
 - (a) In the event of *force majeure*, qualifications as listed in Paragraphs 11 and 12 delivered either partially online or fully online or through any other mode will be recognised as comparable;
 - (b) Qualifications delivered online will be considered for comparability by designated authorities of the Government of Australia.
15. Qualifications awarded through transnational education arrangements outside India will be considered comparable.

Bolstering cooperation in qualifications recognition

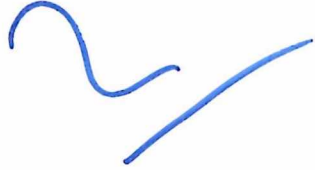
16. Both the Participants will extend support and cooperation at bilateral, regional and global levels in matters related to recognition of qualifications.
17. The Participants hereby establish a Steering Committee on Qualifications Recognition Implementation composed of senior officials of the Implementing Authorities to bolster cooperation in the recognition of qualifications.
18. The Participants may, by mutual determination, invite representatives of their respective designated authorities and industry stakeholders to join the Steering Committee.

19. The Steering Committee's functions will be to undertake targeted research, engage with Australian and Indian stakeholders, and conduct comprehensive consultations to:
- (a) identify and report on barriers to the recognition of qualifications constraining access to higher education and employment;
 - (b) make recommendations, including implementation options and timelines, to eliminate or minimise barriers to the recognition of qualifications, including:
 - (i) the scope of qualifications to be considered; and
 - (ii) reporting on policy reforms and changes to national qualifications systems and frameworks, and quality assurance systems;
 - (c) explore and develop options with the Implementing Authorities for arrangements for ongoing government-to-government cooperation in qualifications recognition and quality assurance; and
 - (d) develop a strong foundation to facilitate effective bilateral cooperation.
20. The Steering Committee will provide its first progress report to the Implementing Authorities within six months of the commencement of this Mechanism and deliver its recommendations to the Australia India Education and Skills Council within 12 months of its first meeting.
21. The Implementing Authorities will review this Mechanism one year from the date of its commencement of or as otherwise agreed.

The preceding text represents the understanding reached by the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia to facilitate the recognition of Australian and Indian education qualifications to facilitate ongoing institutional cooperation and collaboration and support students, graduates and researchers to contribute to the prosperity of both countries.

Signed in duplicate at New Delhi on 02nd March, 2023 in English and Hindi languages, both texts having equal validity.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
AUSTRALIA

