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الوقائع العراقية

وهقايعى عىراقى

الجريدة الرسمية لجمهورية العراق

رؤژنامهى فهرمى كوؤمارى عىراق



تصدر عن وزارة العدل

وهزارهتى داد دهرى دهكات

Legislation

No. 20

Arabic and Foreign Academic Certificates and Degrees Equivalency Bases Law

No. (20) Of 2020

With the Amendment

قانون اساسى تعادل الشهادات والدرجات العلمية العربية والأجنبية

مع تعديله

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Laws

In the name of the people The Presidency

In accordance with what the parliament had passed, pursuant to the provisions of Item (First) of Article (61) of the Constitution, and for the expiration of the statutory period stipulated in Item (Third) of Article (73) of the Constitution, the following Law was promulgated:

Arabic and Foreign Certificate and Scientific Degrees Equivalency Bases Law No. (20) Of 2020

Article 1

The following words and phrases shall mean the definitions set forth next to them:

First: Minister: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific research.

Second: The ministry: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research.

Third: Body: Opinion body.

Fourth: Department: The department of Scholarship and Cultural Relations Service.

Fifth: General Director: The general director of Scholarship and Cultural Relations Service.

Sixth: Section: Certificate equivalency section.

Seventh⁽¹⁾: Committee: The concerned committees in accordance with the competence.



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Eighth⁽²⁾: Candidate certificate: It is a certificate granted to some states and is equaled to the PhD certificate, Esperanto certificate is not considered as an equivalent to the PhD certificate mentioned above.

Ninth⁽³⁾: Bridging: It is a studying program relating to the completion of Restorative curricula (complementary) (curricula for raising the average or qualifying for a degree. Translator) for a basic specialization with other approximate specialization, the objective of it is to raise the level of knowledge and obtaining modern specializations going in line with labor market.

Tenth⁽⁴⁾: Studying year: It means nine months.

Eleventh⁽⁵⁾: Calendar year: It means twelve months.

Article 2⁽⁶⁾

First: The task of equating the non-Iraqi certificates and scientific and professional degrees that require obtaining the High-Schools Certificates or its equivalent and the certificates that follow it in the category, the task of this department shall be to equate and recognize those certificates and specify their minimum duration in the light of the foundations mentioned in this Law.

Second: This department (aforementioned. Translator) shall equate the certificates and recognize them in the light of equation and in accordance of what follows:

- a. The certificate issued in the prestigious universities, colleges and institutes (universities, colleges and institutes of scholarship and private expense studying) that follows the high-school study for the students obtained studying leave, the private-expense studying, scholarships or the unemployed students.



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- b. The certificates of students mentioned above in Paragraph (a) of this Item that a change with prior legal approval occurs in them.
- c. Undergraduate and postgraduate university certificates for foreigners who wish to work in the Iraqi institutions whose certificates follow High school diploma or Intermediate school diploma more than three years, provided that the application shall be submitted by those institutions.

Third:

- a. The ministry of education shall equate secondary school diploma and studies that precede them.
- b. The relevant ministries and academies shall, according to the specialization, evaluate and equate the following certificates
 1. Maritime certificates.
 2. Aviation certificates.
 3. Military certificates.
 4. Foreign-Degree-Equivalency-In-Iraq Certificates
 5. Training certificates.

Article 3

First: The Section shall be consisted of several divisions representing the various basic competencies, provided that each division shall be headed by a staff member with expertise and competence in the subject of evaluation and the equivalency of certificates from doctoral holders in the field of competence.

Second: Each division shall be responsible for the evaluation and equivalence of the certificate and in accordance with the division's competence.



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Third⁽⁷⁾: The department shall seek the assistance of specialists and relevant scientific technical bodies in carrying out its tasks of equating and evaluating certificates, reviewing the student's scientific and cognitive output and determining its suitability to the approved scientific standards, in a manner consistent with maintaining the academic integrity of the certificates to be equated, according to the committee's opinion.

Fourth⁽⁸⁾:

- a. The student section shall send the certificate papers that meet the conditions to the evaluation department within a period of (30) thirty days from the date of submitting the application.
- b. The evaluation section shall complete its work within a period of (30) thirty days, starting from the date of receiving the certificate papers from the student section until the expert's decision is issued.
- c. The procedures for issuing the wall certificate shall be completed within a period of (15) fifteen days as of the date of receipt of the scientific expert's decision on the evaluation.

Article 4

The following bases shall be followed in the equivalence of scientific degrees and certificates:

First: Each certificate shall be equated in the holder's name.

Second: The duration of learning the language and supplementary studies required to enter the prescribed study shall not fall within the minimum period for obtaining the certificate and shall be equated separately, otherwise, the planned general preparatory studies as well as the mandatory training required before obtaining the certificate shall be recognized.



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- Third⁽⁹⁾: When equating certificates, the minimum number of years required obtaining them and their type shall be taken into account in accordance with the system of the granting university and the requirements of the stage preceding the study stage for the certificate to be equated. The minimum period for obtaining the certificate shall be calculated according to the period prescribed for it according to the guide of the college, institute or university.
- Fourth: When equating certificates, they shall be called by their original names used in the granting country and it is not permissible to replace the name of the certificate in light of the equivalency with another certificate.
- Fifth⁽¹⁰⁾: Certificates which (the minimum period) for obtaining them is less than one academic year may not be equated.
- Sixth: The certificate shall be equated by mentioning its original name as the highest professional, technical, scientific or technological certificate in the field of specialization in the granting country, if that is the case and the country doesn't grant a doctorate or Candidate in the same specialization, and the period of study is not less than seven years after high school, with mentioning the minimum period required to obtain it after the certificate that precedes it as a condition for acceptance and in according with what the evidence indicates.
- Seventh: It shall be permissible to consider the certificate that follows the middle school, and the number of years in it shall be equal to the number of years of high school for the purpose of equivalency process, if its holder has completed his/ her studies in the field of specialization.

Article 5

- First: The equivalency of the higher certificate without the initial college degree or initial higher certificate shall be required as follows:



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a. It shall be preceded by a high school certificate or its equivalent, or a certificate after middle school no less than three years when the holder completes his/ her studies in the field of specialization.

b. The minimum period for obtaining it should not be less than one academic year.

Second: The following shall be required for the equivalency of the initial university certificate or initial higher university certificate:

a. It shall be preceded by a high school certificate or its equivalent

b. The minimum period prescribed for it shall not be less than three years after middle school or its equivalent.

Third⁽¹¹⁾: Repealed

Article 6

It shall be required for the equivalency of certificates of the initial university or initial higher university the following:

First⁽¹²⁾: It must be preceded by a undergraduate or high preliminary university degree with its requirements as provided in Article (5) of this law, which by its nature qualifies for obtaining the higher degree in accordance with the regulations of the university from which graduated from.

Second: The duration of the study to obtain the certificate shall not be less than six months for the higher diploma, one academic year for the master's degree, two academic years for the doctorate of philosophy after the master's degree, three years for the doctorate of philosophy or Candidate after the initial university degree or initial higher degree.

Third: The Certificate shall be issued by notable universities or institutes and recognized in the granting country.

Fourth⁽¹³⁾: The required period of residence for study shall be as follows:



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- a. For bachelor's and diploma degrees is the entire duration of study, except for official holidays in the country of study during semesters (courses) or spring and summer breaks, according to the study system.
- b. The student's residence for the purpose of studying in the country of study must not be less than a total period of one academic year for a Higher Diploma or Master degree and one calendar year for a Doctorate degree after the Master degree, or two academic years for a doctorate after the undergraduate university degree (bachelor's) or the higher undergraduate degree accompanied by endorsement letter from the university in which he/ she studied. This shall not include the period required to study the language and complete other requirements.
- c. The period of residence mentioned in paragraph (Fourth/ b) of this Article may include the days off, provided that they do not exceed (60) sixty days for one academic year, provided that the student makes up for them later to complete the period of residence.
- d. The duration of residence for a research doctorate shall be six non-consecutive months.
- e. Exempting postgraduate students (masters and doctorate) studying in postgraduate programmes hosted in Iraqi universities and belonging to international universities accredited within the Shanghai classification and having obtained the approval of the Ministry (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Translator), from the condition of residence in the country granting the degree stipulated in Item (Fourth) of Article (6).

Article 7

First: The Ministry shall not recognize certificates issued by not notable universities or institutes which are:

- a. Universities and institutes whose degrees are not recognized by the awarding country.



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- b. Universities and institutes that exclude foreigners from the academic conditions and systems applicable to citizens of the country in which they are based.
- c. Universities and institutes that are proven to be well-established in their academic systems, inefficient in their scientific levels and do not realize scientific responsibility when awarding university certificates and degrees in accordance with scientific standards and directories of notability for internationally accredited university classifications.
- d⁽¹⁴⁾. Certificates issued by correspondence or distance studying.
- e⁽¹⁵⁾. Universities and institutes designated for the education of foreigners.

Second: The decision of the Ministry to cancel the recognition of the university or institute shall not prevent the equivalency and evaluation of the certificates of students admitted to any of them (prior to) the issuance of the decision to cancel the recognition and on the bases and procedures of equivalency stipulated in this law and without any discrimination in treatment with others.

Third⁽¹⁶⁾: Branches of foreign universities outside Iraq shall be treated the same as their parent universities with regard to equivalency requirements.

Fourth: Academic documents and tuition fee lists certificated by the cultural attaché at the embassy of the Republic of Iraq in the country of study or the body in charge of its affairs shall be accredited without the need for the embassy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attest for the purposes of this law.

Article 8⁽¹⁷⁾

Equivalency shall be carried out in accordance with the following procedures:

First: The equivalency application shall be submitted to the Certificate Equivalency Department, accompanied by the following:



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- a. The original certified certificate to be equated or certified documents, along with a copy of each, to be retained by the Department, and a translation in Arabic or English for documents written in other languages.
- b. Previous certified certificates.
- c. Passport or proof of residency.
- c. Thesis or dissertation.
- e. Personal photo.
- f. Identification document.
- g. Undertakings for non-employees.
- h. Administrative order granting study leave.

Second: The Director General of the Department of Scholarships and Cultural Relations shall approve the equivalency decision or not and the applicant shall be notified of the decision.

Article 9⁽¹⁸⁾

First: The applicant may appeal the non-equivalency decision to the Minister or his/ her authorized representative within (90) ninety days from the date of its issuance.

Second: The objectors may appeal the decision if they submit new evidence, justifications or official documents not previously submitted within a period not exceeding (5) five years.

Third: The decision issued regarding the objection or appeal shall be subject to appeal before the Administrative Court within (60) sixty days as of the date of its notification.



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Article 10

Repealed⁽¹⁹⁾

Article 11

Repealed⁽²⁰⁾

Article 12⁽²¹⁾

Applicant for undergraduate or postgraduate studies outside Iraq shall be obliged to fulfill the following before commencing his/ her studies:

First: Opening a study file with the department of scholarships and cultural relations at the ministry of higher education and scientific Research

Second: Obtaining the approval of their his/ her department or the entity affiliated to which for employee or assigned to public service.

Third: The age of the applicant shall be taken into account in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.



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Article 13⁽²²⁾

It shall be possible to change majors and bridging from one major to another after completing a set of basic courses based on the opinion of the committee in the department and the academic systems adopted by universities.

Article 14

First: Any text that contradicts the provisions of this law shall not be applied.

Second⁽²³⁾: Repealed

Third: The provisions of Law No. (10) Of 2008, security permits and criminal restrictions shall not be applied for the purposes of equivalency and evaluation of certificates.

Article 15

The equivalency of certificates issued under Instructions No. (5) of 1976 shall be recognized.

Article 16

This law shall be implemented as of date of voting on it on October 28, 2020 and published in the Official Gazette.



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Article added by the amendment ⁽²⁴⁾

The minister may issue instructions to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this law, provided that they don't conflict with its provisions.

Article added by the amendment ⁽²⁵⁾

No law or text that conflicts with the provisions of this law shall be applied, except for Item (Sixteen) of Article (13) of Law no. (23) of 2024 (First amendment) of Martyr foundation Law no. (2) of 2016 which relates exclusively to the rights of Martyrs' families.

Article added by the amendment ⁽²⁶⁾

This law shall not be applied to those who commence their studies prior to its entry into force.



Laws

References

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Law of the First amendment of law, No (11) of 2025, Decision No. (11), Official Gazette of Iraqi, Issue No. 4316, dated: December 21, 2020, Article (1).
6. Ibid, Article (2)
- 7, 8. Ibid, Article (3)
- 9, 10: Ibid, Article (4)
11. Ibid, Article (5)
- 12, 13. Ibid, Article (6)
- 14, 15, 16. Ibid, Article (7)
17. Ibid, Article (8)
18. Ibid, Article (9)
19. Ibid, Article (10)
20. Ibid, Article (11)
21. Ibid, Article (12)
22. Ibid, Article (13)
23. Ibid, Article (14)
24. Ibid, Article (15)



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25. Ibid, Article (16)

26. Ibid, Article (17)

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