

CENTRE D'INFORMATION NATIONAL

Enic-Naric

France

*RECOGNITION OF
ACADEMIC AND
PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS*



TASKS OF THE ENIC-NARIC FRANCE CENTRE

What is the ENIC-NARIC France Centre?

Part of the Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP), the Department of Qualification Recognition - ENIC-NARIC* France is the French information centre for the academic and professional recognition of foreign qualifications. It works closely with the European Commission, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Through its activities, it helps to promote international mobility by improving the transparency of foreign academic education and professional certification.

The Centre is part of a network (www.enic-naric.net) of 55 information agencies set up in the various countries of the region of Europe as defined by UNESCO. It is involved in the creation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by issuing personalised documents to help individuals have their qualifications and skills recognised in a host Member State.

It is also a member of the MERIC network, which groups together the information centres that deal with qualification recognition in the Mediterranean countries.

* European Network of Information Centres - National Academic Recognition Information Centres

What tasks is the ENIC-NARIC France Centre responsible for?

- **Issues comparability statement** for foreign qualifications.
 - **Provides information on:**
 - the procedure for the recognition of foreign qualifications in France;
 - the pursuit of regulated professions covered by European directive;
 - the competent authorities and the procedure for obtaining authorisation to practise;
 - the French higher education system and its qualifications (in particular as part of the implementation of the Bologna Process).
 - **Gives an expert** opinion to French interministerial commissions, higher education institutions and ENIC-NARIC network centres.
 - **Contributes its expertise** to bi and multilateral studies on the recognition of qualifications.
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THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE CENTRE'S EXPERTISE

Private individuals (students or professionals) residing in France or abroad

The ENIC-NARIC France Centre provides expertise regarding foreign qualifications: an individual “comparability statement” can be issued, except in the case where the applicant wishes to pursue a regulated profession in France.

Employers

The personalised statement issued by the ENIC-NARIC France Centre allows an employer to determine whether the qualification submitted by a job applicant meets the required level of qualification.

Institutions (universities, nursing training institutes, training centres, etc.)

The Centre's expertise concerns the level of the foreign qualification. At the request of the institution, a “statement of qualification level” can be issued, depending on the selection criteria specified by the institution.

Foreign countries

The ENIC-NARIC France Centre can provide expert advice to foreign countries to help them establish a qualification recognition system. Such advice is provided upon request.

How much does it cost?

For individual applications and Chambers of trade and labour:

- €70 for a statement issued under “normal delivery” conditions,
- €200 for a statement issued under “express delivery” conditions, 48 hrs, only upon agreement with the ENIC-NARIC France Centre,
- €10 per copy,
All payments must be sent to the CIEP accountant upon receipt of the invoice.
- free of charge for refugees.

For institutions:

- €40 for a “statement of qualification level” for higher education institutions that hold agreements with the CIEP.
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COMPARABILITY STATEMENT

What is a comparability statement?

- A comparability statement sets out **the correspondence** between a foreign qualification and a French qualification level.
- As far as possible, it specifies the academic prerequisites and the academic and vocational rights upon the awarding of the qualification in the foreign education system.
- A comparability statement **is not a statement of equivalence**. In France there is no legal principle of equivalence between a qualification or title obtained in a foreign country and a title awarded by the French Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Higher Education and Research.
- Neither is it a statement of scientific equivalence required for qualifications in the medical or paramedical fields.

The statement is useful for:

- pursuing studies at a French higher education institution, especially if required by the institution;
- providing a support for job seekers and helping prospective employers understand a foreign qualification in the case of non-regulated professions.

Only courses leading to a qualification are taken into consideration. Courses leading to a qualification or diploma certifying a purely linguistic skill are not concerned.

How is the comparability statement drawn up?

There is nothing automatic about the replies given or the statements issued. The experts at ENIC-NARIC France Centre carry out specific research for each application received.

Within this context, they have to consult specialist sources, the competent services in other countries as well as other ENIC-NARIC network centres. In particular, they can consult the administrative authorities of the country of origin to authenticate the qualification submitted.

What criteria are used to compare a foreign qualification with a French qualification level?

Evaluation of foreign qualifications complies with European guidelines (the Bologna Process in particular) and current regulations pertaining to the academic recognition of qualifications. It uses a framework of assessment criteria based on these international texts.

ANALYSIS TABLE

Consisting of ten components, this table is designed to aid the experts in their comparative analysis. It is a working document and is not provided to applicants.

It is divided into two levels: two exclusive “eligibility criteria” (in yes/no format), concerning the recognition authority and eight “assessment components” listing the formal equivalence and quality criteria.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	
Recognition of the qualification by the State education system under which it was issued	
Status of the institution in the issuing country	
ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS	
Formal indicators	Bilateral or multilateral agreement
	Relative status of the qualification within a national or international framework(s)
	Official duration of studies
	ECTS/credits
	Prerequisites
	Components of the certification (knowledge, skills, learning outcomes)
	Academic and professional rights
Quality Assurance	Existence of an independent external evaluation of the programme or institution

www.ciep.fr/en/enic-naricfr/comparabilite.php

PROCEDURES

How can I get a comparability statement?

- Check that the educational institution or employer in question requires a comparability statement.
- Send your completed application, by post, to:
Centre ENIC-NARIC France
CIEP
1, avenue Léon-Journault
92318 Sèvres cedex (France).

The application documents required are listed on the CIEP website:
www.ciep.fr/en/enic-naricfr/dossier.php

What is the procedure for processing applications at the ENIC-NARIC France Centre?

- As soon as an application is received, an acknowledgement of receipt is sent to the applicant together with the application reference number.
- Provided all the information required has been submitted, the application will be processed.
- An expert from the ENIC-NARIC France Centre examines the application, carries out research on the qualifications submitted and draws up the comparability statement.
- An expert from the ENIC-NARIC France Centre checks the information contained in the document and launches the billing process.

In all cases, whether the reply is positive or negative, the ENIC-NARIC France Centre issues a document in response to the application.

Applications take about four months to process (or longer depending on the qualifications submitted and the amount of research required). Under certain conditions and if requested by telephone, a statement may be obtained within 48 hours (not all such requests are accepted).

Can applications for a comparability statement be turned down?

The ENIC-NARIC France Centre will not issue a comparability statement in the following cases:

- if the application submitted is incomplete;
 - if the qualification is not recognised by the competent authorities in the issuing Member State;
 - if the research carried out has been unproductive;
 - if the qualification or test only certifies language skills;
 - if the qualification is for a training period of less than one academic semester.
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REGULATED PROFESSIONS

The ENIC-NARIC France Centre: a national contact point under Directive 2005/36/EC

As a designated national contact point under the terms of the European Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC), the ENIC-NARIC France Centre:

- provides information on the recognition of professional qualifications for people that wish to work in regulated professions in France;
- directs applicants to the authorities responsible for issuing authorisations to pursue the profession in question in France.

Practising in a regulated profession in France

The right to work in many professions is regulated, which means that special authorisation is required from a competent authority designated by the host Member State.

Under the terms of Directive 2005/36/EC, Article 3 (1), a regulated profession is “a professional activity or group of professional activities, access to which, the pursuit of which, or one of the modes of pursuit of which is subject, directly or indirectly, by virtue of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to the possession of specific professional qualifications.” Consideration must be given not only to the country the persons concerned come from, but also to the country of origin of the qualification.

This Directive applies to Member States to regulated professions as defined in Article 3. It concerns professions such as healthcare, architecture, trade and crafts professions.

If the qualification comes from a country outside the European Union, a different procedure applies in order to pursue a regulated profession.

A list of the main regulated professions in France and of the relevant competent authorities is available on the CIEP website: www.ciep.fr/en/enic-naricfr/professions-reglementees.php



THE CIEP

Created in 1945, the Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP) is a national public institution under the French Ministry of Education, Youth and Community Life.

As an **International Operator**, it also acts on behalf of other French ministries—Foreign and European Affairs, Higher Education and Research, Culture and Communication—as well as in French, European and international-funded projects.

Closely linked to the French education system, CIEP has 250 agents and relies on a network of French and international experts and partner organizations.

Two activity areas

- *Education*: capitalizing on French expertise internationally in the global education market; supporting public education policy through studies, projects, international seminars, in the fields of general, higher and vocational education; recognition of diplomas.
- *Languages*: supporting the promotion of French abroad, the teaching of foreign languages in France and the promotion of multilingualism; management of national qualifications in French as a foreign language; management of mobility programmes.

A centre for information and think tank

- A **resource and document engineering centre**, offering a range of topical resources thanks to its library collection and online publications.
- The *Revue internationale d'éducation de Sèvres* journal—a forum for debate, reflection and information on major educational questions seen from an international perspective.
- An **infrastructure for hosting seminars**, symposia and international conferences on current education issues.



Enic-Naric
France

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