



Official Gazette of Iraq

Al-Waqai' Al-Iraqiyya

الوقائع العراقية

وهقايعى عىراقى

الجريدة الرسمية لجمهورية العراق

روژنامه‌ى فهرمى كومارى 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

As Amended Version, in Accordance with the Federal Court's Decision
no. (46/ and its two unified parts 50, 51/ Federal/ 2020), published in Issue NO. (4655)
on November 22, 2021

قانون اساسى تعادل الشهادات والدرجات العلمية العربية والأجنبية

بصيغته المعدلة، بعد إدخال التعديلات، بموجب قرار المحكمة الاتحادية رقم (46) وموعدتيها (50) و (51) /إتحادية/ 2020

المبهور في العدد (4655) بتاريخ (22/ تشرين الثاني/ 2021)

Translated in

Ministry Of Justice

Iraqi Official Gazette Department

Translation Section

2023



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.



Laws

Article 2

First: The task of equalizing non-Iraqi scientific and professional certificates and degrees requiring a secondary school certificate or its equivalent and the subsequent certificates shall be limited to the section. The function of this section shall be to equate and endorse such certificates and determine their minor duration in the light of the grounds set out in this law, unless otherwise provided.

Second: The department shall equate the certificates and endorse them in the light of the equivalency bases and according to the following:

- a. The certificate issued by the notable universities and institutes (scholarship or recommended universities and institutes) after secondary studies for students who have scholarship, during employment, on-private-expense or scholarship and fellowships students.^(*)
- b. The students' certificates referred to in Paragraph (a) of this item, in which there has been a change with prior consent and endorsement by the department. ^(*)
- c. Certificates referred to in Paragraph (a) of this item for students other than State officials and the public sector.
- d. Certificates of official Arab and scientific universities and institutes.
- e. Certificates whose similar ones have already been equated by the department, including certificates from the same departments and colleges, even if their subjects are different, taking into account the duration of the study of each subject. The department may expand authorization in case notable colleges and universities tend to include an entire college or university.

Third:

- a. ^(*)



Laws

- b. The Ministry of Education shall equate secondary school certificates, studies that precede it and certificates issued by the Open Education Faculty.
- c. The Ministry of defense and the Ministry of Interior shall equate the military and promotional training certificates and do not take this equivalency as a basis for the purpose of admission to or teaching in universities. (*)
- d. (*)
- e. (*)
- f. Universities and technical institute board shall grant titles and ranks.

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.

Third: (*)

Fourth: The department may, when necessary, use the relevant specialists and scientific and technical bodies.

Fifth: Equivalency and evaluation procedures shall be completed within a maximum period (45) forty five days as of the date of submission of the equivalency and evaluation application.

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.



Laws

- 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.
- Third: In equivalency of certificates, it shall be taken into consideration the minimum years required for obtaining them and their quality in accordance with the granting university's system and the requirements of the stage that preceded the stage of study for the certificate to be equated. The minimum period for obtaining the certificate shall be calculated in accordance with the period prescribed for it in accordance with the student's, the institute' or the university' guide, even if a student obtained it in a period less than that period.
- 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: It shall not be permissible to equate certificates that are six months less than the minimum period prescribed for obtaining them.
- 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.



Laws

Article 5

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

- 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: (*)

Article 6

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

First: It shall be preceded by an initial university certificate or high initial university certificate with its requirements, as stated in Article (5) of this law, that qualifies by its nature to obtain the higher certificate in accordance with the regulations of the university from which is graduated from, it shall be permissible to equate the higher university degree if its holder has obtained a certificate less than the initial university degree or the initial



Laws

higher degree, and supplementary exams have taken for him/ her that have made him/ her eligible for higher study in accordance with the awarding university's system.

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: The duration of residence for (non-research) Master's or Doctorate's studies outside Iraq shall be (4) four months, separate or continuous, for theoretical studies. As for studies that need laboratory or applied work, the duration of residence shall be (6) six months, separate or continuous.

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.
- 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.

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



Laws

recognition and on the bases and procedures of equivalency stipulated in this law and without any discrimination in treatment with others.

Third: Certificates issued by the parent universities or their branches in other countries shall be equated and evaluated in accordance with the bases stipulated in the provisions of this law.

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

The equivalency shall be carried out pursuant to the following approach:

First: Submitting application of forms organized by the Scholarships Department / Certificate Equivalency Section, accompanied by the following:

- a. Application form
- b. Form of Study step detail and important information accompanied by the following:
 1. Certificated original certificates or documents with a copy of each of them kept by the Section and a translation of them in Arabic or English for documents written in other languages.
 2. *Certificated* previous certificates or documents and their copies as needed
 3. Academic subjects and their degrees

Second: The Director General of the Department of Missions and Cultural Relations shall certify and inform the applicant of the decision.



Laws

Article 9

- First: The applicant may file grievance against the non-equivalency decision with the Minister or whomever he/ she authorizes or the Director General or whoever he/ she authorizes within (90) ninety days as of the date of the aforementioned decision's issuance.
- Second: The objector may file grievance against the decision if he/ she submits probative evidence, new justifications or official papers that were not previously submitted within a period not exceeding (5) five years.
- Third: The decision issued regarding the objection or grievance shall be subject to appeal before the Administrative Court within (60) sixty days as of the date of notification.

Article 10

The department shall refer the certificates that cannot be equated in application of these bases to the commission to decide on them, along with a note containing a full explanation of the case and the reasons for presenting it.

Article 11 (*)

Article 12

- First: An employee or a service-assigned person, members of the Parliament, ministers and those of their rank, minister deputies and those of their rank, general managers and those of their rank and higher special ranks may, with the approval of their departments, study at their own private expense or by study leave during employment or assignment to obtain the initial or higher university degree inside Iraq or abroad, regardless of age.



Laws

Second: (*)

Article 13

First: Applications for equivalency of previous certificates that have been rejected or not decided upon shall be reconsidered, provided that the application for equivalency is submitted by the relevant parties within a period not exceeding one year as of the date of entry into force of this law

Second: The initial and higher university degrees for the employees who obtained them without a study leave or without the approval of their departments shall be equated, and these degrees shall be taken into account for the purposes of bonuses, promotion and retirement for those obtained them before the enforcement of this law.

Third: The instructions for the bases of equivalency for Arab and foreign academic degrees and certificates No. (5) Of 1976 shall be repealed.

Article 14

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

Second: (*)

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.



Laws

Article 16

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



Laws

References

(*) Amended in accordance to the court's decision NO. (46) and its unified two parts (50) and (51) /federal/2020