



POLICY

**ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION OF
FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS**

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Relevant legislation	Higher Education Act 2008 Higher Education (Amendment) Act 2017 Higher Education (Qualifications) Regulations 2010 Higher Education (Qualifications) (Amendment) 2013
Related FHEC documents: procedures/guidelines, etc.	Fiji Higher Education Strategy 2-5 Procedures: Assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications 2-5 Form: Application for translation of foreign qualification Policy 2-1: Accreditation of programmes and qualifications offered by Higher Education Institutions Policy 2-2: Registration of qualifications on the FQF Policy 4-2: FQF qualifications register

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1.0 POLICY OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 To ensure that a foreign qualification is authentic and recognised in the country of the award.
- 1.2 To determine a foreign qualification's comparable level on the Fiji Qualifications Framework (FQF).

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 The Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) shall conduct the assessment of foreign qualifications held by individuals for comparability with qualifications registered and/or accredited on the FQF.
- 2.2 The FHEC shall determine the criteria and processes for the assessment of foreign qualifications.
- 2.3 An application for the assessment of a foreign qualification shall be made using the prescribed form and it shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- 2.4 The assessment of an application for the assessment of a foreign qualification for use within Fiji shall be deemed complete only after the following criteria have been met:
 - 2.4.1 The foreign qualification has been authenticated by the awarding Higher Education Institution (HEI) and the responsible regulatory agency; and
 - 2.4.2 The foreign qualification has been evaluated against the FQF.
- 2.5 An application shall be acknowledged within 24 hours of lodgement and assessed within sixty (60) days.
- 2.6 The FHEC will decline an application for recognition when, having made appropriate enquiries, it is unable after 60 days to obtain verification evidence from the issuing body and/or the national regulatory agency. In such circumstances fees will not be refunded.
- 2.7 Upon the completion of the assessment:
 - 2.7.1 The applicant will receive a notification from the Commission advising them of the result of the assessment.
- 2.8 From time to time, the FHEC may establish a relationship with a foreign national regulatory quality assurance agency, national qualifications framework agency or HEI prior to conducting an assessment of a foreign qualification or confirming the information for Fiji National Qualifications (NQs) and provider qualifications that are being assessed overseas.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Due to the constant developing nature of the higher education sector in Fiji, the legislation and regulations pertaining to the aforementioned sector were amended to incorporate the assessment of foreign qualifications.
- 3.2 The principal reason for the incorporation was due to the increasing number of migrant skilled workers and learners. For the purpose of giving proper recognition to an individual's foreign qualification and of comparing the same to that of its comparable level on the FQF, this policy has been developed.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Foreign qualification	A qualification that is offered by an institution that is established in a foreign country.
Foreign qualification recognition	The process of verifying that the knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country is comparable to the FQF standards.
Qualifications recognition	Accepting a qualification which meets a specific benchmark for a specific purpose.

5.0 APPROVAL BY THE CHAIRPERSON, FIJI HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



Dr Milika Sobey
Chairperson
Fiji Higher Education Commission

Date 24/08/17