

The head of the organisational unit (university or faculty), whose Council is responsible for the recognition procedure, determines the fee, taking into account the potential costs of undergoing and passing educational modules and exams. The cost of recognising a diploma depends on the university. The fee is paid regardless of the outcome of the proceedings. In the applicant is experiencing financial difficulties, the head of the Council carrying out the recognition procedure may at the applicant's request reduce the amount of the fee or exempt the applicant from paying it.

RECOGNITION OF SCIENTIFIC DEGREES

A degree awarded by an authorised institution operating in the higher education system of one of the EU, EFTA or OECD member states is considered equivalent to the relevant Polish degree.

If the degree was obtained in a country other than a member state of the EU, EFTA, OECD or in a country with which Poland has not signed an international agreement, the recognition procedure needs to be carried out.

The bodies responsible for recognition of foreign academic degrees are councils of organisational units at Polish higher education institutions or research institutes authorised to grant the academic degree of doktor habilitowany (doctor habilitatus) in the field of science or art in which the foreign degree was obtained.

More information:

<http://www.nauka.gov.pl/en/recognition-of-academic-qualifications/legal-acts.html>



Polish Migration Forum Foundation

Since 2007, we have been supporting foreigners living in Poland and working for the benefit of intercultural dialogue.

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We offer advice and consultations on:

- legalisation of stay in Poland,
- work and employment in Poland,
- establishing sole proprietorship (self-employment) or a limited liability company,
- social and health insurance (ZUS),
- labour market in Poland.

We can book you an appointment with:

- a psychologist – for adults and children,
- a career advisor,
- a lawyer,
- a development and company establishment specialist,
- an integration assistant.



A safe harbour.

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RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS IN POLAND | INFORMATION FOR FOREIGNERS IN POLAND



RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS IN POLAND

The process of recognition of higher education diplomas and degrees in Poland can be very simple or very complicated. A teacher, doctor, nurse, engineer, IT specialist, electrician, accountant - each of these people will have a different path to apply for recognition of their diploma or profession.

Legal status as at 01.12.2019 | Free leaflet



The way in which a foreign diploma is recognised in order for the holder to take up employment in Poland depends mainly on the country in which it was issued and whether the profession you intend to pursue is a regulated profession in Poland.

REGULATED PROFESSIONS

There is a special group of regulated professions in Poland. These are professions that can only be practised once a specific permit has been obtained, which is issued after meeting requirements set out in legal regulations (e.g. passing an exam, completing a mandatory professional apprenticeship, completing relevant training, etc.).

An up-to-date list of regulated professions can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regprof/index.cfm?action=regprofs>

Examples of popular professions from this list include: doctor, physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, veterinarian, carer of the elderly, dentist, dental assistant, architect, engineer, constructor, teacher, educator, psychotherapist, electrician and others.

The above professions require confirmation of qualifications in order to be able to practise them. This procedure is not connected to the procedure of applying for a work permit in Poland for persons who require such a permit. This means that **confirmation of qualifications is not equivalent to obtaining a work permit in Poland. Once you have obtained recognition of your qualification, you will also need a work permit.**

UNREGULATED PROFESSIONS

If a profession is not a regulated profession in Poland, the decision on whether to recognise foreign qualifications is made directly by the employer. They have the right to ask for confirmation that the foreign document is equivalent to the relevant Polish document or to ask for information on the level of education completed abroad.

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES

A higher education diploma is a diploma issued by an authorised institution operating in the higher education system of an EU, OECD or EFTA member state after completing:

- 3-year studies or first-cycle studies lasting at least 3 years - in Poland it confirms that the holder has higher education qualifications at the level of first-cycle studies;
- second-cycle studies or uniform university studies lasting at least 4 years - in Poland it confirms that the holder has higher education qualifications at the level of second-cycle studies.

A foreign higher education diploma issued by an institution operating in a country other than the abovementioned states may be recognised as equivalent to the relevant Polish diploma on the basis of an international agreement or (in case of absence of such an agreement) by way of the official recognition procedure.

If you need written information about the possibility of having a foreign diploma recognised in Poland, for example in order to take up employment or continue studies, you can contact the National Academic Exchange Agency (NAWA) (<https://nawa.gov.pl/>).

DIPLOMA RECOGNITION

Recognition is a procedure for recognising a higher education degree obtained from a university in another country. If successful, it gives the holder the possibility to use a Polish professional title or academic degree.

RECOGNITION PROCEDURE

The entities responsible for carrying out the procedure of recognising foreign diplomas are organisational units operating at Polish

higher education institutions authorised to grant the academic degree of doktor (doctor) in a specific field of science or art corresponding to the higher education course completed abroad.

To have a diploma recognised, you should apply to the Faculty or Academic Council. The following should be attached to the application:

- the original and a copy of the diploma obtained abroad which the foreigner is applying to have recognised;
- copy of a school graduation certificate or school completion certificate on the basis of which the applicant was admitted to the higher education course for which the diploma was obtained;
- curriculum vitae in Polish;
- declaration that the diploma obtained abroad has not been the subject of recognition proceedings at any Polish university before.

Before a diploma is recognised, the Council may also adopt a resolution on the need for the applicant to pass educational modules or pass specific exams. This usually involves paying tuition fees and exam fees.

The recognition procedure should be completed within 3 months from the date of submission of all necessary documents or one month after completion of the required educational modules and passing exams.

If the Council rejects the application, the person applying for diploma recognition may lodge a complaint with the Chancellor. The deadline for lodging such a complaint is not strictly defined.

If the Council decides to recognise the diploma, the applicant should receive a certificate confirming equivalence of the diploma obtained abroad to a higher university diploma obtained in Poland. This certificate must be presented together with the original diploma obtained abroad.

The procedure for recognising a diploma may prove problematic, complicated and costly in practice. A higher education institution may request translation of the Master's dissertation (or doctoral dissertation) into Polish. There may also be problems with completing the required apprenticeships, which are unpaid and lengthy.