

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WES CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have taken the first step toward getting your education recognized in Canada. Your WES credential evaluation report highlights your academic achievements and serves as verification of your qualifications. Your credential evaluation report can help you:

- ✓ Meet requirements for university or college admissions
- ✓ Transfer credits
- ✓ Obtain professional licensing and employment

YOUR WES CREDENTIAL EVALUATION REPORT

Your credential evaluation report is provided through the WES Gateway Program. Credential evaluation consists of weighing all relevant factors and determining an equivalency, which, in the best judgment of WES experts, reflects the value of your credentials in Canadian terms.

Your credential evaluation report describes each credential you have earned using standard Canadian education terminology. The report provides an equivalency statement comparing the credential you earned to a similar credential in Canada. WES evaluations are offered as non-binding advisory opinions and based upon the best information and resources available to professional evaluators.

ABOUT WES

Founded in 1974, World Education Services Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with international education to achieve their higher education and professional goals. WES has set the standard of excellence in the field of international mobility with credential evaluation services reaching almost two million people over the course of its history. WES evaluation reports are recognized by more than 2,500 educational, business, and governmental institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada.

ABOUT THE WES GATEWAY PROGRAM

The WES Gateway Program seeks to further the academic and career goals of qualified individuals who, because of adverse circumstances in their country of education, lack standard proof of academic achievement.

Through the Gateway Program, WES can reliably validate and assess the education of individuals displaced by political unrest, conflict, and natural disasters even when verifiable documents are not available. The Gateway Program provides qualified participants with a high-quality credential evaluation report that can be accepted and recognized by employers, higher education institutions, and regulatory bodies throughout Canada.

EDUCATIONAL TERMS USED IN WES EVALUATIONS

Admission requirements: The minimum academic requirements for admission to a program.

Associate degree: An undergraduate degree that typically requires two years of full-time study.

Bachelor's degree: A college or university degree awarded upon completion of approximately four years of full-time study.

Certificate: A qualification awarded on completion of designated course work at the post-secondary or post-graduate level.

Course-by-course analysis: Indicates all subjects taken for a specific program or credential when an applicant provides complete academic transcripts. In the WES Gateway Program, if an applicant can provide only partial academic transcripts or other documentation, the analysis may be a reconstruction of course work likely undertaken.

Credential recognition: A decision made by an institution to recognize the validity of a credential earned in a country other than Canada to meet requirements for admission, licensing, or employment.

Document-by-document analysis: Indicates that an analysis of the credential was done by analyzing relevant documents, such as a transcript, mark sheet, or degree certificate.

Diploma: A qualification awarded on completion of a two- or three-year post-secondary program.

Earned doctorate (PhD): Highest academic degree awarded on the basis of graduate-level course work, examinations, research, and dissertation.

Equivalency statement: A statement on the credential evaluation report that compares the credential you earned in your country of education with a comparable credential in Canada.

First professional degree: The first professional degree in a given field (such as Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Dentistry) is usually awarded on completion of professional study. This title alone may not be sufficient to allow the bearer to practice in Canada unless additional licensing requirements are met.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The weighted mathematical average on a 4.0 scale of the quality of academic work as indicated by grades given for all individual courses.

Graduate study: Study or program undertaken after a bachelor's degree, usually in preparation for a master's or doctoral degree.

Institutional status: The status of an academic institution or program. Credentials issued by a recognized, accredited institution abroad are more likely to be recognized in Canada.

Major: An area of academic concentration or specialization.

Master's degree: A post-baccalaureate degree in a specific field, awarded on the basis of completion of course work (usually one to three years of study) and often a written thesis or project.

Official documents: Documents issued by the institution attended or the institution that awarded the degree, diploma, or certificate. If you were unable to obtain your official documents, your evaluation is issued through the WES Gateway Program.

Post-secondary: An institution or program of study that requires the completion of secondary study prior to admission.

Professional study: Study and training to become a practitioner of a specific profession, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, etc.

Semester credit/credit hour: A way to measure the time assigned to a course or course-equivalent. The average annual credit load carried by an undergraduate student in Canada is 30-36 semester credits.

DETAILS OF YOUR WES REPORT

The “equivalency statement” is the most important part of your WES evaluation. It helps you and others understand how your educational accomplishments compare to similar credentials earned in Canada.

If you are using your report for admission to a college or university, your report will include a course-by-course analysis listing all subjects completed at the post-secondary level and providing a semester credit and grade equivalent for each subject. Credits correspond to a full-time course load carried by a student enrolled in a similar program at a Canadian institution.

When the number of subjects or credits completed in your country of education varies from the Canadian standard, WES converts them into Canadian semester credit equivalents as appropriate. If you were able to submit a transcript, WES experts conducted a grade analysis and calculated a grade point average (GPA).

GET ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVICE

A credential evaluation is just the first step in your journey. Reach your highest potential with expert tools, training, and advice about studying and working in Canada.

Visit wes.org/ca/advisor-blog/.

MY ACCOUNT

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Visit wes.org/ca/myaccount.

USING YOUR WES CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

Your WES credential evaluation report is designed to help you continue your education, obtain licensure, or take the next step in your career. So, for instance, if you are using your report for employment, you should be sure to add the WES Equivalency Statement next to your international education on your résumé.

Remember, however, that your WES credential evaluation report is an advisory opinion. In Canada, the decision to recognize credentials rests with the academic institution, regulatory body, or employer. That means you may have to advocate for receiving credit for your international education. This may be especially true in your case, where WES could not verify your academic documents with your academic institution using its standard process. You may be asked to take additional steps to confirm your academic background, or your documents may be subject to further review or corroboration.

You now have a valuable tool in your hands for advocating for the recognition of your credentials.

GAINING RECOGNITION OF YOUR CREDENTIALS

With a WES credential evaluation report in hand, you can speak confidently about the value of the education you received abroad. You may find it useful to speak directly with an employer, admissions officer or regulatory body about recognizing your qualifications. Achieving full recognition is not always possible; however, here are some other options you can explore:

- ✓ **Partial recognition:** The institution recognizes the part of your credential that it is able to corroborate. This gives you a foundation for further training to complete your qualification.
- ✓ **Alternative recognition:** The institution recognizes your credentials as meeting requirements for a different professional qualification than the one you earned in your country of education.
- ✓ **Conditional recognition:** The institution recognizes your credentials on the condition that you meet certain future requirements or demonstrate your competence. For example:
 - For education, on the condition that you complete the first full semester or year having earned certain minimum grades or higher in all courses.
 - For employment, on the condition that you undergo monthly performance reviews for the first three or six months, or complete a training program or internship.
 - For professional licensing/certification, on the condition that you complete additional training.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

Sometimes employers, academic institutions, or regulatory bodies may ask that, on top of providing them with a WES credential evaluation report, you also prove your knowledge and abilities by undergoing further assessment. You can also suggest this strategy yourself if there is any doubt about your competency.

For example, you may be asked to:

- Submit your education and experience for “prior learning assessment,” a formal process offered by some universities to gain academic credit or admission
- Write or sit for an examination
- Provide a portfolio or sample of work, particularly published work, that can be reviewed by a professional in the field
- Complete a special project that can prove your competence in your field of study. A professor or recognized professional should assign and review it
- Complete a skills assessment or audit, in which skills specific to your field are tested through a series of tasks or a simulation activity

For more information on how you can advocate for recognition of your international qualifications, visit wes.org/ca/advisor-blog/.

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