



University of Gastronomic Sciences
Università degli Studi
di Scienze Gastronomiche

REGULATION
FOR ACADEMIC RECOGNITION
OF FOREIGN
RESEARCH DOCTORATE QUALIFICATION
(Approved by the Faculty Council of 28/09/2022
And Executive Committee of 29/09/2022)

Academic recognition of foreign research doctorate qualification

Art. 1 – Introduction

These Regulations standardize the methods and terms with which the University complies with the provisions of Law no. 15 of 15/05/2022, Art. 1, paragraph 28-quinquies, point 3.2, about academic recognition and conferral of legal value on foreign research doctorate degrees.

Art. 2 – Receipt of requests for academic recognition of foreign doctorate

Holders of a research doctorate obtained abroad have the right to send a request for academic recognition of their qualification to the University by writing to rettore@unisg.it.

Requests for academic recognition of foreign doctorate degrees must be submitted to the University only if:

- the University has initiated a Doctoral Course with the right to issue Research Doctorate qualifications.
- the foreign Doctoral Program in which the applicant obtained the doctorate refers to scientific-disciplinary sectors pertaining to a Doctorate offered by the University.

If the aforementioned requirements are not met, the University cannot proceed with the evaluation of the external Doctoral qualification for its academic recognition.

The University is required to complete the evaluation procedure aimed at issuing academic recognition of the foreign doctoral qualifications within 60 days once it receives complete documentation from the applicant referred to in the following article.

Art. 3 –Required documentation

The purpose of this required documentation for the academic recognition of a foreign doctoral qualification is to demonstrate to the Evaluation Committee, referred to in the following art. 3, about the nature of the foreign system and the qualification to be evaluated.

Candidates interested in requesting academic recognition of their foreign doctoral qualification are required to submit the following documentation:

- a. Copy of the official foreign doctorate corresponding,
 - i. to the third cycle, according to the qualification framework of the Bologna Process.
 - ii. to level 8, according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
 - iii. to level 8, according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) to level 6, according to ISCED pre-2011,

obtained at a foreign official higher education institution.

The University has the right to request that the copy of the foreign doctoral qualification mentioned above be accompanied by a Statement of comparability issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC center (CIMEA), with a certificate from foreign official bodies or by any declaration of value, if it is issued by the authorized diplomatic-consular mission.

- b. Diploma Supplement, if required for doctoral studies by the foreign system, or alternatively, attestation/certification issued by the authorized foreign higher education institution certifying the nature and activities of the doctoral research and studies carried out for the purpose of obtaining the final qualification, in addition to the indication of the number of years of the course.
- c. Documentation in reference to the verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification, or verification certificate issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC center (CIMEA) or legalization (such as the Hague Apostille, where applicable) of the documents presented.

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- d. Copy of the doctoral thesis and/or reference of the web address of the university or library repository in which the approved thesis is retained and can be consulted, or indication of the references of the competent office where access can be requested for the correspondence verification.
- e. Copy of the Italian or foreign second cycle qualification with which access was gained to the foreign doctorate program.
- f. Italian translations of the requested documents if any.
- g. Copy of an identity document.
- h. Any other documentation, such as a CV, cover letters, etc.

Art. 4 - Evaluation Committee for the academic recognition of the doctoral qualifications

The Rector, with his Decree, annually appoints the Committee in charge of evaluating the foreign doctoral qualifications for which the request for academic recognition has been addressed to the University.

The Commission is made up of three tenured professors at the University of Gastronomic Sciences or of another Italian or international university, of which at least one is a full professor.

The Committee appoints a President and a Secretary among its members.

Art. 5 – Evaluation Criteria

The Committee carries out the evaluation of foreign Doctorate for which the University has received the request for academic recognition, for the purpose of issuing a final Italian Doctorate, with the legal value of the Italian university system.

The Committee carries out the evaluation based on the Guidelines for the academic recognition of foreign doctorate, attached to these Regulations (Annex 1), which indicate:

- requirements and characteristics that the foreign doctorate must necessarily satisfy in order to obtain academic recognition in our university system.
- some methodological indications.

Art. 6 – Evaluation procedure

The Committee carries out its evaluation activity collectively, also making use of telematic tools.

The Committee acquires the documentation sent to the University by the applicant for academic recognition of the foreign doctorate. The Committee has the right to ask the applicant for additional documents deemed useful for the purposes of the evaluation.

The Committee draws up a report of the recognition process which includes proof of the evaluation.

The Committee carries out its evaluation activity within 60 days of receipt of the complete documentation pursuant to art. 3 of this Regulation. The Rector has the right to grant the Committee an extension of a further 30 days, upon a justified request from the Committee itself.

Art. 7 –Result of the evaluation procedure

Once the evaluation activity has been completed, the Committee issues a certificate (Annex 2) to the applicant who requested academic recognition of the doctoral qualification obtained abroad in which the University certifies:

- a. the academic recognition of the doctorate issued by the foreign higher education institution with the consequent direct release of the corresponding Italian research doctorate, in the event that the evaluation ascertains compliance with all the requirements.

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- b. the conferment of the corresponding Italian doctorate is subject to a conditional obligation that the holder of the foreign qualification is to fulfill some requirements of a purely disciplinary nature related to the learning outcomes and specific objectives required to obtain the Italian qualification present in the educational offer of the University;
- c. the denial of recognition if the required requirements are not met.



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GUIDELINES
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FOREIGN
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1. Regulatory and documental references

- Law n. 15 of 15/05/2022, Art. 1, paragraph 28-quinquies, point 3.2

*Regardless of citizenship possessed by the candidate, "academic recognition and conferral of legal value on foreign higher education qualifications, foreign research doctorates and foreign academic qualifications obtained in the artistic, musical and dance sector **is foreseen by Italian higher education institutions** pursuant to of article 2 of the law of 11 July 2002, n. 148. This is also valid for qualifications obtained in countries other than those signatories of the Convention on the recognition of qualifications relating to higher education in the European Region, made in Lisbon on 11 April 1997, ratified pursuant to the aforementioned law no. 148 of 2002. The academic recognition produces the legal effects of the corresponding Italian qualification, also for the purposes of public competitions for access to public employment".*

- Law n. 148 of 11/07/2002, art. 2

*The competence for the recognition of cycles and periods of study carried out abroad and foreign qualifications, for the purposes of access to higher education, the continuation of university studies, and the achievement of Italian university qualifications, **is attributed to the Universities** and to university education institutes, who exercise it autonomously in accordance with their respective regulations, without prejudice to bilateral agreements on this matter.*

- Guidelines for the recognition of foreign research doctorate degrees in Italy

Doc CIMEA 137 – July 2022 – edited by Luca Lantero

The Law n. 15 of 15/05/2022, art. 1, paragraph 28-quinquies, point 3.2, modified the text of art. 38, paragraph 3, of Legislative Decree 165/2001¹, introducing for the first time in the Italian legal system the possibility of recognizing foreign doctoral qualifications for academic purposes directly by higher education institutions, according to the rules established by art. 2 of Law 148/2002.

This means that **the competence for the recognition of doctoral qualifications obtained abroad**, or rather the competence of verifying equivalence of the aforementioned qualifications, once held by the offices of the Ministry of University and Research pursuant to art. 74 of Presidential Decree 382/80², **is now the responsibility of higher education institutions.**

The application of the art. 2 of Law 148/2002 to doctoral qualifications also

- ✓ transfers responsibility for the academic recognition procedures of these qualifications from the Ministry to the Universities.
- ✓ goes beyond the concept of "equivalence", incorporating the **recognition of foreign doctorates for academic purposes** within the procedures and principles dictated by the [Lisbon Convention](#).

2. Purpose of the recognition of the foreign doctorate qualification

The art. 2 of Law 148/2002 identifies two categories of recognition:

- a) in recognition of cycles and periods of the study carried out abroad, which can be divided into
 - i. recognition of credits,
 - ii. recognition of periods of study

¹ In cases in which a community-level discipline has not intervened, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department of Public Administration, after consultation with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, decides for the equivalence of educational and professional qualifications. The same procedure establishes the equivalence between the relevant academic and service qualifications for the purposes of admission to the competition and for appointment.

² Those who have obtained a research doctorate or similar academic qualification from non-Italian universities can request recognition by direct application to the Ministry of Public Education.

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b) recognition of the final foreign qualification.

The procedure for the recognition of the doctorate qualification obtained abroad.

- falls into the category referred to in letter b) "recognition of the foreign final qualification".
- has the objective of **issuing an Italian final qualification of the same nature, therefore having the legal value of our university system.**

3. Evaluation and recognition of the foreign qualification for the purpose of obtaining the doctorate in Italy

The evaluation of a foreign Doctorate aimed at obtaining the Italian doctorate is intended to verify that the foreign title meets all the following **requirements**:

1. be an official third-cycle doctoral degree of the foreign system of reference, issued by an official institution of the foreign system,
2. confer the same academic rights in the foreign system of reference,
3. present the same nature and disciplinary elements of the corresponding Italian qualification in terms of duration, nature of research, and methods of obtaining,
4. there must be a research doctorate in the same sector with which the foreign qualification can be compared, both in terms of type and disciplinary sector.

Evaluation can produce the following **effects**:

- a. Direct release of the corresponding Italian doctorate qualification.
- b. Conditional release of the corresponding Italian doctorate qualification
- c. Denial of recognition of the foreign qualification in case of a "substantial difference".

3.1 – Direct release

The procedure ends with the **direct release of the corresponding Italian research doctorate qualification** provided that the evaluation ascertains compliance with all the four requirements listed above.

The aforementioned requirements apply to all students with a foreign doctorate qualification, regardless of their nationality, both for qualifications issued in European Union (EU) and non-EU countries.

3.2 – Conditional release

the **conferment** of the corresponding Italian doctorate is subject to a **conditional obligation** that the holder of the foreign qualification is to **fulfill some requirements of a purely disciplinary nature related to the learning outcomes and specific objectives** required to obtain the Italian qualification present in the educational offer of the University;

The requirements to be fulfilled refer exclusively to purely disciplinary aspects. Therefore, the conditional conferment procedure cannot fill the absence of other requirements (level of qualification, officiality of the qualification, duration, nature, officiality, and accreditation of the institution and course, etc.).

3.3 – Denial of recognition

The procedure ends with the **denial of recognition** if the above **requirements are not met**.

The denial also occurs if the procedure confirms one or more "**substantial differences**" between the foreign qualification and the Italian one, connected to the elements of the qualification and/or the institution that issued it.

4. Characteristics and elements of the foreign Doctorate for the purposes of its recognition in Italy

The academic recognition of the foreign doctoral qualification in Italy certifies that the title presents elements and characteristics suitable for its comparability in the Italian system.

In support of the evaluation activity aimed at academic recognition in Italy, the following describes the requirements and characteristics that foreign doctoral qualifications must satisfy in order to be recognized in the Italian legal system.

➤ **Be an official third-cycle doctorate degree of the said foreign system, issued by an official institution of the foreign system**

a. Officiality and denomination of the qualification

The foreign doctorate qualification must be "official" in the reference system and, therefore

- present in the regulations of the higher education system,
- accredited and/or recognized according to the rules of the issuing country,
- issued by a higher education institution that is given this authority at a national level.

Notes:

- ✓ *To verify the aforementioned requisites, it is necessary to refer to the official foreign sources of reference and to the information provided by the country in which the doctorate degree was issued.*
- ✓ *Officiality is a necessary condition, but not sufficient to guarantee recognition of the qualification.*

b. Status and nature of the institution that awarded the degree and of the institution that administered the studies, if different

The institution that awarded the doctorate must be

- An official institution in the reference system,
- equivalent in nature and characteristics to the Italian ones that issue Doctorate degrees.

Notes:

- ✓ *For systems in which the accreditation of higher education institutions is foreseen, it is necessary to verify that the qualification was issued within the time frame of validity of the accreditation.*
- ✓ *Not all foreign higher education institutions have the possibility of issuing doctorates that are comparable in level and nature to Italian doctorates. There are categories of institutions (for example, the University of Applied Sciences, Colleges, Higher Education Institutions, etc.) that cannot issue third-cycle degrees of a research nature or which issue doctoral degrees of a professional nature, i.e., non-comparable to Italian qualifications.*
- ✓ *In the case of a foreign doctoral qualification obtained after studies mainly carried out in Italy, the recognition of this qualification is subject to the accreditation procedure of the foreign institution operating in Italy. In this case, the procedure will have to verify whether there is a difference between the institution which issued the degree (awarding institution) and the one which administered the studies (teaching institution), or whether the latter operates in a system different from the institution that issued the final qualification. In these cases, therefore, the status of the institution that administered the studies and its accreditation/ recognition in the foreign system where it operates must also be verified, other than that of the issue of the final qualification, for the purpose of recognizing the qualification. If such accreditation does not exist or there is no proof of the authority to issue and/or organize foreign doctorate degrees and programs on the part of the institution where the studies are mainly organized and carried out, no recognition will be possible since there is a case of "substantial difference", even in the presence of doctoral qualification officially issued by the awarding institution.*

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➤ **Confer the same academic rights in the foreign system of reference**

a. Nature of the qualification

Only qualifications issued by doctorate courses are recognized that

- Prepare for research,
- are based on academic studies.

Notes:

- ✓ *The qualifications issued by doctorate courses pursuing professional objectives are not recognizable.*
- ✓ *For the purpose of recognizing the foreign doctorate title in Italy, it is necessary to consider the nature of the course followed and the obligations required to obtain the final title, in line with those of the current Italian legal system.*

b. Level of qualification

The level of the qualification evaluated is useful for its classification

- within a given national system
- or*
- according to international classification.

Notes:

- ✓ *It is fundamental to identify the parameter with which the level is indicated (EQF, Bologna Process, ISCED, etc.)*
- ✓ *The foreign doctorate qualifications must refer to the following established qualifications*
 - *to the 3rd cycle of the Bologna Process (QF-EHEA),*
 - *to level 8 EQF,*
 - *to level 8 ISCED 2011 or level 6 pre-2011.*
- ✓ *The fact that a qualification belongs to the aforementioned levels does not automatically imply its recognition in Italy as a research doctorate, since there are more qualifications at the same level in each framework of national qualifications.*

➤ **Present the same nature and disciplinary elements of the corresponding Italian qualification in terms of duration, nature of research, and methods of obtaining**

a. Duration

The foreign doctorate, for the purposes of its recognition, must have a minimum duration of three years.

Notes:

- ✓ *The evaluation must refer to the duration of obtaining the title as certified in the foreign system of reference and not to the number of credits obtained, an element that is not present in Italian doctorates.*
- ✓ *When an individual doctorate (PhD) title is issued for so-called "integrated" or "single-cycle" Doctorates, that includes/integrates also the years in which the previous second-cycle qualification was obtained, it is necessary to evaluate the duration of both qualifications, that is the number of years dedicated to the courses of the second cycle and those years dedicated the Doctorate where the three-year requirement for these doctoral studies must always be respected.*
- ✓ *In the case of doctorate courses identified by the foreign institution as part-time, or which do not require the doctoral candidate to commit to full-time for three years, this element can be considered as a case of substantial difference that may result in the denial of recognition of title.*

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b. Methods and qualifications to access doctoral studies

The evaluation for the recognition of the foreign Doctoral qualification must verify and validate the previous foreign or Italian qualification, the possession of which granted the candidate access to the foreign Doctorate Program.

Notes:

- *The previous qualification that allowed access to the foreign doctorate course must
 - *be comparable to a master's degree in Italy*
 - or*
 - *be an official second-cycle degree of an academic nature, also obtained abroad.**
- *The aforementioned second cycle qualification will not be recognized in our system, however, it must be present.*
- *Due to the lack of suitable qualifications required by the corresponding Italian regulation, foreign doctorate programs that can be accessed with a first-cycle academic qualification is not recognizable, even if these programs last more than three years.*

c. Methods of course delivery and contents

The evaluation of the course delivery methods must examine the elements present in the foreign system to verify whether these methods are present in the Italian legal system and in the institution that will have to deal with the evaluation of the training course for the purposes of the release of the Italian Research Doctorate.

Notes

- ✓ *The evaluation refers, for example, to the online and/or remote methods of providing courses, the part-time method, and other practices that differ substantially from the regulatory framework in force in Italy.*

➤ **There must be a doctorate in the same field with which the foreign qualification can be compared, both by typology and by disciplinary field**

a. Suitability of the University to evaluate the external doctorate qualifications for the purposes of its academic recognition

The University can evaluate a foreign doctorate qualification only

- if the University has the right to issue the doctorate,
- if the foreign doctorate program refers to the competition sector or, where possible, to the scientific-disciplinary sector pertaining to a doctorate offered by the Italian institution responsible for the recognition procedure.

5 –Methodological indications useful for the evaluation of the qualification.

In order to carry out the evaluation activity, the Committee will rely not only on the criteria listed above but also on the following methodological indications:

- a. The evaluation of foreign qualifications is carried out on a case-by-case basis, evaluating the individual qualification for the purpose of issuing the Italian doctorate.
- b. The denial of recognition is based on the concept of "substantial difference", both in consideration of the elements of the foreign qualification and the corresponding Italian qualification. It also considers the structural elements of the foreign reference system based on the general setting of the law and the Italian system of higher education.
- c. The different cycle/level relevance of a foreign qualification concerning the Italian one that is being evaluated for the purposes of its recognition and release is always to be considered as a "substantial difference". However, the relevance of this foreign qualification to the same cycle/level as the Italian one does not always imply any equivalence and/or recognition, given that the cycle/level is only one of the elements that make up a qualification, which must be evaluated together with all the other characteristics of the foreign qualification.
- d. The mere absence of a document required for the recognition procedure does not imply the impossibility of an evaluation unless this document is useful for its release, for proving the authenticity of the qualification, or contains one of the fundamental elements of the qualification that is useful for its correct evaluation.
- e. The assessment of the foreign qualification is possible only for official qualifications in the reference system and present in the educational offer of the institution, or issued by accredited/recognized institutions: not all qualifications considered official in a foreign system will be recognized in Italy if one or more substantial differences exist and, at the same time, not all qualifications issued by recognized/accredited institutions can be recognized if they do not constitute official qualifications in the reference system.
- f. The evaluation of a foreign qualification also considers the status of the institution that issued the qualification. The foreign institute which issued the qualification must be fully recognized/accredited throughout the national territory in which it operates. The mere authorization to operate, the mere fact that it is active in a given territory, the fact that there are different authorizations, different accreditations, and/or recognitions other than those established at a national level for the conferral of qualifications in the sector of national level higher education, or any other authorization that does not demonstrate that an institution has completed all the phases required by the accreditation/recognition procedures prescribed in the foreign system of reference for higher education institutions, including the circumstances of temporary and/or conditional accreditation, may not be considered proof of the official status of the foreign institution during the recognition process of the qualifications it issued.
- g. The evaluation of a foreign qualification considers the status of the institution that issued the final qualification (*awarding institution*) and of the one where the studies were actually carried out or which organized and/or administered them (*teaching institution*).
- h. It is possible to evaluate a foreign qualification where its correspondence is found in the Italian system, both in terms of typology and discipline.
- i. The evaluation is based on official documents in the original language issued by the country or foreign institution of reference, showing the details and whereabouts of the institutions and the qualifications of the reference system: any other document, such as translations, self-certifications, and any other comparison and/or correspondence referring to the official Italian

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qualifications, are to be considered to support the evaluation, but do not substitute the presentation of the official documentation required and do not influence the relative evaluation process.

- j. Achieving a foreign qualification through "special" procedures or study courses, which differ from the ordinary methods of issuing the title (such as honorary titles) or which are the result of evaluation operations carried out by foreign institutions or centers, are generally to be considered as cases of "substantial difference".
- k. In addition to knowledge of the elements of the qualification, the evaluation also considers the methods in which the foreign qualification was obtained/issued.
- l. A previous evaluation that has the same qualifications as its object does not have a binding effect on future evaluations, as the training course is to be considered an individual and unique case.

Annex 2



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- Given the Law 25/02/2022, n. 15, article 28-quinquies, which modified the guidelines of academic recognition and the conferment of the legal value of foreign doctorate degrees;
- Having learned the Guidelines for the academic recognition of foreign doctorate degrees in Italy - DOC CIMEA 137 - of July 2022;
- Having regard to the approval by the Faculty Council on 28/09/2022 and by the Executive Committee on 29/09/2022 of the Regulations for the academic recognition of foreign doctoral qualifications and the University Guidelines for the academic recognition of foreign doctorate degrees in Italy;
- Having regard to the appointment of the University Committee appointed with DR ____ of ____, in charge of evaluating the academic recognition and the conferment of the legal value of foreign doctoral qualifications, for which the interested parties have submitted a request to the University;
- Having acknowledged the request for academic recognition presented on ____ by _____ of the foreign doctorate in _____ issued by _____;
- Having acknowledged the evaluation results from the aforementioned Committee;

The University of Gastronomic Sciences attests

the **academic recognition** of the Doctorate _____ obtained by Dr. _____ at _____, on _____.

the **conferment** of the corresponding Italian doctorate in _____ obtained by Dr. _____ at _____, on _____, **on a conditional obligation** that the holder of the foreign qualification, **is to fulfill the following requirements of disciplinary nature related to the learning outcomes and the specific objectives** required to obtain the Italian qualification included in the University's educational offer:

- _____
- _____

the **denial of academic recognition** of the doctorate in _____ obtained by Dr. _____ at _____, dated _____.

Bra, Pollenzo, _____

University of Gastronomic Sciences
The Rector
Prof. Bartolomeo Biolatti