



Mexico No. 1 (2015)

Agreement

on the Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Awards, Titles,
Diplomas and Academic Degrees between the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of
the United Mexican States

London, 2 March 2015

[The Agreement is not in force]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
July 2015*



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**AGREEMENT ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AWARDS, TITLES, DIPLOMAS AND ACADEMIC
DEGREES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Mexican States, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of the Agreement of Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Mexican States signed in Mexico City on the 25th of February 1975;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of student exchanges and international cooperation for knowledge transfer, the strengthening of capabilities, the promotion of labour mobility, and the development of their own societies;

CONSIDERING the need to increase cooperation and mobility between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Mexican States to facilitate mutual understanding of their respective education and academic degrees systems, according to their quality assurance systems, and encouraging academic and labour mobility;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Agreement is the mutual recognition of the higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees awarded by the education system from each Party according to their legal requirements and those referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article and others established by the Parties in the Annex of this Agreement, based on the principle of reciprocity.
2. Each Party shall recognise the higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees awarded by higher education institutions officially authorised from the other Party, referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.
3. In the case of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the universities and other educational institutions are those listed in the Education (Recognised Bodies) (England) Order 2013 (including any institutions listed in that Order as it is amended or replaced from time to time), and those educational institutions for which the former Council for National Academic Awards was the degree-awarding body from 1964 to 1993.

4. In the case of the United Mexican States, the universities and other higher education institutions shall be those integrated in the National Education System (*Sistema Educativo Nacional*) and that have programs duly accredited by the Ministry of Public Education of the United Mexican States.

5. For the mutual recognition of other higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees that fail to meet the aforementioned requirements for mutual recognition, the procedure currently in effect in each Party shall continue to apply.

ARTICLE 2

Designated Government Departments and Designated Contact Points

1. The Ministry of Public Education of the United Mexican States and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are the Designated Government Authorities, which shall advise on guidelines, adjustments and solution mechanisms related to this Agreement.

2. The Undersecretariat for Higher Education of the Ministry of Public Education of the United Mexican States and the Higher Education Directorate of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are the Designated Contact Points for the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Scope of Applicability

1. The guidelines, adjustments and mechanisms for the mutual recognition referred to in Article 1, shall be established in an Annex, signed by the Parties which shall have equal validity and legal effects as this Agreement, containing outlines of the respective higher education systems Parties, including degree structure, teaching and education programs of each Party, progression routes, and accreditation and quality assurance systems, and any other aspects deemed necessary by the Parties in order to provide context to qualification comparison statements.

2. For the recognition of higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees awarded prior to the existence of the current quality assurance systems, the procedure currently in effect in each country shall apply. In the case of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the starting date of the quality assurance system corresponds to the authorisation by a Royal Charter or Act of Parliament given to the Recognised Bodies to award degrees, as set out in Article

1.3 of this Agreement. For degrees awarded by the former Council for National Academic Award the starting date is September 1964.

ARTICLE 4

Recognition Effects

The recognition of the higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees stated in this Agreement shall be effective only for validation of studies and shall have the effects that the Parties award to their own official qualifications.

ARTICLE 5

Bilateral Technical Committee

1. The Parties, through the Designated Government Authorities, shall establish within ninety (90) days after the date on which this Agreement enters into force, a Bilateral Technical Committee formed by specialists in the matters object of this Agreement.

2. The terms about periodicity, place and date of the meetings of the Bilateral Technical Committee shall be established by the Designated Government Authorities.

3. The Bilateral Technical Committee shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- To draft the Annex described in Article 3 in this Agreement.
- To establish the mechanisms for exchange of information, consult and advise in order to define the equivalence between the content in each educational system.
- To update the terms and requirements for the recognition of higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees in order to assure that higher education studies have been performed.
- To propose to the Parties simplified procedures for the recognition of higher education awards, titles, diplomas and academic degrees.
- To call extraordinary meetings proposed by any Party.
- To evaluate and monitor the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

Information Update or Rectification

Each Party shall give notice to the other, through the Designated Government Authorities referred to in Article 2, of any amendments or changes to the higher education system of their respective countries that are relevant to the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

Settlement of Disputes

In case of any dispute as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, it shall be settled through direct discussion between the Parties, through the Designated Government Authorities referred to in Article 2, with written proof of the discussion.

ARTICLE 8

Entry into Force

1. Each of the Parties shall notify the other upon completion of their respective internal constitutional and legal procedures required to allow this Agreement to enter into force. This Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date of receipt of the latter notification.

2. This Agreement can be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, executed through written communications. Such amendments shall come into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE 9

Termination

1. This Agreement shall have an indefinite term. It may be terminated by either Party by giving written notice to the other, through diplomatic channels. This Agreement shall cease to be in force one (1) year after the date of receipt of such notice.

2. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the recognition procedures that were engaged or initiated during its validity.

Done at London on the Second day of March of two thousand and fifteen in two originals, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED MEXICAN STATES:**

GREG CLARK

EMILIO CHUAYFFERT CHEMOR

**MINISTER FOR UNIVERSITIES,
SCIENCE AND CITIES**

**MINISTER OF
PUBLIC EDUCATION**

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