



Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada

TORONTO, APRIL 11, 2025 — The Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC) continues in their ongoing and collective efforts with respect to alleviating hardship faced by refugees seeking academic credential recognition in Canada, as Canada’s domestic process to prepare for the ratification of the 2019 UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education¹ (2019 Global Convention) continues to progress. This work will be achieved through collaboration on the UNESCO Qualifications Passport for Refugees and Vulnerable Migrants (UQP or UNESCO Qualifications Passport),² an initiative developed under the aegis of UNESCO.

To that end, members of the ACESC have agreed in principle to accept UQP documentation issued to an applicant, if and when such documentation is presented to any of their organizations in Canada for their review. An applicant’s UQP documentation could be used—along with additional information such as identification and/or educational documentation—to inform the organization’s alternative assessment procedure for applicants without access to verifiable documentation under the Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials (QAF). In turn, the organization would prepare a new assessment report for the applicant to help ensure favourable acceptance of documentation by competent recognition bodies in Canada—that is, educational institutions, professional regulatory authorities and associations, immigration authorities, and employers. In addition, selected senior academic credential assessors employed by participating ACESC organizations may undergo training on the UQP assessment methodology, in concert with their colleagues from other national information centres, and, subsequently, they may also take part in virtual and/or in-person assessment sessions with applicants seeking a UQP. The latter is subject to resource availability by UNESCO, participating ACESC organizations, and senior academic credential assessors.

In parallel, the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) was invited to contribute to the UQP Technical Advisory Group as subject-matter experts supporting the initiative, alongside representatives from other national information centres, the UNESCO Secretariat, and other allied organizations.

The collaboration between members of the ACESC, CICIC, and the UNESCO Qualifications Passport initiative also draws from the experiences and successes of the European

¹ UNESCO. November 2019. *Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/global-convention-recognition-qualifications-concerning-higher-education>.

² UNESCO. *UNESCO Qualifications Passport for Refugees and Vulnerable Migrants (UQP or UNESCO Qualifications Passport)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unesco.org/en/emergencies/qualifications-passport>.

Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR),³ developed by the Council of Europe, within the framework of the 1997 Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention or LRC).

About the UNESCO Qualifications Passport

UNESCO is the Secretariat of the 2019 Global Convention and is coordinating this initiative. The UNESCO Qualifications Passport (also known as the UQP) effectively becomes one practical tool facilitating the implementation of Article VII of the 2019 Global Convention: *Recognition of Partial Studies and Qualifications Held by Refugees and Displaced Persons*.

The UNESCO Qualifications Passport (UQP) itself is a standardized statement issued by UNESCO to refugees or vulnerable migrants. Although the UQP does not constitute a formal recognition or authorization act, the UQP standardized statement summarizes and presents available information on the qualifications a given refugee or vulnerable migrant is likely to have, based on available evidence. The assessment methodology is based on a combination of a review of all available documentation and the use of a structured interview with the applicant. Academic credential assessors are recruited and selected by relevant local competent recognition authorities. These assessors are provided both with training on the UQP assessment methodology as well as with practical experience with applicants.

About the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC)

Within their mandate, ACESC members issue [assessment reports for general purposes](#) to outline expert, nonbinding opinions on the comparability of academic credentials issued outside Canada, and to determine whether these credentials are comparable to those found in provincial and territorial education systems in Canada. These reports are widely used by competent recognition authorities in Canada that require assistance with document authentication and comparability procedures. In turn, competent recognition authorities use the ACESC reports to inform their binding decisions on internationally educated applicants seeking to settle in Canada to work or study. ACESC has supported millions of internationally educated individuals seeking fair evaluation of their academic credentials throughout Canada.

ACESC has six members: the Comparative Education Service (CES); the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS); the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES); the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS); the *Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration du Québec (MIFI)*; and World Education Services (WES) Canada.

³ Council of Europe. *European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR)*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications>.

Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC). July 24, 2018. *ACESC statement on the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) project*. Retrieved from: https://canalliance.org/docs/EN-ACESC_statement_on_the_EQPR.pdf.

About the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

CICIC is a unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and is Canada's national information centre under UNESCO conventions related to the recognition of qualifications. CICIC assists in the adoption of best practices set by these conventions and functions as ACESC's Secretariat. The precursor of ACESC was the Provincial Assessment Committee (PAC), a CMEC committee formed in the mid-1990s to assist in fulfilling Canada's obligations under the LRC.

For more information, visit ACESC at CanAlliance.org. CICIC also provides an [FAQ](#) on the 2019 Global Convention.

Information

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