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Guidance

How you make an application for recognition of overseas qualifications

Updated 8 March 2022

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Background

If you did not get your qualification in England you will have to make an application for recognition to work as a qualified member of staff in an early years setting in England.

Applications for recognition

The Early Years Service provided by [UK National Information Centre \(UK ENIC\)](#) ended on 31 December 2020. As of 1 January 2021, applications for recognition of overseas qualifications should now be sent for the attention of the early years workforce team.

Recognition will be granted where qualifications are comparable in scope, content and level to either of the following:

- [early years educator \(EYE\) qualifications criteria](#)
- [early years practitioner \(EYP\) qualifications criteria](#)

You should include the following in your request for recognition email to the early

years workforce team:

- confirmation of either the EYE or EYP criteria that you want the qualification to be compared to
- photos of the final qualification certificate
- your transcript, including a full breakdown of the content of the modules studied. Please provide us with as much detail as you can.
- a statement of comparability (SoC) from UK ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) - the SoC will also need to include details of any English and maths qualifications obtained overseas to fulfil the literacy and numeracy requirements for level 3 early years educators

You can start an application for a [UK ENIC Statement of Comparability](#) on their website.

If any of the documents are not in English, we will need certified translations. The translations need to show the qualification title.

We are unable to assess your request without the required evidence.

Email all your evidence to the early years workforce team at: earlyyearsoverseas.qualifications@education.gov.uk

There are literacy and numeracy requirements for all candidates holding overseas qualifications.

Decisions already received from DfE about qualifications achieved outside of England for working in the EYE or EYP staffing ratios will remain recognised and valid.

If you trained as a teacher overseas, you may be able to obtain qualified teacher status (QTS). This would enable you to work in early years or in primary schools. For more information, read [qualified teacher status \(QTS\): qualify to teach in England](#).

Level 2 literacy and numeracy qualifications

Holders of level 3 qualifications started after 1 September 2014 will also need to hold a suitable level 2 qualification in literacy and numeracy.

Staff who have registered for a qualification since 1 September 2014 that meets the full and relevant criteria must also have suitable level 2 literacy and numeracy qualifications to count towards the EYFS staff:child ratios at level 3.

These are:

English

- functional skills qualification in English at level 2
- GCSE or International GCSE qualification in English language and/or literature to at least grade C (grade 4)

- key skills qualification in communication at level 2
- A level or AS level qualification in English language and/or English literature to at least grade E
- O level qualification in English to at least grade C
- CSE grade 1 English (language)
- Basic skills certificate L2, certificate in adult literacy
- British Sign Language (BSL) for people who use BSL as their primary language

Also recognised: Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh equivalents.

Maths

- functional skills qualification in maths at level 2
- GCSE or International GCSE qualification in maths to at least grade C (grade 4)
- key skills qualification in application of number at level 2
- A level or AS level qualification in maths or pure maths and/or further maths to at least grade E
- O level qualification in maths to at least grade C
- CSE grade 1 maths
- Basic skills certificate L2, certificate in adult numeracy

Also recognised: Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh equivalents.

Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish qualifications

The early years educator qualifications that started on 1 September 2014 are for England only. Anyone with a qualification from another nation of the UK, who you want to count at level 3 in the EYFS staff:child ratios, may need to:

- take additional modules as part of their course
- attain appropriate level 2 literacy and numeracy qualifications

Qualifications started after September 2014 for learners from Wales and Northern Ireland

People with a level 3 children's care learning and development (Wales and NI) qualification must have achieved the following 4 optional units:

- R/504/2191 - Support children's language, literacy and communication
- L/504/2190 - Support children's mathematical development
- A/601/0121 - Work with babies and young children to promote their development and learning
- M/502/3812 - Engage with parents in their children's early learning

Qualifications started after September

2014 for learners from Scotland

People with a Scottish Vocational Qualification 3: children's care, learning and development at SCQF level 7, who wish to count at level 3 in the EYFS staff:child ratios, also need to achieve the following 5 optional units:

- DA09 04 (CCLD 345) - Support literacy development
- DA0A 04 (CCLD 346) - Help pupils to develop their numeracy skills
- DT1N 04 (CCLD 325) - Support children and young people during transitions in their lives
- DT1G 04 (CCLD 321) - Support children with additional support needs and their families
- DR8M 04 (CCLD 309) - Plan and implement curriculum frameworks for early education

People with a Scottish Vocational Qualification 3: SVQ 3 Social Services (Children and Young People) SCQF level 7, who wish to count at level 3 in the EYFS staff:child ratios, must have achieved the following 4 optional units:

- SCDCCLD0303 - Promote the development of children and young people
- SCDCCLD0309 - Implement frameworks for early education through the development of curriculum planning
- SCDCCLD0339 - Promote the care, learning and development of children with additional support needs in early education settings
- SCDCCLD0345 - Promote literacy, numeracy and language development for children's early learning

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