



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

As the first United Nations treaty on higher education with a global scope, the Convention provides the normative foundations for expanding transnational institutional cooperation in learning, teaching and research.

It reinforces equitable education communities built on the principles of knowledge sharing, innovative cooperation and global citizenship.



Why do we need a Global Convention?

Today 5 million students study abroad and 2.5 million study outside their home region. This number is expected to grow in the years to come.

The Global Convention will help students move around the world to pursue their studies and research through:

- creating a global framework for fair, transparent and non-discriminatory recognition of higher education qualifications;
- providing a global platform for national authorities to collaborate across borders and regions to develop better tools and practices for the recognition of higher education qualifications;
- opening up inter-regional academic mobility;
- facilitating the recognition of qualifications and mobility of students, teachers and researchers worldwide;
- establishing universal principles for improving recognition practices.

The Global Convention aims to:

- promote and strengthen international cooperation in higher education;
- facilitate global academic mobility, also between regions;
- support interregional initiatives, policies and innovations for international cooperation in higher education;
- foster trust and confidence in the quality and reliability of qualifications;
- promote the sharing of accessible, up-to-date, reliable, transparent and relevant information;
- support individuals who are seeking recognition of their qualifications either for accessing higher education or continuing their studies;
- contribute to the quality assurance and the enhancement of study programmes.





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The Global Convention will support:

- students to take full degree programmes in other countries;
- students going abroad for part of their degrees (semester abroad, year abroad etc);
- graduate students returning home with foreign qualifications;
- faculty exchange programmes between higher education institutions;
- international joint research projects;
- greater inclusion and access to higher education for non-traditional learners;
- contribution to the quality assurance and the enhancement of student programmes.

UNESCO and higher education

UNESCO provides technical support to Member States to review higher education strategies and policies in order to improve equitable access to quality higher education and enhance mobility and accountability in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 through:

- normative instruments on the recognition of higher education qualifications;
- enhancement of quality assurance in higher education institutions;
- inclusive policies and practices in higher education;
- access to higher education for refugees and migrants;
- UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programmes to foster international inter-university cooperation.



UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.



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Education
Sector

The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."* The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



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More information

 <https://on.unesco.org/globalconvention>

 <https://en.unesco.org/themes/higher-education>

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