

RECOGNITION OF DUTCH DEGREES IN MEXICO

If someone wants to continue their studies upon return from Holland, it is necessary to obtain the official recognition of the diploma. The Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP) has a special department called **SINCREE** ("Sistema Nacional de Créditos, Revalidación y Equivalencias de Estudios") which is the authority for comparison and recognition of study programmes followed at foreign higher education institutions.

There are 3 different types of diploma recognition:

1. Revalidación Parcial (Partial recognition)

This type of recognition allows a person to have part of a foreign study program recognised, so that he or she can continue the study programme in Mexico. *(required documents: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8; see below)*

2. Revalidación Total (Full Recognition)

This type of recognition gives the official permit (called "cedula profesional") to execute professional activities. This type of accreditation recognizes the study program as an equivalent to a national study program. *(required documents: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; see below)*

3. Dictamen Técnico

This type of accreditation allows a person to enter to the next academic level. For example, a "dictamen técnico" of a bachelor degree from the Netherlands will allow the person to study a graduate programme in Mexico. However, one cannot exercise his or her profession with a "dictamen técnico". *(required documents: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; see below)*

Requirements

Of all required documents 2 through 8, the original and a legible copy must be handed in. The copy will be certified at the moment of handing in the documents, and the originals will be returned. The requirements when applying for the recognition of foreign diplomas are:

1. **Application form:** The application form will be provided by the department of "Equivalencias y Revalidaciones" when submitting your documents
2. **Birth certificate**
3. **Migration document**, proving legal residence in Mexico (in case a non-Mexican requests recognition)
4. **Academic certificate or diploma of previous studies** (If a person would like to get the recognition of a master program, the academic certificate required is the bachelor diploma)
5. The **legalized certificate or diploma** of the study program issued by a Dutch higher education institution. The certificate or diploma should be legalized in the Netherlands.

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Our motto is Linking Knowledge Worldwide. This means linking people, because it is knowledge that makes us unique as people.

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This legalization is the so called “apostille” and can be obtained at the City Courthouse in Groningen. For detailed information about how to legalize your diploma see the **DUO IB-Groep webpage**.

6. **Grade list:** This document should have a description of the curriculum, grades and study-period.
7. **Proof of payment of the recognition procedure**
8. **Diploma description in Spanish.** Description of each subject taken during the programme to allow the SEP to determine the percentage of equivalence according to a comparable national programme.

After submitting the required documents, the recognition process takes at least two weeks.

Recognition of bachelor Dutch diplomas (final phase)

Several Dutch universities of applied sciences offer “final phase bachelor” programmes. This allows Mexican students to study three years at a Mexican university and go to the Netherlands to study the final year and obtain the Dutch degree.

According to the Department of “Equivalencias y Revalidaciones” of the SEP, it is possible to give full recognition as a bachelor study in the national system.

Difficulties for the recognition of Dutch degrees in Mexico

There are some difficulties in the process of recognition of Dutch degrees in Mexico. One of the most common is that the Department of “Equivalencias y Revalidaciones” of the SEP is not familiar with the Dutch higher education system. Thus, sometimes it is difficult for them to know the quality or equivalence of a study program. For this reason Neso Mexico is in contact with the SEP to provide information and counseling on this matter.

The second biggest obstacle would be the fact that SEP compares curriculums of foreign study programs with those of the national system. If a specific study program does not exist in the national system it will be more difficult to issue the recognition.

Resources

- SINCREE Website: www.sincree.sep.gob.mx
- DUO-IB Group - Legalizing your Dutch diploma: www.ib-groep.nl/International_visitors/Diploma_assessment/Going_abroad/s20_legalizing.asp
- Nuffic – diploma evaluation: www.nuffic.nl/international-students/how-to-prepare/diploma-evaluation