

Ministerial Decision No. 35 of 2013 Concerning the Amendment of the Academic Certificate Equivalency System at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research,

Having reviewed Federal Law No. (1) of 1992, concerning the competencies of ministries and the powers of ministers, and its amendments.

And Federal Law No. (4) of 1992, concerning the establishment and organization of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

And Cabinet Decision No. (3) of 2008, concerning the organizational structure of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

And the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research's Decision No. (50) of 1998, concerning the academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

And the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research's Decision No. (32) of 2010, concerning the academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

And based on the submission of the Chairman of the Certificate Equivalency Committee,

And as required by the interest of the work,

It is decided as follows:

Article (1)

Definitions

In the application of the provisions of this system, the words below shall have the meanings indicated next to each, unless the context indicates otherwise:

The State: The United Arab Emirates.

The Ministry: The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The Minister: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The System: The equivalency system for certificates obtained after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent.

The Department: The Certificate Equivalency Department.

The Committee: The Certificate Equivalency Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee: The Chairman of the Certificate Equivalency Committee.

The Deputy Chairman of the Committee: The Deputy Chairman of the Certificate Equivalency Committee.

The Technical Secretariat: The secretariat of the Certificate Equivalency Committee.

The Concerned Party: The applicant for the academic certificate equivalency.

The Educational Institution: Any university, institute, college, or school from outside the United Arab Emirates that provides higher education and awards qualifications and academic degrees.

Article (2)

Scope of Application of the System's Provisions

The provisions of this system shall apply to the equivalency of any academic degree awarded after regular theoretical, scientific, or professional study, issued by a recognized educational institution, with a study period of not less than one academic year or its equivalent, after obtaining the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent.

Article (3)

Certificate Equivalency Committee

A committee named the Certificate Equivalency Committee shall be formed by a decision of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which will apply the provisions of this system to the applications it receives, in accordance with the competencies to be determined by the decision forming the committee.

Article (4)

Documents and Papers Attached to the Certificate Equivalency Application

When submitting an equivalency application for any certificate, the following documents and papers shall be attached:

1. The original certificate to be equivalated - or a copy thereof - duly attested.
2. The original academic transcript, attested, in cases where the study is partially or fully based on academic courses.
3. An attested copy of the academic degrees preceding the degree for which equivalency is sought.
4. A legal translation of the certificate if it is issued in a language other than Arabic or English.
5. A summary of the Master's or PhD thesis, as applicable.
6. The Committee may request any other documents or papers it deems necessary to make a decision.

Article (5)

Controls and Criteria Adopted in the Committee's Work

The Committee shall consider certificate equivalency applications received from official bodies or from the concerned party according to the following controls and criteria:

1. Recognition by the concerned authority in the country of study of the awarding educational institution, the specialization, and the certificate for which equivalency is sought.
2. If the certificate is granted by a branch of an educational institution, it is required that the parent educational institution be accredited in the country of origin, and the branch be accredited in both the country of origin and the country of study.
3. Accreditation or equivalency of qualifications issued by private higher education institutions by the competent authorities in the country of study before submitting them for equivalency, according to the system in force in the country of study.

4. Equivalency of the qualification preceding the one for which equivalency is sought, for postgraduate studies.
5. The compatibility of the study plans and assessment systems under which the academic qualification was granted with internationally recognized standards.
6. The duration of study to obtain an academic degree in each specialization must be commensurate with the minimum accepted and academically recognized duration approved by the Ministry, as detailed in Article (6) of this system.
7. Adherence to the study system at the certificate-awarding educational institution and its admission requirements, in a manner that does not conflict with the conditions and standards approved by the Ministry.
8. Proof of regular attendance, according to the controls referred to in Article (6) of this system, based on official documents.
9. The Committee may add any other controls or criteria if necessary, within the limits of what is academically recognized.

Article (6)

Conditions for the Concerned Party to Submit a Certificate Equivalency Application

For the equivalency of certificates submitted to the Committee, the concerned party must meet the following conditions:

1. To have completed a period of not less than one academic year or its equivalent in a specialization after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent to obtain a study certificate.
2. To have completed a period of not less than two academic years or their equivalent in a specialization after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent to obtain an Associate Diploma degree.
3. To have completed a period of not less than three academic years or their equivalent in a specialization after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent to obtain a Higher Diploma degree.
4. To have completed a period of not less than three academic years in educational institutions that adopt the annual system, or its

equivalent of (120) credit hours according to the semester system, or its equivalent of (180) hours according to the quarter system, or its equivalent of (240) units according to the European system to obtain the first university degree (Bachelor's).

5. To have completed a period of not less than one academic year or its equivalent after the first university degree to obtain a Postgraduate Diploma or Master's degree.
6. To have completed a period of not less than four academic years after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent to obtain a Master's degree in cases where the Bachelor's and Master's stages are combined, after fulfilling the requirements for obtaining both degrees.
7. To have completed a period of not less than two academic years after obtaining a Master's degree to obtain a Doctorate degree, provided that the university's regulations stipulate this, or a period of not less than three academic years after a Bachelor's degree to obtain a Doctorate degree in cases where obtaining a Master's is not a prerequisite for the Doctorate.
8. To have attended full-time at the place of study during the period when the courses were offered, for educational programs that rely entirely or partially on academic courses.
9. To have been present during the research period at the premises of the degree-awarding educational institution for a period of not less than thirty days for each academic year of the period prescribed for obtaining the degree, for postgraduate programs that rely entirely or partially on the research-based study system in a theoretical specialization that does not require laboratories, practical applications, or other equipment, provided that holidays and official occasions in the country of study are not counted within this period.
10. To have been present during the research period at the premises of the degree-awarding educational institution for a period of not less than one-third of the minimum period prescribed for obtaining the degree, for postgraduate programs that rely entirely or partially on the research-based study system in a medical, engineering, or other scientific specialization that requires laboratories, practical applications, or other equipment.

Article (7)

Special Controls for Non-Traditional Study Systems

The Committee shall establish special controls for study in non-traditional systems.

Article (8)

Cases Outside the Scope of the Committee's Work

The Committee shall not consider the equivalency of the following cases:

1. Vocational certificates that do not involve study or certificates awarded as a result of training courses.
2. Documents and academic records if they are part of the study for obtaining an academic degree.
3. Cases that show a clear violation of internationally recognized academic norms.
4. Any other cases that do not meet the criteria and conditions governing the work of this Committee.

Article (9)

Implementation of the System According to Special Controls

The Committee shall establish the necessary controls for the implementation of the provisions of this system to ensure the organization of its work, and a decision shall be issued by the Chairman of the Committee.

Article (10)

Report on the Progress of the Committee's Work

The Chairman of the Committee shall submit a periodic report on the progress of the Committee's work to the Minister.

Article (11)

Execution, Publication, and Entry into Force of the Decision and Repeal of Conflicting Provisions

The concerned authorities shall implement this decision, each within its jurisdiction. Anything that contradicts its text is hereby repealed. It shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force from the date of its publication.

Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan

Issued by us:

On: 2 Rabi' al-Awwal 1434 H

Corresponding to: 12/2/2013

Article (12)

The regular attendance conditions referred to in Articles Two and Three of Ministerial Decision No. (114) of 2014 shall apply only to academic certificates issued from outside the State after the issuance of this decision.

Decision No. 35 of 2013, the Ministerial Decision concerning the amendment of the academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year (2013) and its amendments, published in issue 547 on page 761 dated 31-03-2013 and effective as of 12-02-2013, amended by Amending Decision No. 114 of 2014, a Ministerial Decision amending some articles of the Ministerial Decision concerning the amendment of the academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2014), published in issue 566 on page 55 dated 30-06-2014 and effective as of 30-06-2014, amended by Amending Decision No. 269 of 2014 (a Ministerial Decision amending some articles of the Ministerial Decision concerning the amendment of the academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2014), published in issue 575 on page 761 dated 28-01-2015 and effective as of 28-01-2015

And referred to herein and hereinafter by the short name Decision No. 35 of 2013 (The Ministerial Decision concerning the amendment of the

academic certificate equivalency system at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2013) and its amendments