

Pan-Canadian Quality Standards in International Academic Credential Assessment Project

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PAN-CANADIAN QUALITY STANDARDS IN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT

cmec
Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials
Centre d'information canadien sur les diplômes internationaux

CICIC's Mandate




www.cicic.ca

- To act as a pan-Canadian information and referral service to individuals and organizations to promote international mobility and improve the recognition and portability of Canadian and international academic credentials and occupational qualifications
- To act as a pan-Canadian forum for a national and international network of individuals and organizations concerned with professional qualifications and academic credential evaluations




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Context




Challenges

- Diverse nature of the academic credential assessment environment in Canada
- Newcomers may not have their academic credentials fully or consistently recognized for work or study in Canada.
- The newcomer, the employer in need of skilled employees, and the Canadian economy all suffer.



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Context (continued) 

Federal government perspective

- Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications (FLMM)
- Modernization of immigration system (CIC)

International perspective


- Lisbon Recognition Convention
- Bologna process/ European Higher Education Area (EHEA) tuning

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Goal of the Project 


- To integrate internationally trained newcomers into the workforce in both regulated and unregulated professions
- **To facilitate the assessment of academic credentials for foreign students' admission to Canadian colleges and universities.**

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Project 

In 2007, CICIC began work on a **multi-year project to improve the consistency and portability of academic credential assessments conducted in Canada**, and to strengthen the capacity and the professionalization of the academic credential assessment field.

- **Phase 1:** 2007 — Diagnostic research on the portability and consistency of academic credential assessments
- **Phase 2:** 2010 —Reference tools developed

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Methodology 

Stakeholder engagement

- Openness
- Transparency

On-line engagement

- Discussion and social media
- Project Web site: <http://www.evaluation.cicic.ca>

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ACTIVITIES


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Building Consistency of Academic Credential Assessment 


Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials (QAF)

- QAF to guide and streamline the practice
- Three sections including a Pan-Canadian Code of Good Practice in the Assessment of International Academic Credentials
- QAF applies to all organizations performing academic credential assessments because it respects the autonomy and differing needs of each organization.

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Building Consistency of Academic Credential Assessment 

- French and English terminology guides <http://terminology.cicic.ca>
- Country education profiles <http://countryprofiles.cicic.ca>
- Feasibility study for a shared database of academic credential assessors

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Building Capacity 


Professional Development for Academic Credential Assessors

- Competency Profile
- Feasibility study for the development of an on-line university program for academic credential assessors

Strengthening Domestic Cooperation
National Workshop for Academic Credential Assessors

- Edmonton 2008
- Moncton 2011

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Future Steps 

Next Phase

- Implement QAF
- Compare academic credentials from different countries
- Develop on-line courses and webinars

Other initiatives and interests

- Diploma supplement
- Joint programs
- Lisbon Recognition Convention

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Get involved 

- Apply to adhere to the QAF.
- Sign up to our network and help us improve our on-line tools.
- Join a working group.
- Access CICIC's information resources and international network of partners.

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QUESTIONS?

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