

## **7. HOMOLOGATION AND RECOGNITION OF DEGREES**

The particular notion of Official Degree, academic as well as professional, in our juridical system does not exclude the possibility that foreign degrees can be declared equal to the corresponding Spanish ones, so that they can enjoy the same effects. On the contrary, the specific standards of the Spanish degree system also determine a special regulation to give value to foreign degrees. In Spain, it is the State and not the universities (which is the case in most countries) which issues university degrees.

### **7.1. Homologation and accreditation**

The homologation of a degree means that this degree is valid and recognized as such on Spanish territory. To achieve the homologation of a degree, you have to have finished your studies and you need a degree or certificate. The homologation is a matter of the State who can ask you to continue or initiate studies in Spain. Accreditation refers to studies which have not been finished (and which you want to conclude in Spain) and its recognition is a matter of the universities. In other words: a degree has to be homologated, studies accredited.

#### **Homologation of degrees**

Only foreign degrees which have an official academic value in the country of issue can be homologated. The homologation of a foreign degree is nothing other than assigning to the holder of the degree the same rights as the holder of a corresponding Spanish degree. If there is a direct equivalence between the foreign degree and the recognized studies for an official Spanish degree, the degrees can be homologated without anything more than mere administrative procedures. If the studies are not exactly equivalent (subjects, amount of hours, content, etc.), then it is possible that in some cases it will be necessary to examine those subjects which have been considered as not being sufficient. Only in the case where the received training to obtain the foreign degree is substantially different to the Spanish one, the title cannot be homologated. In this case, the interested party can apply for an accreditation of the studies done in his/her country to continue the training in Spain. It is important to know that the time required to homologate a degree can take up to two years.

#### **Recognition of degrees from countries of the E.U.**

To guarantee free circulation of professionals in the European Economic Community (EEC), there are a series of community guidelines which recognize degrees, certificates and other degrees of citizens of the EEC, who have obtained their degree in any of the member states (the 15 members of the EU plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland). This recognition allows them to establish themselves and to present freely their services in Spain. Degrees obtained in any of the 10 new member states of the EU can be the object of recognition since the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004. This recognition is only valid for the execution of the profession and doesn't have any academic effects. Although it seems to be a paradox, you will be able to execute your profession, but if you want to study (doctorate, etc.) it will be necessary to homologate your degree in Spain.

#### **Legalization of documents**

Documents issued in countries of the EEC don't need to be legalized. Documents issued in countries which signed the Agreement of The Hague only need a stamp, issued by the competent authorities of said countries. Documents issued by any other country have to be legalized through diplomatic channels. It may be convenient to get information at the Spanish Consulate of your country. The documents need to be translated into Spanish by a sworn translator, a Spanish Diplomatic Representative or foreign diplomatic representation of the country of the applicant or of the country where the degree has been issued in Spain.

### **7.2. Procedures**

#### **Necessary documents for homologations**

- Accredited original certificate of the degree which you want to homologate. This certificate has to contain the name of the applicant, the type of degree, the issuing authority, the centre where the studies have been completed and the date of issue.
- Official academic certificate of the carried out studies: the duration (in years), study plan, assignments, number of hours (credits) of each course.
- Authentic copy or certified photocopy of the identity documents or passport of the applicant.

- Certificate that the corresponding taxes have been paid.

**Attention:** originals will not be returned. They will be kept in the file. We recommend that you hand in certified photocopies of the originals.

In addition to the fore-mentioned documents, you have to add an application form, which you can download from the web page of the Ministry of Education and Science: [www.mec.es](http://www.mec.es) under chapter "education". Once there, click on "Degrees and foreign studies" (<http://wwwn.mec.es/mecd/titulos/files/anexo9.rtf>).

### **Homologation of a doctoral degree**

In addition to all above described documents necessary for the homologation process, you'll have to add:

- A synopsis in Spanish which explains the completed Thesis.
- Copy of the thesis (not necessarily translated), indicating the members of the jury and the grade received.
- Any document which the applicant considers as relevant.

You have to take into account that, to obtain the homologation of your doctoral degree, your university degree has to be homologated first. Once you have the latter, it shouldn't take more than 6 months to complete the process.

### **More information:**

#### **In Spain**

- **Ministry of Education and Science**  
Centre of Information and support for the citizen  
Educative Information Section  
C/ Alcalá, 36. 28071 Madrid  
Tel.: 902 21 85 00  
To consult, send an e-mail through the following web page:  
[www.mec.es/inf/comoinfo/consultas/](http://www.mec.es/inf/comoinfo/consultas/)
- To know the addresses of the Autonomous Districts and the provincial addresses of the Ministry of Education, please consult the following web page:  
[www.mecd.es/inf/comoinfo/f-3.htm](http://www.mecd.es/inf/comoinfo/f-3.htm)
- You can find more information about the concerned processes at the universities. Click on "university degrees" on the following web page:  
[www.mecd.es/consejou/webconsejo/index.html](http://www.mecd.es/consejou/webconsejo/index.html)
- NARIC centre in Spain: **Ministry of Education and Science**  
**General Sub Management of Degrees, Accreditations and Homologations**  
NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre)  
Paseo del Prado 28 - 28014 Madrid  
Contact person: Nieves Trelles, Technical Advisor. E-mail: [nieves.trelles@educ.mec.es](mailto:nieves.trelles@educ.mec.es)  
Tel.: 91 506 5593 <http://www.mec.es>

#### **Abroad:**

- Advice bureau of Education and Science at the Spanish Embassies. To find more information about this, please visit the following web page:  
[www.mecd.es/sgci/conseje.htm](http://www.mecd.es/sgci/conseje.htm)
- Consul Offices of the Spanish Embassies. Please visit the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to find more information:  
[www.mae.es](http://www.mae.es)

To find more information about where to apply, please visit the web page:  
<http://wwwn.mec.es/mecd/jsp/plantilla.jsp?id=35&area=titulos>.