

Credential Assessment

As an immigrant to Canada, you will need to make sure Canadian employers and others, such as colleges, universities, and professional licensing bodies properly recognize your international academic credentials. The following organizations perform evaluations of foreign educational qualifications in Ontario:

❖ **World Education Services (WES) Canada** www.wes.org

45 Charles Street East, Suite 700, Toronto, ON, M4Y 1S2, Tel: 1-866-343-0070

Offers two types of credential evaluation:

- **Course by course report** – describes each diploma/certificate and equivalency for each document and it lists all the courses completed, provides semester credit and grade equivalent for each course and gives a Canadian grade point average. This report is ordered for higher education and professional licensing. **Fee = \$210.00.**
- **Document-by-document report:** describes each diploma/certificate and also indicates periods of education and provides an equivalency for each document. This report is ordered mainly for employment, immigration and education. **Fee = \$115.00.**

❖ **International Credentials Assessment Service (ICAS) of Canada** - www.icascanada.ca

Stone Road West, Suite 303, Guelph, ON, N1G 5L3, Tel. 1-519-763-7282/1-800-321-6021

Assess secondary, post-secondary and technical degrees and provide the comparable level of education here. Offers three types of reports:

- **General Report:** describe the education completed and suggests the Ontario/Canadian equivalent. This report is the most commonly required reports by employers and immigration officials. **Fee= \$90.00.**
- **Detailed Report:** not only describe the education completed but also includes a list of courses/subjects completed for each, and gives either the equivalent credit value or grade. This type of report is most commonly requested by individuals applying to specific educational programs. **Fee=\$165.00.**
- **Comprehensive Report:** it is also known as a course –by –course assessment, describes the same info as for the first 2, but also provides both the equivalent credit value and grade. It is most commonly requested by those applying for post-secondary institutions. **Fee=\$200.00.**

❖ **Comparative Education Services (CES)** - www.learn.utoronto.ca/ces.htm

315 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A3, Tel.-1-416-978-2185

The Comparative Education Service (CES) of the University of Toronto provides document-by-document assessments of foreign academic credentials. CES assess post-secondary, secondary school (high school) and incomplete academic programs (for individuals who have only partially completed their education). **Fees = Regular service = \$226.00; Rush Service** (in five business days) = **\$508.50.**

For more information about this topic:

Waterloo Catholic School Board High School Evaluation Service - www.wcdsb.ca

35 Weber St. W., Unit A, Kitchener, ON, N2H 3Z1, Phone: 519-578-3660.

Waterloo District School Board High School Transcript Evaluation Service - www.wrdsb.ca

108 University Ave. East, Waterloo, ON, N2J 2W2, Phone: 519-885-0800.

When choosing a credential service...

1. Always check with the agency/institutions:

- What type of reports do they require?
- Which evaluation(s) do they accept or recognize?
- From which credential evaluation organization do they accept evaluations?

2. Choose a service wisely:

- Check the total costs, watch for hidden fees; check to see if the fees are not refundable
- Check for government programs that have funding to cover the fees.
- Check the Immigrant Loan Program that offers up to \$5,000 to cover credential evaluation, training and exams costs.
http://www.theworkingcentre.org/jsrc/new_canadians/ilp/ilp-brochure.pdf

When using credential evaluations in the job search...

- You may want to include your evaluation equivalency in your resume, cover letter
- You may want to bring copies of the credential evaluations to interviews; seeing them gives employers confidence
- Be aware that smaller businesses may not be familiar with these evaluations
- Most government agencies and large companies accept the evaluation provided by these organizations

For more information visit:

Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

CICIC advise individuals, in Canada's official languages (English and French), on what they need to do to have their credentials assessed and recognized in Canada, and refer them to appropriate institutions and organizations for specific assistance. NOTE: *CICIC does not itself grant equivalencies or assess credentials.* www.cicic.ca

Address: 95 St. Clair West, Suite 1106
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1N6
1-416-962-9725; Fax: 1-416-962-2800

Foreign Credentials Referral Office /Occupational Fact Sheets

These occupational fact sheets provide information that applies to specific professions and sectors across Canada. They are meant to help you to: understand the general requirements you must meet to work in your profession; understand the steps that you can take while you are still in your home country and, find the most reliable sources of information.

www.credentials.gc.ca/immigrants/factsheets/index.asp

Access to Professions and Trades in Ontario: Connects internationally trained people with services that can help put their skills and knowledge to work.

www.211ontario.ca

Find other topics of information in our Fact Sheet series.

YMCA Immigrant Services Locations:

Kitchener-Waterloo Office

800 King St. West, 3rd Floor
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1E8
Phone: (519) 579-9622

Cambridge Office

258 Hespeler Road
Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3
Phone: (519) 621-1621

School Settlement

77 Young Street, Rm 101
Kitchener, ON N2H 4Y9
Phone: (519) 742-8220

www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca

Funded by:

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YMCAs of Cambridge and Kitchener - Waterloo Immigrant Services

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Building healthy communities