MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ----------	SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence - Freedom - Happiness ----------
No. 65/2026/TT-BGDDT	*Hanoi, August 11, 2026*

CIRCULAR

ON CONDITIONS, PROCEDURES AND AUTHORITY FOR RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS ISSUED BY FOREIGN EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR USE IN VIETNAM

Pursuant to the Law on Education No. 43/2019/QH14, as amended by the Law on Amendments to the Law on Education No. 123/2025/QH15;

Pursuant to Decree No. 279/2026/ND-CP of July 12, 2026 of the Government defining the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Education and Training;

At the proposal of the Director of the Department of Quality Management;

The Minister of Education and Training hereby promulgates a Circular on conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam.

Article 1. Scope and regulated entities

1. This Circular provides for the conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam, including: general education qualifications, vocational education and training qualifications and higher education qualifications (hereinafter referred to as "qualifications").

2. This Circular applies to agencies, organizations and individuals concerned with the recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam.

Article 2. Recognition of qualifications

1. Recognition of qualifications means confirming the holder’s qualification level as recorded on the qualification under the education system of the country in which the foreign education institution's headquarters is located, and determining its equivalence to a qualification level in the Vietnamese Qualifications Framework (VQF) where an appropriate basis for comparison exists.

Where a qualification meets the conditions for recognition but the corresponding level in the VQF cannot be determined, information on the qualification under the education system of the

awarding country shall be provided. The determination of the corresponding level in the VQF shall be based on entry requirements, volume of learning and qualification level.

2. Recognition of qualifications is a public service, provided at the request of the holder of the qualification or the employing organization with the holder's consent (hereinafter referred to as the "applicant").

Article 3. Conditions for recognition of qualifications

1. A qualification issued by a foreign education institution that operates lawfully and offers a qualified-assured education program with quality assurance shall be recognized where one of the following conditions is met:

a) The education institution awarding the qualification has been authorized to conduct training and to award the qualification for which recognition is sought by the competent education authority of the country in which its headquarters is located;

b) The education institution awarding the qualification has undergone quality accreditation by a competent accreditation body of the country in which its headquarters is located, and the qualification for which recognition is sought has been recognized by the competent education authority of the country in which the education institution's headquarters is located;

c) The academic program has undergone quality accreditation by a competent accreditation body of the country in which the education institution's headquarters is located, or has been authorized to conduct training by the competent education authority of the country in which its headquarters is located, and the qualification for which recognition is sought has been recognized by the competent education authority of the country in which the education institution's headquarters is located.

2. A qualification issued by a foreign education institution where the holder studied directly in the country in which the education institution's headquarters is located shall be recognized where it meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article.

3. A qualification issued by a foreign education institution that conducts education activities, training activities, collaborative education, collaborative training or has established a branch campus in Vietnam shall be recognized where the education and training activities were lawfully conducted in Vietnam, meeting the conditions on program approval, enrollment, program duration and other conditions prescribed by law at the time the qualification-awarding program was implemented, and where it simultaneously meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article.

4. A qualification issued by a foreign education institution that conducts education activities, training activities, collaborative education, collaborative training or has a branch campus in a country other than the country in which its headquarters is located (excluding Vietnam) shall be recognized where it meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article and one of the following conditions:

a) The institution conducting the education or training program (hereinafter referred to as the "training institution") has been recognized for quality or undergone quality accreditation by a competent accreditation body of the country in which the education and training activities are conducted;

b) The training institution has been authorized to conduct education and training activities or to award qualifications by the competent education authority of the country in which the education and training activities are conducted;

c) The academic program has been authorized to be conducted by the competent education authority of the country in which the education and training activities are conducted, or has undergone quality accreditation by a competent accreditation body of the country in which the education and training activities are conducted.

5. A qualification issued by a foreign education institution for an academic program conducted by distance education (online, blended learning, or conducted through a combination of distance education via computer networks and telecommunications, correspondence, radio and television, etc.) shall be recognized where it meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article, and where, for each country in which the holder resided and studied, the academic program was authorized to be conducted by the competent education authority of that country.

6. A vocational education and training qualification issued by a foreign education institution shall be recognized where it meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article and one of the conditions set out in clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Article corresponding to the applicable mode of study, and where it simultaneously has equivalent entry qualification requirements and comparable duration of study expressed in academic years or in accumulated credits at the end of the course as required for the corresponding qualification levels in Vietnam.

7. A doctoral degree (PhD) issued by a foreign education institution under a mode of study involving direct study at the foreign education institution and fieldwork in another country shall be recognized where the qualification meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article and the period of direct study and research at the training institution is at least 12 months over the entire course of study.

8. A doctoral degree (PhD) issued by a foreign education institution under a mode involving recognition of prior research results and scientific works shall be recognized where it meets the conditions set out in clause 1 of this Article and the following conditions:

a) The holder has an academic supervisor, has fulfilled all academic requirements of the doctoral program and has defended the thesis before an academic committee in accordance with the regulations of the training institution;

b) The training institution has recognized the prior research results and scientific works as part of the doctoral program, and the academic results and research meet the learning outcomes of the doctoral program standards for the corresponding discipline and field in Vietnam.

9. The recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for holders whose studies were affected by war, natural disasters, epidemics, fire, force majeure events and other special circumstances shall be decided by the Minister of Education and Training where the academic and research results meet the learning outcomes prescribed in the program standards for the corresponding discipline and field in Vietnam.

Article 4. Authority for recognition of qualifications

1. The Director of the Department of Quality Management under the Ministry of Education and Training shall recognize vocational education and training qualifications and higher education qualifications.

2. Directors of Departments of Education and Training shall recognize lower secondary school graduation diplomas, upper secondary school graduation diplomas and certificates of completion of the general education program.

Article 5. Application, procedures for recognition of qualifications

1. The application for recognition of qualifications provided for in clause 3 of Article 3 of this Circular shall comprise:

a) An application form for recognition of a qualification issued by the foreign education institution (in accordance with the form in Appendix I issued together with this Circular);

b) A copy of the qualification or written confirmation of the award of the qualification for which recognition is sought, together with a Vietnamese translation bearing the translator's signature duly certified;

c) A copy of the diploma supplement (excluding pages introducing the education system of the awarding country) or academic transcript, together with a Vietnamese translation bearing the translator's signature duly certified;

d) A certified true copy of directly relevant qualifications and certificates.

2. The application for recognition of qualifications provided for in clauses 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Article 3 of this Circular shall comprise the documents set out in clause 1 of this Article and the following documents:

a) Entry and exit records for the period of study abroad extracted from the VNeID application or the National Public Service Portal, and a copy of the entry visa for the country of study. Where such records are not yet available, submit certified true copies of documents evidencing the period of study abroad: passport, passport pages bearing relevant visas and entry and exit stamps corresponding to the period of study abroad; confirmation from a competent authority on entry and exit information; decision on assignment for study and subsequent acceptance upon return issued by the labor management authority at ministry level (if any); or other supporting documents clearly evidencing the period of study abroad;

b) Authorization for verification of qualification information.

3. Procedures for recognition of qualifications:

a) The applicant shall provide the information required under Appendix I issued together with this Circular, upload the application to the National Public Service Portal and make payment of the fee in accordance with regulations. Where information is already available in national databases, the applicant is not required to submit the documents in paper form or electronically certified copies.

b) Where the applicant has the qualification or academic transcript in digital or electronic form, or has authentication information sent directly from the awarding institution or the competent authority for qualification verification to the competent authority for qualification recognition, the applicant shall upload scanned copies of the application documents set out in clauses 1 and 2 of this Article to the National Public Service Portal (without the need for electronic certification from the originals). Where the qualification is in English, the applicant shall upload scanned copies of the application documents set out in clauses 1 and 2 of this Article to the National Public Service Portal without the need for a Vietnamese translation, or upload electronically certified copies of the application documents set out in clauses 1 and 2 of this Article (if available).

c) Where the applicant does not have information or evidence for direct authentication, the applicant shall upload electronically certified copies of the originals of the application documents set out in clauses 1 and 2 of this Article to the National Public Service Portal, or submit the documents in paper form (except that the authorization for verification of qualification information is not required to be electronically certified).

4. Where the applicant is unable to upload documents to the National Public Service Portal due to force majeure, the application may be submitted in person or by postal service.

5. Within 20 working days from the date on which a complete application has been received in accordance with regulations, the competent authority for qualification recognition shall return the outcome of qualification recognition to the applicant. Where verification of information from the foreign education institution or clarification of matters relating to the qualification is required, the deadline for returning the outcome of recognition shall not exceed 30 working days from the date of receipt of the application.

6. The receipt and processing of applications for qualification recognition procedures shall be carried out irrespective of administrative boundaries.

Article 6. Outcomes of qualification recognition

1. The outcome of qualification recognition shall be recorded on a Qualification Recognition Certificate. The Qualification Recognition Certificate may be in paper form, electronic form or digital form, each of which shall have equal validity. The Qualification Recognition Certificate shall be in the form prescribed in Appendix II issued together with this Circular. Where a

qualification meets the conditions for recognition but has a duration of study is not compatible with that prescribed for the corresponding qualification level in Vietnam, or where the corresponding level in the VQF cannot be determined, the Qualification Recognition Certificate shall provide information on the qualification under the education system of the awarding country.

2. The outcome of qualification recognition set out in clause 1 of this Article shall be updated in the qualification recognition database. Information retrieved from the database or displayed on the VNeID application may be used for verification in lieu of written verification by the competent authority for qualification recognition. The qualification recognition database shall be connected to the VNeID application in accordance with a roadmap.

3. Where a qualification does not meet the conditions for recognition set out in Article 3 of this Circular, or where the time limit set out in clause 5 of Article 5 of this Circular has expired without sufficient grounds to verify the relevant information for the purposes of recognizing the qualification, the competent authority for qualification recognition shall provide a written response clearly stating the reasons.

4. Qualifications shall be exempt from qualification recognition procedures falling within the scope of a mutual recognition agreement or mutual recognition arrangement on qualifications, or an international treaty relating to recognition of qualifications to which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a signatory or has acceded; and for qualifications issued by foreign education institutions to holders sent abroad for study using state budget funds by the Ministry of Education and Training and subsequently received by the Ministry upon their return.

The waiver of qualification recognition procedures does not include the inspection and verification of the lawfulness and validity of the qualification. Agencies, organizations and individuals receiving qualifications shall be responsible for carrying out inspection and verification when necessary in accordance with the law.

5. A Qualification Recognition Certificate shall be revoked where the competent authority for qualification recognition discovers that the qualification was unlawfully issued or that the application for qualification recognition contained false information. A Qualification Recognition Certificate shall be reissued where the particulars recorded on the Qualification Recognition Certificate contain errors or other technical mistakes. The competent authority for qualification recognition shall issue a decision to revoke or reissue the Qualification Recognition Certificate, clearly stating the reasons for the revocation or reissuance. The decision to reissue the Qualification Recognition Certificate shall clearly state that a new Certificate is being issued to replace the previously issued Certificate. The decision to revoke or reissue the Qualification Recognition Certificate shall be sent to the holder of the revoked or reissued Certificate, to the organization where the holder works (if any) and to relevant agencies and organizations (if any).

Article 7. Responsibilities of the competent authority for qualification recognition and relevant agencies and units

1. The competent authority for qualification recognition shall:

a) Use official sources of information to appraise qualification recognition applications, including information from: the competent education authority of the foreign country; a competent accreditation body recognized or authorized to operate by the competent authority of the foreign country; the Vietnam National Academic Recognition Information Centre (VN-NARIC); the awarding institution; the training institution; and other lawful sources of information designated by the competent education authority of the foreign country;

b) Publish information on its website on foreign education institutions that have been recognized or accredited by the competent authority in the country where the institution is established;

c) Maintain a qualification recognition register recording outcomes of qualification recognition for the cases set out in clauses 1 and 3 of Article 6 of this Circular;

d) Report to the Ministry of Education and Training on qualification recognition before January 31 each year;

dd) Notify the police authority of the locality where it is headquartered where documents in a qualification recognition application are discovered to be forged;

e) Handle complaints and denunciations relating to qualification recognition (if any).

2. Higher education institutions and vocational education institutions shall, on the basis of the conditions set out in Article 3 of this Circular, exercise autonomy in assessing qualifications for use in their internal training activities and shall be responsible for the outcomes of such assessment; maintain a register recording information on: the full name and date of birth of the qualification holder; the name of the awarding institution; the mode of study; the corresponding level in the VQF or the qualification level under the education system of the country in which the foreign education institution's headquarters is located (if applicable); and shall clearly state the basis for assessment in accordance with this Circular; and report to the Ministry of Education and Training on the types of qualifications assessed for use at the institution before January 31 each year.

Where necessary, higher education institutions and vocational education institutions may request holders to use the public service of qualification recognition.

3. Education institutions conducting collaborative education programs, collaborative training programs or joint training programs awarding foreign qualifications shall be responsible for providing information on the conduct of the collaboration and joint training for each cohort to the competent authority for qualification recognition, including information on: decisions on licensing, extension and adjustment; the scheme or joint training agreement; confirmation of program implementation in accordance with the licensing decision and current regulations; the list of graduates for each cohort and shall clarify matters relating to collaborative training programs in which they have participated when requested by the competent authority for qualification recognition.

4. The Department of Quality Management shall assign responsibility to one public sector entity directly under the Department of Quality Management to provide the public service of qualification recognition. The public service of qualification recognition shall be provided in accordance with the Government's regulations on administrative procedures under the single-window and interconnected single-window mechanisms at the single-window division and the National Public Service Portal.

The collection, remittance, management and use of fees for verification of documents for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions shall be carried out in accordance with Circular No. 164/2016/TT-BTC of October 25, 2016 of the Minister of Finance on the rates, collection, remittance, management and use of fees for verification of documents for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for Vietnamese nationals.

5. The Department of Higher Education, the Department of International Cooperation, the Department of Vocational Education and Continuing Education and other relevant units under the Ministry of Education and Training shall be responsible for cooperating with the Department of Quality Management in handling matters falling within their assigned functions and tasks.

Article 8. Responsibilities of the applicant

1. Provide complete information and documents in the application for qualification recognition; be responsible for the accuracy and truthfulness of the information and documents provided to the competent authority for qualification recognition.

2. Cooperate with the competent authority for qualification recognition in verifying information from the foreign education institution or when clarification of matters relating to the qualification is required.

Article 9. Transitional provisions

1. Applications for qualification recognition submitted to the competent authority for qualification recognition before the effective date of this Circular shall continue to be processed in accordance with Circular No. 34/2017/TT-BLDTBXH of December 29, 2017 of the Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs on the recognition of vocational education and training qualifications and certificates issued by foreign vocational education institutions, Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BGDDT of April 15, 2021 of the Minister of Education and Training on conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam, and Circular No. 07/2024/TT-BGDDT of May 2, 2024 amending Article 7 and replacing Appendix II and Appendix III of Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BGDDT of April 15, 2021 of the Minister of Education and Training on conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam.

2. Doctoral degrees (PhDs) issued by foreign education institutions under a mode of study involving direct study at the foreign education institution and fieldwork in another country shall be processed for qualification recognition in accordance with Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BGDDT

and Circular No. 07/2024/TT-BGDDT where enrollment in the training program took place the effective date of this Circular.

3. The recognition of qualifications under collaborative education programs and collaborative training programs for which conclusions have been issued by an inspecting or examining authority or a competent authority before the effective date of this Circular shall continue to be carried out in accordance with such conclusions.

Article 10. Entry into force

1. This Circular comes into force as of September 26, 2026.

Circular No. 34/2017/TT-BLDTBXH of December 29, 2017 of the Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs on the recognition of vocational education and training qualifications and certificates issued by foreign vocational education institutions; Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BGDDT of April 15, 2021 of the Minister of Education and Training on conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam; and Circular No. 07/2024/TT-BGDDT of May 2, 2024 amending Article 7 and replacing Appendix II and Appendix III of Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BGDDT of April 15, 2021 of the Minister of Education and Training on conditions, procedures and authority for recognition of qualifications issued by foreign education institutions for use in Vietnam shall cease to be in force from the date this Circular comes into force, except for the cases set out in clauses 1 and 2 of Article 9 of this Circular.

2. Where legislative documents referred to in this Circular are amended, supplemented or replaced, the new legislative document shall apply.

3. The Chief of Office, the Director of the Department of Quality Management, heads of relevant units under the Ministry of Education and Training; Directors of Departments of Education and Training; heads of higher education institutions and vocational education institutions and relevant organizations and individuals shall implement this Circular./.

PP. MINISTER
DEPUTY MINISTER

Pham Ngoc Thuong

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