

Validation of a PhD degree obtained abroad

Direct recognition for the purpose of obtaining the Italian degree (equivalence) for the award of the corresponding Italian third-cycle qualification, having legal value in Italy.

For obtaining a direct recognition (equivalence) of a foreign PhD as an Italian Doctoral Degree issued by the University of Genoa, the foreign qualification must always comply with all the following characteristics:

- be an official third-cycle PhD of the reference foreign system, issued by an Official Institution of the foreign system, otherwise refer to qualifications respectively corresponding to third-cycle titles under the Bologna Process (QF-EHEA), level 8 qualifications under the European Qualifications Framework (EQF);
- grant the same academic rights as an Italian research doctoral degree in the reference foreign system;
- present the same nature and disciplinary elements of the corresponding Italian qualification in terms of duration (a minimum of three years), nature of research and methods of award;
- there must be a Doctoral Degree, activated at the University of Genoa, with which the foreign degree can be compared, by type and disciplinary area. Therefore, it is only possible to evaluate a foreign Doctoral Degree if the scientific and educational background developed during the foreign Doctoral Degree is comparable with that of a PhD activated at the University of Genoa.

It should be noted that, for the validation of the foreign Doctoral Degree, the previous foreign or Italian degree which allows the access to the Doctoral Program must also be evaluated. This degree must be comparable to a *Laurea Magistrale* or *Laurea Magistrale a Ciclo Unico* or *Laurea vecchio ordinamento* issued in Italy, that is, be an official second-cycle degree of academic nature, also awarded abroad.

Before contacting the University and submitting an official application for direct recognition, according to the procedures listed below, candidates should identify the University of Genoa Doctoral Degree to which the foreign degree can be compared, by type and disciplinary area, available at <https://corsi.unige.it/dottorati>

In the event of impossibility to identify the doctoral program, contact the Pro-Rector or pro tempore delegate of the Rector for the PhD.

Subsequently, an official application may be submitted to the Magnificent Rector for the direct recognition of the foreign Doctoral Degree, specifying the Doctoral Program of the University of Genoa, attaching the following documentation:

1. Certified copy of the foreign Doctoral Degree, obtained at a foreign official Higher Education Institution (legalized by the competent Italian Diplomatic or Consular Representation responsible for the area);
2. An original or certified copy of attestation/certification issued by the competent foreign Institution, certifying elements, duration and activities of the PhD, carried out in order to obtain the final degree;

Alternatively, for EU countries, an original or certified copy of the Diploma Supplement, in English, on headed paper of the foreign institution with its signature and stamp;

3. PhD thesis in PDF format, accompanied by the website address of the Institution or library repository where the thesis is archived and can be consulted.

4. Copy of the second-cycle Italian qualification that allowed to access to the foreign doctoral program, or certified copy of the second-cycle foreign qualification with legalization or “apostille” stamp, provided with a declaration of value by the Italian Consular Representation responsible for the area. As an alternative to the declaration of value, students can present a document produced by ENIC-NARIC network (www.cimea.it) or other documentation produced by the diplomatic representation in Italy of the foreign country where the qualification was obtained;

5. Official translation into Italian of the requested documents. Translation is not necessary if the document is written in English, French and Spanish;

6. Copy of a valid Identity document;

7. For non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy: copy of residence permit or residence permit card clearly stating the reason for issuing it;

The payment of €100.00 is requested as a fee for the case study.

The competent Teaching Board, considering the training program, will evaluate the equivalence of the foreign academic qualification with the corresponding one issued by the University of Genoa and will propose the equivalence to the PhD Committee, which will express an opinion for the decision-making bodies.

If the student obtains the validation, he/she will have to pay an additional Euro 400.00 for the activities necessary for issuing the certificate of equivalence and/or validation of the qualification.

It should be noted that, regardless of the outcome of the validation, the contribution of Euro 100.00 for the case study will not be reimbursed.

The request for validation, including complete documentation, can be sent in advance by email to dottorato@segreteria.unige.it and, in any case, it must be sent by post to the University of Genoa *Area Didattica - Settore dottorato di ricerca e scuole di specializzazione* Via Vivaldi 5 16126 Genova with the wording “Request for direct recognition (equivalence) of a foreign doctorate”.

The Doctorate Programs and Postgraduate Schools Sector will evaluate the completeness and formal correctness of the documentation provided, then send it to the Coordinator of the Doctoral Course corresponding to the foreign qualification for which official recognition is being requested. The Academic Board of the Doctoral Course will carry out the substantial evaluation of the foreign qualification and submit the request for validation to the PhD Committee.

Please note that in the event of incomplete documentation, the validation procedure cannot move forward.

The essential evaluation of a foreign PhD for the purpose of obtaining the Italian qualification of Doctoral Degree can produce the following results:

- the **direct recognition** of the foreign qualification, which takes place through the issue of a Rectoral Decree certifying its equivalence to the corresponding Italian PhD qualification;

- the **refusal to recognize** the foreign Doctoral Degree in the case of a “substantial difference” compared to the corresponding Italian PhD qualification.