Converting your qualifications to UK or international equivalents

If you are an international student and want to work in the UK, some employers may not understand how qualifications from your home country convert to UK qualifications.

If you are a UK, European or international student and want to work outside your home country, you may need to convert to UK and/or home qualifications to international equivalents.

**Working in the UK**

When applying to graduate recruiters in the UK, some employers will have set criteria. In addition to degree classification, you may see the following terms:

- **UCAS points or A-level points** – usually qualifications taken at age 18, used for University entrance.
- **GCSEs** – national exams taken at 16. Some employers require particular grades in English and Maths.

There is no official list of how UK grades or tariff points compare with other countries’ qualifications and it is not possible to directly convert your grades into UCAS points.

You can get a general comparison of your qualifications with UK qualifications from the National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the UK (UK-NARIC). UK-NARIC have an advice service for simple queries from students; telephone +44 (0)871 330 7033 or email info@naric.org.uk. There is a charge if you require a written assessment of your international qualifications. They can compare your qualifications and provide you with simple and officially recognised documents which explain the level of your qualification:

- A letter of comparability; providing information on the comparable level of your qualifications to UK standards.
- A career path report; an in-depth report describing one of your qualifications and the education system in which you studied.

UK-NARIC letters of comparability are useful when applying for jobs in the UK as they provide clear indicators of your education level in UK terms. These letters do not convert your scores for overseas qualifications into UCAS points.

Some organisations provide UCAS international equivalents on their websites. Although adapted to each recruiter’s requirements it can provide a general guide to how your qualifications compare:

- **KPMG International Students**
- **Deloitte International Academic Requirements**

If a specific organisation you are applying for asks for UCAS points, you can list your actual qualifications and grades (explaining your grade in context, e.g. 1, top grade on scale 1-5 or by giving a % score). If completing an online application form, you can either telephone the company to ask what they want you to do or use the ‘note’ or ‘additional information’ section to further explain your qualifications.

If you are a postgraduate student and did your degree in your home country, for most postgraduate courses at the University of Liverpool you will have had to have obtained at least a 2:1 equivalent to gain entry. Some employers will ask for this as a minimum requirement. If you are unsure, seek advice from the employer.

We also recommend that you use the international students zone on the Careers & Employability service website. Here you will find specific international student leaflets, news, events and much more.
If you are thinking of working or studying outside the UK it is worthwhile contacting the local ENIC-NARIC office. They will be able to advise you on the recognition processes and procedures.

Other sources of help include:

- The UK’s National Europass Centre removing barriers to help those wishing to work and study in Europe.
- UK NCP is the UK’s National Contact Point for Professional Qualifications and provides information and advice on professional mobility throughout Europe.
- The Certificate of Experience supports EU citizens with UK work experience to practice their trade in Europe. If you have professional experience in the UK and wish to pursue your profession in another EU Member State, you may require the Certificate of Experience. For full details about the content and use of the Certificate of Experience, please visit the Certificate of Experience website.
- Gov.uk Grade Comparison of Overseas Qualifications - an evaluation of all international awards that are considered comparable to British Bachelor (honours) degree standard.

We also recommend you read our Working & studying overseas guides. Written by staff at the Careers & Employability Service, they provide information and resources on applying for work or study in over 50 countries. You can find these resources on our website.