

SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Policy and Procedure for recognition of Foreign Qualification by the Seychelles Qualifications Authority

January 2024



1.0 Introduction and Rationale

Over the years, interest in internationalisation of higher education has grown to an impressive extent which is putting pressure on higher education to produce professionals with different skills and orientations and the Seychelles is no exception especially in ensuring that our qualifications meet the need of the global economy particularly for the highly skilled in certain professions.

In addition, with the growing demand for graduates with qualifications having strong international perspectives has led to increased awareness of the importance of international perspectives in curriculum and for students to have exposure to different cultures in order to develop intercultural skills and competencies.

One form of meeting the requirements is through internationalisation of learners by sending our learners overseas, to study online and by distance and also by franchising agreements whereby local institutions teach the curriculum of a foreign partner institution. This kind of partnership is known locally as 'international qualifications offered by providers who are physically based in Seychelles' (Quality Assurance Manual of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority 2011 p. 28). In general, the international programmes and qualifications offered by providers who are in Seychelles will undergo the same process as local qualifications and in exceptional circumstances where in any of the cases specified below, the SQA will issue a Certificate of Recognition:

- The qualification is already approved and accredited by a recognised national qualifications authority or recognised professional accreditation body in its country or recognised professional accreditation body in its country of origin.
- There is high confidence in the level of the qualification and its comparability with similar qualifications internationally.
- The qualification is subjected to on-going quality assurance processes by the regulatory body in the country of origin, which are deemed sufficiently rigorous based on scope of the frequency of interventions, on site investigations and local contextualisation) by the SQA board.

- There is an MOU between the foreign awarding body and local counterpart which is explicitly supported by the Government of Seychelles and officially recognised by SQA.

This kind of collaboration has been in operation in Seychelles for the past decades with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Seychelles and outside universities, namely, the University of London, the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) and others. The purpose of such collaboration was to enable the local institutions to establish formal arrangements with foreign universities to offer their educational programmes. For local institutions, such international linkages represented an effective means of acquiring and delivering additional or new programmes at minimal cost.

2.0 The Policy

The *raison d'être* behind the develop this policy is established under section 2 (m) of the SQA 21 'to develop a policy and criteria for the recognition of foreign programmes leading to the award of qualifications and part qualifications delivered by or through local tertiary education and training providers'.

To qualify for this kind of agreement, local institution must ensure that they have the necessary capacity internally to support and sustain the programme for example, the required teaching staff and infrastructure support. For each new request for Certificate of Recognition, the applying institution needs to submit the following documents to SQA at least three months before the programme is due to start. The documents required are:

- i. A letter of motivation for the certificate of recognition which should indicate the cohort stating and end date.
- ii. The MOU between the offering institution and the foreign partner which must indicate the type of partnership
- iii. A copy of the accreditation certificate of the foreign institution
- iv. A document providing the accreditation status of the programme
- v. Entry requirement for the programme
- vi. The programme framework

- vii. All course outlines for the programme including the learning outcomes
- viii. All course assessments details
- ix. Duration of qualification in Notional hours
- x. Information on review the programme-
- xi. List of students for the cohort

The above list of documents is crucial for the evaluation of the qualification which is based on the following criteria:

1. The qualification is already approved and accredited by a recognised national qualification authority or recognised professional accreditation body in its country or recognised professional accreditation body in its country of origin.
2. The qualification has been offered to more than three learner cohorts in the country of origin;
3. The programme and awarding body will still be accredited when the learners graduate;
4. The qualification to be awarded matches the level on the Seychelles National Qualification Framework;
5. Name of learners graduating from the programme;
6. Starting and ending dates of the programme.

Once the SQA is satisfied that there is merit for the Certificate of Recognition to be issued, the applying education and training provider will be issued with one. The Certificate of Recognition covers the group of learners and duration of the programme and is issued for each new cohort of learners. Therefore, the tertiary and education provider should ensure that the accreditation of the programme and accreditation of the provider is valid until such time as the learners graduate. The tertiary and education provider needs to apply for recognition for each new cohort and therefore the local institution will need to submit the relevant documents each time there is a new group of learners starting the programme

The information which will feature on the certificate will establish the above information. A copy of a certificate of recognition is attached as Annex 1 for your perusal.

3.0 Conclusion:

The document has been developed to provide local institution with the necessary guidelines on what documentation to be submitted when requesting for a certificate of recognition. It is anticipated that this guideline will facilitate the process for institutions to obtain the certificate for recognition of the programme they want to offer and will do so in the shortest delay possible. It is also expected that the right materials and information will be requested from the overseas providers.

Annex 1

SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Certificate of Recognition

Institution
having the MOU
with

for the

**University of Mauritius Programme offered in
partnership with the University of Seychelles**

Local partner

Name of Programme

This is to certify that the **University of Mauritius Programme of MA
in Educational Leadership** delivered jointly with the University of
Seychelles to the student cohort in the academic years from **October
2020 through to December 2023** is duly recognized by the Seychelles
Qualifications Authority.

Learner Cohort being
recognized

The Seychelles Qualifications Authority recognizes the programme on
the basis of the following:

- The programme is assessed and the degree of Master is awarded
by (*Name of University*), a public university established by the
(*University Act*).
- The cognitive challenge of the programmes is in accordance with
the level descriptors of the National Qualifications Framework
(2008) at (*Level*)- and the programme duration is at a minimum
of (*notional hours*) as required on the Framework.

Level of
programme
on the
Seychelles
NQF

Graduates of the Masters Degree programme are deemed to have met University of Mauritius and Seychelles Qualifications Authority's recognized standards of Certification.

.....

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

.....

Date