

# NOSTRIFICATION

**NOSTRIFICATION - the process by which the equivalence of foreign education (primary, secondary, higher vocational or higher education) with education in the Czech Republic is recognised.**

- This means that the content and scope of education in a foreign school is comparable to a similar educational programme in the Czech Republic.
- IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE A GRANTED ACADEMIC DEGREE.

## Nostrification is needed:

- for further studies in the Czech Republic,
- as proof of education when looking for a job.
  - o It is not a recognition of education for the so-called regulated professions, e.g. teacher, doctor, lawyer, architect (details [here](#)).
  - o Nostrification does not confer authorisation to practise a regulated profession.

## Recognition of the equivalence of foreign education with education in the Czech Republic can occur in 2 ways:

### 1. Based on so-called equivalence agreements:

- On the basis of international treaties on mutual recognition of the equivalence of education documents - only with Hungary, Slovenia, Germany, Poland and Slovakia.
- Holders of documents (diplomas, certificates) can use them directly in the Czech Republic. There is no need to present a certificate of recognition of foreign education.
- We recommend that holders of these documents submit official certified copies of their education documents together with official translations into Czech (not needed for Slovakian documents).

### 2. So-called nostrification:

- ***Primary, secondary and higher vocational school diplomas are nostrified at the education departments of the relevant regional authorities (depending on the applicant's place of residence).***
  - o The application form is filled in at the relevant regional office.
  - o If the applicant is a minor, he/she is represented by a legal representative.
  - o An administrative fee of CZK 1,000 is paid to the Regional Authority.
  - o Application for recognition of foreign education in the Czech Republic - primary school, secondary school and higher vocational school - [HERE](#).
  - o If the scope and content of the foreign education does not fully match, then nostrification is denied.
  - o If the foreign education differs in part or the student does not provide complete documents, he or she must take a nostrification exam. This exam verifies the applicant's knowledge and skills. If the applicant passes the exam, he or she will receive a report which he or she will hand in to the regional office and receive a nostrification certificate.



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***A university degree is nostrified directly at a specific public university that has a similar accredited study programme.***

- You pay an administrative fee of CZK 3,000 to the university.
- Nostrification recognises your education, but it does not mean that you are awarded a degree.
- Application for recognition of foreign education in the Czech Republic - [HERE](#).
- List of public universities [here](#).



**In addition to public universities, the following also decide on the nostrification of higher education and qualifications:**

- **The Ministry of Defence (MO)** decides on **military education**
  - more information [here](#)
- **The Ministry of the Interior (MV)** decides on education acquired **in the field of security services**
  - more information [here](#)
- **The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT)** is the **appeal body in the event** of a rejection of an application by a public university. In case of doubt, the MŠMT determines the **jurisdiction of a particular public university** to grant recognition. **In exceptional cases**, if the relevant public university is not in the Czech Republic (no comparable study programme is accredited in the Czech Republic), the MŠMT will decide on recognition itself.

**A written application for recognition of foreign higher education and qualifications in the Czech Republic must be accompanied by:**

- **Original or an officially certified copy of a foreign university diploma or degree.**
- **The original or an officially certified copy of proof of the content and extent of the education** received at the foreign school (e.g. a diploma supplement).
- **The original or an officially certified copy of a written power of attorney** if the applicant is represented in the proceedings by an attorney of his choice.
- **An officially certified copy of the proof of change of name or surname** (e.g. marriage certificate) if the foreign diploma or diploma supplement is issued with a name or surname other than that of the applicant.

Documents in English are usually accepted without a certified translation. A certified translation will be made by a court interpreter (**list of experts and interpreters [here](#)**). The translation must include the original or a certified copy of the document being translated.

It may happen that the public university or the MO, MV and MŠMT require a higher certification on the original diploma and diploma supplement, the so-called **apostille, superlegalization**. This means that authentication of the official stamp and signature on the document will be required.

Verification is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the state in which the foreign university that issued the documents is located, or by the competent foreign authority and the competent embassy of the Czech Republic.



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## Submission of the application:

- In written form by post to the address of the administrative authority (public university, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Education)
- In electronic form:
  - o to a data box or
  - o to the electronic mailroom of the administrative authority (by email with an electronic signature - it is not a scan or a photograph of the signature)

## Termination of the proces:

- By issuing a decision - i.e. a certificate of recognition of foreign education, with unlimited validity for the Czech Republic.
- The decision is usually issued within 30 days of receipt of the application.
- The application may be rejected. The applicant then has the right to appeal within 15 days of the date of notification of the decision. The administrative body responsible for the appeal is the Ministry of Education, whose decision is final.



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