

OVERSEAS SENIOR SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS – COMPARISON

Purpose

This policy outlines the Office of Tasmanian Assessment Standards, and Certification (TASC) approach to comparing an overseas senior secondary or higher education qualification to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). TASC may provide a statement of comparability to a Tasmanian resident who requires evidence of completion of a senior secondary or higher education qualification for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, employment.

This policy is relevant to all people who are Tasmanian residents but have completed senior secondary schooling or higher education overseas and wish to have a comparison made between that qualification and the AQF.

Policy statement

- **Tasmanian residents can apply to TASC to have their overseas qualifications compared to the AQF**
All Tasmanian residents can submit a request for TASC to undertake a comparison assessment of their overseas senior secondary and higher education qualifications. The decision made by TASC will not be a measure of technical or specialised skills and, subsequently, will not qualify a person to undertake specialised occupations, nor will it be an assessment for migration purposes.
- **Qualifications must be completed before a comparison can be made**
To have a senior secondary or higher education qualification compared to the AQF, certification must represent a complete qualification in the country of issuance. A comparison cannot be provided for an incomplete senior secondary qualification.
- **Evidence of a completed qualification must be provided as certified true copies**
All documents to support a request for a statement of comparison of an overseas senior secondary qualification must be certified as true copies by an authorised person and, where required, translated into English. The translation from the original language to English must be an official translation. Both original documents and translations must be provided to the Office of TASC, and both must be certified by an authorised Commissioner for Declarations, Justice of the Peace or, if overseas, a Notary Public.
- **Requests are to be submitted directly to TASC, either in person or by mail, and an administrative fee must be paid**
All persons submitting a request for a statement of comparison will be required to complete a request form, found on the TASC website, and pay the administrative fee, displayed on the TASC website, when submitting their documents to TASC for

consideration. Relevant documentation can be submitted to TASC in person at the TASC offices, by postal mail and electronic mail.

- **The person making the request will be informed in writing of TASC's decision**
TASC will make the final determination when comparing the overseas qualification to the AQF based on the documentation submitted with the request. TASC will provide advice in writing as to the status of the request within 10 business days of receiving it. The person who submitted the request will have the opportunity to respond to the decision if they are dissatisfied with the outcome.
- **Comparisons between overseas senior secondary qualifications and the Tasmanian senior secondary qualification, Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)**
When making a comparison between an overseas senior secondary qualification and the TCE, results will be determined with consideration to the qualification achieved rather than performance in individual subjects. The comparison will not attribute a Tertiary Entrance (TE) Score or an Australian Tertiary Admittance Rank (ATAR) to the person submitting the request.
- **A statement of comparison is not an endorsement of the authenticity of the qualification(s)**
TASC can make an assessment on the submitted qualification(s) and provide a comparison to the AQF, as stated above, but this does not guarantee the authenticity of the qualification(s) that were submitted.

Related policies

- Recognition of interstate senior secondary learning – partial completion (in development).

Related procedures

- No related procedures.

Supporting information

[Certified copies](#) (who can certify your documents)

[Tasmanian Certificate of Education \(TCE\)](#)

Definitions

Authorised person

A person who is a Commissioner of Declarations as defined under the *Oaths Act 2001*. Occupations which can grant individuals the power to commission declarations can be, but are not limited to, lawyers, police officers and pharmacists. More information on who can certify your documents can be found on the [TASC website](#).

Certified true copy

A copy of an original document that has been verified as being a true copy of the original document and has been signed by an authorised person.

Official translation

A translation performed by a qualified person or institution. If the translation is made inside Australia, it must be certified by a language teacher or professor at a tertiary institution, a professional accredited translator by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), an approved translator from the Department of Home Affairs – Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National), or any other qualified person of a Commonwealth or state government department providing accredited translation services.¹

Qualification

The recognition that a person has successfully completed a course or course of study or has been successful in an examination or other assessment of an area of their education.

Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)

The Tasmania-specific Senior Secondary Certificate of Education issued to students upon their successful completion of senior secondary education in Tasmania.

Tasmanian resident

A person living in Tasmania, who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or holds a valid visa with the right to work or study in Australia.

¹ Definition retrieved from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) [Translation of documents | ASIC - Australian Securities and Investments Commission](#)

Legislation

Section 64A(2) of the *Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003* (the Act) enables TASC to provide, on request, a statement that compares a qualification issued in other jurisdictions with the qualifications that are issued in Tasmania.

Clause 13 in Schedule 1 of the *Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (Fees) Regulations 2013* prescribes the fee for TASC to provide a statement under section 64A(2) of Act to be 30 fee units.

The fee unit value is automatically indexed in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index for Hobart, as set out in the *Fee Units Act 1997*. More information on fee units, including the current fee unit value is available on the [Department of Treasury and Finance website](#).

Authorised by	Executive Officer, TASC
Contact	Accreditation and Recognition
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