

ENROLLING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A GUIDE FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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the European Union



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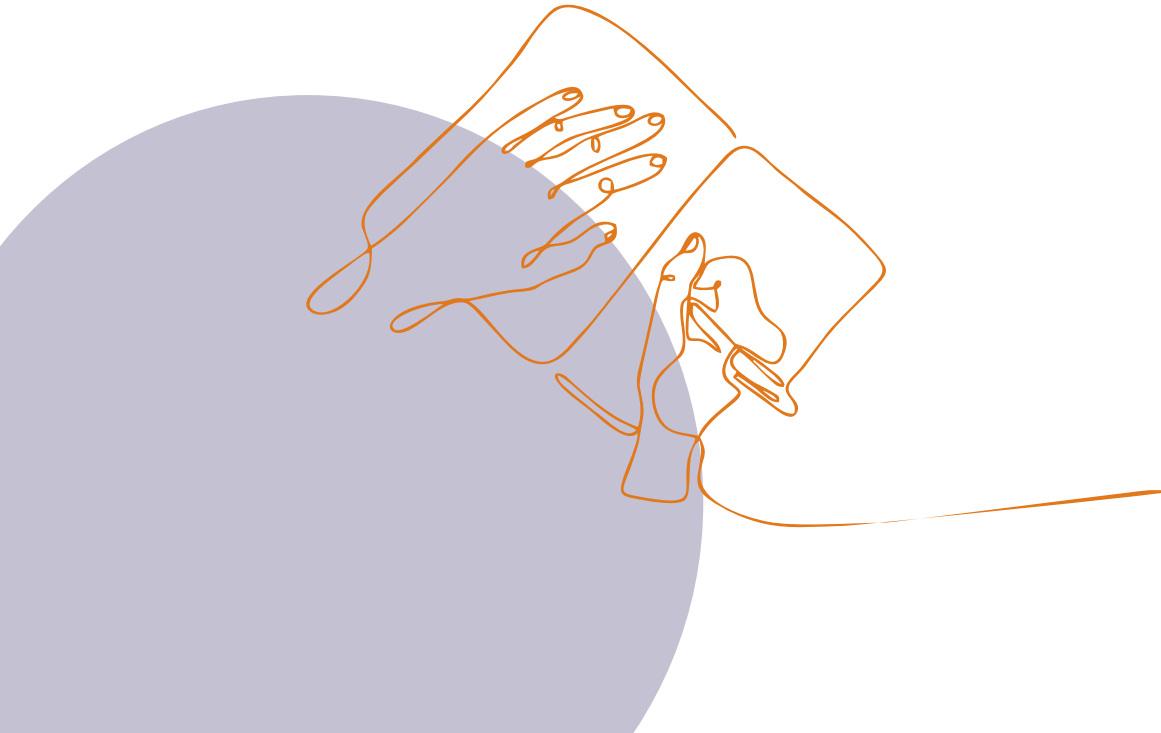
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COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES
AND MIGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended for individuals who have been granted asylum, asylum seekers, persons under temporary protection, and other migrant children. It aims to facilitate their path to higher education in the Republic of Serbia.

We understand that you may have many questions regarding university admission and the recognition of your previously acquired diplomas. That is why we have prepared this guide to provide answers to key questions about enrolling in accredited study programs at higher education institutions in the Republic of Serbia.

The answers provided will inform you about the admission procedures, necessary documentation, and steps you need to take.

We will also explain in detail the process of recognition of foreign educational documents, which is crucial for continuing your academic journey.

Additionally, this guide contains information about other important aspects of studying in the Republic of Serbia, helping you integrate more easily into the academic community.

We hope this guide will be helpful and assist you in achieving your educational goals in the Republic of Serbia.

Good luck!

1.

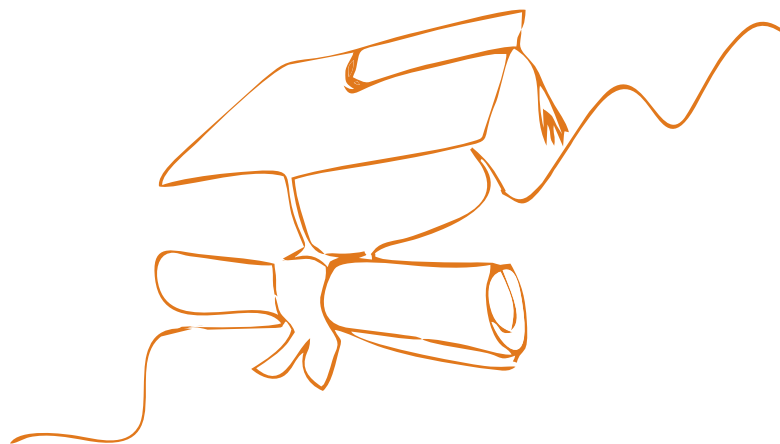
DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA?

“YES”, persons granted asylum, asylum seekers, those under temporary protection, and all other migrant children are entitled to access higher education under the same conditions regarding prior education as Serbian citizens.

This means you must have a diploma certifying completion of secondary education and proof of your legal status in the Republic of Serbia (ID card for persons granted asylum, ID card for persons seeking asylum, ID card for persons granted temporary protection, or ID for foreign nationals).

2.

WHERE CAN I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF MY SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA?



You can submit your application form for the recognition of a school certificate (diploma) in Serbian or English, either in person at the Qualifications Agency headquarters (Majke Jevrosime 51, Belgrade) or electronically via the website: <http://212.200.100.106:81/enicnaricsrednje/prijava/index.cfm>

Detailed instructions, including how to start the recognition process and payment details, are available on the Agency's website: <https://www.azk.gov.rs>

3.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUBMIT, AND IS THERE A FEE?

You need to submit the following with your application:

1. The original or a certified copy of your final-year secondary school certificate or diploma. If required, it must bear an “Apostille stamp” from the competent authority in the country of issuance.
2. A translation into Serbian of the final-year certificate by a certified court translator in Serbia:
 - For general high schools: translation of the final-year certificate, or final-year and graduation diploma.



- For vocational schools (3 or 4 years): translation of the final-year certificate and diploma/final exam certificate.
3. Proof of all previously completed grades in the Republic of Serbia (if applicable) or another country outside your country of origin – either a certified copy or original for verification.
 4. Proof of payment of the fee of RSD 8,900.*

* Individuals granted asylum or asylum seekers may request a fee waiver from the Agency.

IMPORTANT

If you do not have documentation proving completion of secondary education, your education cannot currently be recognized for the purpose of university enrolment.

The Republic of Serbia has joined the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) initiative to address this issue. Still, legislative changes are required to implement this tool for recognizing qualifications without documentation.



4.

RECOGNITION PROCEDURE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATES

This process equates a foreign school certificate with an equivalent Serbian public document, as per the Law on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia, unless otherwise regulated by an international agreement.

When reviewing the foreign document, the following factors are considered: the foreign education system, program duration, curriculum, rights granted by the certificate, and other relevant aspects. If the curriculum significantly differs from the Serbian one, recognition

may be conditional upon passing exams, submitting specific work, or a knowledge assessment.

The Qualifications Agency may appoint an expert commission of the appropriate school for exams and assessments.

The process concludes with the issuance of a recognition decision, which has the status of a public document and entitles the individual to employment or university enrolment.

5.

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD I APPLY FOR UNIVERSITY ADMISSION?

Before selecting a university and study program, it is essential to ensure that both are accredited.

You should first browse the websites of higher education institutions and make a list of programs you are interested in. Then, check their accreditation status via the “Student Guide” available on the website of the National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education: <https://www.nat.rs/vodic-za-studente>.

Once you find an accredited program, the institution’s website will provide

information on application deadlines and any entrance exam fees.

The typical application period is late June, while Entrance exams are usually held by the first week of July. Please confirm the exact dates on the higher education institution’s website.



6.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATION DOCUMENTS

If you have completed part of your higher education or have a diploma and wish to continue your studies, you must start the academic recognition process by submitting an application to the institution where you want to study.

You submit your application for academic recognition to the higher education institution where you wish to study:

For academic (university) studies: apply through the university that the faculty belongs to.

For applied studies: apply directly to the academy of applied studies or higher vocational school.



For academic studies on higher school of academic studies: directly at that higher education institution.

Academic recognition is conducted by the higher education institution based on the evaluation of the foreign study program and determines whether you are eligible to continue your studies. It is conducted in accordance with the Law on Higher Education, unless otherwise stipulated by an international agreement.

Continuing education or enrolment in a higher level of study may require additional learning outcomes or be denied if there is a significant difference between your prior education and the target program.

Criteria for assessing such differences and recognition procedures are determined by each institution's internal regulations.

The process concludes with a decision on recognition, which allows the continuation of studies at the institution where the application was submitted.

There is an administrative tax of RSD 13,970 for academic recognition, but some institutions may charge additional service fees. Please check with the higher education institution for details.

NOTE:

If you lack documentation for completed higher education or parts of your studies, it is currently not possible to formally recognize your qualifications. This recognition is a prerequisite for continuing your education at a specific level of study (e.g., specialist vocational studies, master's academic or vocational studies, specialist postgraduate studies, or doctoral studies).

To address this issue, the Republic of Serbia has joined the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) initiative. However, for this tool to be implemented and allow for the recognition of qualifications or parts of studies for migrants without complete documentation, amendments to relevant Serbian regulations are required.

7.

CAN I TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAM WITHOUT A RECOGNITION DECISION?

Yes, based on the proof that you have submitted an application for diploma recognition, you may take the entrance exam and be provisionally enrolled.

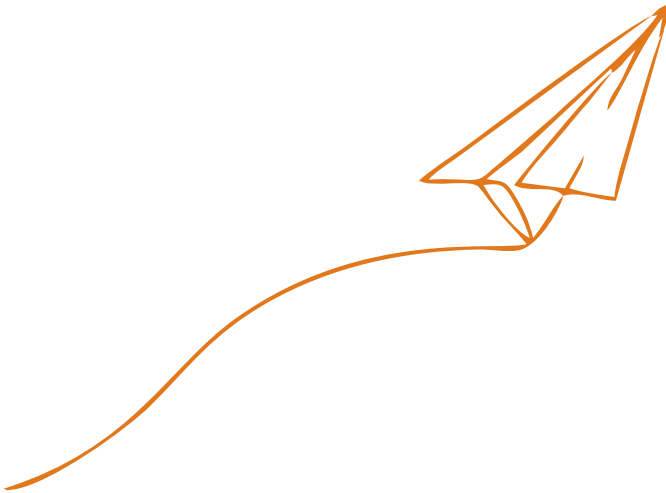
Final enrolment takes place after you receive the recognition decision from the Qualifications Agency.

8.

WHERE DO I APPLY FOR MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL STUDIES?

You submit your application to the higher education institution where you wish to study.

You can find details about the required documents on the higher education institution's website or by contacting their office in charge of foreign diploma recognition.



9.

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE EDUCATION, OR DO I NEED TO PAY TUITION?

The right to equal access to higher education for foreign nationals (including asylum seekers and refugees) does not automatically include eligibility for funding from the Serbian state budget.

However, there are various support programs for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. We recommend checking active programs on the following websites: Ministry of Education of Serbia <http://www.prosveta.gov.rs>, International Organization for Migration (IOM) <https://serbia.iom.int/sr>, United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR <https://www.unhcr.org/rs>, and NGOs working to support migrants.



10.

ARE THE ENROLLMENT RULES DIFFERENT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES?

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Enrolment rules are the same for both public and private institutions.

Each institution defines its own ranking criteria and methods for assessing knowledge, skills, and aptitudes, in accordance with the Law on Higher Education. Please check the higher education institution's website for specific details.

11.

DO I NEED TO SPEAK SERBIAN IF THE PROGRAM I WANT TO STUDY IS IN ENGLISH?

The required level of Serbian for studying in Serbian is determined by the higher education institution.

For programs in English, knowledge of English at the level specified by the higher education institution is required.

