

## **Main provisions of the legislation for offering franchised courses on behalf of overseas Higher Education Institutions**

Any private educational institution in Cyprus may now award qualifications from EU member state Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and/or they can allow EU member state HEIs to award their qualifications within the Republic of Cyprus provided that the following four criteria are met:

1. The overseas HEI must be recognized by the EU member state where it is registered and must be authorised to provide the relevant courses and qualifications.
2. The department delivering the course within the Republic of Cyprus must be authorized to deliver courses by franchise by the relevant body of the EU member state of the HEI awarding the qualification in question.
3. The qualification that is awarded must be the same as the one that would have been awarded if the course were followed entirely in the EU member state of the HEI awarding the qualification.
4. In cases where the qualification attests professional skills then the holder enjoys the same professional rights in the EU member state of the HEI awarding the qualification.

Private educational institutions in Cyprus offering franchised courses on behalf of overseas HEIs as to what they need to report to the Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) and this now includes:

1. All relevant reports and evaluations conducted by the overseas HEI awarding qualifications.
2. Details of the educational facilities and services offered by the private educational institution in Cyprus as in the EU member state of the HEI awarding the qualification.
3. Details of admission and assessment criteria applied by the private educational institution in Cyprus as well as those applied by the overseas HEI awarding.
4. The number and the academic and professional qualifications of the staff engaged in delivering the programme, both from the private educational institution in Cyprus as well as those of the overseas HEI awarding qualifications.
5. The relevant agreements between the Cyprus and overseas institutions.

The legislation provides for the Minister of Education and Culture in Cyprus to communicate any concerns:

1. To the overseas HEI awarding qualifications (e.g. UK university)
2. To the appropriate authorities overseas ( e.g. QAA and Ministry of Education)
3. To the appropriate 'certificate recognition bodies' (e.g. UK NARIC and KYSATS in UK and Cyprus respectively)