

No. 4023

**AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, etc.**

**European Convention on the equivalence of periods of
university study. Signed at Paris, on 15 December
1956**

Official texts: English and French.

*Registered on 19 October 1957 by the Council of Europe acting on behalf of the
Contracting Parties, in accordance with Resolution (54) 6 of the Committee
of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted on 3 April 1954.*

**AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, DANEMARK, FRANCE,
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE, etc.**

**Convention européenne sur l'équivalence des périodes
d'études universitaires. Signée à Paris, le 15 décembre
1956**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

*Enregistrée le 19 octobre 1957 par le Conseil de l'Europe agissant au nom des Parties
contractantes, conformément à la résolution (54) 6 du Comité des ministres
du Conseil de l'Europe adoptée le 3 avril 1954.*

No. 4023. EUROPEAN CONVENTION¹ ON THE EQUIVALENCE OF PERIODS OF UNIVERSITY STUDY. SIGNED AT PARIS, ON 15 DECEMBER 1956

The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to the European Convention on the equivalence of diplomas leading to admission to universities, signed in Paris on the 11th December, 1953;²

Having regard to the European Cultural Convention, signed in Paris on the 19th December, 1954;³

Considering that an important contribution would be made to European understanding if a larger number of students, among others students of modern languages, could spend a period of study abroad and if examinations passed and courses taken by such students during the period of study could be recognised by the home university;

Considering further that the recognition of periods of study spent abroad would contribute to the solution of the problem raised by the shortage of highly qualified scientists,

Have agreed as follows :

¹ Came into force on 18 September 1957, the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, in accordance with article 9. Following is a list of States which deposited the instruments of ratification showing the dates of deposit and entry into force :

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>	<i>Date of entry into force</i>
Ireland	20 February 1957	18 September 1957
Norway	14 March 1957	18 September 1957
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with a declaration)*	18 September 1957	18 September 1957
Austria	2 October 1957	2 October 1957

*DECLARATION

"On depositing this day on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the Instrument of Ratification of the European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study which was signed at Paris on the 15th of December, 1956, I am directed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that, while the said Instrument is in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland interpret paragraph 5 of Article 9 as permitting them to extend the application of the said Convention at any time hereafter to any territory for whose international relations they are responsible."

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 218, p. 125, and Vol. 253, p. 367.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 218, p. 139; Vol. 223, p. 384, and Vol. 228, p. 372.

Article 1

1. For the purposes of the present Convention, Contracting Parties shall be divided into categories according to whether the authority competent to deal with matters pertaining to equivalences in their territories is :

- (a) the State;
- (b) the university;
- (c) the State or university as the case may be.

Each Contracting Party shall inform the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe which is the competent authority in its territory to deal with matters pertaining to equivalences.

2. The term " universities " shall denote :

- (a) universities, and
- (b) institutions regarded as being similar in character to universities by the Contracting Party in whose territory they are situated.

Article 2

1. Contracting Parties falling within category (a) of Article 1, paragraph 1, shall recognise a period of study spent by a student of modern languages in a university of another member country of the Council of Europe as equivalent to a similar period spent in his home university provided that the authorities of the first-mentioned university have issued to such a student a certificate attesting that he has completed the said period of study to their satisfaction.

2. The length of the period of study referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be determined by the competent authorities of the Contracting Party concerned.

Article 3

Contracting Parties falling within category (a) of Article 1, paragraph 1, shall consider the means to be adopted in order to recognise a period of study spent in a university of another member country of the Council of Europe by students of disciplines other than modern languages and especially by students of pure and applied sciences.

Article 4

Contracting Parties falling within category (a) of Article 1, paragraph 1, shall endeavour to determine, by means of unilateral or bilateral arrangements, the conditions under which an examination passed or a course taken by a student during a period of study in a university of another member country of the

Council of Europe may be considered as equivalent to a similar examination passed or a course taken by a student in his home university.

Article 5

Contracting Parties falling within category (b) of Article 1, paragraph 1, shall transmit the text of the present Convention to the authorities of the universities situated in their territories and shall encourage the favourable consideration and application by them of the principles mentioned in Articles 2, 3 and 4 above.

Article 6

Contracting Parties falling within category (c) of Article 1, paragraph 1, shall apply the provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 4 in respect of those universities for which the State is the competent authority in the matters dealt with in this Convention, and shall apply the provisions of Article 5 in respect of those universities which are themselves the competent authorities in these matters.

Article 7

Each Contracting Party shall, within a year of the coming into force of the present Convention, furnish the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe with a written statement on the measures taken to implement Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Article 8

The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall communicate to the other Contracting Parties the information received from each of them in accordance with Article 7 and shall keep the Committee of Ministers informed of the progress made in the implementation of this Convention.

Article 9

1. The present Convention shall be open to the signature of the Members of the Council of Europe. It shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.
2. The Convention shall come into force as soon as three instruments of ratification have been deposited.
3. As regards any Signatory ratifying subsequently, the Convention shall come into force at the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.
4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify all the Members of the Council of Europe of the entry into force of the Convention, the names of the Contracting Parties which have ratified it and the deposit of all instruments of ratification which may be effected subsequently.