

AN AGREEMENT ON THE RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE

WITH A VIEW TO PURSUING FURTHER STUDIES IN THE PARTNER COUNTRY

The French *Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU)*, *Conférence des Directeurs des Ecoles françaises d'ingénieurs (CDEFI)* and the Universities Australia, ('the Parties'),

taking into account:

the tradition of cooperation and exchange that exist between French and Australian higher education institutions, given expression in the form of Agreements;

the desirability of encouraging mobility by students in each of the two countries by facilitating the opportunity to further their studies in the other country;

the fact that the professions are regulated by specific national legislation,

have agreed on the following points:

Chapter 1: General Conditions

Article 1 - Object of the Agreement

The objective of this Agreement is to encourage the mutual recognition of periods of study, nationally recognised higher education Awards – or their equivalents – and other higher education qualifications granted by a competent authority of one of the two countries in order to promote study in the higher education institutions of the partner country (as defined in Article 2.2. below).

Article 2 - Application

1. This Agreement applies to:

- students who hold Awards and qualifications that were acquired in their country of origin;
- students who have undertaken periods of study in their country of origin and have not completed the full cycle of studies necessary for the granting of an Award, but have nevertheless been officially recognized by an exam or certificate issued by a competent authority certifying that these studies were completed satisfactorily. Such periods of study may be recognised by the institutions of the recipient country and lead to the granting of advance standing exempting students from the need to undertake courses of like content and duration delivered by the receiving institution.

In both cases the programme in which students may enrol will be determined by the competent academic authorities. Advance standing for prior studies will be granted for programmes within a similar field of study or similar field of professional training.

2. This Agreement covers:

- In France all institutions which are members of the *CPU* and the *CDEFI*.
In Australia this Agreement covers:

- In Australia all institutions that are members of Universities Australia.

The list of Australian and French institutions covered by this Agreement is at Annex 1.

This Agreement does not cover programmes of study in healthcare. It is possible that the Agreement may be subsequently amended to cover other fields of study, depending on the development of the higher education systems in each country.

3. This Agreement does not cover the recognition of diplomas in either country for the purposes of professional activity. Nor does it cover the processes of granting of Awards in the receiving country or any civil entitlements that may be attached to the Award of a qualification. It does not establish precedence in respect of any other admission requirements of institutions such as the availability of places in the receiving institution or the possession of a certain level of language competence.

It is based on respect for the principle of institutional autonomy applying in the higher education systems of both France and Australia.

Chapter II: Description of higher education qualifications and the organisation of the higher education systems of the two countries

Article 3

The educational qualifications awarded in France and Australia as well as the organisation and structure of the higher education systems of the two countries are presented in **Annex 2**.

Chapter III: Requirements concerning entry to higher education institutions in each country

Article 4 - Entry by the holders of Australian qualifications to French higher education institutions

1. Access to the first year of higher education

- A student holding an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (such as a State or Territory Year 12 Award), accompanied by evidence of an appropriate tertiary entrance rank or other evidence of his/her acceptance into an undergraduate programme in Australia may enrol to the first year of studies at a French university.

- The holder of an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (such as a State or Territory Year 12 Award), accompanied by evidence of an appropriate tertiary entrance rank or evidence of acceptance into an undergraduate programme in Australia, may be admitted to the first year of a *Section de Technicien Supérieur (STS programme)* or an *Institut Universitaire de Technologie (IUT programme)*, to *Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles (CPGE)* or to an engineering school (*Ecole d'Ingénieurs*) recruiting at *baccalauréat* (Year 12) level, subject to assessment of the individual's academic record.

2. Access to postgraduate studies (Master level)

- The French party recognises that the Australian Bachelor Degree requiring three years of fulltime study may be considered as corresponding to the acquisition of 180 European Credits - ECTS. The holder of a three-year Bachelor Degree may enrol in the first year of a *master* programme, in his/her field of studies under the same conditions as apply to French students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record.
- The Bachelor with Honours and the four year Bachelor Degree may be considered as corresponding to the acquisition of 240 European Credits - ECTS (an additional 60 European Credits - ECTS following the Bachelor Degree). The holder of an Honours Bachelor/Bachelor with Honours or other four-year Bachelor Degree or a Graduate Diploma may be admitted to the second year of a *master* programme under the same conditions as apply to French students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record.

3. Entry to Engineering studies at institutions authorised to deliver the Award of "ingénieur diplômé"

The title of *ingénieur diplômé* (Graduate Engineer) which is awarded by an institution accredited by the government after an evaluation by the *Commission des titres d'ingénieurs* (CTI) requires a minimum of four semesters of study in the engineering programme at the awarding institution. The one-semester industrial placement or one-semester graduation project required at the end of the programme of study may be undertaken in an Australian company or higher education institution.

- A student with a three-year Bachelor degree majoring in science or technology or who has completed the first three years of a four-year Bachelor Degree in engineering, may be admitted to the first year of an engineering programme (third year of the complete course) offered by an engineering school (*école d'ingénieurs*), subject to consideration of his/her academic record.
- A student with a Honours Bachelor Degree or other four year Bachelor Degree may be admitted to the second year of an engineering programme (the fourth year of the complete course) offered by an engineering school (*école d'ingénieurs*), subject to consideration of his/her academic record.

4. Access to doctorate

- An Australian student who has been awarded a Masters Degree which included a thesis component, may be admitted, under the same conditions as apply to French students, to a Doctorate. The Australian Masters Degree may be considered as corresponding to 300 European Credits - ECTS by the French Party.
- An Australian student who has been awarded an Honours Bachelor Degree or Degree with Honours in the First Class or Second Class Upper Division which includes a substantial research component may be admitted to a doctoral programme in France, on a case-by-case basis, subject to the relevance of previous studies and the proposed research and the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

5. Entry with advance standing to the intermediate years of programme of study is based on the requirements presented in Chapter IV of this Agreement.

Article 5: Entry by the holders of French Awards and Qualifications to Higher Education in Australia

1. Access to the first year of Bachelor Degree / Undergraduate Studies

- The holder of a *baccalauréat* may be admitted to a Bachelor Degree programme subject to meeting the specific requirements of the admitting institution with regard to prerequisites or

assumed knowledge.

2. *Access to the third year of a Bachelor Degree / Undergraduate Studies with Advanced Standing*

- The holder of a *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales (DEUG)* or a student having successfully completed the first two years of a *licence* may be admitted to the third year of a Bachelor Degree programme with advanced standing similar to that attracted by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Associate Degree, subject to meeting the specific requirements of the admitting institution with regard to prerequisites or assumed knowledge.

- The holder of a *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT)* may be admitted to the third year of a Bachelor Degree programme with advanced standing similar to that attracted by the AQF Associate Degree or Advanced Diploma, subject to meeting the specific requirements of the admitting institution with regard to prerequisites or assumed knowledge.

- A student who has successfully completed two years of higher education studies at a *Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Ecoles (CPGE)* may be admitted to the third year of a Bachelor Degree with advanced standing similar to that attracted by the AQF Associate Degree, subject to meeting the specific requirements of the admitting institution with regard to prerequisites or assumed knowledge.

3. *Access to Masters Degree Studies*

- The holder of a *licence* may be admitted to a Masters degree programme subject to the relevance of his/her previous studies and the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

- The holder of the Award of *maîtrise* or a student who has been formally recognised as having completed the first year of a French *master* may be admitted to a Masters degree programme requiring an Honours or four-year Bachelor degree for admission, subject to the relevance of previous studies and the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

4. *Access to Doctoral Degree Studies*

- A student who has been awarded a French *master* or another Award at *master* level granted on completion of a programme designed to establish the Award holder's aptitude for research may enrol in a doctoral programme in Australia subject to the relevance of previous studies and the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

5. *Entry with advanced standing to the intermediate years of programme of study* leading to the Award of a higher education qualification is based on the requirements presented in Chapter IV of this Agreement.

Chapter IV: Recognition of periods of study which have not led to the Award of a qualification

Article 6 – Advance standing

1. Upon application by the student concerned, Higher Education institutions in either country may grant students advanced standing for successfully completed periods of higher education study which have not led to the Award of a qualification and which were undertaken in the other country. This will usually be done on the basis of a system of credits.

The French Party notes that no qualification is awarded on the completion of studies undertaken in a *Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Ecoles* (CPGE). However, a student who has successfully completed two years of higher education study in a CPGE may be recognised as having completed 120 European Credits - ECTS by the institution in which he/she continues his/her studies.

2. The competent authority in terms of the recognition of periods of study for the purposes of advanced standing is the higher education institution at which the student seeking advanced standing wishes to study.

Article 7– Tuition fees

In the case of periods of study undertaken within the context of an exchange between higher education institutions in the two countries, students are liable only for those tuition fees charged by their home institution.

Chapter V – Joint Degrees

Article 8

French and Australian institutions may develop partnership arrangements to offer both joint and double degrees. In the case of the French Party, the legal basis is provided by Decree No. 2005-450 of the 11 May 2005 regarding the award of qualifications in international partnership arrangements and the Regulation of 6 January 2005 concerning joint international supervision of doctoral theses (*cotutelle*). In the case of doctoral studies, for the French Party, the regulation of 7 August 2006 applies.

Article 9 – Tuition fees

In the case of an exchange leading to the Award of a joint or double degree, students are liable only for those tuition fees charged by their home institution.

Chapter VI – Application of the Agreement

Article 10

The two parties undertake to keep each other informed about the operation of their respective systems of higher education and of any changes to higher education policy in their respective countries.

Article 11

This Agreement enters into effect from the date it is signed for a period of four years. Following this period, it will remain in force until one of the Parties requests otherwise. It can be amended with the consent of both Parties.

Either Party may withdraw from the arrangement at any time following notification of the other

Party. A Party intending to withdraw from the arrangement must provide the other Party with six months notice of its intention to withdraw.

This Agreement is executed in six original copies, three in French and three in English. Copies in either language have equal validity.

Paris,

Canberra,

The President of the *Conférence des
Présidents d'Université (CPU)*

The Chair of
Universities Australia

The President of the *Conférence des
Directeurs des Ecoles françaises d'Ingénieurs
(CDEFI)*

Annex 1

A) List of universities, member of Universities Australia

- Australian Catholic University
- Australian National University
- Bond University
- Charles Darwin University
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Sturt University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of New England
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Queensland
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Ballarat
- University of Canberra
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Western Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- Victoria University

B) List of French Institutions covered by this Agreement

- Universities : see website : <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20269/liste-des-universites.html>

- Engineering institutions authorised to grant the Award of *ingénieur diplômé*: see website: <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20256/liste-des-ecoles-d-ingenieurs.html>

Annex 2: Description of the Educational Qualifications and the Organisation of the Systems of Higher Education in the two countries

A: France

1. Awards, grades and titres

a. Awards (diplôme)

The following Awards issued under the authority of the State are covered by this Agreement:

- Nationally recognised Awards (diplômes) : *Baccalauréat*, *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (BTS); *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie* (DUT); *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales* (DEUG); *licence*; *maîtrise*; *French master*, *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Scientifiques et Techniques* (DEUST) ; *Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies* (DEA) ; *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées* (DESS); and *doctorat*.

Nationally recognised Awards are granted by those establishments that are authorised to do so by the Minister responsible for Higher Education following advice of the *Conseil National de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche* (CNESER) (National Council of Higher Education and Research).

- The *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* (graduate engineer) is awarded by those institutions which have been authorized to do so by the State on the advice of the *Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs* (CTI).

An official statement attesting to the successful completion of the requirements of a qualification is the equivalent to the qualification.

b. Grades and Titres:

Following Decree No. 2002-482 of 8 April 2002, the terms *grades* (level of Award) and *titres* describe the various levels of higher education study independent of the areas of training, subject area or speciality.

The *grades* give effect to the main reference levels of the European Higher Education Area. There are four *grades*

- * the *Baccalauréat*,
- * the *licence* (corresponding to 180 European Credits - ECTS);
- * the *master* (corresponding to 300 European Credits - ECTS), and
- * the *doctorat*.

A *grade*, where one exists, is granted by means of a diploma issued under the authority of the State.

Thus, in application of Decree No. 99-747 of 30 August 1999 modified, the *grade de master* is granted with full rights to holders of the following Awards:

- * *Diplôme national de master*,
- * *Diplôme d'études approfondies* (issued from 1998-1999);
- * *Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées* (issued from 1998-1999);
- * The *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* awarded by an institution authorized to do so by the State after evaluation by the *Commission des titres d'ingénieurs* (CTI).

The holders of diplomas of similar level that have been issued under the State authority and which are included on a list established by the Minister responsible for higher education on the basis of a periodical national evaluation process, are automatically recognised as being qualified at *grade de master* level.

2. Organisation of higher education

a. Short cycle professionally oriented tertiary studies

- *Sections de techniciens supérieurs* - STS Vocationally oriented short-cycle higher education studies are offered in *lycées* in *Sections de techniciens supérieurs (STS)*. The STS offer two year programmes leading to the Award of a *Brevet de technicien supérieur (BTS)* 120 European Credits - ECTS, decree number 2007-540 of 11 April 2007 concerning the general regulation on *BTS*. Studies leading to the *BTS* are open, subject to consideration of the student's academic record, to students who have a diploma of secondary studies, the *Baccalauréat* or its equivalent.
- *Instituts universitaires de technologie* - IUT a university course, also offer a two-year short-cycle higher education programme leading to the Award of a *diplôme universitaire de technologie (DUT)*. Studies leading to a *DUT* are open, subject to consideration of the student's academic record, to students who hold end of secondary studies diplomas, a *Baccalauréat* or its equivalent.

The content of the *BTS* and *DUT* covers both general and professionally oriented study. They offer professional qualifications at tertiary level relevant to a particular occupational area, the content of which has been developed in close cooperation with professionals in the particular field.

b. The "Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles" (CPGE) as a specific entry venue to long term studies

The *classes préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles (CPGE)* offer a two year programme preparing students to sit the national exams for entry to engineering schools, business schools and *Ecoles Normales Supérieures (ENS)*. There are three categories of CPGE – literary, commercial and business, and scientific. Holders of the *Baccalauréat* or an equivalent Award may be admitted in a CPGE, subject to consideration of his/her academic record.

A student who has successfully completed two years of higher education level study in a CPGE and continues his/her study in another higher education institution may be recognised as having completed 120 European Credits - ECTS by the receiving institution (cf Decree no 2007-692 of 3 May 2007 concerning the organisation and operation of the *CPGE*).

c. Long-cycle higher education

As part of the construction of the European Higher Education Area, France has adopted the three level Bachelor (Licence), Master, Doctorate (doctorat) (LMD) qualification structure.

Access to the "licence" level

- Entry to the first year university studies is open to holders of the *Baccalauréat* or an equivalent diploma – *certificat de capacité en droit* or *diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires (DAEU)*.

Following the Bologna Process reforms in France, the *licence* qualification involves six semesters of study after the Award of a *Baccalauréat* that is, in total three years of higher

education level studies after the *Baccalauréat* or a total of 180 European Credits - ECTS.

Licence professionnelle degree is awarded after 3 years' study 180 European Credits -ECTS or following completion of an additional year's study following the Award of a *BTS*, *DUT* or *DEUG*. A student holding a *licence professionnelle* may either seek employment in a related profession or undertake further study.

The *licence* and the *licence professionnelle* provide the *grade de licence*.

Prior to the introduction of the LMD structure, the *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales (DEUG)* was awarded on the successful completion of the first two years of university studies. A student awarded a *DEUG* who undertook a further year of study was awarded a *licence*.

Access to the "Master" Degree

- Access to the first year of a *master* programme is open to the holders of the "grade de licence".

Following the Bologna Process reforms in France, the *master* qualification involves four semesters of study after the Award of a *licence* (corresponding to 120 European Credits - ECTS) – that is, in total five years of higher education level studies after the *Baccalauréat* and a total of 300 European credits - ECTS.

The national *master* diploma confers the *grade de master*.

Prior to the introduction of the LMD structure, students who had completed one year following completion of a *licence* (i.e. four years of post-*baccalauréat* study) were awarded a *maîtrise*. The *Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies DEA* and *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisé DESS* Awards were issued to students who had successfully completed a further year of study following the Award of a *maitrise* or equivalent (i.e. after five years of *postbaccalauréat* study). The *DEA* and *DESS* delivered from university year 1998-1999 are recognised as conferring the *grade de masterlevel (decree 99-747 of 30 August 1999 modified)*.

During a transitional period, universities have the right to continue to issue the Awards of *maîtrise*, *DEA* and *DESS* alongside the Award of *master*.

The *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* (Graduate engineer) is awarded following completion of five years of higher education level study ; the holder of such *titre* obtains *the grade de master* and is recognised as having completed 300 European Credits - ECTS. The *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* can only be awarded by institutions which have been granted the right to do so on the basis of the outcome of evaluation by the *Commission des titres d'ingénieurs (CTI)* – which is a national accreditation Board composed of experts from universities and companies. Individuals awarded the *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* are fully qualified to practise as professional engineers, a profession that is not regulated in France.

Entry to programmes leading to the Award of the *titre d'ingénieur diplômé* is selective. There are a range of entry pathways. Entry in the engineering cycle may be based on the results of an entry exam (*concours d'entrée*) taken after two years of study in a *CPGE*. In the case of 5 year Engineering Schools with an integrated preparatory cycle, entry is based on an interview and testing following completion of the *Baccalauréat*.

Access to Doctoral Degree

The regulation of 7 August 2006 concerning doctoral studies provides that, in order to enrol in a doctoral program, a student must possess a French *master* qualification or another qualification at *grade de master* level delivered on the basis of the completion of a course of study

demonstrating an aptitude for research. However, the Head of an institution may accept students who have completed *master* level studies outside France or who have received recognition of prior learning at equivalent level on the recommendation of the Board of the School of Doctoral Studies.

Enrolment in a doctoral programme must be renewed at the beginning of each university year. Completion of a doctorate usually takes three years and requires the defence of a thesis.

The national doctoral degree confers the *grade de docteur*.

B: Australia

1. Awards in the Australian Qualifications Framework

This Agreement covers the following Awards in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF):

Senior Secondary Certificate of Education; AQF Diploma; Associate Degree/AQF Advanced Diploma; Bachelor Degree; Graduate Certificate; Graduate Diploma; Masters Degree; Doctoral Degree

Note that accredited Awards under the AQF may be issued by

- universities;
- other self-accrediting institutions;
- non-self accrediting institutions approved by the relevant State and Territory authorities to make the Awards (as listed on the Australian Qualifications Framework Register).

AQF Awards granted by authorised institutions have the same status, regardless of the Awarding institution.

2. Organisation of Studies

The Australian Qualifications Framework is based on outcomes and function and is not an accumulative model/framework.

Senior Secondary Certificate of Education

The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is a generic title: the name of the Award is determined by the State or Territory making the Award. The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is a multi-purpose Award and the learning outcomes are consistent in all States and Territories. Universities determine an individual student's admission on the basis of their final academic senior secondary education results based on final examinations in some states or a combination of continuous assessment and final examination in others.

AQF Diploma

The AQF Diploma is awarded in both the higher education and vocational education sectors. In the vocational education sector it is a competency-based vocational award, but higher education institutions offer a range of programmes at this level.

Associate Degree/ Advanced Diploma

The Associate Degree is a comparatively new two-year higher education qualification which provides the foundational underpinnings of one or more academic disciplines. It typically

articulates with full credit into a Bachelor Degree in the same field, but is also an Award in its own right.

The AQF Advanced Diploma is at the same AQF level as the Associate Degree and is awarded in both the higher education and the vocational and technical education sectors. It is typically vocational/professional in character.

Bachelor Degree

The structure of the Australian Bachelor Degree depends on the subject area studied and on the department/faculty concerned. The basic Bachelor Degree, often referred to as a Pass Degree, less frequently as an Ordinary Degree, provides initial preparation for professional careers and postgraduate study. It commonly requires three years of full-time study or the part-time equivalent. A number of Bachelor Degrees are four or more years in duration. Apart from Honours Degrees (see below) this is most common in professional education, where additional time may be required to prepare students to operate in a professional context. Bachelor Degrees in professional fields including law and medicine may be offered as graduate entry programmes, requiring three or four years of study following a Bachelor Degree in another discipline.

Honours Degrees and Degrees with Honours

An Honours Degree typically requires a total of four years study, with students being selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in the Ordinary or Pass (Bachelor) degree or programme. The additional year normally involves specialised study in one subject involving research and the submission of a thesis. Although a three plus one year model is increasingly common, and integrated four year Honours programme is still offered by some universities in some subjects.

A degree with Honours may be awarded to a student completing a regular Bachelor Degree course of four years or more, for example, in engineering or law, with a record of superior achievement. In some cases additional courses and/or designated subject options may be required for the degree with Honours.

Only a small minority of Bachelor degrees are awarded with Honours. Honours graduates with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Upper Division) are in principle eligible to gain direct admission to Doctoral programmes, without completing a Masters degree.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma

Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas are generally designed for specific professional purposes, either the broadening of skills and knowledge already gained in an undergraduate programme, or developing skills and knowledge in a new professional area.

Although the duration of programmes may vary, the typical requirement is one semester of full-time study for the Graduate Certificate and two semesters of full-time study for the Graduate Diploma.

Entry is normally based on successful completion of a Bachelor Degree but other pathways are available, usually involving a combination of sub-degree qualifications and work experience.

Masters Degree

The Masters Degree provides a mastery or high order overview of a relevant field of study or area of professional practice. It varies in length, typically requiring either one year of study following a four year or Honours Bachelor Degree, or two years following a three year degree. However, requirements differ depending on the discipline area.

Doctoral Degree

The Doctoral Degree represents the highest level of postgraduate study. In Australia, the Doctoral Degree most commonly undertaken is the research doctorate or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) which usually involves a searching review of literature, experimentation or other systematic approach to the relevant body of knowledge. The Award of this qualification recognises a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, or application and interpretation of existing knowledge. It normally requires three years of full-time study following a Masters or Honours Bachelor Degree (First Class or Second Class, upper division). Requirements for the professional doctorate are similar, but include significant professional practice either prior to and/or as part of the programme.