

FAQs: Recognition of UK Qualifications

This FAQ section only relates to the recognition of professional qualifications held by EU nationals¹. The rules outlined in this FAQ section apply to all professional qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC. This includes degrees, attestations of competence (within the meaning of Article 11 of Directive 2005/36/EC) and professional experience.

This FAQ section is for information purposes only. The European Commission and its staff cannot be held responsible in any way for its contents. For more information about [Directive 2005/36/EC](#), the [user guide](#) is a useful document.

Please visit the page on [citizens' rights related to the Withdrawal Agreement](#) if you have any questions about residence permits, entry or exit requirements, etc.

- **I am an EU national and I obtained my UK qualification before 1 January 2021. I got my UK qualification recognised by an EU Member State competent authority before 1 January 2021. Does this recognition remain valid?**

Yes, the recognition decision remains valid.

- **I am an EU national and I obtained my UK qualification before 1 January 2021. I got my UK qualification recognised by an EU Member State competent authority after 31 December 2020. Does this recognition remain valid?**

Yes, the recognition decision is valid.

- **I want to re-establish in another EU Member State, after having obtained recognition of my UK qualification in line with one of the scenarios from the two questions above. What rules apply to the recognition of my qualifications?**

You would need to apply in the new host Member State for recognition of your qualifications. Since you obtained your qualification before 1 January 2021, Directive 2005/36/EC applies to the recognition. The qualification was issued by the United Kingdom as a Member State (until 31 January 2020) or during the transition period set out in the Withdrawal Agreement (until 31 December 2020). This means that for EU nationals, qualifications obtained in the UK before 1 January 2021 are considered EU qualifications. The same rules apply as for the recognition of any other EU qualifications, with no time limit.

- **I am an EU national and I obtained my UK qualification before 1 January 2021 but did not get it recognised by an EU Member State competent authority yet. What rules apply to the recognition of my qualifications?**

If the qualifications were obtained before 1 January 2021, Directive 2005/36/EC applies. These qualifications were issued by the United Kingdom as a Member State (until 31

¹ Following the end of the transition period, UK nationals are third-country nationals within the EU. This means that they can no longer rely on the EU regime for recognition of professional qualifications. **For more information about the recognition of UK qualifications held by UK nationals, see the European Commission [memo on the rights of UK nationals under the Withdrawal Agreement](#).**

January 2020) or during the transition period set out in the Withdrawal Agreement (until 31 December 2020). This means that for EU nationals, qualifications obtained in the UK before 1 January 2021 are considered EU qualifications. The same rules apply as for the recognition of any other EU qualifications, with no time limit.

➤ **I am an EU national and I obtained my UK qualification after 31 December 2020. What rules apply to the recognition of my qualifications?**

Professional qualifications obtained after the end of the transition period set out in the Withdrawal Agreement are third-country qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC. You need to obtain initial recognition in a Member State according to national rules and procedures.

If you want to have your qualifications recognised under EU law in another Member State than the Member State where your third-country qualifications were first recognised, the initial recognition needs to be followed by 3 years of professional experience in the EU Member State where your qualification was first recognised. Otherwise, you need to apply for recognition following the national rules and procedures of the EU Member State where you would like to have your qualification recognised.

➤ **I am an EU national and a medical doctor. I would like to benefit from the system of automatic recognition of professional qualifications provided for in Directive 2005/36/EC for the recognition of my degree. Is this still possible if I obtained my qualifications in the UK?**

Yes, but only if you obtained your qualifications before 1 January 2021, Directive 2005/36/EC remains applicable to the recognition of your professional qualifications. This includes the qualifications covered by the Directive's system of automatic recognition, which is in place for seven key professions (doctors, nurses responsible for general care, midwives, pharmacists, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons and architects). If your UK qualification is listed in Annex V of the Directive, it is covered by automatic recognition.

➤ **As an EU national holding a UK qualification, can I still provide my services on a temporary & occasional basis cross-border within the EU, if this professional activity is regulated in the host Member State?**

Yes, as long as you are already residing in another EU Member State, where you got your qualifications recognised, you can provide your services on a temporary and occasional basis in another Member State, in line with Directive 2005/36/EC. The conditions for this initial recognition under Directive 2005/36/EC in the home Member State are described in the answers above.

If you are established outside the EU, you can generally not rely on this simplified procedure to provide your services temporarily in an EU Member State, with the exception of citizens established in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland (for

which specific rules apply).

- **I am an EU national with UK qualifications that were recognised when I applied for a European Professional Card. Does my European Professional Card remain valid after 31 December 2020?**

Yes, the recognition decision and European Professional Card remain valid for the remainder of the card's validity period. If you are an EU citizen, then the [rules and conditions regarding the European Professional Card](#) continue to apply in the context of Brexit, as long as you are [protected by the UK Withdrawal Agreement](#).

- **I am an EU national holding a UK qualification, obtained before 1 January 2021. Can I still get my qualification recognised through a European Professional Card?**

Yes. The guidelines outlined in the preceding answers apply equally to the recognition of UK qualifications for the purpose of obtaining a European Professional Card.