



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# Australia's System for the Recognition of Qualifications

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Special Seminar: Towards Sustainable Career Development for  
International Students and Foreign Human Resources

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# Strategic context



Australian Government investment in qualifications recognition is long-term



Recognition of overseas qualifications is essential to international education, skilled migration and skilled employment



Supports quality by protecting standards (academic, employment, professional, occupational)



Leads to social, cultural, economic, and community benefits



Recognition of qualifications is essential to, and a key enabler of student and worker mobility; and an integral part of HE quality

# What is the recognition of qualifications?

## Recognition of qualifications

Evaluating whether an individual's educational qualification meets a specific benchmark for a specific purpose.

## Skills recognition

Evaluating whether an individual's skills (qualifications, competencies and work experience) meet skills standards for employment in certain occupations

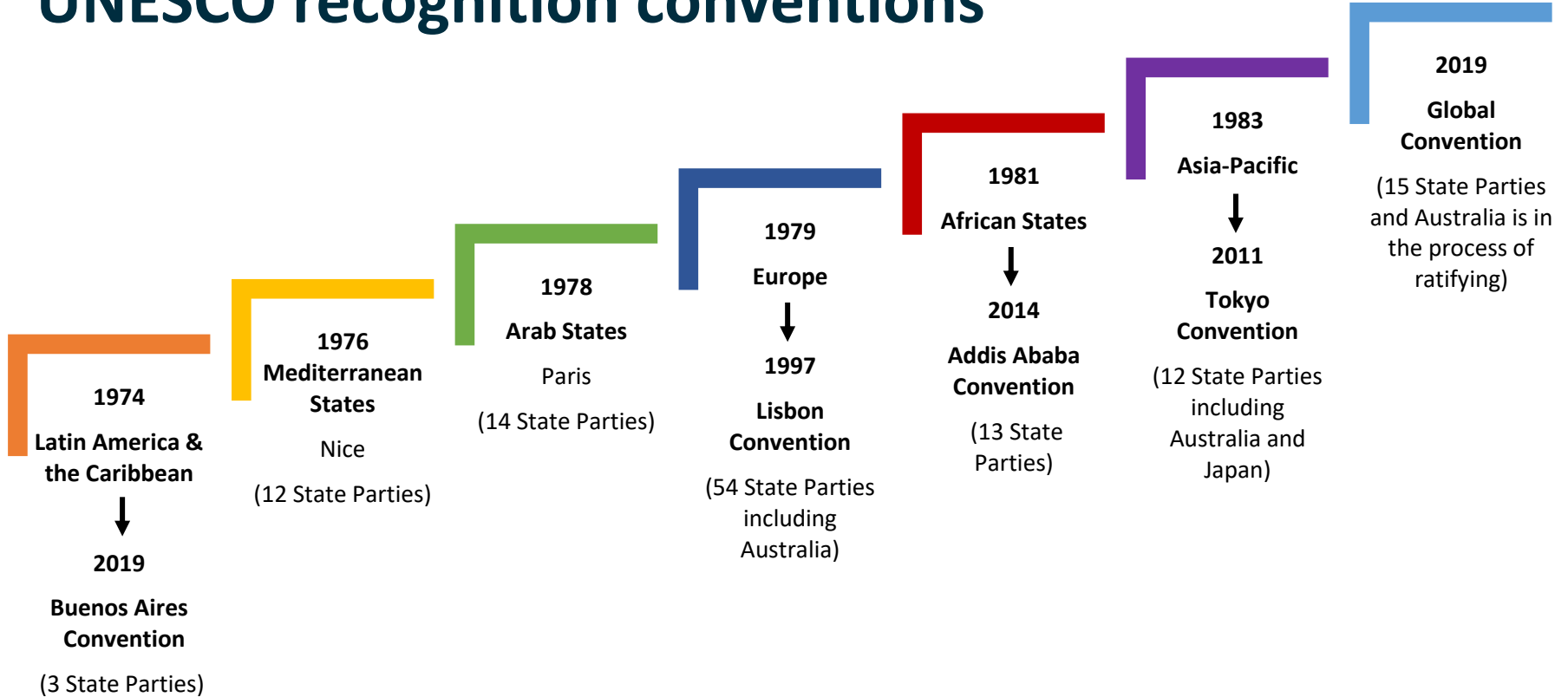
## Professional recognition

Evaluating whether an individual's professional skillset meets the standards required for the profession

## Mutual recognition

Formal agreement between two or more organisations (decision-makers) to accept each other's qualifications, skills, or professional status for a specific purpose

# UNESCO recognition conventions



# Tokyo Convention framework



# Our roles and responsibilities



Promote two-way student and worker mobility through qualifications recognition policy:

- Australian qualifications internationally
- foreign qualifications in Australia



Suite of qualifications recognition tools (policy products and services) to support high quality recognition decisions



Multilateral and bilateral engagement

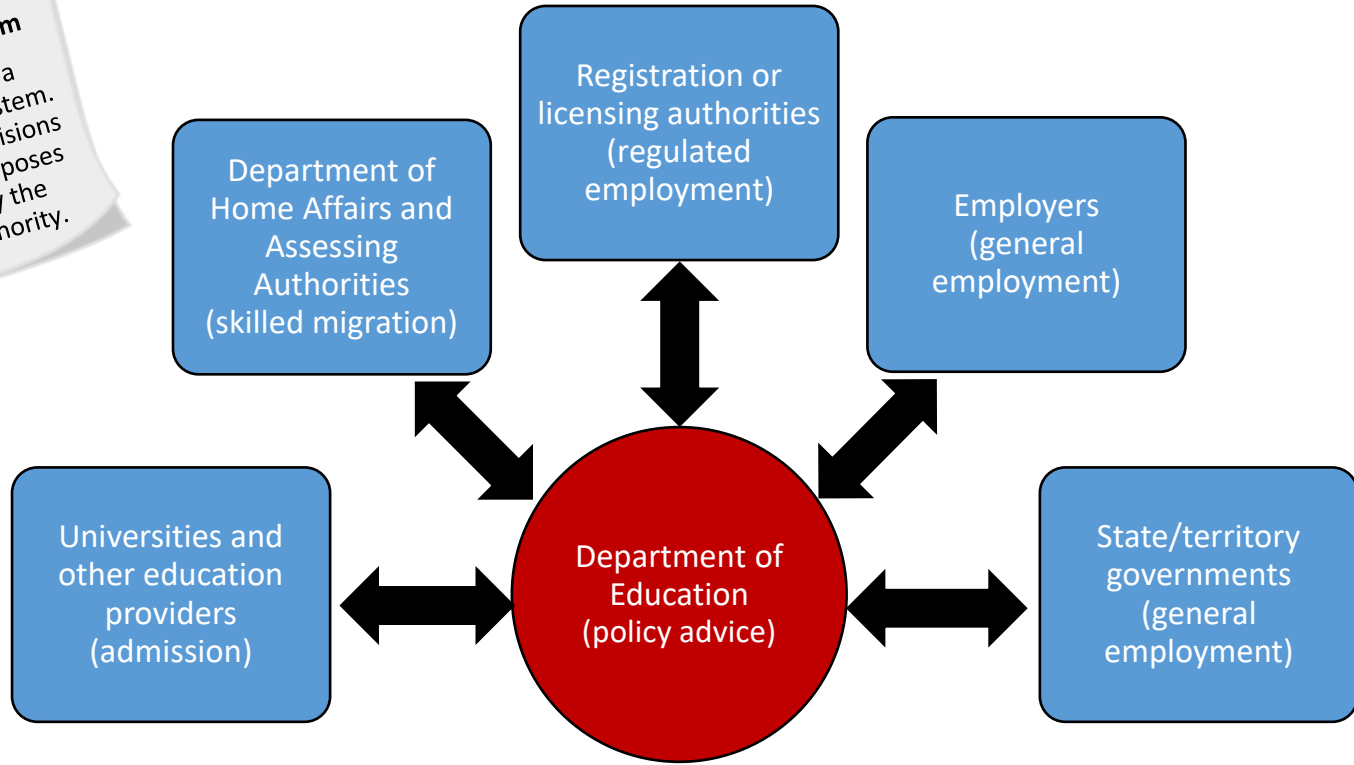


International engagement on the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and capacity building in qualifications frameworks

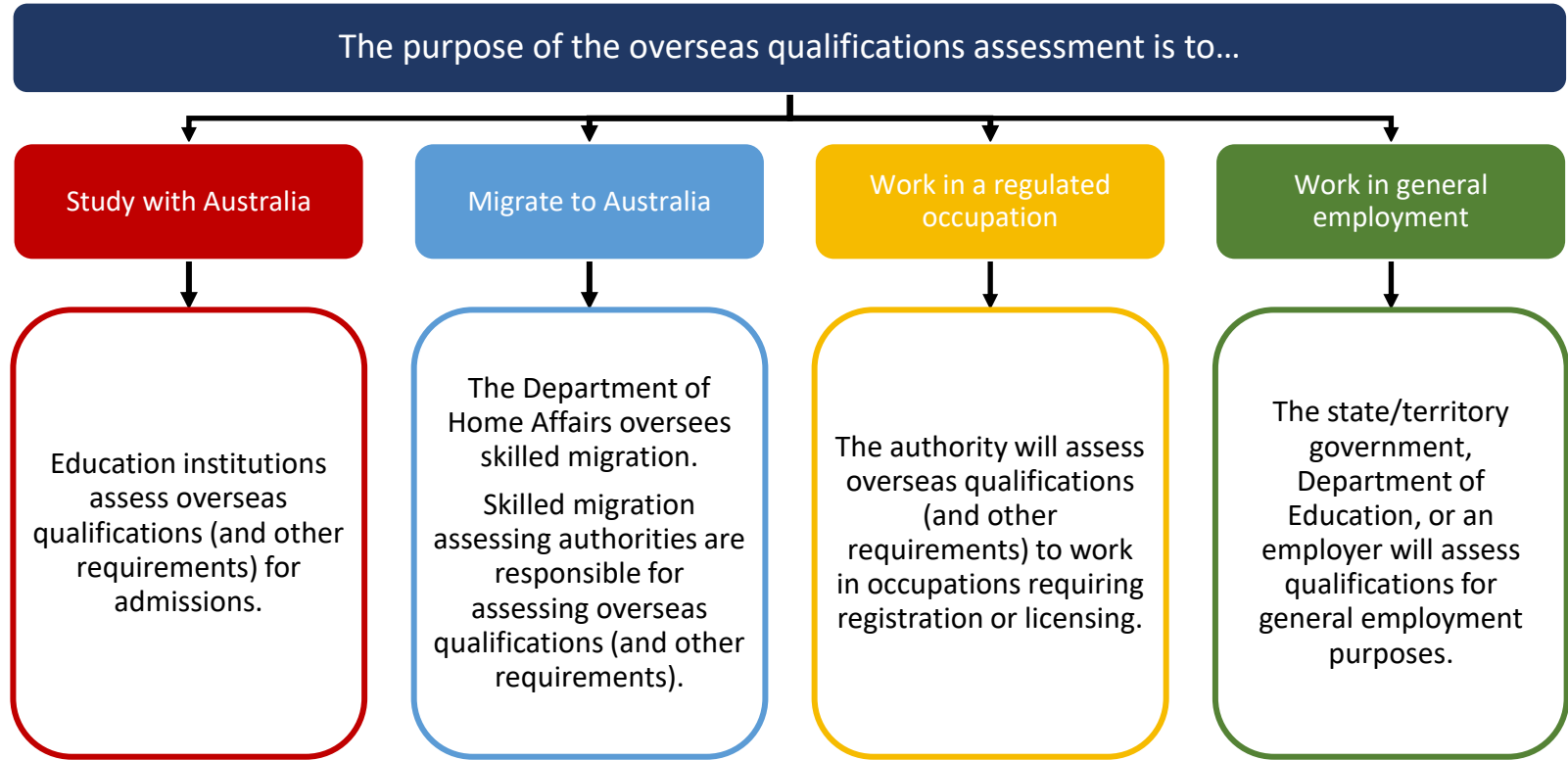
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# Main actors in Australia's recognition system

**Australia's recognition system**  
Australia's has a decentralised system. Recognition decisions for specific purposes are made by the relevant authority.



# Australia's recognition system: how it works in practice





# Qualifications recognition products and services

## Country Education Profiles

Online recognition tool for assessing overseas educational qualifications



**For organisations**

## Professional development

Practical training workshops for organisations on how to assess overseas qualifications



## Advisory service

Policy advice on the comparability of complex overseas qualifications for state/territory governments to support job seekers for general employment



**For individuals**

## Qualification assessments

Assess higher education, postsecondary technical and vocational overseas qualifications for general employment purposes

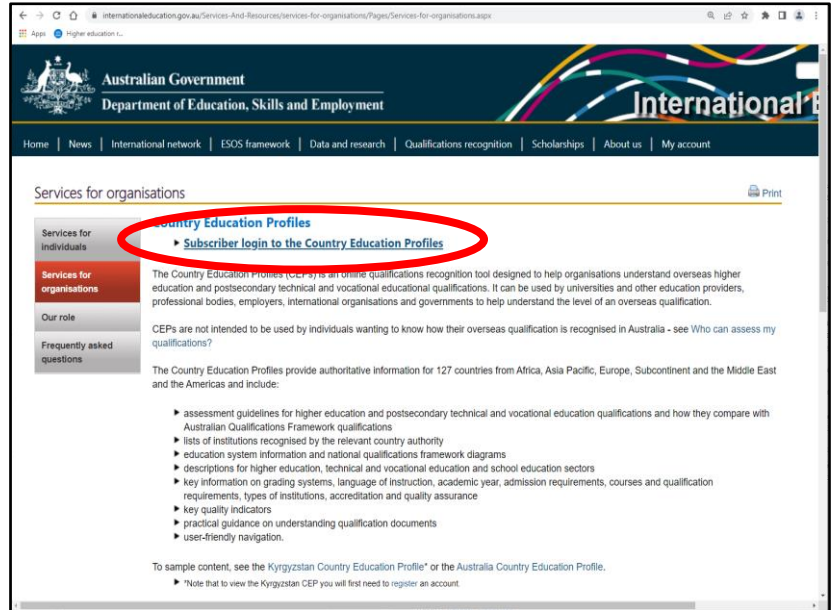


# Country Education Profiles – qualifications recognition tool

See: [www.internationaleducation.gov.au](http://www.internationaleducation.gov.au)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Education Online portal. The header includes the Australian Government logo and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. The main navigation bar contains links for Home, News, International network, ESOS framework, Data and research, Qualifications recognition, Scholarships, About us, and My account. Below the navigation is a large image of four diverse young people smiling. A purple banner reads "International Education Online". The page is divided into two columns: "Latest News" on the left and "Popular pages" on the right. The "Popular pages" section is circled in red and lists "Country Education Profiles" as the top item, followed by "National strategy and Council for International Education", "Enabling Growth and Innovation (EGI) projects", "International student data", "Endeavour Leadership Program", and "New Colombo Plan".



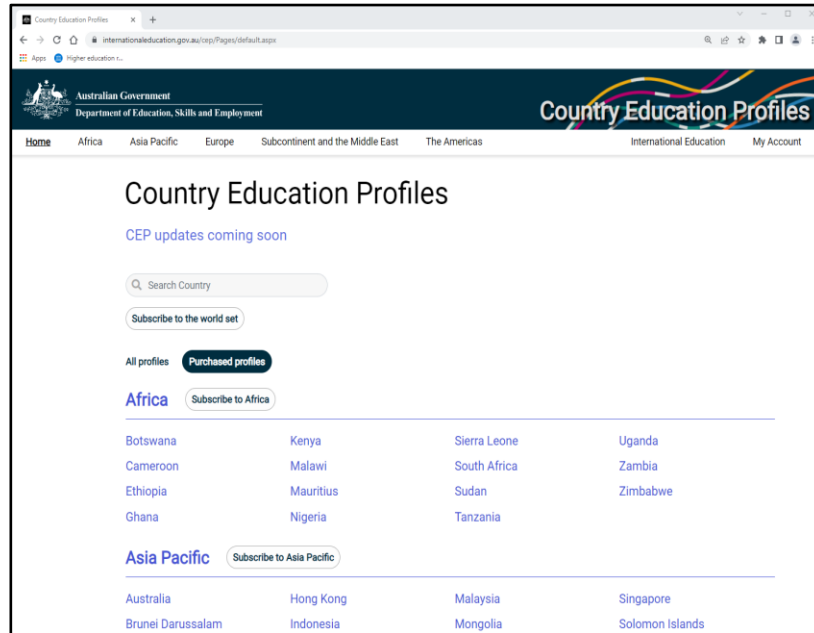
The screenshot shows the "Services for organisations" page. The header is identical to the homepage. The main content area is titled "Services for organisations" and includes a "Print" icon. A sidebar on the left lists "Services for Individuals", "Services for organisations" (highlighted in red), and "Our role". The main content area features a red-bordered box for "Country Education Profiles" with a sub-link "Subscriber login to the Country Education Profiles" also circled in red. Below this, there is a detailed description of the tool and a list of key features:

- assessment guidelines for higher education and postsecondary technical and vocational education qualifications and how they compare with Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications
- lists of institutions recognised by the relevant country authority
- education system information and national qualifications framework diagrams
- descriptions for higher education, technical and vocational education and school education sectors
- key information on grading systems, language of instruction, academic year, admission requirements, courses and qualification requirements, types of institutions, accreditation and quality assurance
- key quality indicators
- practical guidance on understanding qualification documents
- user-friendly navigation.

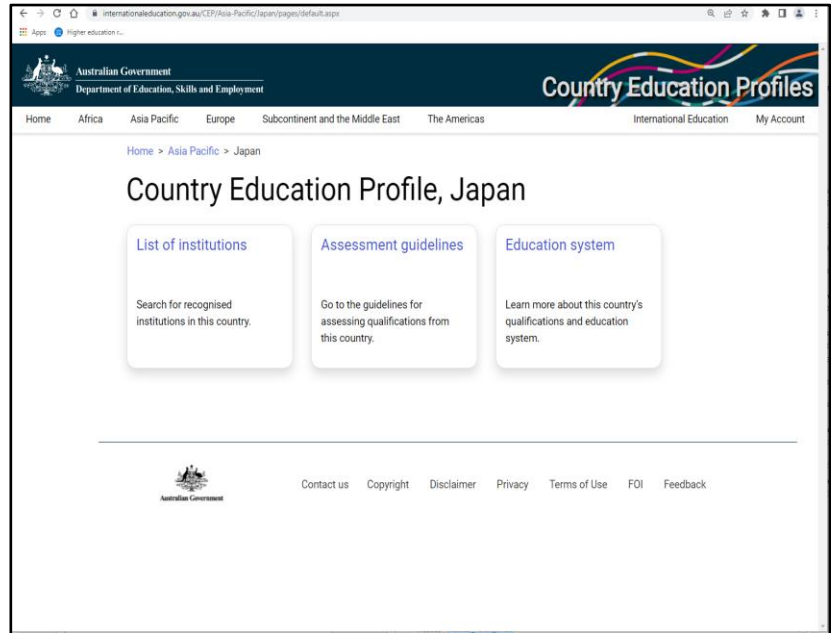
At the bottom, there is a note: "To sample content, see the Kyrgyzstan Country Education Profile\* or the Australia Country Education Profile. \*Note that to view the Kyrgyzstan CEP you will first need to register an account."

# Country Education Profiles – qualifications recognition tool

126 countries in total









The screenshot shows the homepage of the Country Education Profiles website. The header includes the Australian Government logo and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. The main navigation menu lists Home, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Subcontinent and the Middle East, The Americas, International Education, and My Account. The page title is "Country Education Profiles" and a sub-header reads "CEP updates coming soon". Below this is a search bar labeled "Search Country" and a "Subscribe to the world set" button. A section for "All profiles" features a "Purchased profiles" button and a "Subscribe to Africa" button. A grid of country links is displayed, organized by region: Africa (Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania) and Asia Pacific (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Solomon Islands).



The screenshot shows the Country Education Profile for Japan. The header includes the Australian Government logo and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. The main navigation menu lists Home, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Subcontinent and the Middle East, The Americas, International Education, and My Account. The page title is "Country Education Profile, Japan" and a sub-header reads "Home > Asia Pacific > Japan". Below this are three main content boxes: "List of institutions" (Search for recognised institutions in this country), "Assessment guidelines" (Go to the guidelines for assessing qualifications from this country), and "Education system" (Learn more about this country's qualifications and education system). The footer includes the Australian Government logo and links for Contact us, Copyright, Disclaimer, Privacy, Terms of Use, FOI, and Feedback.

# Our qualifications recognition assessments

-  Assess overseas qualifications for general employment purposes
-  Use the Australian Qualifications Framework as our benchmark
-  Assessment methodology based on 50+ years of experience assessing overseas qualifications
-  Qualitative, outcomes-based, and evidence-based approach
-  Based on the concept of 'comparability' not 'equivalence'
-  Policies aligned with the UNESCO Tokyo Convention, including positive approach to recognition

# Our benchmark for qualifications recognition



Learning outcomes based approach



Underpinned by a rigorous quality assurance framework



# Comparability vs. equivalence



- Using **comparability** allows the flexibility needed to manage differences in education systems while maintaining education standards
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- **Equivalence** means 'equal to' and infers a more narrow approach to assessing qualifications and can create barriers to recognition
  - A foreign qualification can never be 'equivalent' to an Australian qualification (nor an Australian qualification to a foreign one)

# Application form for qualifications assessments

## Personal Details

Personal details of applicant	
Is the applicant an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of Australia?	Yes
Preferred Title :	Mr
Family name :	Test
Given names :	Test
Previous family name :	
Previous given name :	
Name that will appear on assessment certificate :	Test Test
Gender :	Male
Date of birth :	01/Jan/1980
Country of birth :	Austria
Country of permanent residency :	Australia
Postal address :	Test Null Test ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
Email address :	Tymon.Clarkson@dese.gov.au
Work phone number :	0400000000
Home phone number :	
Mobile number:	

## Assessment

Purpose of Assessment	
Admission to an Australian Education Authority :	No
Employment for:	General Purposes
Registration with an Australian body:	No
Migration:	No
Other:	No
Referral By	
Referral By:	Overseas Qualification Unit

## Post secondary education details

Name of Qualification/Award: Test	
Would you like to have this qualification assessed?	Yes
Normal entry requirement for the course (or name of examination)?	Test
What was the basis of your entry into this course?	Normal entry requirement
Name of awarding institution?	Test
Address of the institution?	Test Test Test Test123 AUSTRIA
Is the institution where you studied the same as the above?	Yes
What is the name of the institution where you studied?	Test
What is the address of the institution where you studied?	Test Test Test Test123 AUSTRIA
Normal length of full-time study required to complete the qualification as published by the institution?	5 year(s)
Your study period?	5 year(s) (Jan/2000 to Dec/2005)
Normal length of semester?	6 month(s)
If you completed the qualification in more or less time than recommended by the institution, please explain the reason.	
Date qualification was awarded?	31/Jan/2006
Mode of Study?	FullTime
Contact Hours per week	40
Was a thesis or major research paper a requirement of the course?	No
Were you required to complete an internship, supervised practical training or work placement before receiving this qualification?	No

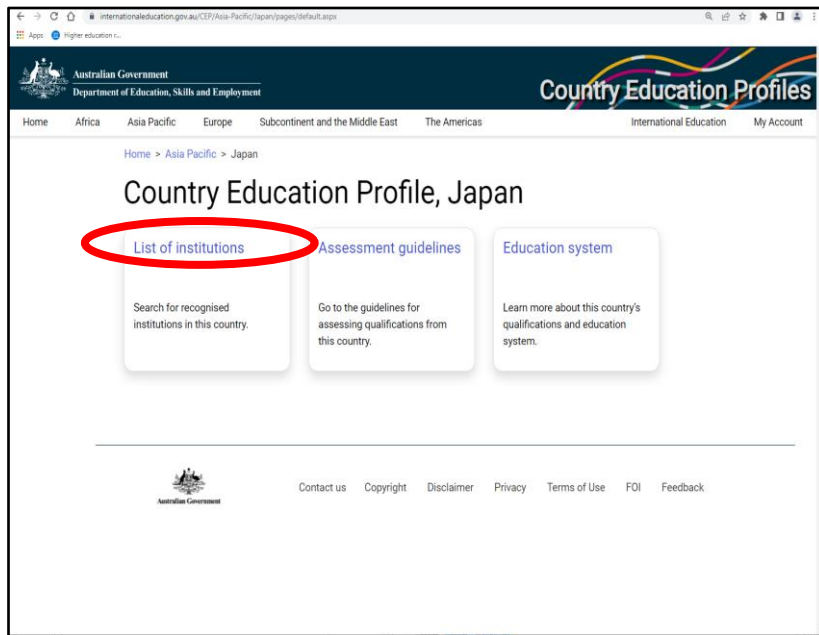
# Example of how to use the Country Education Profiles to assess a Japanese qualification

The screenshot shows the 'Country Education Profile, Japan' page. The navigation menu includes Home, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Subcontinent and the Middle East, The Americas, International Education, and My Account. The breadcrumb trail is Home > Asia Pacific > Japan. The main heading is 'Country Education Profile, Japan'. Below it are three cards: 'List of institutions' (with a search box), 'Assessment guidelines', and 'Education system' (circled in red). The 'Education system' card contains the text: 'Learn more about this country's qualifications and education system.' The footer includes the Australian Government logo and links for Contact us, Copyright, Disclaimer, Privacy, Terms of Use, FOI, and Feedback.

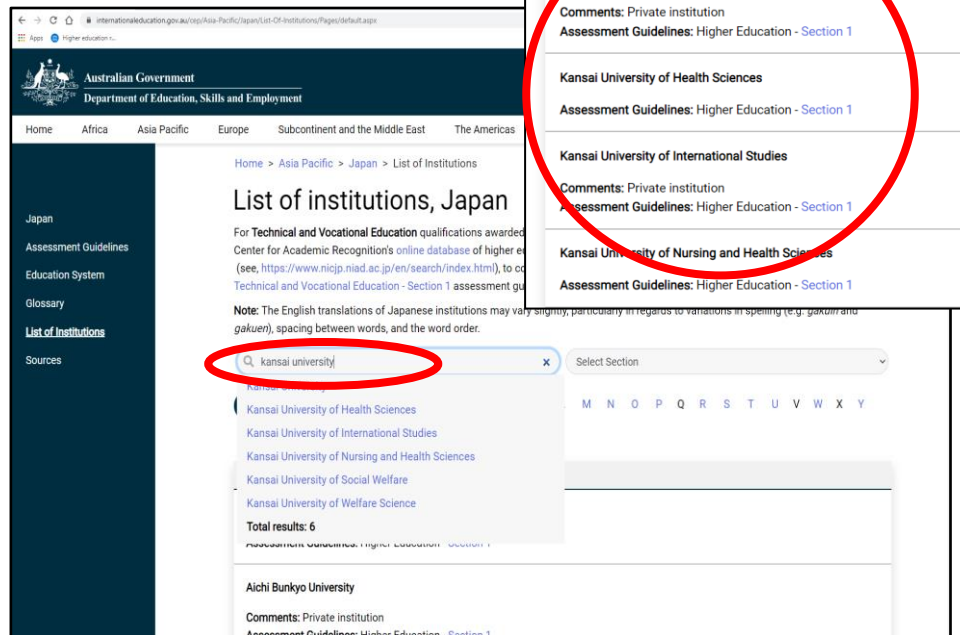
The screenshot shows the 'Education system, Japan' page. The navigation menu is the same as the previous page. The breadcrumb trail is Home > Asia Pacific > Japan > Education System. The main heading is 'Education system, Japan'. A dark sidebar on the left contains a menu with links for Japan, Assessment Guidelines, Education System (highlighted), Glossary, List of Institutions, and Sources. The main content area features three cards: 'Overview of education system', 'Diagram of education system', and 'Qualifications framework'. Below these are sections for 'Grading systems' (with 'Higher education' and 'Secondary education' cards) and 'Higher education' (with 'Courses and qualifications', 'Admission requirements', 'Types of institutions', and 'Accreditation and quality assurance' cards).



# Example of how to use the Country Education Profiles to assess a Japanese qualification



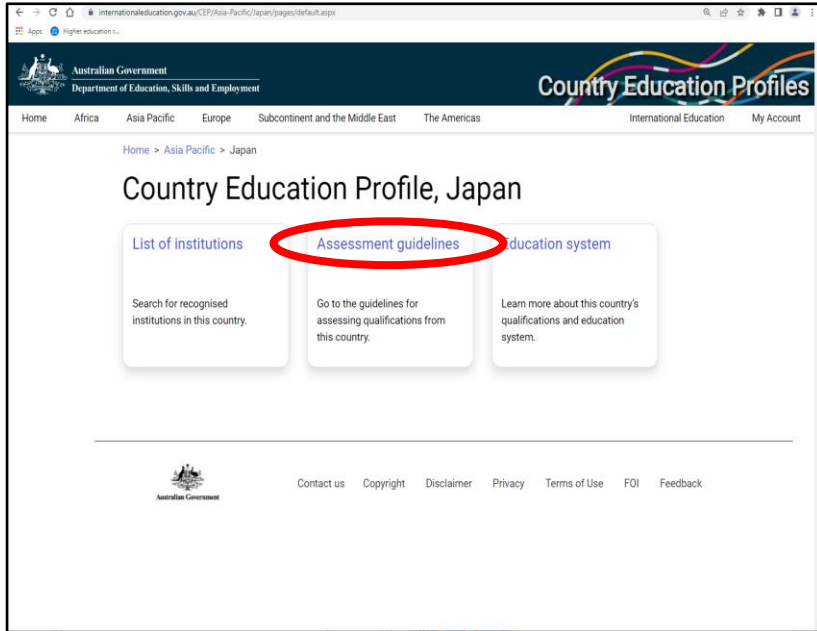
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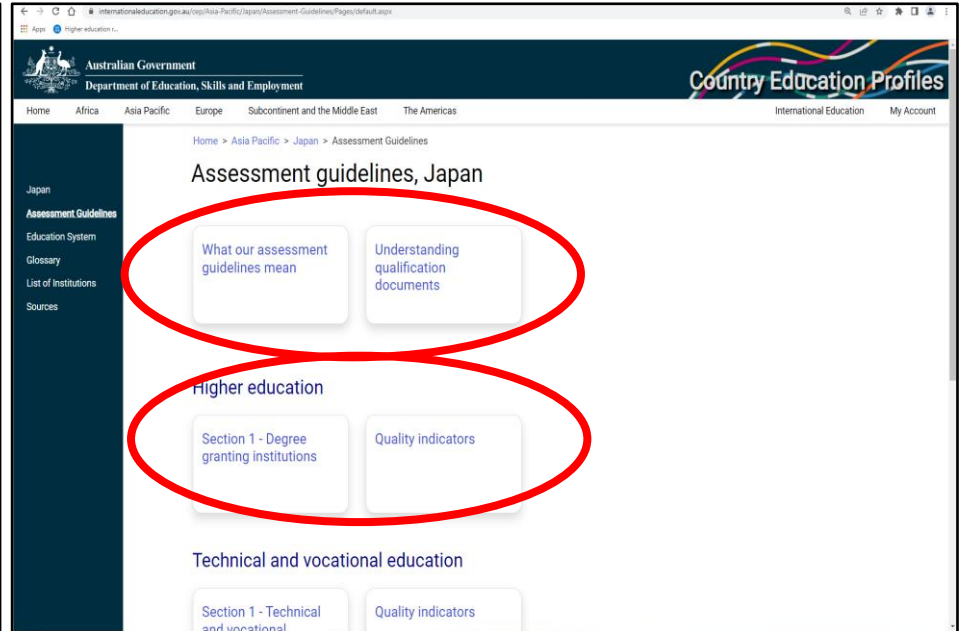
The screenshot shows the 'List of institutions, Japan' page. The breadcrumb trail is Home > Asia Pacific > Japan > List of Institutions. The main heading is 'List of institutions, Japan'. Below the heading is a search bar with 'kansai university' entered (circled in red). The search results show a list of institutions, with 'Kansai University' highlighted. A red circle highlights the search results area. The search results include:

- Kansai University  
Comments: Private institution  
Assessment Guidelines: Higher Education - Section 1
- Kansai University of Health Sciences  
Assessment Guidelines: Higher Education - Section 1
- Kansai University of International Studies  
Comments: Private institution  
Assessment Guidelines: Higher Education - Section 1
- Kansai University of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Assessment Guidelines: Higher Education - Section 1

# Example of how to use the Country Education Profiles to assess a Japanese qualification



This screenshot shows the 'Country Education Profile, Japan' page. The page is part of the Australian Government's Country Education Profiles website. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Africa', 'Asia Pacific', 'Europe', 'Subcontinent and the Middle East', 'The Americas', 'International Education', and 'My Account'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Asia Pacific > Japan'. The page title is 'Country Education Profile, Japan'. There are three main content boxes: 'List of institutions' (with a search function), 'Assessment guidelines' (circled in red), and 'Education system'. The 'Assessment guidelines' box contains the text: 'Go to the guidelines for assessing qualifications from this country.' The footer includes the Australian Government logo and links for 'Contact us', 'Copyright', 'Disclaimer', 'Privacy', 'Terms of Use', 'FOI', and 'Feedback'.



This screenshot shows the 'Assessment guidelines, Japan' page. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Asia Pacific > Japan > Assessment Guidelines'. The page title is 'Assessment guidelines, Japan'. There is a dark blue sidebar on the left with the following menu items: 'Japan', 'Assessment Guidelines', 'Education System', 'Glossary', 'List of Institutions', and 'Sources'. The main content area has two rows of boxes. The first row contains 'What our assessment guidelines mean' and 'Understanding qualification documents', both circled in red. The second row contains 'Section 1 - Degree granting institutions' and 'Quality indicators', also circled in red. Below this is the 'Higher education' section header. The third row contains 'Section 1 - Technical and vocational' and 'Quality indicators'. The footer is the same as the previous screenshot.

# Example of how to use the Country Education Profiles to assess a Japanese qualification

The screenshot shows the 'Country Education Profiles' page for Japan. The page title is 'Section 1 - Degree granting institutions, Japan'. Below the title, a table lists Japanese qualifications and their comparability to Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) qualifications. The table is circled in red. Below the table, there are 'Assessment notes' and 'Section 1 institutions'.

No.	Japanese qualification	Comparable to the educational level of an AQF qualification	Assessment notes
1	Bachelor degree (学士号 / Gakushi-go)	Bachelor Degree	A, B, C
2	Master degree (修士号 / Shushi-go)	Master Degree	B
3	Doctoral degree (博士号 / Hakushi-go)	Doctoral Degree	B
	Other qualifications	Assessed on a case-by-case basis	

**Assessment notes**

A. English translations for some bachelor degrees may be titled "Certificate of Completion" or "Certificate of Graduation". To confirm a bachelor degree has been awarded, or if unsure, check the program requirements at [Courses and qualifications in higher education](#).

B. May be awarded by NIAD-QE (see, [Courses and qualifications in higher education](#) for information about NIAD-QE).

C. Includes professional bachelor degrees awarded by professional and vocational universities.

**Section 1 institutions**

The form is titled 'ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS'. It includes an 'Important note' about the assessment's basis and purpose. Below this, there are fields for 'NAME', 'DATE OF BIRTH', and 'QUALIFICATION'. A section for 'ASSESSMENT' describes the process and refers to the AQF. The form also includes fields for the assessor's name and the date.

Australian Government  
Department of Education, Skills and Employment

File No. EA22-10000 (AA)

**ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**Important note** - This assessment is issued on the basis of documents presented and is a guide to the educational level of the overseas qualifications in Australian terms. It does not take into account employment experience or command of the English language. Acceptability for employment, membership of a professional body, occupational registration or further study purposes is a matter for the relevant body in Australia to determine. This assessment does not constitute an endorsement or assurance of the authenticity of the documents presented.

NAME: First name LAST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH: XX Month XXXX

QUALIFICATION: Qualification title in XX, awarded in XXXX by XXXX, Country.

The program required X year/s of full-time study.

**ASSESSMENT:** The Department of Education assesses the Qualification title - as described in the document submitted - as comparable to the educational level of an Australian (AQF) XXX.

This assessment refers to comparative levels of achievement only, and does not refer to specified competency requirements for AQF qualifications or National Training Framework Training Packages, as these can only be determined by the relevant Australian assessing authority.

Name of assessor  
Australian Government Department of Education

Month XXXX

GPQ Unit 3680, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

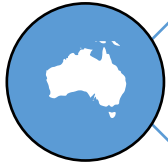
# Helpful resources



Department of Education's Qualification Recognition website at [www.internationaleducation.gov.au](http://www.internationaleducation.gov.au)



Country Education Profiles at [www.internationaleducation.gov.au](http://www.internationaleducation.gov.au)  
(email [ceponline@education.gov.au](mailto:ceponline@education.gov.au) for a free trial)



Australian Qualifications Framework at [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au)



Asia Pacific Network of National Information Centres Portal at [www.apnnic.net](http://www.apnnic.net)