UK-India Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications (MRQ)

Webinar
Monday 22nd August 2022

Department for International Trade

BRITISH COUNCIL

UK ENIC

Department for Education

Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Lead
9:30 – 9.35	Introduction	Sarah Chidgey, International Education team, DIT
9.35-9.45	• The benefits of mutual recognition • The role of UK ENIC	Paul Norris, UK ENIC
9.45-9.55	• Why MRQ matters in India • Realising the potential of the MRQ	Rittika Parruck, British Council
9.55-10.00	UK-India Education: Forward look	• Krishna Joshi, India lead, International Education team, DIT. • Rebecca Lindsay, International Partnerships lead, DfE
10:00 – 10.30	Q&A	All

Introduction

- The UK and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQs) on 21 July 2022.

- This represents the delivery commitments made in the Enhanced Trade Partnership and 2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations signed in May 2021.

- The landmark agreement presents a large opportunity for the Higher Education sectors between the two countries, allowing Indian students to work towards UK qualifications and encouraging skills transfer.

Policy paper

Memorandum of understanding on mutual recognition of academic qualifications between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Published 21 July 2022

Existing mutual recognition agreements

Mexico: March 2016

Chile: May 2016

Colombia: Nov 2016

Peru: May 2018

Argentina: Sep 2018

India: July 2022

The benefits of mutual recognition

Directly improves:

- Overseas student recruitment, including international pathways

- Bilateral mobility of professionals

- Distance / online learning, joint research

- Formation of overseas branch campuses

These bilateral agreements work best when there is **no overarching multilateral framework** in which qualifications can be compared, and when there is **mutuality of benefit.**

MRQs **remove the primary barrier** to closer educational links between the two countries involved.

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The role of UK ENIC

We are:
- The designated national agency for qualifications recognition
- A provider of strategic support to the UK Govt
- The technical lead within MRQ processes

The barriers to recognition of UK qualifications, that we seek to overcome, include:
- Differences in duration
- Differences in assessment methods and pedagogical approaches
- No granting of professional rights
- Inflexibility of overseas recognition processes

Effects of the UK-India MRQ MoU

- Bachelor, Master's and Doctoral degrees are considered equivalent or comparable, regardless of duration
- Upper secondary qualifications are considered to meet general undergraduate entry requirements
- Qualifications awarded by branch campuses and most other TNE arrangements to be recognised
- Qualifications delivered online due to COVID-19 to be recognised
- Online/blended learning will now be evaluated on a case-by-case basis (not previously recognised in India)
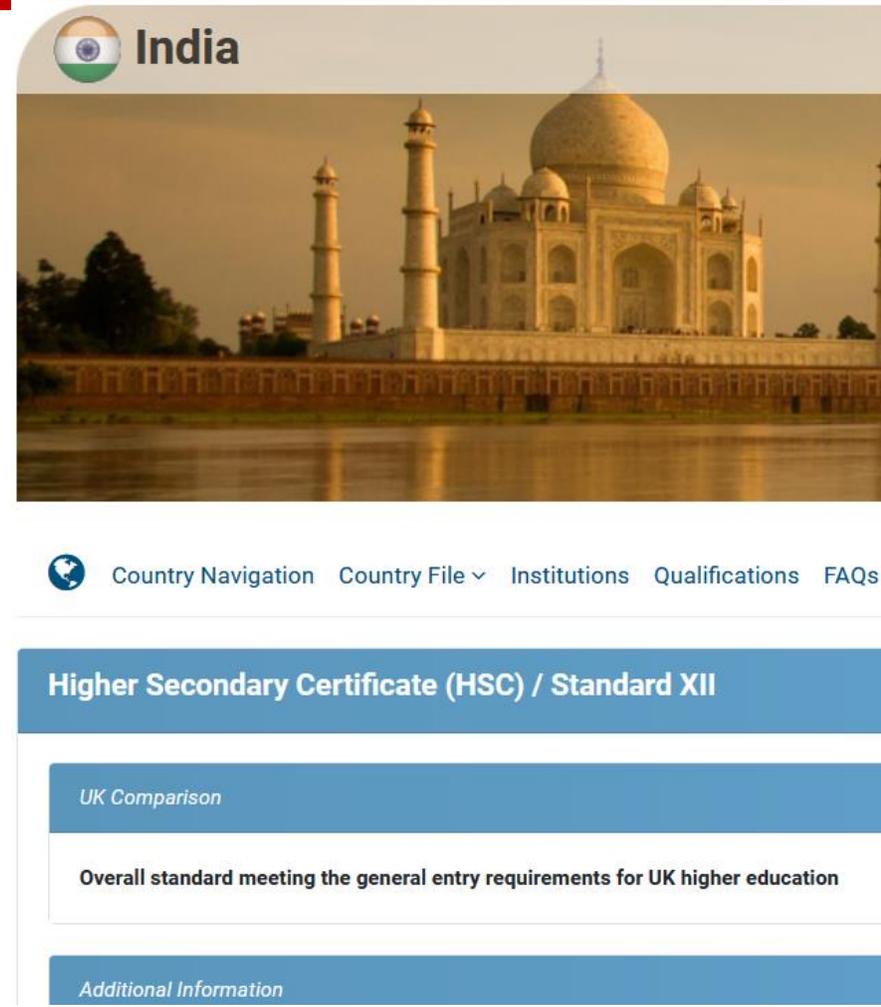
India

Country Navigation   Country File ⌄   Institutions   Qualifications   FAQs

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) / Standard XII

UK Comparison

Overall standard meeting the general entry requirements for UK higher education

Additional Information

The role of BRITISH COUNCIL

- The British Council is a part of the Foreign and Commonwealth office in the UK representing the whole of the HMG to the Indian Ministry of Education

- It convened and jointly lead the MRQ taskforce with the Ministry of Education in India following the joint press statement by the then FS Dominic Raab and Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal

- It works closely with all XHMG and sector bodies to support the promotion of UK Education in India

What MRQ means in India

- It has been over 15-year negotiation the final round being nearly 2 years

- The Indian government see this as a mutually beneficial agreement to implement NEP 2020

- It will also need further discussions and clarification particularly for online and distance mode of education and work will continue in this area

UK
Recognition of Master's degree

Opening up TNE opportunities in India

Ease of two-way student mobility between India and UK

India
Increased internationalisation

Inward mobility from UK and other countries to India

Contribution of UK qualified students to research and Indian workplaces
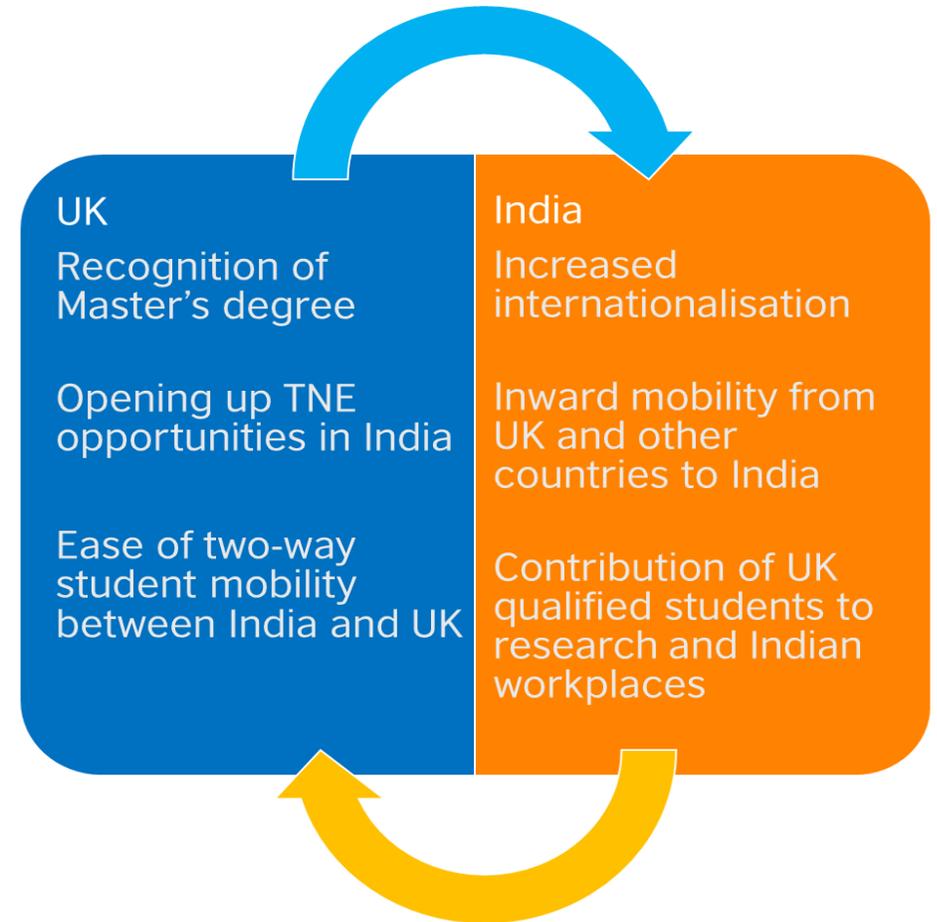
Realising the potential of MRQ

- Going Global Partnerships to provide grant funding to new UK –India partnerships in India to continue

- Study visit to UK for Indian Higher Education nodal agencies such as AIU, UGC, AICTE, NAAC and IGNOU to explore and build confidence in TNE quality assurance process

- Explore opportunities for UK universities to showcase the quality and standard of their online and distance education programmes

- Plan further activities to build trust and understanding between the two education systems

- All announcements on any opportunities are on the CARI website so keep watching that space

UK-India Education - Forward look

India Mission
Present – Mid Sept

- Continue preparations for the International Education Champion's skills-based mission to India (19-23 September).

Implementation of the benefits from the MOU
Ongoing

- Continue implementation of the UK-India MOU and work with partners to support the higher education sector to explore opportunities presented by MRQs.

Delivery of International Education Strategy (IES)
Ongoing

- Continue delivery of the IES, with a focus on India and in alignment with the UK-India 2030 Roadmap.

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Thank You