



AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
AND THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

The Ministry for Education and Employment of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as both sides) recognise the benefit of establishing mechanisms for mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates in order to promote co-operation in education and to improve student and professional mobility between Malta and China. Both sides agree to the following:

I. The Objectives and Obligations

1. This Agreement aims to facilitate the mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded to students in Malta and in China.
2. Both sides will each provide information on recognition and will also make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulations and practices.
3. Both sides should advise higher education institutions and bodies eligible to award higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates (hereinafter referred to as higher education institutions) in their countries on the provision of higher education and the comparability of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates from both systems with the aim of facilitating academic mobility and co-operation.

II. Application Profile

1. This Agreement relates to all Maltese higher education institutions recognised by the education administrative authority of Malta and all Chinese higher education institutions recognized by the education administrative authority of China.

2. Both sides will inform each other through diplomatic channels of the updated list and relevant information of higher education institutions of both sides, and provide information on different award titles which are recognised on both sides.
3. Both sides respect the autonomy of higher education institutions of both sides for admission to higher education programmes in accordance with any relevant regulations.

III. Range and Levels of Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates

1. The recommendations of the two sides are given as advice on the comparability of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates from both sides based on comparative studies of relevant academic materials in Malta and in China.
2. A summary of China's Academic Qualifications Frameworks is attached at Annex 1.
3. A summary of the higher education qualifications in the Malta's National Qualifications Framework is attached at Annex 2.
4. Both sides encourage and support the higher education institutions in both countries to co-operate on the recognition of course credits in order to facilitate mobility of students in both directions.

IV. Entry to Study in Higher Education Institutions

1. Holders of recognized senior higher school diplomas should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Malta, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.

Holders of intermediate higher education diplomas (Dazhuan) from recognised Chinese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Malta in a manner paralleling their entry into programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in China, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.

2. Holders of a Bachelor degree from recognised Chinese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Master's degree in Malta subject to specific requirements of the admitting institution and subject to the availability of expertise to supervise the proposed research.

3. Holders of a Master's degree from recognised Chinese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Doctorate degree in Malta subject to the relevance of previous studies and the proposed research and the specific requirements of the admitting institution, as well as subject to availability of expertise to supervise the proposed research.
4. Holders of qualifications at MQF Level 4 (Matriculation Certificate) and Level 5 from recognised Maltese education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in China in a manner paralleling their entry into programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Malta, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.
5. Holders of a Bachelor degree (MQF Level 6) from recognised Maltese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Master's degree in China subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
6. Holders of a Master's degree (MQF Level 7) from recognised Maltese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Doctorate degree in China, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
7. Chinese students of Chinese higher education institutions who have successfully completed defined workloads of higher education programmes in China should be considered eligible for comparable accreditation in respect of their entry into cognate programmes in Maltese higher education institutions with the purpose of continuing their study, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.
8. Maltese Students of Maltese higher education institutions who have successfully completed defined workloads of higher education programmes in Malta should be considered eligible for comparable accreditation in respect of their entry into cognate programmes in Chinese higher education institutions with the purpose of continuing their study, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.
9. Higher education institutions of both sides shall award grades for all assessments according to their grading systems and the receiving institution shall convert the grades according to its own established system in a fair and equitable manner subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

Annex I

Diagram of the Higher Education System of China

Age	Programme Duration		
27	22	Doctoral Education	Continuing Education
26	21		
25	20		
24	19	Master's Education	
23	18		
22	17		
21	16	Undergraduate Education	Post-secondary Vocational Education
20	15		
19	14		
18	13		

Annexe II :

The Malta Qualifications Framework

8	Doctoral Degree		8
7	Master's Degree Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate		7
6	Bachelor's Degree		6
5	Undergraduate Diploma Undergraduate Certificate Higher Education Certificate	VET Higher Diploma	5
4	Matriculation Certificate Advanced Level Intermediate Level	VET Diploma	4
3	General Education Level 3 SEC Grade 1-5	VET Level 3	3
2	General Education Level 2 SEC Grade 6-7 Secondary School Certificate and Profile, B	VET Level 2	2
1	General Education Level 1 Secondary School Certificate and Profile, A	VET Level 1	1

10. Higher education institutions of both sides retain the right to determine the grades and examination results required for all courses of study according to their own regulations.

V. Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Expert Committee

1. A Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Expert Committee (HEDDCEC) shall be established based on the implementation of this Agreement and a consensus by both sides after consultation. The HEDDCEC shall consist of members from and nominated by each side. The names of members will be exchanged through diplomatic channels. The primary function of the HEDDCEC is to:
 - a. Follow-up all issues and discussions raised by this Agreement including further discussions on details as appropriate.
 - b. Monitor and facilitate the co-operation between the designated bodies and other relevant organisations to ensure the continuing development of recognition mechanisms in Malta and in China and exchange of information.
2. The Expert Committee may arrange meetings and/or discussions as necessary and appropriate according to any working programme agreed upon by both sides. The location of the meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels. Expenses related to the meeting will be shared as follows:
 - a. The host country will cover costs in relation to accommodation, meals, local transport and interpretation.
 - b. The sending country will bear travelling costs of the return journey from departure point till the closest airport of the host country.
 - c. The sending country will be responsible for the insurance costs of its delegation.

VI. The Duration and Force of this Agreement

The Agreement will come into effect 30 days after the date of signature by both sides. The Agreement shall remain valid for five years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be automatically renewed for further periods of five years, unless terminated at any time by either side by giving six month's notice in writing.

Signed in duplicate in Beijing on May 27, 2013, in two original copies, in the English and Chinese languages, both versions being equally authentic.

For the Ministry for Education and Employment
of the Republic of Malta

For the Ministry of Education of
the People's Republic of China

