

## CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES

The UCJ offers the following credential assessment services:

- Assessment of academic credentials for the purpose of employment or further study in Jamaica.
- Statements on the status of local and foreign institutions.
- Equivalence of credentials to support application for the CARICOM Skills Certificate.
- Comparability of foreign qualifications to accredited programmes offered in Jamaica.
- Provision of information concerning institutions and programmes (locally, regionally, and internationally).



## ABOUT THE UCJ

The UCJ is the National External Quality Assurance Agency (NEQAA) for higher education in Jamaica.

As the NEQAA for higher education, the UCJ assures the quality of local programmes and institutions, and foreign programmes being offered in Jamaica. It also functions as the national information centre for local, regional, and international higher education institutions and qualifications. The UCJ is the single competent authority in Jamaica for the recognition of foreign qualifications.

For over 30 years, the UCJ has processed credentials, which include high school diplomas, undergraduate and graduate degrees, and professional qualifications originating from countries such as, the United Kingdom, USA, Portugal, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, India, Jordan, Brazil, Austria, Iceland, Poland, Haiti, Italy, France, Spain, Cuba, Germany, Ghana, Peru, Belgium, and Hungary, to name a few. In addition, the UCJ responds to queries received via telephone, e-mail, and walk-in customers.



# Credential Assessment



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## What is Credential Assessment?

The UCJ's credential assessment process determines whether a qualification earned in Jamaica or a foreign country should be recognised for employment opportunities and to pursue further study in Jamaica.

The UCJ determines whether a qualification was obtained from an institution that is recognised by a competent authority, in accordance with the quality assurance culture of that country. It also determines whether a qualification is sufficiently comparable in standard to a locally accredited programme.

Based on extensive research, experience, and up-to-date information available to its expert assessors, the UCJ uses its best judgement to prepare an assessment report on the recognition and comparability of foreign qualifications.

***A credential assessment report prepared by the UCJ is accepted by employers and educational institutions in order to understand and recognise local or foreign academic credentials.***

## BENEFITS OF CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT

### For Graduates

- ◇ It recognises academic accomplishments and reflects the potential for employment opportunities in Jamaica.
- ◇ It allows for the transfer of credits from one educational institution to another, where applicable.
- ◇ It assists in obtaining the CARICOM Skills Certificate.
- ◇ It facilitates admission for further study by establishing whether the qualification holder is capable of continuing studies in a chosen area and at the chosen level in Jamaica.

### For Employers

- ◇ It assists in finding out whether qualification holders satisfy the academic requirements for the position they are seeking.
- ◇ It determines whether a qualification is authentic and from a legitimate educational provider.
- ◇ It determines whether a foreign qualification is comparable in standard to a locally accredited programme.

## 6 STEPS for CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT

1	<b>Decide on type of assessment required</b>
2	<b>Review document requirements</b>
3	<b>Complete application form available on website or in office</b>
4	<b>Deliver application form and required documents to the UCJ</b>
5	<b>Pay prescribed fees</b>
6	<b>Collect assessment report within 10 working days</b>