

NOSTRIFICATION OF UKRAINIAN DIPLOMA AS A DOCTOR – PHARMACIST IN POLAND**Taras Mandzii**

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Abstract. The article represents the peculiarities of recognizing higher medical education obtained in Ukraine in Poland. Nostrification (from German *Nostrifikation* derived from Latin *Noster* – “our”, and Latin *Facere* – “to do”) is a procedure for the recognition of diplomas issued by educational establishments of other countries. All the certificates and diplomas obtained in Ukraine can be legalized in Poland. The paper describes the procedure for preparing the documents needed and the basic legal components of a successful nostrification of diploma in medicine, pharmacy. The recognition of foreign diploma grants you the right to continue your education and professional activity in Poland and is carried out on an individual basis. If you want your diploma to be recognized in Poland, you should contact the *Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego* or Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange – *NAWA*. An Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Republic of Poland on Mutual Recognition of Education Documents and Scientific Degrees was signed on May 31, 2006 (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 769). Thus, the Polish documents of secondary education, higher education levels, as well as academic degrees provide the opportunity to continue education in Ukraine and, accordingly, such documents received in Ukraine guarantee this opportunity in Poland. However, the agreement does not apply to certain professional rights including extra payments for academic degrees or ranks. The confirming university shall confirm or refuse to confirm the completion of studies at a specified level within 90 days from the date of submission of the request. In case of differences in study curriculum, learning outcomes or duration of studies, the confirming university may oblige the person to take specific examinations or undergo a professional traineeship. Obtaining a certificate of nostrification allows you to continue the process of recognizing higher medical education in order to ultimately be able to work as a doctor in the European Union.

Keywords: *nostrification; diploma; Ukraine; Poland; pharmacists*

Introduction

The widespread introduction of the Bologna educational process in the practice of higher educational institutions and the maintenance of the European integration processes determines the desire of both academic staff and physicians for self-improvement abroad. The implementation of the Law on Obtaining the Academic Rank of Professor contributes to the search for and selection of the country, city, clinical base for doing an internship abroad.

Main Part

Nostrification (from German *Nostrifikation* derived from Latin *Noster* – “our”, and Latin *Facere* – “to do”) is a procedure for the recognition of diplomas issued by educational establishments of other countries. All the certificates and diplomas obtained in Ukraine can be legalized in Poland. It is this state that recognizes academic documents and ranks obtained in countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Libya, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Germany, Russia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Syria, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Vietnam [1-5].

The recognition of higher education and academic qualifications gained by studying at foreign universities in European Union (EU) and third-world countries is governed by the following directives:

1. Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region signed on the 11th April 1997 in Lisbon; the text in the Czech language was published in the Collection of International Treaties No. 60/2000 Coll. of Int.

2. International agreements regulating the authentication of public documents (Act No. 111/1998 on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendment to Other Acts, Sections 89, 90, 105, 106; Act No. 500/2004 The Administrative Procedure Code).

The recognition of foreign diploma grants you the right

to continue your education and professional activity in Poland and is carried out on an individual basis. If you want your diploma to be recognized in Poland, you should contact the *Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego* or Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange – *NAWA* [2, 4, 6].

You need to keep in mind that, in Ukraine, higher education begins with a junior specialist’s degree, which does not exist in Poland, as higher education in Poland begins with a bachelor’s degree. Polish higher education is more integrated into the European space than the Ukrainian one. EU membership provides these universities with academic exchange programs such as Erasmus+.

There is also an integration on the European continent outside EU structures: *CEEPUS*, *Fundusz Stypendialny i Szkoleniowy*. In addition, in Poland, conditions for the recognition of foreign academic diplomas or scientific degrees are more loyal. Firstly, when it comes to teaching positions, the nostrification procedure is optional; secondly, it is carried out at the universities; thirdly, no bachelor or master’s degrees gained by studying at the universities of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries or the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries need to be nostrified. The aforementioned universities in both countries offer the European Diploma Supplements.

An Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Republic of Poland on Mutual Recognition of Education Documents and Scientific Degrees was signed on May 31, 2006 (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine number 769). Thus, the Polish documents of secondary education, higher education levels, as well as academic degrees provide the opportunity to continue education in Ukraine and, accordingly, such documents received in Ukraine guarantee this opportunity in Poland. However, the agreement does not apply to certain professional rights including extra payments for academic degrees or ranks.

Thus, a Polish doctor will not be able to have an extra degree payment while working at a University in Ukraine until the nostrification procedure in a special unit of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. And vice versa, a specialist, who obtained his/her degree in Ukraine, will receive an additional pay after the nostrification procedure carried out in the corresponding unit of the university in Poland. At the same time, according to the Polish law, the person, who obtained the academic degree or rank abroad, can be accepted for a teaching position at Polish universities without nostrification. To work at Polish universities, foreigners do not need to apply for a working permit to work in Poland [7-10, 18, 19].

The state offers such institutions for internships:

1. The Scholarship Program of the Polish Government for Young Academicians initialized in 2003 is addressed to candidates from the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), Russia and Central Asia. Scholarship is granted for realization of a scientific practice, in the form of a 1-year long individual complementary study at Polish university. The course consists of lectures regarding the research topic, supplementary course of Polish language and defense of the diploma thesis. The scholarship is 1,350 PLN per month. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree or master's degree; the preference is given to humanities. The coordinator of the scholarship is the Center for Eastern Studies of Warsaw University.

2. The Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program was founded in 2000. The Program includes two semesters of study at Polish universities and 2-4-week professional internships in public and private institutions for candidates from EaP countries, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The fields offered include economics and management; administration/management (i.e. business, culture, environmental protection and healthcare); public administration (central and local government administration); law; social sciences (social psychology, sociology); political science and international relations; development policy and humanitarian aid. Participation requires holding a master's degree. About 50 applicants receive the scholarship of 1,800 PLN per month each year. In 2012-2014, 509 scholars, including 254 Ukrainians, participated in the program.

3. The Krzysztof Skubiszewski scholarship is intended to finance a one-year scientific internship at the University of Warsaw or another Polish university for those who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis or have other significant academic achievements in democracy building. The internship may involve research in law, history of the 20th century or political science. The total amount of the scholarship is 28,940 PLN for 9 months. The scholarship is coordinated by Studium Europy Wschodniej Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego. The grantee can receive a total of 6,431 PLN as a grant for 2 months.

4. The Queen Jadwiga Fund provides scholarship of 1,500 PLN for doctoral students and researchers from Central and Eastern European countries and former Soviet Union states to scientific internship at the Jagiellonian University.

5. Ukrainian program in the Jagiellonian University (with the support of the Can-Pack S.A. company) is a program of law student exchange between the Jagiellonian University and National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. For

students of the Jagiellonian University, duration of internship at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is 1-3 semesters. For students of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, duration of internship at the Jagiellonian University is 1-2 semesters. There is also the Scholarship Fund of the Ukrainian program for the best graduates of the Polish and European Law School in Lviv and Ternopil who can receive scholarships for 1-2-semester internships at the Jagiellonian University.

6. The Gaude Polonia scholarship program of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland offers a six-month creative training course for artists, translators, literary critics from Ukraine, Belarus or other Central and Eastern European countries in cultural institutions of the Republic of Poland under the direction of a curator. The amount of the monthly scholarship is 3,000 PLN. The program was initialized in 2003.

7. The Polish History Museum Scholarship Fund offers a grant to foreigners with an interest in studying the history of Poland. The amount of the grant is 1,000 euro monthly. Candidates must have at least a master's degree.

8. Research & Experience Fellowships - scientific or professional internships in Polish centers for joint implementation of a specific project in the fields of economics and management, public administration, business management, law, social sciences, political science and international relations, development policy and humanitarian aid. The program was launched by the Józef Mianowski Fund in 2012 for individuals from EaP countries and Russia holding a master's degree. The Internship period lasts 2-6 months; the scholarship amount is 2,500 PLN. The Józef Mianowski Fund has been offering various scholarship programs since 1994. During 1994-2011, 1605 people, including 859 Ukrainians, participated there.

The nostrification procedure is free and lasts up to three weeks; it must verify the authenticity of documents and the qualification according to the diploma (Fig. 1).

For diploma recognition, the following documents are required:

1. Application to the selected university (nostrifying university);
2. Graduation diploma;
3. Diploma supplement or documents enabling assessment of the course of studies, learning outcomes obtained and duration of studies;
4. Certificate, diploma or another document based on which the person was admitted to the studies;
5. Statement of the person regarding his/her place and date of birth.

The nostrification process can be divided into the following processes:

1. Recognition of equivalence:
 - a) evaluation of program minimum;
 - b) passing program differences;
 - c) passing Polish language exam;
 - g) cost of 700 – 1,200 \$.
2. Limited right to engage in professional activity.
3. Nostrification period
 - a) 12-month internship in a medical facility;
 - b) passing the medical qualifying exam.
4. Full right to engage in professional activity.

The confirming university shall confirm or refuse to

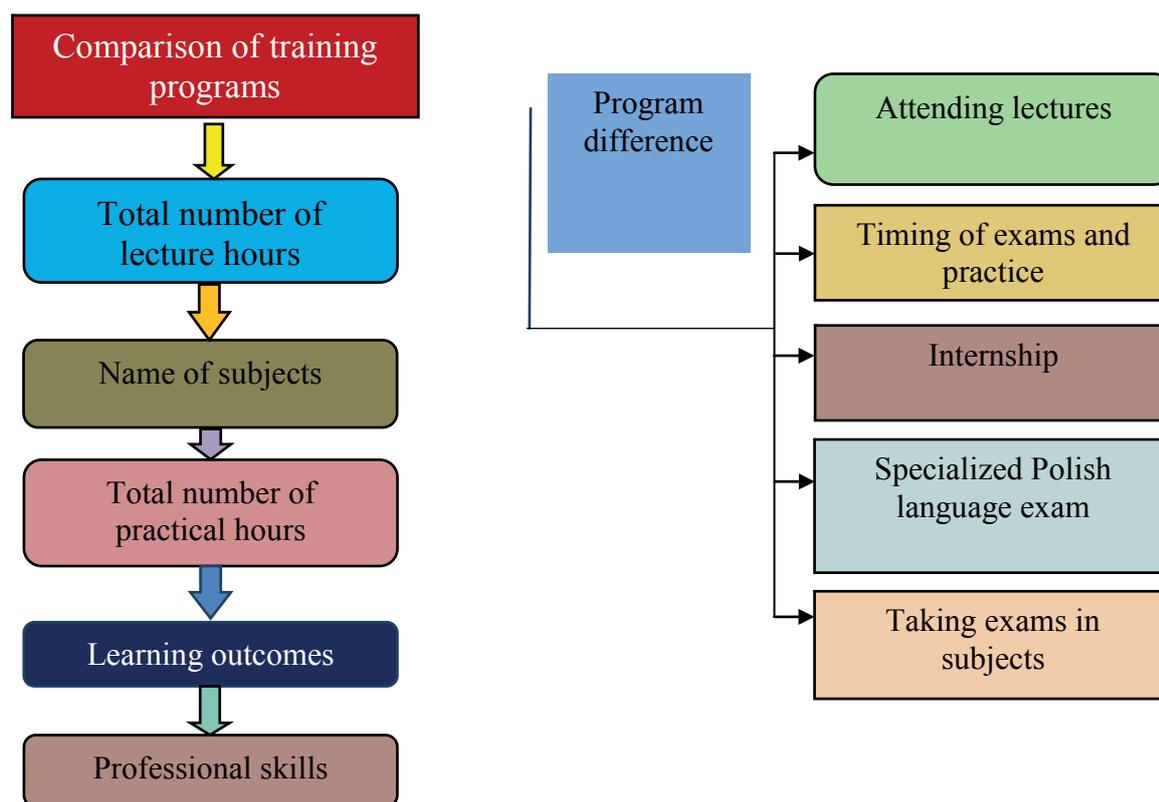


Fig. 1. Nostrification process in Poland

confirm the completion of studies at a specified level within 90 days from the date of submission of the request. In case of differences in study curriculum, learning outcomes or duration of studies, the confirming university may oblige the person to take specific examinations or undergo a professional traineeship [11-13, 16].

Documents may be sent to the following address – Departament Współpracy Międzynarodowej Ministerstwo Nauki and Szkolnictwa Wyższego ul. Wspólna 1/300-529 Warszawa or through ePUAP service.

Based on the results of validation and comparative analysis of training programs, the decision on the recognition of higher education diploma is made and a corresponding certificate is issued. If your program differed from Polish standard, you will be offered to continue your study or to undergo the nostrification procedure, and the relevant document will be issued [12-15, 17].

If the notification procedure is successful, you will receive a certificate equivalent to your diploma with the appropriate title in the Voivodeships of Poland

Conclusions

Thus, having briefly analyzed the process of Ukrainian diploma nostrification in Poland, the relationships and cooperation between these countries, it can be argued that bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and Poland opens new opportunities for the development and deepening in the field of science, medicine and cooperation of doctors and pharmacists between the two countries.

The conditions for nostrifying the diplomas of Ukrainian doctors are created and the experience of Ukrainian physicians

and pharmacists is implemented in Polish medicine.

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Conflict of Interest

None

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