

Ministerial Decree No. (40) of 2023

Regarding Equivalence of Vocational Secondary School Certificates issued from Private Schools

Article 1

In application of the provisions stipulated hereunder, the terms and expressions below shall have the definitions assigned for each of them, unless required otherwise by the context:

State	United Arab Emirates
Ministry	Ministry of Education
Minister	Minister of Education
Private School	A non-governmental educational institution that provides educational services from KG to the end of the secondary stage.
The Awarding Body	The body authorized to issue the certificate from the country to which the curriculum follows
Higher Education Institution	A governmental or non-governmental educational institution that provides post-secondary educational services

Article 2

Vocational secondary school certificates issued by private schools that do not follow the Ministry's curriculum shall be equalized under the following conditions:

1. That the educational system and curriculum are recognized and licensed in the UAE.
2. That the awarding body is recognized and licensed to operate in the UAE.
3. That the school is recognized and licensed in the UAE.
4. That the school is accredited by the awarding body granting the certificate.
5. That the educational stages in the country that grants the certificate are equal to the ones in the UAE.
6. The student must successfully complete 12 school years since the beginning of the elementary stage.
7. That the degree level in the educational stage of the country granting the certificate is eligible for admission to universities in that country.

8. The student must successfully pass Islamic Studies (for Arab and non-Arab Muslims) and Arabic Language (for Arabs) in grades (10, 11, 12) according to the laws and decision that regulate these matters.

Article 3

BTEC Level 3 Diploma shall be equivalent to the Vocational Secondary School certificate under the following conditions:

1. Application of the provisions stipulated in Article (2) herein.
2. The student must meet one of the following conditions:
 - a) Pass five (5) subjects in GCSE or IGCSE level with grades: (A*, A, B, C, D, E) or (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9). The subjects should be amongst the identified by the Ministry with regards to the relevant decrees and regulations. Islamic Studies and Arabic Language are excluded from these subjects.

OR

 - b) Pass the IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) Certificate
3. The student must successfully pass the “BTEC Level 3 Diploma” certificate (with grades no less than PP), completing a minimum of 120 credit hours (credit points) of the subjects identified by the Ministry through relevant rules and regulations.

Article 4

IB Career-Related Programme (IB CP) shall be equivalent to the Vocational Secondary School certificate under the following conditions:

1. Application of the provisions stipulated in Article (2) herein.
2. The student must obtain a certificate of passing IB Career-related Programme
3. The student must pass two (IB) subjects with a grade no less than (3). These subjects can be taught at SL or HL. The subjects should be selected from the list approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Islamic Education is not considered one of the 2 subjects required for equivalency.
4. The student must successfully pass the “BTEC Level 3 Diploma” certificate with grades no less than (PP), completing a minimum of 90 credit hours (credit points) of the subjects identified by the Ministry through relevant decrees and regulations.

Article 5

1. Private schools in the UAE shall be fully responsible for full compliance with the provisions of this Ministerial Decree.
2. Higher education institutions in UAE shall not admit students from Private Schools without an equivalency certificate of their high school vocational certificate issued from the UAE Ministry of Education.
3. All private schools and higher education institutions shall regulate their status in accordance with the provisions set under this Ministerial Decree.
4. The concerned departments in the Ministry shall follow up on the commitment of private schools and higher education institutions in the UAE to implement the provisions of this decree. They shall also submit reports in this regard to us to take what we deem appropriate regarding any violation of these terms.

Article 6

The Undersecretary for Academic Affairs is entitled to issue decrees, circulars, and executive regulations to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Ministerial Decree.

Article 7

This Ministerial Decree shall be communicated to whoever is required to implement it and to act under it, and to repeal any provision contrary to its provisions.

Dr. Ahmad Belhou Al Falasi

The Minister of Education

Issued on 16 February 2023

Note: this is a translation of the decree issued by the Ministry of Education, which is originally published in Arabic.