

Credential Evaluation Services

1. Contact the University Directly

Most universities have special policies for displaced or refugee applicants.

- Explain the situation clearly.
- Ask about alternative documentation.
- Provide any partial records, photos, report cards, exam results, or certificates if available.
- Ask whether they accept provisional admission

2. Use Alternative Pathways

For degree equivalency or if transcripts are missing

- [World Education Services \(WES\)/ WES Gateway Program](#)
 - **Fee waivers** may be possible through partner organizations (resettlement agencies, universities, refugee support programs)
 - Eligibility often depends on your country of education
- [ECE® Aid from Educational Credential Evaluators](#)
 - Provide **free credential evaluations** to vulnerable or displaced individuals through partner organizations.
 - Universities, refugee support NGOs, or counselors can request fee waivers on behalf of the student. ([GW Blogs](#))
 - These reports help show how your education compares to the U.S. system.
- [National ENIC-NARIC Networks \(Free for refugees in many countries\)](#) (European recognition of qualifications networks)
 - Official **certificate of equivalence** or recognition services.
 - **Free or reduced-fee applications** for refugees/asylum seekers with proof of status. e.g., NARIC-Vlaanderen or French ENIC-NARIC (colibri.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)
- [CIMEA \(Italy only\)](#)
 - **free Statements of Comparability** for refugees with international protection status
 - A standard document that explains what your foreign qualification equates to in Italy.
 - Useful for university applications
- [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees- EQPR](#) (*widely recognized non-formal equivalency assessment*)
 - This program assesses qualifications even without full documentation.
 - **Free or low-cost** and available in multiple languages
- [UNESCO Qualifications Passport \(UQP\)](#) (*currently in development*)
 - A universal tool to help refugees have qualifications assessed when documentation is missing.
 - Intended to be accepted internationally for education and employment.

([UNESCO](#))

Summary — Best Free/Low-Cost Options

Option	Free/Low Cost	Works Without Full Transcripts	Accepted by Universities
EQPR	● Yes	✓ Yes	Often
WES Gateway	● Possible via partners	✓ Limited	Yes (US/Canada)
ECE® Aid	● Free via partners	✓ Limited	Yes
ENIC-NARIC	● Usually free for refugees in EU	! With some proof	Yes (EU)
CIMEA for Refugees	● Free in Italy	! With protection status	Yes (Italy)

3. Provide Alternative Evidence

If transcripts are unavailable, ask if the university will accept:

- A sworn statement describing education history
- Letters from former teachers (if reachable)
- National exam scores (if available)
- Placement or entrance exams
- Standardized tests (SAT, ACT, IELTS, etc.)
- Portfolio (for art/design programs)
- Work experience evidence

Some institutions may allow students to enroll conditionally and verify qualifications later.

4. Take a Foundation or Access Program

Ask if the university offers:

- Foundation year programs
- Access courses
- Bridging programs for mature or displaced students

5. Write a Strong Explanation Letter

Applicants should include:

- Why documents are unavailable

- Their educational background (years attended, subjects studied)
- Career goals
- If the person has:
 - Official refugee status
 - Asylum seeker status
 - UNHCR registration