CREDIT CERTIFICATION



EAHEA®

European Association for Higher Education Advancement

Credit Certification for EAHEA Accredited Courses

EAHEA evaluates and certifies the credits of a course or program of study of at least 150 hours: its EAHEA credits, measured in the EAHEA Credit Systems (ECS), and its credit equivalents in the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) and the US semester credit system (USC). To obtain the certification, the institution demonstrates that the corresponding learning outcomes and hours of study of the course, training or program of study have been met. Credit Certification was formerly called ECTS Certification.

EAHEA guides educational institutions on credits, recommends improvements based on a comparison of their existing study programs with their European counterparts, makes recommendations on the organization of program curricula, and issues the Credit Certification Document to institutions that meet the criteria. The document states the EAHEA credits of the course together with its ECTS, CATS and USC credit equivalents.

Who can apply? Credit Certification is available to institutions that hold an EAHEA Course Accreditation, because it certifies the credits of the accredited courses. An institution that does not hold a Course Accreditation first applies for it, and may ask for Credit Certification in the same application. Credit Certification is not an accreditation.

Which Credits Does the Certification Cover?

The Credit Certification Document states four kinds of credits side by side, together with the local credits of your institution.

EAHEA credits (ECS): The EAHEA Credit Systems are four independent evaluation metrics of EAHEA: MUC, PAC, ILC and EUC. A program of 150 hours or less is credited in Modular Units of Competency (MUC) at every level, and one MUC equals 10 to 15 hours of total nominal workload. The other credit systems apply to programs of more than 150 hours.

ECTS credits: The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of study work, and 60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of a full-time academic year.

CATS credits: The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme, the credit scheme used in higher education in the United Kingdom. One CATS credit represents 10 notional hours of learning.

USC credits: US semester credits, the credit hours used in higher education in the United States. One semester credit typically represents about 45 hours of student work.

The ECTS, CATS and USC values are credit equivalents. EAHEA calculates them from the workload of the course under its guidelines, and they serve comparison and transparency purposes only.

What Is ECTS?

ECTS stands for the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. It is a tool that enables learners to collect credits for learning achieved through higher education. It is learner-centered and aims to increase the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. ECTS credits are based on the workload that learners

need to achieve the expected learning outcomes, which includes lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations.

Following the ECTS guidelines does not mean that any other institution or organization has to accept the credits. Each institution is free to accept and validate ECTS credits obtained at other institutions. Expressing a program of education in the ECTS format, however, makes it easier to understand.

How Are Credits Certified?

To apply for the certification, the school or institution:

- opens the online application page and fills in the Application for Credit Certification (Document 12) and the documents that the notice lists;
- pays the whole fee, the application fee and the certification fee together, at once when it applies (this fee is not refundable);
- waits for the review of the application and for the evaluation report of EAHEA.

EAHEA applies the same procedures as in the accreditation process, with the limitations and adaptations that result from the guidelines of the European Higher Education Area on ECTS credits and from the rules of the EAHEA Credit Systems. Not all the standards need to be addressed: 12 of the 26 items of the Accreditation Quality Standards are required, and the cost of this process is therefore lower.

Once the application is received, EAHEA guides the institution in adapting to those guidelines and rules. The certified institution receives an evaluation report that notes any improvement or adaptation that is needed and, when the whole process has been completed satisfactorily, the Credit Certification Document.

What Do You Get upon Credit Certification?

- Credit Certification Document
- Credit Certification Evaluation Report
- Guidance on the EAHEA, ECTS, CATS and USC credits of your courses and programs
- E-delivery news alerts and newsletter
- Discounts for all EAHEA sponsored events

What Are the Credit Certification Fees?

All service fees follow the World Bank Country Income Classification, and additional discounts may apply depending on the economic situation of the country in which your institution carries out most of its activity or in which it is legally established. For the Credit Certification fees, please visit the Service Fees page.

Payment: The price is paid at once, in full, when you apply.

Renewal: The certification is valid for one year and is renewed each year for the renewal fee. If your institution holds a valid Full Accreditation, Online Accreditation or Associate Membership on the renewal date, the partner discount shown on the Service Fees page applies to the renewal fee. A certification that is not renewed ends. A major change to a certified course or program (hours of study, credits, learning outcomes, educational content, name, level or delivery mode) is reviewed again and a change fee is charged; a minor change needs only a notice. Fees are not refundable, except an amount that was paid twice or by mistake.

Important Regulatory Notice and Legal Disclaimer

ECTS framework: ECTS is a credit framework and a tool designed to increase transparency in learning workload, not a governing organization. The European Union defines and encourages the use of ECTS guidelines but does not issue or directly accredit individual ECTS credits.

EAHEA credits, CATS and USC: The EAHEA credits (MUC, PAC, ILC and EUC) are independent professional metrics of EAHEA. CATS and USC are credit systems of the education systems of the United Kingdom and the United States. The CATS and USC values in the Credit Certification Document are credit equivalents that are given for comparison only. EAHEA is not affiliated with these education systems and does not guarantee that any institution accepts the credits.

National authorities: Formal educational recognition and official monitoring fall strictly under the jurisdiction of the ministry of education or the national accreditation bodies of each country. The acceptance of credits by third parties depends entirely on the receiving institution's own policies, and EAHEA does not guarantee transferability or official state equivalency.

Status of EAHEA: EAHEA is an independent, non-governmental association that promotes educational quality standards. It is not affiliated with, authorized by or representative of the European Union, the Bologna Process or any state accreditation agency. The Credit Certification Document is an independent evaluation and quality assurance report and does not substitute for state authorization or official degree recognition.



EAHEA®

European Association for Higher Education Advancement

EAHEA is a European-based non-governmental, independent, and international quality assurance, rating, certification, and accreditation association, founded in 1997 and working to improve the educational quality of institutes and institutions globally. EAHEA grants accreditation to universities, colleges, schools, educational institutes, vocational institutions, distance learning centers, online courses, and corporations; and grants professional certification to professionals, qualified individuals, instructors, and students.

+372 634 6234

eahea@eahea.org

www.eahea.org

Tallinn, Estonia