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### Credential Quandaries: Developing Policy to Evaluate Credentials from Limited Recognition Countries

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### Learning Objectives

1

Define "limited recognition country" and how this can affect credential evaluation

2

Identify and evaluate resources related to education and quality assurance in limited recognition countries

3

Implement policy and procedures to evaluate credentials and determine recognition status from limited recognition countries

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### Limited Recognition Countries

What are they?

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### Two Political Theories


#### Declarative Theory

A state is a person in international law if it has:

- A defined territory,
- A permanent population,
- A government, and
- A capacity to enter into relations with other states.

#### Constitutive Theory

A state is a person in international law only if it is recognized as such by other states that are already a member of the international community.



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### Is it a bit of both?

A limited recognition country must claim sovereignty, lack recognition from at least one UN member state, and either:

1. Satisfy the declarative theory of statehood, or
2. Be recognized as a state by at least one UN member state.



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### Some Other Terms

1 Associated State

2 Free Association

3 UN Non-Member Observer

4 Quasi-State



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### Limited Recognition Countries

Abkhazia <sup>2</sup>	Niue <sup>1</sup>	Somaliland <sup>3</sup>	Taiwan <sup>2</sup>
Cook Islands <sup>1</sup>	Palestine <sup>5</sup>	South Ossetia <sup>2</sup>	Transnistria <sup>3</sup>
Kosovo <sup>1</sup>	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic <sup>2</sup>	Sovereign Military Order of Malta <sup>4</sup>	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus <sup>2</sup>

1. UN specialized agency members not recognized by at least 1 UN member state and has diplomatic relations with the United States

2. Not state parties within the UN

3. Non-UN states recognized by other non-UN states

4. Political entity recognized by at least 1 UN member state

5. UN Non-Member Observer State

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## Why does this matter?

Are you able to determine who has oversight for education in the country?

What if multiple entities claim jurisdiction?

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## Resources for Recognition

Selected limited recognition countries

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### Transnistria

- Part of Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic from 1924 to 1991
- Claimed independence from Republic of Moldova in 1991
- Self-proclaimed name: Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic
- Name per Republic of Moldova: Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester
- Only recognized by Abkhazia and South Ossetia
- Ministry of Education of the PMR and Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova



A map showing the location of Transnistria (Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic) along the Dniester River in eastern Moldova. The map labels various cities including Edinet, Soroca, Balti, Ribnita, Ungheni, Orhei, Straseni, Dubasari, Chisinau, Bender, Tiraspol, Causeni, Comrat, Ceadir-Lunga, and Cahul. It also shows the borders with Ukraine to the north and east, and Romania to the west. The Dniester River is highlighted, and the breakaway region of Transnistria is labeled.

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### Cook Islands

- Aligned to the United Kingdom in 1890
- Declared a British territory in 1900
- Aligned to the Colony of New Zealand in 1901
- British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948
- Self-governing state in free association with New Zealand since 1965
- Diplomatic relations with 52 countries; established with the US in September 2023
- Cook Islands Ministry of Education



A map of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. It shows the Northern Cook Islands (Rakahanga, Manihiki, Penrhyn) and the Southern Cook Islands (Palmerston, Aitutaki, Manus, Takutea, Atiu, Rarotonga, Winlow Reef). The map includes a scale bar and coordinates. An inset map shows the location of the Cook Islands relative to New Zealand and Australia.

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### Palestine

- Claimed independence in 1988
- UN non-member observer state status in 2012
- Name changed from "Palestinian Authority" to "State of Palestine" (دولة فلسطين / Dawlat Filastin) in 2013
- Recognized by 139 of the 193 UN member states
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education / UNRWA



A map showing the West Bank and Gaza Strip of Palestine. The map labels the West Bank, Gaza, and the surrounding countries: Syria to the north, Jordan to the east, and Egypt to the southwest. A small box highlights the West Bank area.

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### Northern Cyprus

- Official name: : *Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti* (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)
- Turkish Federated State of Cyprus established in 1975
- Claimed independence from Cyprus in 1983
- Ministry of National Education and Culture (primary, secondary, vocational/technical)
- Yükseköğretim Kurumları Denetleme ve Akreditasyon Kurulu (YÖDAK)
- Turkish Council of Higher Education (YOK)




Image source: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cyprus/>

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## Developing Policies/Procedures

Regarding recognition of institutions and credentials in limited recognition countries

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### What Do You Normally Do?

Important questions to consider on any credential you evaluate include:

- What is the status of the institution's recognition?
- Does the institution exist?
- Was the program offered at the institution?

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### How Is It Different for a Limited Recognition Country?

- Are you able to locate a Ministry of Education?
- Does the country have a system in place to license/accredit/recognize institutions?
- Does it work with an entity in another country instead?
- Are its credential able to be used for admission into further education in other countries?

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### Can It Be Considered Recognized?

Is there an established government?

What entity is responsible for education oversight?

Does the country have an established quality assurance process internally?

Does the country have an established quality assurance process externally?

Are the country's graduates accepted for further study in another country?

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## Can it be considered recognized?

Let's answer these questions for the four countries we looked at earlier.

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### Transnistria

1. Yes
2. Ministry of Education of the PMR
3. Yes
4. Yes for Romanian-language schools
5. Yes



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### Cook Islands

1. Yes
2. The Cook Islands Ministry of Education
3. Yes
4. No for primary, secondary, and vocational post-secondary education; yes for academic post-secondary education
5. Yes



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### Palestine

1. Yes
2. Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education and UNRWA
3. Yes: MOEHE for primary and secondary and AQAC for higher education
4. Yes for UNRWA schools
5. Yes



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1. Yes
2. Ministry of National Education and Culture and YODAK
3. Yes
4. Yes, YOK in Türkiye for universities
5. Yes



Image source: <http://www.fox.com/the-world-farback.html>



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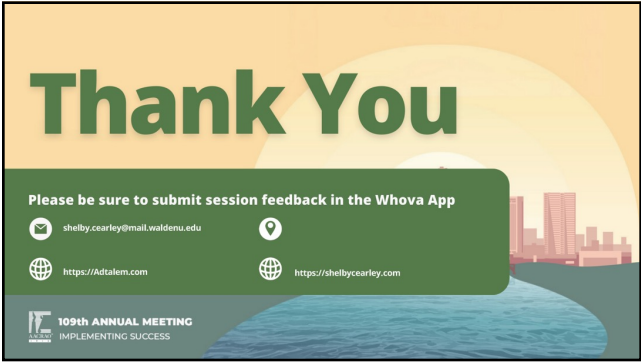
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