



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

3rd Report of Session 2021–22

**Scrutiny of international
agreements: Agreement
with Peru on mutual
recognition of
qualifications**

Ordered to be printed 24 June 2021 and published 24 June 2021

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords

International Agreements Committee

The International Agreements Committee is appointed by the House of Lords in each session to consider matters relating to the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of international agreements, and to report on treaties laid before Parliament in accordance with Part 2 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

Membership

The Members of the International Agreements Committee are:

<u>Lord Astor of Hever</u>	<u>Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke</u>
<u>Lord Foster of Bath</u>	<u>Lord Morris of Aberavon</u>
<u>Lord Gold</u>	<u>Lord Oates</u>
<u>Lord Goldsmith</u> (Chair)	<u>Lord Robathan</u>
<u>Lord Kerr of Kinlochard</u>	<u>Lord Sandwich</u>
<u>Lord Lansley</u>	<u>Lord Watts</u>

Declaration of interests

See Appendix 1.

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests:

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests>

Publications

All publications of the Committee are available at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/448/international-agreements-committee/publications/>

Parliament Live

Live coverage of debates and public sessions of the Committee's meetings are available at:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv>

Further information

Further information about the House of Lords and its Committees, including guidance to witnesses, details of current inquiries and forthcoming meetings is available at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords>

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Jennifer Martin-Kohlmorgen (Clerk), Andrea Ninomiya (Policy Analyst) and Robert Cocks (Committee Operations Officer).

Contact details

All correspondence should be addressed to the International Agreements Committee, Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW. Telephone 020 7219 4840. Email HLIntlAgreements@parliament.uk

Twitter

You can follow the Committee on Twitter: [@HLIntlAgreements](https://twitter.com/HLIntlAgreements).

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Summary	2
Agreement reported for information	3
Treaty, done at Iquitos on 19 May 2018, on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru (with Exchange of Notes) (CP 431, 2021)	3
Timing of Agreement and entry into force	4
Territorial scope and consultation	4
Amendments	4
Appendix: List of Members, declarations of interest and Committee staff	5

SUMMARY

This report addresses the following Agreement, laid before Parliament in accordance with section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRAG), and considered at the meeting of the Committee on 16 June 2021, which we report for information:

- Treaty, done at Iquitos on 19 May 2018, on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru (with Exchange of Notes) (CP 431, 2021)

Scrutiny of international agreements: Agreement with Peru on mutual recognition of qualifications

AGREEMENT REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

Treaty, done at Iquitos on 19 May 2018, on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru (with Exchange of Notes) (CP 431, 2021)¹

1. The Treaty on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru (the Agreement) was laid on 17 May 2021, and the scrutiny period is scheduled to end on 29 June 2021. It was considered by the Committee on 23 June 2021.
2. The objective of the Agreement is to recognise and validate academic degrees issued by authorised higher education institutions of each Party. Article 4 sets out the types of degrees awarded by higher education authorities in Peru that will be considered comparable to a UK Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral Degree, or to a Postgraduate Diploma (and vice versa).
3. Annexes 3 and 4 set out the process that must be followed by the specified national authorities when assessing applications for mutual recognition.² If the relevant criteria are met, the authority will issue a resolution or statement confirming that the degrees are comparable. In the case of Peru, the process also involves registration in the National Register for Degrees and Qualifications.
4. The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) published alongside the Agreement explains that the Agreement aims to support greater mobility for students and qualified individuals between the UK and Peru, and to improve research outcomes.³ It is the fourth agreement on the mutual recognition of degrees

1 Treaty on the mutual recognition of degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru, CP 431, May 2021: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/986012/CS_Peru_1.2021_UK_Peru_Mutual_Recognition_of_Degrees.pdf [accessed 17 June 2021]

2 In the UK, the specified authority is the UK National Information Centre for global qualifications and skills (UK ENIC), which is the successor to UK NARIC referenced in the Agreement.

3 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Explanatory Memorandum on the Treaty on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Peru, May 2021: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/986014/EM_CS_Peru_1.2021_UK_Peru_Treaty_Mutual_Recognition_of_Degrees.odt [accessed 24 June 2021], para 4.2

signed in the Latin American region, following agreements with Mexico in 2015, and agreements with Chile and Colombia in 2017.⁴

Timing of Agreement and entry into force

5. The Agreement with Peru was signed in 2018 and the EM explains that the publication of the text was delayed by several factors, including translation and the reallocation of resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ In 2019, the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also initiated an Exchange of Notes to make some corrections to the signed text.
6. The Agreement, with the Exchange of Notes, will enter into force 90 calendar days after both Parties have notified each other that their internal legal requirements have been completed.

Territorial scope and consultation

7. The Agreement applies to “metropolitan UK” only, which means it does not extend to the Crown Dependencies or the Overseas Territories. The awarding of academic qualifications is a devolved matter, and the EM explains that the Government has consulted the Devolved Administrations (DAs) and shared the draft legal text in advance of signature.⁶
8. We welcome the additional information provided in the EM about the Government’s engagement with the DAs and, in particular, the confirmation that “Scotland and Wales proposed minor amendments to wording that were incorporated into the final versions”.⁷ This addresses a long-standing recommendation by the Committee for the EM to state whether the DAs raised any significant objections to an agreement, and how these were dealt with. We look forward to the inclusion of similar information in future EMs.

Amendments

9. The Agreement can be amended by mutual consent and Article 8 provides for a periodic review to consider “the experiences of all stakeholders involved in the recognition process”. The Agreement does not, however, define the frequency of such reviews.
10. **We report the Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the UK and Peru to the House for information.**

4 See Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Awards, Titles, Diplomas and Academic Degrees between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Mexican States, Cm 9095, March 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cs-mexico-no12015-ukmexico-mutual-recognition-of-higher-education-awards>; Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and Degrees between the Republic of Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cm 9510, October 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cs-chile-no12017-ukchile-agreement-on-the-mutual-recognition-of-qualifications-and-degrees> and Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Colombia, Cm 9509, November 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cs-colombia-no12017-ukcolombia-agreement-on-the-mutual-recognition-of-degrees> [all accessed 17 June 2021]

5 Explanatory Memorandum, para 3.5

6 *Ibid.*, para 10.2

7 *Ibid.*

APPENDIX: LIST OF MEMBERS, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COMMITTEE STAFF

International Agreements Committee Members and staff

- Lord Astor of Hever
No relevant interests
- Lord Foster of Bath
No relevant interests
- Lord Gold
Director, Gold Collins Associates Ltd
Principal, David Gold & Associates LLP
- Lord Goldsmith (Chair)
Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
- Lord Kerr of Kinlochard
Chairman, Centre for European Reform
Deputy Chairman, Scottish Power plc
Member, Scottish Government's Standing Council on Europe
- Lord Lansley
Director, LOW Associates Ltd
Chair, UK-Japan 21st Century Group
Trustee, Radix
- Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke
Adviser, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Association Member, Bupa
Chair, Annington Ltd
Honorary Vice President, Britain-Australia Society Education Trust
Trustee, Northcote Educational Trust
- Lord Morris of Aberavon
No relevant interests
- Lord Oates
Chair, Advisory Committee, Weber Shandwick UK
Non-Executive Director, Centre for Countering Digital Hate
Director, H&O Communications Ltd
- Lord Robathan
No relevant interests
- Earl of Sandwich
No relevant interests
- Lord Watts
No relevant interests

The Committee staff are Jennifer Martin-Kohlmorgen (Clerk), Andrea Ninomiya (Policy Analyst), and Robert Cocks (Committee Operations Officer).

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/lords/interests/register-of-lords-interests>