

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Foreign public records for a U.S. recipient

How do I check authentication requirements for a foreign public document used in the United States?

Start with the U.S. recipient's evidence instructions, then check the foreign issuing jurisdiction's competent authority when authentication is requested. A foreign record is not automatically subject to one universal apostille, translation or consular chain.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the actual U.S. recipient
- ☐ Read its evidence and language rules
- ☐ Find the origin authority if needed
- ☐ Distinguish foreign records from later notarial acts

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

HCCH: Apostille Section and competent authorities

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/apostille>

HCCH: Apostille competent authorities

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41>

USCIS: Policy Manual: evidence

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-1-part-e-chapter-6>

U.S. Department of Education: Recognition of foreign qualifications

<https://www.ed.gov/about/initiatives/international-affairs/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications>

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Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/documents/foreign-record-authentication/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.