



## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION SHEET FOR COLOMBIA

### **Universities and Other Higher Education Institutions Recognized in Prince Edward Island (PEI)**

Only those higher education institutions that are established or approved by an appropriate educational authority (usually a government body) are recognized by the PEI Office of the Registrar.

In the case of Colombia, we recognize those higher education institutions that are established or approved by national government authority.

Colombia's Ministry of National Education includes on its website a search engine which can be utilized for finding all recognized higher education institutions which are authorized to issue qualifications. If your higher education institution is found through that search engine, then most likely we recognize it.

For a link to that search engine on the Ministry of Education's website, see:

<http://www.mineducacion.gov.co/sistemasdeinformacion/1735/w3-article-212396.html>

### **Pre-Service Teacher Education Programs Recognized in Prince Edward Island**

Only those pre-service teacher education programs that are recognized or approved by an appropriate educational authority (usually a government body) in your country are recognized by the PEI Office of the Registrar.

In the case of Colombia, we recognize those pre-service teacher education programs that are recognized or approved by national government authority.

In general, the Ministry of National Education is responsible for recognizing or approving pre-service teacher education programs. Hence, found on its website is a search engine utilized for finding all recognized or approved higher education institutions and associated programs, including pre-service teacher education programs. If your pre-service teacher education program is found through that search engine, then most likely we recognize it.

See the section **Universities and Other Higher Education Institutions Recognized in Prince Edward Island (PEI)**, above, for the webpage address information for that search engine found on *the* Ministry of National Education's website.

### **Specific Programs Not Recognized in Prince Edward Island**

Any programs that do not meet our minimum requirements for an acceptable teacher education program will be not recognized.

### **Obtaining Academic Records**

In Colombia academic records or official transcripts are issued by universities and other higher education institutions.

When seeking to obtain your academic records or official transcripts you are generally required to submit a **written request by fax, email or post** to your university's Academic Records Division. Your full name, date of birth and student ID number (if known) should be included. Generally, information cannot be provided over the phone.

Academic records or official transcripts must be mailed directly to us from every higher education institution you have attended. We will not accept transcripts submitted by you even if they are sealed or notarized. We will not accept transcripts by fax or email. Transcripts received must be in the original language of issue.

If the PEI Office of the Registrar receives transcripts in languages other than English or French, we will send a copy to you. You will need to have the documents translated into either English or French and send the original translations to us.

### **Obtaining Statements of Professional Standing**

A Statement of Professional Standing is a document that states you are a teacher in good standing and that your teaching license has never been revoked, cancelled, or suspended for any disciplinary reasons. This document usually comes from the government body or other licensing body that oversees teachers.

A Statement of Professional Standing is required and may be obtained from the department or jurisdiction where you completed your teacher education program. Additional Statements of Professional Standing are required from departments or jurisdictions where you have held or hold a teaching certificate. All Statements of Professional Standing must be mailed directly to the PEI Office of the Registrar.

Statements of Professional Standing for Colombia may be obtained from government organizations within the following jurisdictions:

Jurisdiction	Contact Information
Colombia	Secretaria de Educación from the region where you last taught in Colombia.
Colombia - Antioquia	Departamento de Antioquia, Secretaría del Recurso Humano, Dirección de Personal (Ministry of Human Resources, Personnel Branch), Centro Administrativo Departamental José María Córdova (Alpujarra)-Medellín, CL. 42 #52-186, Colombia
Colombia - Bogotá	Secretaría de Educación de Bogotá, Avenida El Dorado No. 66-63, Bogotá, Colombia
Colombia - Valle Del Cauca	Gobernación del Valle del Cauca, Secretaria de Educación, Palacio San Francisco, Piso 8, Cali, Colombia

## **Teaching Certificate**

Teaching certificates are not issued in Colombia. Instead, the PEI Office of the Registrar will accept a photocopy of your teacher education diploma or degree.

## **Credit Hour Equivalencies**

Colombia has no national credit system. Universities and other higher education institutions have their own credit systems.

Because credit systems in Colombia can vary so much between higher education institutions, the PEI Office of the Registrar calculates the credit hour equivalencies for each application on a case-by-case basis.

## **Other Pertinent Information**

### ***Years of Scholary and Year 12 Equivalent***

In order to be eligible for certification as a teacher in PEI you are required to have a minimum of 16 Years of Scholary, which includes completion of your Year 12 equivalent (also known as Grade 12 or High School equivalent). Generally, a Year of Scholary is earned for every year of formal education you have completed, beginning with Year 1 education at the elementary or primary school level.

Because Years of Scholary and Year 12 equivalence can vary so much between countries and even within them, the PEI Office of the Registrar calculates the Years of Scholary and Year 12 equivalence for each application on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Language Proficiency***

You do not need to provide satisfactory results on a language proficiency test if you have completed ***all*** of your post-secondary education in English or French.

In Colombia, Spanish is typically the language of instruction; hence, in most cases, applicants who have completed their post-secondary education in Colombia will be required to provide satisfactory results on a recognized English or French language proficiency test as a condition of certification. For more information on language proficiency, including acceptable tests and test scores, see our **Resource Guide: "Welcoming Internationally Educated Teachers to PEI."**

The **Resource Guide** is available online on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's website. See the following link:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/index.php3?number=1027691>