

CHARLENE A. CHARLES

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

CARICOM SKILLS CERTIFICATE BARBADOS

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE : WWW.BAC.GOV.BB

GENERAL

The free movement of skills/labour basically entails the right of a CARICOM National to seek work or engage in gainful employment in all CARICOM Member States as either a wage earner or non-wage earner, without the need to obtain a work permit in the Member State in which he/she desires to work.

A CARICOM National is, according to Article 32.5:(A) of the Revised Treaty, a person who is regarded as a National of a Member State. This is the case if such person:

- is a citizen of that State
- has a connection with that State of a kind which entitles him/her to be regarded as belonging to or, if it be so expressed, as being a native or resident of the State for purpose of the laws thereof relating to immigration.

Persons who are eligible for the Free Movement of Skills/Labour must be engaged in a legitimate economic activity in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. There are currently no rights regarding free movement solely for the purposes of residency or permanent naturalization or citizenship.

If a person just wishes to migrate from one CARICOM state to live in another, he/she must still apply for residency or citizenship, in accordance with the laws of that country.

(Extracted from the publication "CARICOM Single Market and Economy Free Movement - Travel and Work", Caribbean Community Secretariat, 2005)

DOCUMENTS

- 1 Completed application form (legible, signed by a Justice of Peace and with official stamp/seal of the Justice-of-the-Peace)
- 2 Original Birth Certificate
- 3 Proof of status as a CARICOM National
- 4 Marriage Certificate (where applicable)
- 5 Qualifications (undergrad/post-grad/ professional)-certified translation of the credential/ qualification in English if the original document is not in English.
- 6 Proof of registration with professional agency (where applicable)
- 7 Passport (copy of bio-data page & date of issue and expiry date)
- 8 Two (2) passport size photos (applicant's name in block letters at back)
- 9 Prescribed Application Fee

CARICOM SKILLS CERTIFICATE

CATEGORIES FOR FREE MOVEMENT OF SKILLS

Graduates

Media Persons

Artistes

Musicians

Sportspersons

Professional Nurses

Teachers

Artisans

Holders of an Associate Degree

Household Domestic

Definition of Categories for Free Movement of Skills

- Graduates are persons who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university.
 - Applicants seeking recognition under the category "Graduate" in respect of the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification, please note that only the "highest" level of qualification as it pertains to "degree" level (that is, Bachelor's or Master's or Doctoral) will be accepted by the Barbados Accreditation Council for processing.
- Media Persons are persons whose primary source of income is drawn from media and media related work or persons who are qualified to enter this field.
- Artistes are persons who are active in or qualified to enter a particular field of art with the specific purpose to earn a living.
- Musicians are persons who are active in or qualified to enter a particular field of music with the specific purpose to earn a living.
- Sportspersons are persons who are active in or qualified to enter a particular field of sports with the specific purpose to earn a living as a professional or semi-professional.
- Professional Nurses are persons who have successfully completed basic or higher-level training for nurses and who are registered with the General Nursing Council of a CARICOM Member State and are designated Registered Nurses.
- Teachers are persons who have successfully completed an approved pre-service or in-service teacher preparation programme from an accredited/recognized institution offering teacher education.
- Artisans- An artisan is a skilled workman or craftsman - craft and related workers apply their specific knowledge and skills in the fields of mining and construction, form metal, erect metal structures, set machine tools, or make, fit, maintain and repair machinery, equipment or tools, carrying out printing work as well as produce or process foodstuffs, textiles, or wooden, metal and other articles, including handicraft goods.
- Holders of an Associate Degree or comparable qualification - CARICOM nationals who have obtained an Associate Degree from an accredited/recognized university or college or have obtained a professional, technical or vocational qualification from a duly accredited body which is comparable to an Associate Degree. Comparable qualifications include: 2 CAPE/"A" Levels; Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) Qualification; National Technician Certificates requiring two (2) years of study at the post-secondary level
- Household Domestic - are persons who possess a Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) or equivalent qualifications in related subject areas. Equivalent qualifications include the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) and the Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) certification as it relates to a hotel setting.

CARICOM SKILLS CERTIFICATE

Free Movement of Managerial, Supervisory and Technical Staff

Companies, other legal forms of businesses, organisations and self-employed persons have the right to bring in their managerial, supervisory and technical staff in order to further their business.

The right to free movement of these persons is linked to the company or other legal business organisations.

These categories cannot move on their own, unless they belong to one of the other eligible categories of wage earners.

For Managers, Technical and Supervisory staff attached to a company or self-employed persons, eligibility to move is governed by the Immigration Department and not by the Barbados Accreditation Council.

Procedures for Entry of Non-Nationals into Barbados

At the Port of Entry (Without a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification)

If a non-national expresses an interest in being recognised as a skilled CARICOM national - he/she will be advised by the Immigration Department to appear in person at the Barbados Accreditation Council. If approval is granted, the applicant will be issued the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification along with a letter indicating the next steps. When collecting the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification, the applicant or agent acting on behalf of the applicant will need to bring a valid form of photo identification (National Identification Card, Driver's Licence or Passport). The applicant is advised to return to the Immigration Department and present the Certificate along with the relevant Immigration forms in order to be granted indefinite entry into Barbados.

At Port of Entry (With a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification)

If a non-national indicates that he/she possesses a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification - he/she will be advised by the Immigration Department to appear in person at the Barbados Accreditation Council. Should the Barbados Accreditation Council verify the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification, Letter(s) of Verification will be issued to the individual and the Immigration Department. When collecting the Letter(s) of Verification, the person will need to bring a valid form of photo identification (National Identification Card, Driver's Licence or Passport)

The person is advised to return to the Immigration Department and present the Certificate along with the relevant Immigration forms in order to be granted indefinite entry into Barbados.

"If any of the wage earners wish to work in another Member State, he/she must first obtain a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification (CARICOM Skills Certificate) from the competent authority in either his/her home, host country or another CARICOM Member State."

"If a CARICOM national does not fall into any of the wage earning categories, he/she still requires a work permit if he/she wishes to work in another Member State"

CARICOM SKILLS CERTIFICATE

DOCUMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND VERIFICATION

- 1** Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification issued by another Member State (Certified copy of the Certificate)
- 2** Two (2) passport size photos ((Applicant's name in block letters at back)
- 3** Verification Fee (per verification)

LAW OFFICE OF CHARLENE A. CHARLES

Charlene A. Charles, LL.B, L.E.C. LL.M
Attorney-at-Law

Bideford House, Brown's Gap, Hastings
Christ Church, Barbados, BB15156

Email: info@cacharles.com

Tel: (246) 255-8202

www.cacharles.com



Examination and Verification of a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification

Applicants must appear in person either to submit the documentation or collect the Letter of Verification of the Certificate of Recognition. In the situation where an agent/individual is submitting on the behalf of the applicant, written correspondence must be submitted by the applicant which states that the documentation is being submitted on his/her behalf. The agent/individual is required to present some form of valid identification e.g. National Identification card, Driver's Licence or Passport. An employer may submit an application on behalf of an employee, however the employee will be required to collect the Letter of Verification.

Lost, Stolen or Misplaced Certificates

In the event of a lost, stolen or misplaced certificate, the national or non-national must:

- Report the lost/stolen/misplaced Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification to the Commissioner of Police and the Immigration Department, in the country where the certificate was lost, stolen or misplaced
- Submit an original (and copy to be certified) of the Police Report of the lost/stolen/misplaced Certificate
- Pay prescribed fee for the new Certificate.

Only those certificates issued by Barbados Accreditation Council will be reissued to nationals and non-nationals.

Processing Timeline

Issuance of the Certificate by the Barbados Accreditation Council

- A maximum of 7 working days

Verification of the Certificate of Recognition issued by other CARICOM Member States

- A maximum of 10 working days

**Do not wait until you are offered a job opportunity to apply for the Certificate. Be Proactive!
Apply Now!**

This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representative or warranty (expressed or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Law Office of Charlene A. Charles, its principal or associates, employees and agents accept liability and disclaim all responsibility, for the consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information in this publication or any decision based on this publication.