

# Frequently asked questions about education

## The issues raised by students of Ukrainian sector and their parents:

### 1. Is it true that most Ukrainian schools do not recognize years of education received in Georgia?

There are four schools with Ukrainian-language sector in Georgia - two in Tbilisi (public schools N41 and N220) and two in Batumi (N20 and N13). The aforementioned schools ensure the opportunity of Ukrainian students to receive a full course of general education in their native language, which is so important for their personal and academic development. The school curricula offered to them in Georgia corresponds to the educational systems of Georgia and Ukraine, so that after returning in Ukraine, each student could receive and continue education at any level, without any impediment.

For further clarification of the details related to the recognition by Ukraine the general education received in Georgia, it is advisable for the interested person to apply to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (official website - <https://mon.gov.ua/eng>).

### 2. How the education received in foreign countries is recognized in Georgia?

In order to recognize the education received abroad in Georgia, the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (official website and contact information: [www.eqe.ge](http://www.eqe.ge); Phone: 2 200 220 (\*3599); Email: [info@eqe.ge](mailto:info@eqe.ge)) checks the following:

- Whether the educational document is issued in the name of the person who is indicated in this document.
- Whether the educational institution issuing the document is recognized by the legislation of the country where this institution performs its educational activities.
- Whether the qualifications reflected in the educational document, or the learning outcomes achieved during the period of study comply with the qualifications existing in Georgia?

A person wishing to recognize the education received abroad shall apply with attached documents to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. The following documentation should be attached to the application:

1. An application form, which is accessible at: <https://eqe.ge/ka/page/static/213/utskhoetshi-mighebuli-ganatlebis-aghiareba>
2. A notarized copy of Citizenship ID translated in Georgian;
3. A notarized copy of an educational document on received general education or its equivalent in foreign country translated in Georgian.

4. Written consent from the head of the higher educational institution chosen by the person on the possibility of accepting a person in a vacant place within the total number of students (indicating the name, surname and educational curricula).
5. In the case of filing an application by another person, the document certifying the authority thereof (power of attorney);
6. In the case of filing an application by a parent, the notarized copy of the child's Birth Certificate.

**3. If a child receives a certificate from a public school in Georgia, will it be recognized by the Ukrainian education system?**

A certificate issued by a public school operating in Georgia is recognized in Ukraine, as well as in other states. The procedures and conditions for the recognition of certificates are established by each state on an individual basis. To clarify the issue of recognition in Ukraine of a certificate issued by a public school operating in Georgia, it is advisable for an interested person to apply to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (official website - <https://mon.gov.ua/eng>)

**4. Is it true that some Ukrainian schools ask children returning from Georgia to pass exams in order to continue studying at their respective institutions?**

Additional information on continuation of education in Ukraine should be checked with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (official website - <https://mon.gov.ua/eng>) or with a specific school operating in Ukraine.

**5. Is it true that only the children who are registered in a Ukrainian school and use the form of distance learning will receive a Ukrainian school certificate?**

The school curricula for the Ukrainian-speaking sector for grades from 1 to 11 was developed through active collaboration and coordination between the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The mentioned school curricula was completely transferred from the national curricula of Ukraine and only two subjects - Georgian language and Georgian history – have been added to it.

In 2022-2023, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine, provided graduation exams for 11th grade Ukrainian students in Georgia. Therefore, those students who passed the exams received a document proving the complete general education of the Ukrainian school - a certificate.

In addition, those Ukrainian students, who will accomplish the 12th grade, also receive a document proving the complete general education of the Georgian school - a certificate.

**6. Is it true that students of 11th grade in Georgia (graduating year in Ukraine) would not be able to get the Ukrainian school certificate. And they will get a Georgian school certificate only if they continue their studies in the 12th grade. However, it is not clear how the curriculum of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be designed.**

In Georgia, a certificate of complete general education is issued after the completion of the 12th grade. Therefore, since the public schools with the Ukrainian sector operating in Georgia from the current academic year already have 12th-grade Ukrainian students, for the 2023-2024 academic year, as a result of consultations with experts from the ministries of education and science of Georgia and Ukraine, the Ukrainian sectors of Georgian public schools have developed a 12th-grade curriculum. Within this process, the needs of Ukrainian students were considered and shared, while the requirements of the national legislation of Georgia were considered. Accordingly, Ukrainian students who complete the 12th grade will also receive a document/certificate proving the complete general education of the Georgian school.

**6. Is there any tool for identifying Ukrainian students with special educational needs and disabilities? Are special education services available to them at school (special teacher, individual educational curriculum, resource room, etc.)?**

Special educational needs assessment tool is available for Ukrainian students. The assessment procedure is carried out on the basis of the appropriate referral, after which an assessment conclusion is drafted with appropriate recommendations regarding the educational process. The educational process is planned with a due account of the students' requirements and depending on the needs; therefore, the students have the opportunity to use the services of a special teacher, psychologist and other professionals; an individual study plan is prepared for them and they have an access to all resources available at school for inclusive education.

**7. Is it required from Ukrainian students to pass the Georgian language exam in order to get a certificate?**

The Constitution of Georgia declares Georgian as a state language of Georgia, and in the territory of Abkhazia- also Abkhazian. Therefore, it is compulsory to teach Georgian language in all schools on the territory of Georgia, irrespective of particular sectors. The language of instruction in public schools of the Ukrainian sector is Ukrainian, according to the national curriculum of Georgia, the teaching of the Georgian language is mandatory everywhere with a load of 5 hours per week. The average level is considered passed if the student's level score (after rounding) is 5.0 or higher, on the basis of which a certificate of complete general education is issued.

The certificate is not issued on the basis of exams; however, the school is authorized to set an annual exam(s) in any subject(s) (as specified in the school curriculum) and determine whether the score obtained on the exam will affect the annual score of the subject. Additional information on this issue should be checked directly with the school administration or the teacher.

**8. If a child is enrolled in the Georgian sector, how will he/she be included in the educational process at school? What kind of assistance will be provided by the school?**

In case of enrollment or mobility of the student in a Georgian school, the hosting school - in order to overcome the language barrier - will develop a modified school curriculum for the student, taking into account his/her individual needs.

There are four schools in Georgi with Ukrainian sector. Therefore any student who wishes to receive general education in his native Ukrainian language has the opportunity to be enrolled in any of the above-mentioned four schools to have their schooling in Ukrainian language.

### **9. Is it possible for the school to have different types of groups based on the interest of the students?**

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia provides funds for informal education groups in art, sports and educational-cognitive activities in public schools with the Ukrainian sector.

Moreover, all public schools within their financial and administrative autonomy are authorized to engage the students in non-formal education, taking into account their interests and abilities. Also, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, in collaboration with local and international organizations, actively promotes the implementation of informal education activities for students who are forcibly displaced from Ukraine.

Taking into account the wishes and interests of students, there are different types of groups at schools. It is worth to mention that the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions of Georgia (LEPL) conducted a needs assessment in all schools with Ukrainian sectors aimed at identifying the special interests of Ukrainian students. Based on the outcomes of the needs assessment the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia elaborated and made operational the following informal education groups and events in the schools with Ukrainian sectors:

- ✓ Noncontact karate.
- ✓ Musical choir.
- ✓ Group of cheerleaders.
- ✓ Handball group.
- ✓ Football group.
- ✓ Adventure-cognitive, cultural and educational excursions in different regions of Georgia;
- ✓ Natural sciences club “Chkhirkedela” (jack-of-all-trades)იო

### **10. Is there any psychological aid provided at the schools?**

Psychological Assistance Center under the LEPL the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions is accessible for all schoolchildren in Georgia.

In all four schools with Ukrainian sector the Ministry of Education (through UNICEF funding) provides Ukrainian-speaking psychologist and/or social workers of educational institutions.

**11. After receiving the certificate of the Ukrainian sector, will the students be able to enter higher education institutions? What is the procedure for this and whom the parent should apply for detailed counseling?**

In accordance with the legislation currently in force, a person who holds a certificate of complete general education issued by a Georgian school is entitled to continue his/her studies at a higher educational institution by passing the Unified National Exams.

Nevertheless, studying at a higher educational institution without passing the Unified National Exams is allowed for citizens of foreign countries and stateless persons who have received a complete general or equivalent education in a foreign country. Those wishing to continue their studies without passing the Unified National Exams should submit an application with attached documents to the the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement.

Information on higher educational institutions operating in Georgia is available at the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia -

<http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=1855&lang=geo>

Therefore, if a person holds a document confirming complete general education issued by a foreign country (for example: Ukraine), he/she is entitled to continue his studies at a higher educational institution without passing the Unified National Exams

**12. In what language will they have to pass the entrance exams to higher education institutions? Will they enjoy any favourable conditions?**

If a person continues his/her education at a higher educational institution through passing the National Exams, the exams are conducted in Georgian language.

If a person holds a certificate of complete general education issued by a foreign country (for example: Ukraine), the person may continue his/her study at a higher educational institution on the basis of an entrance exam organized by the higher educational institution, which is conducted in the language of the higher education course chosen by the person.

**13. Is it possible to have Ukrainian language in higher education institutions as a language of instruction?**

At the authorized higher educational institutions of Georgia, the Ukrainian language is not the language of instruction. The list of educational programmes offered in foreign languages in Georgia can be found on the website of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement:

<https://eqe.ge/en/page/static/265/utskhoenovani-saganmanatleblo-programebi-usd-ebshi>

#### **14. In case of questions on the issues related to the education who should be applied for?**

In case of questions, the interested person can use the hotline of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia: 2 200 220, or write a message to the Ministry's e-mail - [pr@mes.gov.ge](mailto:pr@mes.gov.ge) or social media page - Facebook.com/MESGeorgia.

#### **Additional information**

Since May 2022, Save the Children, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, has been implementing the following programmes and activities for school-age refugee children from Ukraine:

- Child Friendly Space was established in Tbilisi Classical Gymnasium, where children of the age group from 12 to 18 and their parents received the following services: psycho-social support, informal education, cognitive field visits to museums and excursions in Tbilisi and Mtskheta (06 /2022-09/2022);
- In public school N220, in order to improve economic sustainability and provide psycho-social support for families with children enrolled in primary school, a Child Friendly Space was established, which offered psycho-social support, learning and entertainment activities to students and parents after classes (10/2022- 05/2023);
- Within the frame of a Child Friendly Space, the identification and specialized support programmes have been launched for students with special educational needs.
- At the beginning of the 2022 academic year, school bags were distributed to the students of primary education of the Public School N220, with all the necessary items for the beginning of studies (notebooks, writing pens, pencil-case, felt-markers, tip pens, rubbers, etc.). The distribution of "school bags" is planned for the beginning of the 2023 school year as well.
- From May 2022 until now, 1,500 children and 800 parents have benefited from the services provided by the Save the Children.