

Credential Evaluation in Healthcare Education

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Abstract: *The role of credential evaluation to facilitate comparison of foreign degree to the any native degree where the applicant wills to immigrate for the purpose of study or employment is dealt with here*

Keywords: Credential, Evaluation, foreign degree, university, comparability

1. Introduction

Credential evaluation is the way in which academic and professional degrees earned in one country are compared to those earned in another. Universities, colleges and employers around the world use **credential evaluations** to understand foreign education and to judge applicants for admission or employment.

Study Methodology

Review based study based on previous scientific literature

2. Discussion

To maintain uniform standards in education credential evaluators play a very important role to ascertain the levels or standards of education attained by an individual

Foreign Credential Evaluation Services

The rapid changes in international higher education complicate the decision process, regarding transfer of credits when students cross national boundaries. Since it is costly to maintain in-house expertise in the evaluation of foreign programs, it is natural for universities and employers to seek the analyses of outside experts—such as the International Education Services division of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), or the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). Members of the ENIC-NARIC Networks (ENIC: European Network of Information Centers in the European Region; NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centers in the European Union) also provide reliable credential evaluation services. Unfortunately, there is no regulatory oversight in the United States of the hundreds of foreign credential evaluation services. Even an evaluator's membership in a professional association is sometimes uninformative: in 2009, a credential evaluator who had worked with the notorious "St. Regis University" invited legitimate evaluators to join an impressively named recognition mill intended to help "the smaller independent agencies to unite and receive greater acceptance." Most of the entities already listed as members were cooperating with known diploma mills and NAFSA, the well-respected Association of International Educators, cautions that NAFSA membership does "not imply that NAFSA has reviewed or endorsed their programs or activities, or that NAFSA membership confers any endorsement." NACES members are held to standards, but

only 21 evaluators are currently listed by the organization as members. Service of America

International academic mobility, sanctioned by an increasing number of international, regional, and bilateral agreements, has been gaining in importance over the last thirty years. This increase in mobility has accentuated the need for more and better information about institutions, systems, and diplomas of higher education; however, the mass of information required has, at the same time, become increasingly difficult to handle. With this problem in mind, a group of international higher education experts came together in June 1987 to investigate the possibilities of cooperating and of sharing information through the establishment of compatible regional data banks to be linked together in a network. Thus TRACE -- Trans Regional Academic Mobility and Credit Evaluation -- was born. So far, the experts have held four meetings aimed at shaping and at giving substance to their project. Even though the initiative was taken by experts from Europe and North America, the intention is to create a truly interregional system of co-operation in the sharing of data. To stress this interregional aspect, the suggestion was made that the International Association of Universities (IAU) in Paris should act as a clearing house for the network. The experience of IAU in the collection and the dissemination of information on higher education throughout the world goes back to 1950. Its International Universities Bureau (IUB), which is currently undergoing computerization, is planning to create three databases: an institutional database, a bibliographical database, and a database devoted to, research on higher education.

A course-by-course evaluation allows us to better understand the U.S. equivalency for courses and grades obtained at colleges and universities outside of the United States. **We require that all candidates with a bachelor's degree from an international university submit a full course-by-course evaluation of their degree.**

A full course-by-course evaluation includes the following:

- Listing of all completed coursework
- Grades for each course
- Credits earned for each course
- Degree equivalency in the United States
- Final cumulative GPA

Accepted foreign degree evaluation companies: (subject to verification by applicant)

- Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
- Evaluation Service, Inc.
- Globe Language Services Inc.
- International Education Evaluations, Inc.
- Josef Silny & Associates, Inc.
- SpanTran: The Evaluation Company
- Transcript Research
- World Education Services Inc.

With nearly five million study abroad students worldwide and millions of refugees escaping conflict or in search of a better life, international credential evaluation has never been more important, says evaluation expert Margaret Wenger. Today digital data is transforming the field, speeding up evaluation and supporting student mobility – but there are challenges.

Last year the international Groningen Declaration Network was created in the hope that digital data and depositories could help facilitate student mobility and assist universities, employers and academic recognition authorities.

“The goal is that digital student data becomes the norm for the admission process of educational institutions,” said Wenger.

She was speaking on “The Future of Credential Evaluation: Electronic data transfer and authentication” in a session at the Global Conference on the Internationalisation of Higher Education, held from 22-24 August at Kruger National Park and hosted by the International Education Association of South Africa, IEASA.

Wenger is senior director of evaluation at Educational Credential Evaluators Inc in the United States. Her countries of specialisation include China, Francophone African nations, India, the Middle East and North Africa, and New Zealand.

A transforming field

Credential evaluators, Wenger said, determine: the level of an institution or programme; if the institution is officially recognised; whether credential documents are authentic; whether the credential represents completion of a degree course; if academic work was successfully completed; overall equivalency; and grade and weighting conversions.

While the basic principles that have guided international credential evaluation have remained the same over the decades, the documentation and tools used for evaluation have transformed.

Traditionally, original documents in a sealed envelope from an issuing institution were the gold standard and the verification process often included sending copies of documents to the institution that issued them for verification of authenticity.

Electronic data promises greater convenience, accuracy and authenticity.

Mass migrations include people who have achieved academic credentials – but don’t have the papers to prove this – and this has infused urgency into efforts to set up paperless credential systems.

“Documents stored in ‘the cloud’ or other depositories allow for retrieval and continued use even if the original documents have been destroyed or lost,” Wenger pointed out.

Today there are several organisations worldwide committed to digital data portability, and there are national, regional and international bodies as well as government agencies, private groups and education institutions developing data depositories or verification services.

Data transfers kick up issues such as student privacy, access constraints, acceptance, security, technical compatibility, communications and the development of ‘universal’ best practices, Wenger said.

3. Conclusion

Credential evaluation plays a very important role in migrating population especially in the healthcare industry ,the credential evaluation need to be submitted to the respective councils or licensing bodies ,some authorities follow their own system of evaluation thus credential evaluation is an integral part of assessment in immigrating population groups

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