7 Strategies for Success: Applying Best Practice in International Credential Review

Essentials of Professional Development
March 10, 2017
1. The Foundation: Thoroughly understand your institution’s mission and domestic admissions policies.

- They are the foundation of your international work.
- Your roles are to
  - **encourage a “good fit”** between applicant and institution / program
  - **interpret** the international applicant’s profile in the context of his/her educational system and available opportunities
  - **compare** it to the profile required for your domestic applicants.
- When issues arise, ask:
  “How would we approach this for a domestic applicant?”
2. Get good training, get to know your colleagues, share, and keep on learning.

- Master the fundamentals of best practice.
- Advocate for continuing education resources and keep on learning!
- Good training will lead you to good colleagues. Ask questions. Share expertise. Seek out a mentor. Become a mentor.
- Identify and rely on reliable sources of accurate information and training.
- Be prepared for change. Education is dynamic. Education systems change. Consider factors that affect education change.
3. Avoid debates on educational systems being “superior” or “inferior”.

• Educational systems are different
• Applicants, their families, your faculty and colleagues all have opinions about the “inferiority” and “superiority” of education in the US and other countries.
• Your work is to focus on the student’s
  – eligibility for admission to higher education
  – preparation for academic success in the program for which s/he has applied
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4. Learn the World’s 6 Basic Systems of Education

Structure of Secondary + First-Level Degree:

**US-based system** 12 + 4

**British system & variations** \([11+2]\) + 3

**Bologna Process & ECTS (Europe)** 12 + 3

**French system & variations** 12 + 3

**Soviet/Russian system & variations** 11 + 4 or 5

You don’t have to learn 200+ countries!
Some Countries with a US-Based 12 + 4 Structure

- Afghanistan
- Japan
- Korea (South)
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- PR China
- Greece
- Indonesia

- Liberia
- Vietnam
- Turkey
- Canada (some provinces)
- Middle East (some countries)
- West Africa (some countries)
- Latin America (some countries)
5. Practice due diligence.

- Have you developed and followed a step-by-step procedure to be sure that each admissions file is reviewed consistently?
- Have you conducted thorough research?
- Have you documented your decision and made notes?
- Have you alerted/contacted others if needed?
- Have you followed up appropriately?

Best Practice Guides from AACRAO


  [http://www.aacrao.org/publications/college_and_university_journal.aspx#.UZ093kpBmSo](http://www.aacrao.org/publications/college_and_university_journal.aspx#.UZ093kpBmSo) [free online]

• *The AACRAO International Guide: A Resource for International Education Professionals*, 2016, AACRAO Publications:
6. Evaluate for “comparability” not “equivalency”.

• MYTH

Credential A from Country X is equivalent to Credential B in the United States.

• REALITY

No two academic credentials are equivalent. But by analyzing level, scope and purpose and applying an appropriate evaluation methodology, we can determine comparability of the foreign education and whether it meets the standard required for the purpose of the evaluation.

Admissions eligibility * transfer credit options * fulfillment of requirements * athletic eligibility * scholarship eligibility * etc.
The Myth of High School “Equivalency”

Some examples of the number of years in elementary/secondary sequence

* Transitioning to a 12-year system

Iceland

UK A-levels, Italy, Germany

U.S., France, Spain, Middle East,...

UK GCSE, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil,...

Philippines*, Myanmar, Mongolia*
Strategies for Success: A Summary

1. Foundation: institutional mission and domestic policy
2. Get trained, use reliable resources, stay informed. Communicate effectively with colleagues.
3. Avoid debates about “superiority” and “inferiority”.
4. Learn the basic educational system models and master the one(s) you see most often.
5. Practice due diligence.
6. Evaluate for “comparability” not “equivalency”.
Strategy # 7:

Be confident!!
You know more now than you did when this presentation started.
Keep up the good work!

• Handouts for use in your work:
  – Resources for International Credential Evaluation
  – Ministries of Education
Join us for AACRAO International Upcoming 2017 Training Opportunities

Intensive Workshop: China & India (Calculating Transfer Credit) – 1 Dupont Circle, Washington DC
March 20-21, 2017

Secondary School Credentials Workshop – 1 Dupont Circle, Washington DC
May 8-9, 2017

Summer Institute for International Admissions – The Hyatt Arlington, Arlington VA
June 26-30, 2017

2-Day Intensive: International Transfer Credit Workshop at AACRAO Tech & Transfer - Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
July 7 & 8, 2017

October 29 & 30, 2017