



AICE Newsletter

August 2016

Message from the Editor:

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

As summer draws to a close for many academic professionals and evaluators alike, many of us have already begun preparation for Fall and Spring professional events through AACRAO, NAFSA, AICE, and other organizations. The AICE Symposium is one of these events, and the planning team is hard at work exploring the various nuances of graduate admissions with the effort to create an event which will help define the standards of admitting international graduate students. Through this work, I am reminded of the various unique characteristics of international graduate admissions, and the considerations faced by credential evaluators and graduate admissions officers alike.

One of the common admission requirements to graduate programs in the United States is that the applicant holds the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree. However, possessing a degree equivalent to a US Bachelor's is not enough to guarantee success at the graduate level in the United States. At this level, education is typically research-focused, and much more independent than at the undergraduate level. Students are expected to research, write, and share their knowledge. Therefore, it takes more than a determination of degree equivalence to determine an applicant's preparation for this type of education. Graduate admissions officers are faced with the complex task of analyzing the content of previous education, assessing those skills which would make on successful in their graduate programs.

Degree evaluation is a very important aspect of the holistic review of an international applicant applying for graduate admission. One of the goals of the next

AICE symposium will be to establish standards for consistency in this process. However, the determination of suitability and capacity for success lies with the admitting institution. AICE is proud to support the important work of the admissions staff at these institutions, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue of internationalization in graduate-level education in the United States.

Sincerely,
Aleks Morawski
Director of Evaluation Services
Foreign Credits Inc.



AICE Symposium Planning Committee

Preparation is already under way for the next annual AICE symposium, which will take place April 4-5 in Minneapolis, MN following AACRAO's annual meeting. The Symposium Planning Committee is excited to welcome Yuriko Basset, from Azusa Pacific University, and Rachael Hassenflow, from University of Arizona, and Carla Boyd, from University of Minnesota – Duluth. The volunteers are hard at work devising a program of meaningful discussions and presentations supporting the working theme of the event, which is Setting the Standard for Graduate Admissions.

AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes highlights from the monthly AICE® Forum in July 2016. Although this is meant to serve as a synopsis of the discussion, additional details can be obtained by contacting the Members listed by each topic.



Singapore – Kaplan University KHEA

How do we evaluate credentials from institutions which have chartered partnerships with accredited universities? This scenario was explored based on the example of Kaplan Higher Education Academy in Singapore (KHEA). KHEA does

not have the equivalent of regional academic accreditation in Singapore. However, it offers programs through several renowned and fully-recognized British universities. The consensus of AICE members is that recognized British universities have the autonomous right to issue transcripts and award credits and grades for the coursework completed at KHEA, and that coursework will be recognized as such by credential evaluators. However, transcripts and degrees issued/awarded by KHEA are not recognized, because KHEA fundamentally lacks regional academic accreditation in Singapore.

~Kisha Cranston, Paul Sargent

South Africa – Language of Instruction at South African Universities

“Following serial protests over the use of Afrikaans as a language of instruction, the universities of Pretoria and Stellenbosch last month adopted new language policies. The moves have raised the ire of Afrikaans rights groups who accuse the institutions of turning their backs on Afrikaners and their language.”



This **article** brought up a discussion about identifying languages of instruction at South African universities. It is no longer straightforward, and it should not be assumed that English was the medium of instruction. This echoes a similar dilemma in other British Commonwealth countries.

~Paul Sargent, Barbara Glave



Fiji – Primary and Secondary Education

The numbering of the years of school is such that the first year corresponds to the preparatory or kindergarten year in most Australian states. It has been suggested to discount the first year of schooling in order to arrive at

the grade 12 level upon completion of the Form 7/Higher Secondary certificate. Since the first year of education is compulsory, AICE members agreed that Form 7 represents completion of grade 13, and makes the credential holder eligible for a high school diploma equivalence and up to one year of transfer credit.

~Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert

Spain – Titulo Propio

Further evidence from direct correspondence with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports confirms that the Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies (Diploma de Estudios Superiores Especializado DESE) are Titulos Propios, and therefore not officially recognized. This information solidifies past AICE Forum discussions drawing the same conclusion about the lack of academic recognition for Titulos Propios.



~Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert

Publications

- AACRAO has a new publication: **The AACRAO International Guide: A Resource for International Education Professionals**. Beth Cotter and Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert (Endorsed Members of AICE) contributed to this publication (sections on Outsourcing Foreign Credential Evaluations: History and Implementation and Diploma Mills and Fake Degree) . You may order this publication online or by post.

▪ A number of AICE members are contributing authors for the **NAFSA Online Guide on Education Systems Around the World**, including the following members:

Alan Saidi – *Republic of Korea*

Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert – *Hong Kong, Iran, Senegal, United Kingdom*

Professional Development and Events

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2017 AICE Symposium, April 5-6, 2017 in Minneapolis, MN. This years theme is **“Setting the Standard for Graduate Admissions: Three-year degrees and other admissions dilemmas”** Stay tuned for more information!



SAVE THE DATE
AICE Minneapolis Symposium
 Setting the Standard for Graduate Admissions: Three-year degrees and other admissions dilemmas

April 5 – 6, 2017
 Downtown Minneapolis, MN
 Come for AACRAO, stay for AICE!

Collaborate with evaluators as we discuss standards for graduate admissions

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
 • Opening Reception •
 Presentations • Panel Discussions •
 • Networking •

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.AICE-EVAL.ORG

MINNEAPOLIS

Webinar:

ACEI e-learning web-series: *“Germany: How to Evaluate Secondary Credentials”*

Date: September 15, 2016

10AM PST

Presenters: *Beth Cotter, President, Foreign Credential Evaluations & Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, President & CEO, ACEI*

REGISTER NOW

Conference Presentations:

- NAFSA Region XII, Palm Springs, CA

“Syria: Education in Crisis and Providing Pathways for Refugees”

November 3, 2016 9:30 Am-10:30 Am

Presenters: Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, President & CEO ACEI, and Zepur Solakian, President CGACC

- NAFSA Region VII & III Biregional, New Orleans, LA

Seminar: “Benchmark Credentials for Undergraduate Admissions”

November 6-10, 2016

Presenters: Elle Shroyer, Beth Cotter, Drew Feder, Barbara Glave, Brentni Henderson, Freda Clement-Willis

Washington DC Reception sponsored by AICE and ACEI and co-hosted with CGACC



Fifty guests representing EducationUSA Advisers and Community College representatives attended the reception hosted by CGACC, AICE and ACEI in Washington, DC as a precursor to the annual EducationUSA Forum. The reception served as an opportunity for representatives from AICE which included Alexander Agafonov, Chair, and Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, President and Treasurer to meet with EducationUSA advisers and CGACC members. AICE looks forward to future collaborations with CGACC.

Blogs

ACEI hosts “Academic Exchange,” a blog on education-related topics:

Visit Blog!



"I, for one, am thrilled with my membership in this organization. I honestly wish I had more time to devote to it and to the activities, as the majority of my job now entails things other than international admissions. However, international admissions is where I started and is where my heart lies, so I do my best to keep up with changes and provide backup to Karee Head in my office when she is out, needs a sounding board, etc. The camaraderie of this group and willingness to share knowledge and opinions are priceless to those of us at institutions who feel somewhat alone because so very few people do what we do and the resources available to us in-house are so limited. At U-Idaho, we decided to do in-house evaluations and at that time, made the commitment to do it right by providing ongoing training and professional development and actually making those two items minimum job requirements. AICE has been a very valuable addition to our professional development and network of resources, and I see it growing as large as you can handle. As an affiliate member, I feel valued and am always surprised at how often professional evaluators want to know what we think or how we might handle a particular situation at our institutions. We truly are all in this together. Kudos to everyone involved in the setup and continual operation of AICE!"

**~ Melissa Goodwin, Associate Director of Admissions, University of Idaho
Affiliate Member of AICE**

"I have to say that I am so proud to be a member of AICE!!"

**~ Yuriko Bassett, Assistant Director, International Enrollment Services, Azusa
Pacific University
Affiliate Member of AICE**

"I am so glad that University of Idaho has decided to join AICE as an affiliate member. It is totally worth it, and I have been talking to other Institutions how beneficial (it is) to join AICE. I have less chances to join conferences last year and this year, so it is very important to attend monthly forum to keep updating my information."

**~ Suguru Fujiwara, International Transfer Credit & Articulation Specialist,
University of Idaho
Affiliate Member of AICE**

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MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of AICE? Please visit our website at www.aice-eval.org and learn about our membership categories and contact us at info@aice-eval.org with any questions you may have.

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