



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.®
Setting the standard for credentials evaluation



AICE Newsletter

June 2016

Message from the Editor:

Having recently returned from Denver, the site of the 2016 NAFSA Annual Conference, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the training opportunities in the field of credential evaluation. While in Denver, I was part of a team of trainers who delivered three four-hour workshops on credential evaluation, focusing on fundamentals, secondary-level credentials and post-secondary level credentials. This experience prompts me to address the concept of training in the field of credential evaluation.

Training skills for international credential evaluation are obtained through a variety of means, ranging from employment training at evaluation agencies and universities to formal workshops and presentations available from various professional organizations. However, no single training curriculum is all-inclusive or terminal. This stems from the fact that there is not one single manual, tome, or collection of information outlining all of the skills and research required of an experienced credential evaluator.

As such, credential evaluation training can be summed up as an ongoing process. It combines, in equal parts, staying current on publications, attending at regularly scheduled events and establishing, and participating in a network of other credential evaluation professionals. Furthermore, due to the dynamic nature of education systems around the world, actively engaging in the credential evaluation process is fundamental.

As a member of NAFSA's Trainer Corps, certified in training credential evaluation, I enjoy every opportunity to lead professionally organized workshops on credential evaluation. As member of AICE I further contribute to the process by participating in a network of equally engaged professionals in the profession. Compiling this newsletter, it being a tool and resource for other evaluators, further contributes to my own continuing education process. With that, I invite the readers to continue reading and effectively participating with other AICE members to maintain our skills in credential evaluation.

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

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

Reflections from the NAFSA 2016 Annual Conference

Several AICE Members, endorsed and affiliate, attended the Annual NAFSA Conference this year. Notably, Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, Drew Feder, Barbara Glave, and Sonya Brauchle presented immensely well-received sessions, a feat onto itself considering less than 20% of proposals are accepted. Their topics included Diploma Mills, Fighting Against Misconduct in Academics, Translation Issues, and Career Development, respectively, and can be viewed in the full Program . Jasmin's session was even reported on in University World News (available here).

Quotes from attendees:

"NAFSA 2016 was my second annual conference, and I learned so much. From the presenting and attending sessions, networking receptions (and opportunities for informal networking all week), to MIG meetings and round tables, and the great conversations from all knowledge communities, I made connections that I'm still catching up with this week that will hopefully last for my many years to come in the IE field."

- **Sonya Brauchle, International Education Specialist, Foreign Credits inc.**

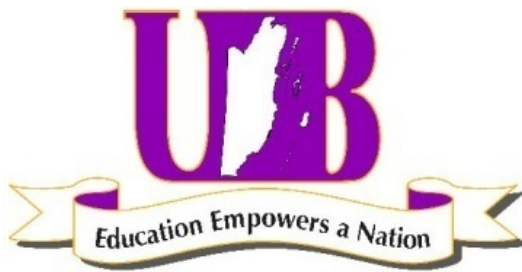
"Besides the wonderful and inspiring plenary speakers, NAFSA conference program offered a plethora of sessions making it next to impossible to see and hear everything. If only we could clone ourselves and be at more than one session at the same time!"

- **_Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert, President & CEO Academic Credentials Evaluation institute, Inc. (ACEI) and Acting President of AICE_**

For a comprehensive account of her experience at NAFSA, please visit Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert's [blog](#) entry on Academic Exchange, a [blog](#) by ACEI: Dispatches from NAFSA 2016, Denver, Colorado.

AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes highlights from the monthly AICE® Forum in May 19, 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.



Fraud Alert: Belize: University of Belize, BS in Nursing

Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. received official transcripts directly from the University of Belize for 4 individuals claiming to have completed the BS degree program in Nursing. All

four documents were proven to be forged. The transcripts were flagged for verification because of “trends” – in this case all but one of the students was born outside of Belize.

~Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert

Fraud Alert: India - Council of Secondary Education, Mohali (Punjab) in India



Council of Secondary Education

This is NOT a recognized board of secondary education examinations. The Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) recognizes only the Punjab School Education Board in that state.

~Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert



Diploma Mill: European School of Economics

Although this school is listed on the “British Accreditation Council”, it is not a ‘recognized body’ as listed by the British government, and does not have degree-granting authority. After

the call, it was discovered that this institution is now known as Legacy University, operating in New York at the Trump Tower.

~ Suguru Fujiwara

Recognition Issue: India - Auro University

The institution is applying for recognition with the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India but has some problems to resolve before receiving UGC full recognition. Here is the note by the UGC regarding this institution:

<http://www.ugc.ac.in/privateuniversitylist.aspx?id=7&Unitype=3> Since it is still under UGC review, it will not be treated as a recognized institution.



~ Jasmin Said-Kuehnert



Recognition Issue: India - Institute for Technology and Management

Foreign Credential Evaluations received the MS degree in IT, Telecom & Networking from the Institute for Technology and Management which is not accredited by the UGC, AICTE, NBA, etc. The diploma states that the degree was awarded in association with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Since SNHU is not issuing the credentials, and effectively takes no responsibility or ownership of the programs, most participants agree that it fails to meet the requirements of a recognized program.

~ Beth Cotter

Diploma Mill Update:

Kuwait – The government of Kuwait is cracking down on people who have degrees from diploma mills.

Syria – University of Damascus is fighting forged degrees by introducing its first digitally enhanced diplomas.

United Arab Emirates – MOE debunking the “Middle East Office of Academic Regulation & Examination” as a fake “accreditation” body in the Middle East.

In many cases, particularly those dealing with geopolitical conflicts, the best way to verify information is by phone, but it requires language skills.



~ Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert and ~Hany Arafat



Colombia – Pre-primary but post-kindergarten “Transition” year

This is a non-compulsory year of pre-elementary but post-kindergarten education. It is seen as valuable and indeed prestigious to send children to such programs. Nevertheless, it is categorized as “pre-school” education,

and the consensus of AICE is not to treat it as the first year of elementary, but as pre-K/pre-primary. The Tabla de Equivalencias de la Educación Primaria o Básica y Media o Secundaria de los Países del Convenio Andrés Bello, issued in Bogotá in 2014, http://tablas.convenioandresbello.org/pdf/tabla_equivalencias.pdf offers a detailed year-by-year chart, pages 10-11, of equivalencies among Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dom-Rep, and Venezuela. Upper-left, page 10, refers to school-year sequence which indeed runs to 13; however, as you look across the line corresponding to 13, you quickly see that the 13 years include kindergarten, your proof being Mexico (12), Peru (11), Panama (12), etc.

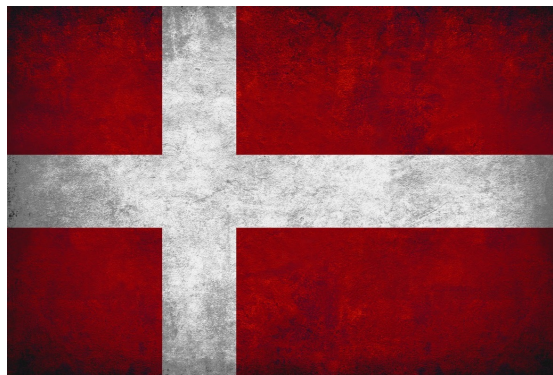
~Aleks Morawski

Switzerland – Cantoanal versus Federal recognition of higher education institutions

The European Graduate School (EGS) claims it was “formally recognized as a University of Wallis by the State Council decision in 1998 (renewed again in 2007), accredited to award a Master of Arts (MA) and

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The EGS is listed as a private registered research institution and University in the registry and website of the Canton Wallis.” According to information received from the Director of the Canton of Valais department that oversees higher education in Valais (Switzerland), the EGS was in fact recognized to offer certain degrees in Valais from 1994 to 2015. As of 2016, the EGS is not recognized at all by the Canton of Valais or by the national government in Switzerland. However, since February 2016, the EGS is now recognized by the National Commission of Further and Higher Education in Malta to award degrees. AICE members agree that recognition of study completed in this institution in Switzerland depends on the time period the study occurred in, but cantonal recognition of the institution is equivalent to regional academic accreditation, prior to Switzerland adopting a federal recognition system in early 2010s.

~Beth Cotter





Republic of Abkhazia

Declared its independence from the Republic of Georgia and has set up its own Ministry of Education. The UN and its members, except for Russia, do not recognize Abkhazia as a sovereign nation. Foreign Credits, Inc. has received a credential issued by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Abkhazia. It is decided that it would be impossible for

Abkhazians to obtain credentials from the Georgian system of education. As such, for the purpose of credential and program recognition, documents originating from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Abkhazia meet the test of regional academic accreditation.

~Aleks Morawski

United Kingdom: Verification of Colleges/Universities

SDR Educational Consultants has provided the following website to initiate verification requests for UK degree holders as well as verify that a particular college/university in the UK has official standing:
<https://hedd.ac.uk>



~Hany Arafat

Professional Development and Events

Webinars/E-Learning

AICE Endorsed Member ACEI will be offering the following webinars in the upcoming weeks:

- July 7, 2016 Credentials Fraud and Diploma Mills: July 2016 Edition - [REGISTER NOW](#)
 - July 12, 2016 Undergraduate Benchmarks for Admission: Federal Republic of Germany - [REGISTER NOW](#)
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NAFSA Annual Conference

To view presentation slides from the NAFSA Annual Conference, please visit
<http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/Presentations/>
<http://www.credentialconsultants.com/resources/>
<http://aice-eval.org/>

AICE Phoenix Symposium Resources

Slides from the content presentations at the 2016 AICE Phoenix Symposium are available for viewing on the AICE website: www.aice-eval.org. Please click on the button "Resources" and select "Standards," where you will find the presentation slides.

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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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