

Transnational Qualifications: Recognition and its implications

Mr. GONG Wan

Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange
Ministry of Education, China

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1. Transnational Education

1.1 Definition

A qualification conferred by a higher education institution to a learner, who has successfully completed a study program that is operated independently or collaboratively with an overseas partner institution outside the country where the awarding institution is based, could be labeled as transnational qualification.



1. Transnational Education

1.2 Transnational arrangements

- 1) Overseas branch campus
- 2) Jointly-run institution (Program)
- 3) Franchising/Validation

1.3 Modes of teaching/learning

- 1) Traditional face to face teaching/learning
- 2) Distance teaching/learning



2. Trends

2.1 Exporter and Receiver

- 1) Developed countries exporting
- 2) Anglophone HEIs dominating
- 3) More franchising than branch campus
- 4) Diverse regulatory frameworks in receiving countries in term of establishment and quality assurance



3. China's approach

3.1 Regulatory framework

- 1) Regulatory framework on transnational education
- 2) Part of national education system and non-profit
- 3) License required for institution/program
- 4) Degree licensed by Ministry of Education
- 5) Non-degree licensed by provincial governments
- 6) Self-auditing/external auditing



4. Recognition

4.1 Principles and key elements

- Chinese law/convention/bilateral agreements
- Chinese /Overseas Regulatory frameworks
- National qualifications frameworks
- QA mechanisms
- Level, student workload, quality assurance, program profile, mode of study, learning outcomes



4. Recognition

4.2 Transnational Qualifications

- 1) Regulatory frameworks and national qualifications frameworks in both exporting/receiving countries
- 2) Quality assurance mechanisms in both exporting/receiving countries
- 3) Status of awarding institution/delivering institution



5. Assessing Criteria

- 5.1 Status of institutions**
- 5.2 Quality assurance**
- 5.3 Admission requirements**
- 5.4 Qualification awarding**
- 5.5 Official recognition**
- 5.6 International students recruiting**



6. Cases

6.1 UK, USA and Australia are ranked top three in the list of exporting countries of transnational education in China.

6.2 Malaysia, Singapore and United Arab Emirates are the major receiving countries of transnational education in the world.



7. Questions

- 7.1** How can existing national and international quality assurance systems and instruments address the quality of programs offered by transnational education providers?
- 7.2** Can the accreditation of the exporting institution be transferred to the franchised or validated foreign institution or the branch campus?
- 7.3** In what ways is it ensured that quality in the delivering institution is the same as in the exporting institution?



7. Questions

- 7.4** Is it possible to require that the admission requirements in the delivering institution are comparable to those of the exporting institution?
- 7.5** What guarantee can be given on the quality of the teaching staff in the delivering institution?
- 7.6** How can the substantial differences be defined in the process of recognition of transnational qualifications?
- 7.7** Is it necessary to replace the official recognition of transnational qualification by market recognition?



Gratitude

Thank you for your attention.

gongwan@cscse.edu.cn

www.cscse.edu.cn