Diving into international waters

Advising students with coursework outside the U.S.

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Housekeeping

- For closed captioning, click on the “Show Captions” button.
- Questions can be submitted via the Zoom Q&A. Questions will be answered live at the end of the presentation.
  - Not all questions may be answered in the allotted time for this session. Campus-specific questions are best directed to that campus.
- Recordings and presentation materials will be posted in the coming weeks to the Vision Resource Center and the UC Counselors Website.

Technical support is available. Email conferences@foundationccc.org.

Agenda

- Accreditation & recognition
- Advising tips for your students
- Reviewing international coursework

First dive

Understanding accreditation & recognition

Accreditation/recognition

- International universities are occasionally accredited by a former U.S. regional accreditation agency
- Most international universities are recognized by their country's Ministry of Education (MOE) or other governing body that is responsible for the recognition or approval of a university's authority to issue post-secondary degrees
- No matter if a university is recognized or not, all post-secondary schooling MUST be reported on the UC application



Diving deeper

Advising your students applying to UC

The Do's

Students should:

- Report every post-secondary institution with dates attended
- Report any degrees/diplomas awarded with dates earned
- Report all coursework attempted with units/credits earned
- Report all grades/marks earned
- Use unofficial records when filling out the UC application
- Be prepared to provide an unofficial copy of the academic record and/or syllabus for courses if asked for them
- Use the Additional Comments section to explain circumstances and/or any issues with obtaining official records



& Don’ts

Students should not:

- Use credit evaluation services as the UC does not use them. Each UC campus will do their own evaluation of international coursework
- Translate grades into a U.S. grading system. Grades/Marks must be reported as they appear on the academic record
- Leave off a school because their previous U.S. college did not accept the credit
- Leave off a school because a degree was not earned
- Leave off a school because it was years ago and/or they think they cannot get the academic record
- Leave off a school because they “want to start over”



Additional points to consider

- Academic records are available from nearly every country
- Institutions will issue academic records for incomplete programs
- Students usually do not need to request academic records in person
- The student should be able to obtain syllabi or course descriptions for the courses they completed
- Some institutions will issue academic records in English at the student's request



The deep end

Transferring international coursework

Navigating truth, half truth and outright fiction

Truth	Half Truth	Fiction
Due to the military coup, I cannot get my transcripts	My university refuses to send my transcripts, so I cannot provide them	I am no longer a student there, so my university deleted all my records
I fled Afghanistan and cannot get my transcript	My university insists that your institution initiate the transcript request if you require it	Since I did not graduate, there is no transcript

Availability of academic records

Current list of countries where academic records are unavailable or difficult to obtain:

- Afghanistan
- Myanmar
- Iran
- Russia
- Ukraine

What about “disclosure”?

- Students **must** report attendance at the institution
- If unofficial record is available, student must also report coursework and grades
- Student should explain circumstances in Additional Comments
- Campus verifies that academic records are not available
- Campus asks student to sign an official statement acknowledging that if they ever produce the record, no credit will be awarded

International records checklist

- **Transcripts**
  - Request official records from all international institutions attended
  - Records must include:
    - English name of the institution
    - Program/major
    - Length of study
    - Degree earned
    - Grading scale
  - English translations are required for all records not issued in English
- **Course documentation**
  - A course syllabi may be requested from the campuses

...cont.

- **Eligibility Requirements**
  - Confirm students meet the same UC transfer requirements as domestic applicants:
    - 60 transferable semester units
    - 7-course pattern
    - Required major preparation courses
    - UC course limitation rules
- **Degree Status**
  - If a student attended an international institution for 3 or more years, confirm whether a degree was earned
  - Students who completed a degree abroad are generally ineligible for standard transfer admission
  - Some UC campuses offer second bachelor's degree programs for those who qualify

UC overview: Transferability



- If the courses were taken at an accredited school recognized by the country's MOE, they can be transferable
- Transferability is often determined via course descriptions
  - Does it sound comparable to a similar course offered at a UC campus?
  - If we can't find them online, we will likely ask the applicant for an unofficial copy of the course descriptions/syllabi
- If an international course is UC-transferable, it is subject to the same rules
  - Allow repeats of grades equivalent to C- or below
  - Courses with grades equivalent to C or higher cannot be repeated
  - Apply course, unit and series limitations
  - Enforce lower-division max credit policy

Resources

- University of California – Counselors: International Records for Transfer
  - admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/preparing-transfer-students/international-records-transfer.html

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions
  - admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/quick-reference-guide-to-uc-admissions.pdf

Questions?



Thank you