



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE PUTTING YOUR SIGNATURE ON ANY UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE APPLICATION FORM

Choosing the right university is a crucial decision that can significantly impact your future academic and professional endeavors. As an international student, it's essential to be well-informed and vigilant when considering universities abroad. This guide aims to highlight two critical factors you must **NEVER** overlook before applying to an international university.

1. ACCREDITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY IN ITS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:

Before committing to any international university, it's imperative to verify its accreditation status in its country of origin. Accreditation ensures that the institution meets certain quality standards and is recognized by educational authorities. Here's how you can check:

Research the Education Regulator/Authority: Each country has an education regulator or authority responsible for overseeing higher education institutions. For example, one of the universities we assist with student recruitment is INTI International University & Colleges in Malaysia, so instead accepting what INTI says about its accreditation, go and check what Malaysia Qualification Agency is saying about the accreditation of INTI (check it here <https://www2.mqa.gov.my/mqr/english/eakrKPList.cfm?IDAkrlPTS=44>). Do not accept what the university says about its own accreditation, believe what its regulator is says.

Check the List of Registered Universities: On the regulator's website, locate the list of ALL registered private and public universities. Ensure that the university you're interested in is included in this list. If it's not listed, it may not be accredited or recognized by its own government, and proceeding with the application could pose risks.

Exercise Caution: Do not proceed with the application if the university is not accredited or registered. This step is crucial to avoid potential scams or receiving degrees from unrecognized institutions.

2. APPROVAL TO OFFER THE DESIRED PROGRAM:

Aside from the university's overall accreditation, it's equally vital to confirm whether the specific program you wish to pursue is approved by same education regulator / authority. Here's how to proceed:

Check Program Accreditation: Refer to the list provided by the education regulator or authority, which typically outlines the programs approved for each accredited university. For instance, MQA list all programs approved for INTI on this link <https://www2.mqa.gov.my/mqr/english/eakrKPList.cfm?IDAkrlPTS=44>, they even include the licence numbers for each approved program.

VERIFY PROGRAM AVAILABILITY: Ensure that the program you intend to apply for is included in the list of approved programs offered by the university. If the program is not listed, it may not be recognized by regulatory bodies, potentially leading to issues with qualification validity.

EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE: If the program you're interested in is not approved, refrain from proceeding with the application. It's crucial to prioritize accredited programs to safeguard the legitimacy of your education and qualifications.

WHY THESE TWO FACTORS ARE IMPORTANT? On completion of your foreign qualification, you will not be able to directly use this qualification in your country, first, you need to submit it to evaluation authorities in your country – in **South Africa its SAQA**, in **Namibia its NQA**, in **Zimbabwe its ZIMCHE** and in **Botswana its BQA**. When you submit your foreign qualification for evaluation to any of these bodies, they check the above two important factors, if one of these factors is missing, your qualification will not be recognised in your country meaning, you can't use it for employment or furthering your education.

Do not get swindled armed with this information.

Prioritizing accreditation and program approval is essential to safeguard yourself against fraudulent universities and non-recognized qualifications. By diligently checking these factors before applying, you can protect your investment in education and ensure a reputable academic experience. At Melzara, we prioritize these requirements when partnering with universities, committed to supporting students in making informed decisions and pursuing quality education opportunities.

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