Navigating through Maze

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Today's Presentation

- Numbers
- Recognition of foreign credential
- Fraudulent academic credentials
- Diploma mills and corruption
- Unevaluable documents



Global mobility - numbers

Canada

- Federal government will increase the number of immigrants it accept to one million over the next three years
- •For the first time in decades, Canada welcomed more than 300,000 new permanent residents to Canada last year
- Express Entry Economic migrants skilled workers

Numbers – cont.

Australia

■190,000 a year - skilled migrants comprising the majority

US

- ■In 2015, there were 348,669 applicants for the H-1B filed of which 275,317 were approved
- H-1B the regulations define a "specialty occupation" as requiring theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge

United States – H1B Visa

Table 1. Number of H-1B Petitions Filed and Number Approved by Quarter: FY 2013-FY 2015

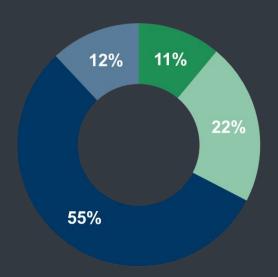
| | Fiscal Year | Oct to Dec | Jan to Mar | Apr to Jun | Jul to Sep | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Petitions Filed | 2013 | 40,048 | 39,433 | 159,380 | 60,606 | 299,467 |
| | 2014 | 45,211 | 42,781 | 158,623 | 72,209 | 318,824 |
| | 2015 | 51,964 | 46,088 | 176,042 | 74,575 | 348,669 |
| Petitions Approved ⁹ | 2013 | 76,720 | 52,859 | 79,813 | 77,381 | 286,773 |
| | 2014 | 64,526 | 58,121 | 91,779 | 101,431 | 315,857 |
| | 2015 | 64,799 | 44,217 | 84,233 | 82,068 | 275,317 |

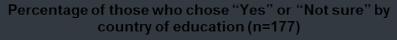


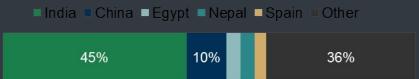
Applicant survey

Have the recent U.S. actions regarding refugees and visitors as well as potential changes to U.S. visa policies made you change your plans to study in the U.S.? (n=543)









Reasons for the changes to your plans of study (n=177)

| | Concerned that the U.S. is no longer welcoming to international students | Concerned about the overall political climate in the U.S. | Potential changes to H1-B visa regulations | Potential changes to OPT regulations |
|---------|---|---|---|---|
| Overall | 58% | 56% | 49% | 31% |



Which country are you planning to go study?

- I'm still planning to study in the U.S.
- ■Canada
- Australia
- I'm planning to study in my home country
- Germany
- Other





Canada immigration

Profile:

- More than 80% are between 25-38 (45% under 25), more male applicants (56%)
- Business, Accounting, Nursing, Engineering and Computer Science are the top



Recognition of foreign credential

 We know that gaining recognition for qualifications is critical to rebuilding their lives and identity in their new country

- Recognition of their academic credentials is the springboard for pursuing suitable employment, further education and licensing
- Both the individual and community benefit when employment utilizes education, training and experience.



Who Assesses

- A government agency, e.g. AEI-NOOSR CEP
- Professional registration or certification boards
- Professional accreditation organizations, e.g. ABET
- Credential evaluation services
- Individual universities or institutions



What constitutes a valid academic document?

- Legitimacy of academic institution
 - Official recognition by Ministry of Education or a comparable body



Establish that an academic institution is legitimate

- Check the Ministry of Education website to see if the institution is listed on its directory as a recognized degree granting institutions
- Consult a reputable print resource such as the International Handbook of Universities
- The International Association of Universities (IAU) offers an online directory of recognized universities http://www.iau-aiu.net/onlinedatabases/list.html



Credential authentication process

 Credential Authentication is concerned with identifying how to obtain required documents, and how to verify these documents for authenticity.



Credential Authentication Process - Five levels of document authenticity

- Verified Document
- Official Documents
- Original Documents
- Copied Documents: Certified Copies and Notarized Copies
- Copied Documents: Photocopies

Authenticity Continuum





Official document transmission procedure

- Academic institutions require "official transcripts" as part of the admissions process
- "Official" refers to the mode of transmission Institution A Institution B
 - ☐ Original" documents from students would not be considered "official" documents since they did not come directly from the institution



WES Method: Taxonomy of Document Authentication

- ☐ Transmitted directly from institution to institution
- Issued directly in English
 - Egypt, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Scandinavian countries
- ☐ Ministry-verified
 - China, Cuba, Pakistan, Russia
- □ Diploma supplement
 - Bologna Process signatory countries
- Documents cannot be verified
 - Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria



Setting document requirements

- Communicate clearly what documents are needed
 - Use terms applicants are familiar with:
 - e.g. "Transcript" □ Syllabus (e.g. United Kingdom)
 "Transcript" □ Statement of marks or Mark sheets
 (e.g. India)

https://www.wes.org/ca/required-documents/



Pakistan – Documentation Requirement

. Mark Sheet/Result Card

If elective courses are not listed on the Mark Sheet, please provide a syllabus or some other type of <u>official documentation</u> for the course.

What you need to do:

Option 1



For completed, incomplete or in-progress study, have copies of your original marks sheet or result card attested by the <u>Higher Education</u>
<u>Commission (HEC)</u>. Please ask the HEC to send the attested documents directly to WES.

Option 2



If the HEC gives you the attested document to send to WES, it must be in a sealed envelope that is signed or stamped across the back flap by the appropriate official at the HEC. If the envelope is opened or if there is no stamp or signature across the back flap, WES cannot accept the document.

Download and complete the top section of the <u>Academic Records Request Form</u>. This form will help you request your documents.

Important Information:

 The HEC must confirm the attestation on their website. If the confirmation is not posted on the HEC website, WES will not accept the documents.

Foreign academic credentials – Risk/Challenges

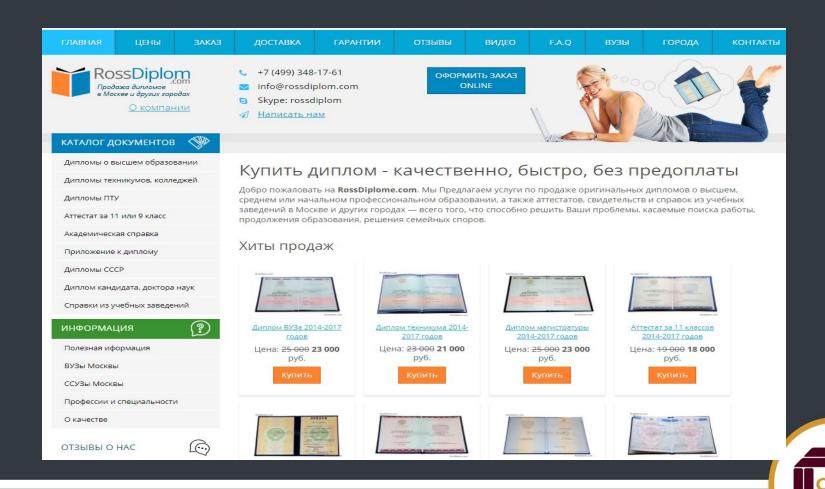
Fraudulent academic documents

Diploma mills

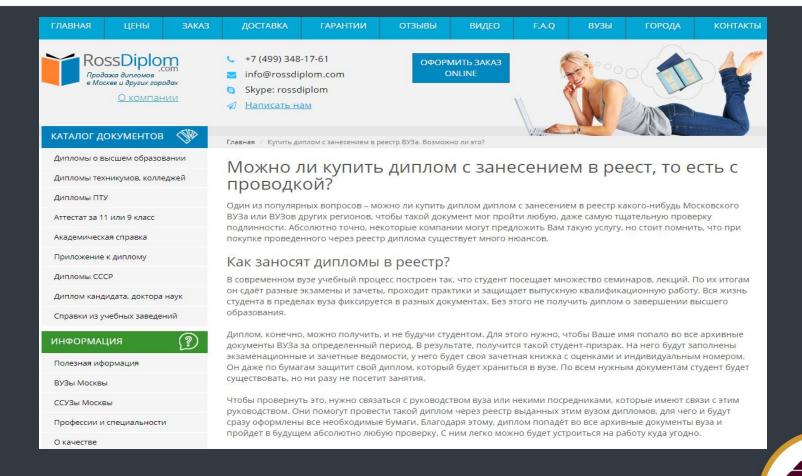
Academic corruption



Fraudulent academic documents



Can I buy a diploma with entry in the register?



Diploma Mills and Accreditation Mills

- Diploma mill is an entity that issues credentials that are not backed by appropriate academic work
- Accreditation Mill is an entity which provide "accreditation" to fraudulent education institutions – Diploma mills
- Why Do Degree Mills Exist?



Diploma Mills

What is the Extent of the Problem?

Why Does the Existence of Degree Mills Matter?

Exact – Pakistan



Diploma Mills and Diploma Mill Credentials

Preventative Strategies - Warning signs

- •The institution's website provides little or no information about the location
- •Credential attainment requirements involve little, if any, coursework or few assignments and little, if any, student attendance, either on-site or online
- •Claims about 'accreditation' by one or more fictitious 'national', 'international', 'worldwide', or 'global' accrediting agencies



When required documents are unevaluable - Refugee like situations

- An institution no longer exists or is not functioning.
- An institution has lost records due to war, upheaval, natural disaster or other crisis.
- Contacting an institution to request a document raises a well-founded fear of discrimination or persecution for the individual and his or her family



Best Practice: assessing competencies when required documents are unevaluable

Institutions have additional methods and means of assessing whether the applicant has the necessary skills to succeed in education or employment.

Types of competency assessment:

- Examinations
- Interviews
- Sample work, thesis review
- Special projects
- Skills assessments/audits



Best Practice: determining recognition when required documents are unevaluable

Institutions have options when deciding whether to recognize refugee credentials.

- **Full recognition**: Recognize the applicant's full claimed background.
- Alternative recognition: Recognize the applicant as eligible for a different credential than the one on application.
- Conditional recognition: Recognize the individual's claimed background on the condition that he/she meet certain future requirements.
- Partial recognition: Recognize part of the individual's claimed background.

Questions

For more information, please contact

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