

Accreditation of Non-U.S. Institutions Policy

In furtherance of its mission and in recognition of the increasing globalization of higher education, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities will entertain, at its sole discretion and in accordance with the following Policy, selected applications from institutions located outside of the United States. Only applications from institutions where the following conditions prevail will be considered:

1. the primary language of instruction is English;
2. the structure and function of the degree-granting institution parallel the American model. A sufficient number of the institution's faculty must be knowledgeable about American higher education through earned U.S. degrees and/or experience;
3. the institution is located in a country that is not included in the United States Department of State's Advisory List for Travel and is judged unlikely to experience civil or political unrest that poses risk to travelers;
4. institutional responses to the Commission's Eligibility Requirements that are indicative of successful candidacy and subsequent accreditation will be considered. Any minor accommodation grounded on cultural differences will be made at the sole discretion of the Commission and in no case will be such as to constitute a waiver or substantive revision of an Eligibility Requirement.

Lastly, the Commission, or the President acting on its behalf, may decline to invite an institution to submit an application for any reason, at its sole discretion.

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