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འགྲུག་ཤེས་ཚད་དང་ཁུང་རིག་ལེ་སྦྱར་དབང་འཛིན།
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
BHUTAN QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS
CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY
THIMPHU: BHUTAN



Higher Education Quality Council
Incorporated since 2011

BQPCA/HEQC/ECPF/08/711

1 June, 2023

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Sub: Advice to Students and Parents

With the increasing trends of individuals exploring opportunities to pursue higher education outside Bhutan, the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC), Bhutan Qualifications and Professionals Certification Authority (BQPCA) would like to draw the attention of all aspiring students and their parents/guardians to the following points:

1. It has come to our notice that there are private individuals and education agents operating from abroad that are not registered with BQPCA promoting study abroad opportunities on social media platforms. These entities do not possess a valid trade license from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Employment. We urge all aspiring students to verify the status of Education Consultancy & Placement Firms (ECPF) before availing their services to avoid any undesirable situation.
2. To avoid instances of students enrolling in higher education institutions (HEIs) that are not recognized, it is crucial to check the recognition status in their home country. Additionally, to ensure the quality of the HEIs, it is important to verify if the institutions and their programs are accredited by their national accreditation or similar bodies in their countries. For example, in the case of India, the university must be recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) - <https://www.ugc.gov.in/> or its equivalent body, and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) - <http://naac.gov.in/>. If the higher education programs are offered by colleges or institutions, please ensure that they are affiliated with recognized and accredited universities. It is advisable to refer to their official links for the most reliable information, as the information provided on the university/institute websites may not always be accurate.
3. All professional programs such as medical, nursing, engineering, etc. should be approved by the relevant professional councils in the host country. For instance, if applying to a nursing program in India, the program should be approved by the Indian Nursing Council (INC). The list of Indian Professional Councils is available at www.ugc.ac.in/page/professional-councils.aspx.
4. In the event that an institution (university/college/institute) is not recognized, the individual or agency responsible for placing the student/s will be held accountable for any losses incurred as per the laws of the country. Therefore, it is strongly advised to ascertain the status of the institution before making any enrollment decisions. This not only saves time and resources but also ensures access to quality tertiary education that enhances employability.



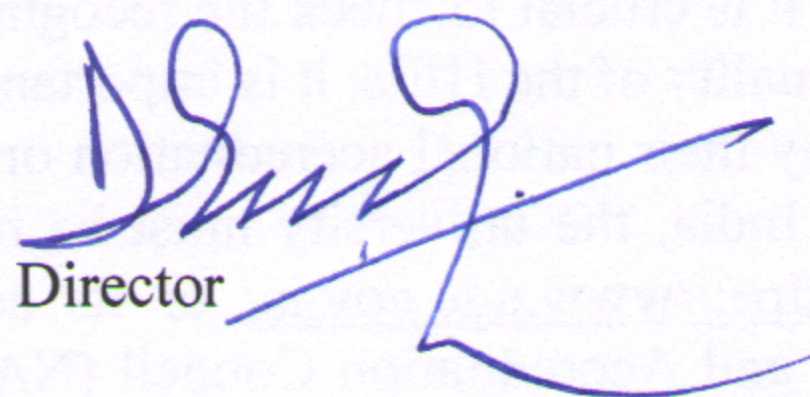
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5. After admission, it is mandatory for students to register as tertiary students and become members of the Bhutanese Students Association (BSA) by logging on to www.citizenservices.gov.bt. This registration will facilitate student services and provide other benefits, especially during times of emergencies.
6. Furthermore, students and parents are encouraged to seek assistance from licensed Education Consultancy and Placement Firms registered with the BQPCA. The addresses and contact details of these firms can be accessed through <http://www.dahe.gov.bt/index.php/services/education-consultancies>

In case, the institution (university/college/institute) is not recognised in the host country, the qualifications awarded by such institutions will not be recognised by the BQPCA. Therefore, we urge the general public to exercise due caution and make informed decisions regarding higher education opportunities abroad. BQPCA shall not be responsible and accountable for any issue arising from availing services that are not registered with the authority.


Director