

Filipino Migrants Forum

IS YOUR SCHOOL LISTED IN “THE PHILIPPINES COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL PROFILE?”

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His Excellency, Ambassador Willy Gaa and Minister Phillip Ruddock have endorsed the resolution passed by the Filipino Communities Council of Australia (FILCCA) asking the AEI NOOSR to update of “The Philippines Country Educational Profile”.

We are advised that AEI NOOSR is expected to carry out update of the “The Philippines Country Educational Profile” over the next year. *It is now time for us to ask for the accreditation or assessment of schools which have not been previously listed to ensure that graduates of these schools are given a better chance to migrate to Australia under the skilled migration stream.*

“The Philippines Country Educational Profile” is the list of tertiary educational institutions of a country which have been assessed and compared to the Australian standard. Many assessing bodies use the Country Education Profile to determine the comparable Australian equivalent of an applicant’s educational qualification.

Many assessing bodies normally use the “The Philippines Country Educational Profile” to determine the skills assessment of those who obtained their tertiary education in the Philippines. This list could be regarded as the only basis or could a first step but it is the key factor in the determination of skills assessment by many assessing authorities.

In other words, some assessing authorities rely on the Country Educational Profile solely to determine whether an applicant’s skill is suitable or not. Others use it as a basic requirement to determine, what experience may still be required to complement the formal education, in order to determine whether the skill is suitable.

The assessing authority for accountants, computer professionals, teachers, engineers, social workers, journalists, consultants, designers, chemists and marketing specialists respectively usually refer to “The Philippines Country Educational Profile”. Depending on the classification of the school and the grades of the applicant stated in the “The Philippines Country Educational Profile” a four- year Bachelor’s degree in the Philippines could be considered as equivalent to a Bachelor degree, or a two -year Diploma course or a certificate in Australia.

Graduates of tertiary educational institutions which are not listed are disadvantaged because when they apply for skills assessment, in most cases their Bachelors Degree will be assessed as equivalent only to a two year Australian Diploma level or a “certificate” level simply because their school is not listed. This could spell the difference between passing or failing the skills assessment and/or points test for a visa applicant.

Many educational institutions were not listed in “The Philippines Country Educational Profile” because their standard of education was not evaluated at all, not because they fall below standard. There are many cases where not a single school in an entire province has been assessed for accreditation and for this reason, many of their graduates have failed the skills assessment and points tested skilled migration stream.

There are cases where graduates of a course offered in a provincial campus of the same University have failed (for example, Cavite Campus of De la Salle University) while graduates of the same course offered in the Manila campus (of De la Salle University) have succeeded, because Cavite campus is not in the list.

There are also varying classifications in the list of the same School. For example, St Paul College Manila is classified as Section II while St Paul College Quezon City is classified as Section III and St Paul College Vigan is Section IV.

This means that a Bachelors degree obtained from St Paul’s College of Manila, could be assessed as comparable or equivalent to the educational level of an Australian Bachelors Degree, if the degree holder has obtained an overall average of at least 2 or B or 85 % or a five year degree course or a postgraduate degree.

However, a Bachelors degree obtained from St Paul College Quezon City is equivalent only to a Diploma level or a 2 year college education in Australia, even if the holder obtained an overall grade of 85% or above. This will result in the graduate getting only a maximum of 40 points instead of 50 points for the Bachelors degree from Vetassess as the assessing authority.

Where the school is not listed and therefore classified as Section IV as for example, St Paul College Vigan, the highest equivalent of a Bachelors Degree holder obtained there is an Associate Diploma level and only if the weighted average of the graduate is at least 85%, otherwise, it is equivalent only to a “certificate” level in Australia. This means a teacher graduating from this school under the present country education profile, will fail the assessment and therefore will not be able to migrate under points tested skilled migration even with 10 years teaching experience.

It is therefore very important that those whose schools are not listed in “The Philippines Country Educational Profile” ensure that their schools are assessed and listed in this forthcoming update by AEI-NOOSR.

Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to copies of their letter to “The President, Filipino Migrants Forum” c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 33, Level 4, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.

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