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**Listserv Summary: Guidelines for Three Year Degrees from Outside the US**

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**September 7, 2016**

An inquiry was made to the AIEA listserv asking for insight regarding guidelines for accepting three year degrees from outside the US, particularly from India. The member asked whether or not other schools accepted applications from graduates of three-year degree programs from Indian universities, whether they accepted from select institutions, whether there were program restrictions these graduates could participate in, and if other restrictions/criteria were used.

**Summary of Responses:**

There were eleven responses to this inquiry, which fall under the following categories:

- Applications are not accepted from graduates of three year degree programs (2)
- Applications are accepted with stipulations (7)
- No received applications from graduates of three year degree programs (1)
- Did not provide a response but were interested in the answer (1)

**Applications are not accepted from graduates of three year degree programs:**

1. [...] policy regarding 3 year degrees. We do not accept three year degrees. For countries outside Europe, students have 2 options: 1) Student can study for 1 year in a master's program within their country then transfer to [...], or 2) Students can apply as an undergraduate transfer to [...] (1-2 years). After completing one of these options, students can apply to a master's program. For European countries which fall under the Bologna Agreement, student's credentials will be evaluated by [...] for equivalency to a US 4 year bachelor degree depending on the country, school, and date of the degree. Students must apply and submit their academic credentials in order to be evaluated.
2. [...] does not accept 3-year degrees from India, as our institutional policy is that they are not comparable to a 4-year US bachelor's degree. Where we find cases of students not having equivalency (not just India, but Europe, for example), the department can petition the Dean of the Graduate School through an established process asking for a waiver. In the case of India, I think those would rarely be approved as far as I know. Any exception is on a case-by-case basis.

**Applications are accepted with stipulations:**

1. [...] accepts: 1) If the student has a diploma from a 3 year degree awarding university, 2) Has a recognition by the Turkish Higher Education Council and/or in the list of NARC. The student must also meet the entrance requirement of related program they are applying to.
2. [...] accepts from all institutions, with credentials validated through a credential validation service. Criteria vary based on program selection with conditions applied to applicants - no unique conditions for Indian applicants. Admission requirements posted on website for each program.
3. [...] accepts based on a student's qualifications and readiness to do graduate work. The policy is intentionally broad so that each student could be judged on standards set by the program. We left our policy intentionally broad so that each student could be judged on standards set by the program. It worked well in both places. US universities have accepted 3-year degrees from India and other countries for many years prior to Bologna when red flags were raised. Since many 3-year degrees based on the British model, as in India, usually include far more undergraduate hours in the major than US degrees have, we have found that students are as well or better prepared. The quality of the university is always an issue in graduate admissions evaluations even from 4-year. My advice is to keep it generic and leave it to the admissions programs to determine fit.
4. [...] accepts applications from India on a case-by-case basis. They will admit "special action" (allowed by the CO) if the department submits a petition for such admission. We adhere closely to the Senate Policy on this topic. <http://senate.sfsu.edu/content/s04-229>
5. [...] accepts 3-year degree students only if it would make the student eligible to advance to graduate study in the home country. We are highly selective and each student's application is reviewed at great length. Within the context, a three-year degree will not disqualify a student, whether the student is from India, Europe, or elsewhere.
6. All UK, Australian, Irish, New Zealand universities accept 3-year degrees to their Masters programs. Note, they look at the institutional profile and adjust the percentage requirements upwards or downwards on the basis of the school profile.
7. [...] recognizes Indian 3-year Bachelor's degrees as equivalent to US Bachelor's degrees when the following conditions are met: -the degrees have been earned in Division I, and - the awarding institutions have been accredited by India's National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a grade of "A" or better. <http://www.wes.org/educators/pdf/indiapolicypacket.pdf>