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THIRD PARTY CREDENTIAL EVALUATION RESOURCES

May 2016

General Guidelines

When searching for and selecting an outside credential evaluation service provider it is important to have your institutional/employment needs clearly defined and to seek service providers whose capabilities match those needs. Each licensing board, education institution, and employer has their own specific requirements with regard to credential evaluations and who they accept credential evaluations from.

There is no governmental authority that approves or certifies foreign educational credential evaluation agencies in the United States. Two associations Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), and National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) do have their own Codes of Conduct, and the American Translators Association (ATA) has a certification process for language translators. Credential evaluation services offered by members of AICE and NACES are guided by their respective Codes of Conduct.

Important Notes

- The licensing boards of some regulated professions (i.e., Medicine, Engineering etc.) require specific credential evaluation/verification through specialized agencies such as [National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying \(NCEES\)](#) for Engineers and the [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates \(ECFMG\)](#). **However, this does not mean an engineer or physician will not need a general credential evaluation for education and/or near-term work purposes.**

Credential Evaluator	English Translation Requirement	Requires sealed transcripts from issuing body?	Estimated Turnaround	Estimated Total Cost
WES <i>Considered the Gold Standard for Credential Evaluations</i> New York, NY; Phone: 212- 966-6311; www.wes.org	Yes – generally a certified translation is required <i>note: this requirement might vary by country of credentials</i>	Yes	7 business days after receipt of all required documents	\$212 (if your documents need to be translated into English WES can provide certified translation from COSTI Languages Bureau for an additional fee - contact them for a free estimate or you could use a local certified translator
ECE Milwaukee, WI; Phone: 414-289-3400; www.ece.org	Yes - does NOT have to be by a certified translator	Yes	4 weeks	\$210 (plus any additional translation fees if documents need to be translated into English)
ERES Sacramento, CA; Phone: 916-921-0790; www.eres.com	Yes - requires certified translator	No - as long as applicant has a certified copy of documents and swears they have not been altered	5-7 weeks	~\$500 (\$345 evaluation + \$130 certified translation)
Relevant Notes			All services state in some form or fashion that if additional research, correspondence or verification is required, the evaluation will take longer	

Additional Information about Each Service Provider:

• **World Education Services (WES)**

- **General Info:** Member of National Association of Credential Evaluation (NACES); The largest non-profit credential evaluation service in North America; Located in New York, NY; Phone: 212- 966-6311; www.wes.org
- **Cost of evaluation:** ~\$212 (includes general evaluation, course by course evaluation up to 60 courses and GPA); **requires documents translated into English**
- **Cost of document translation:** applicant can have their documents translated by a translator of their choosing – depending on country a certified translation could be required; WES is partnered with [COSTI Languages Bureau](#) [contact them for a free estimate](#) or approximately ~\$100-\$500 for local certified translator.
- **Turnaround Time:** The standard is (7) business days after receipt, review and acceptance of all documents and payment in full. If additional research, correspondence or verification is required, the evaluation will take longer.
- **Important Notes on Requirements:** DOES REQUIRE a translated copy of documents in original language AND English; DOES REQUIRE a set of documents in an institutional envelope that is sealed by the issuing body.

• **Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE):**

- **General Info:** Member of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), Located in Milwaukee, WI; Phone: 414-289-3400; www.ece.org
- **Cost of evaluation:** ~ \$210; for all documents issued in a foreign language, they require photocopies of English translations. Please note that original translations will not be returned.
- **Cost of document translation:** ECE does not offer translation services - **You may prepare the translations yourself**, as long as they are complete, literal, word-for-word, and in the same format as the original document
- **Turnaround Time:** Evaluations take 4 weeks to complete, with rush options available depending on ECE availability ranging from \$50-\$200; If additional research, correspondence or verification is required, the evaluation will take longer.
- **Important Notes on Requirements:** Requires documents in an institutional envelope that is sealed by the issuing body (school, university, examination board, etc.). If institution is closed, it is impossible to contact the institution and cannot be obtained in sealed-envelope, ECED requires applicant to submit their original documents to ECE and include a written explanation of circumstances

• **Educational Records Evaluation Service, Inc.(ERES):**

- **General Info:** Member of National Association of Credential Evaluation (NACES); Located in Sacramento, CA; Phone: 916-921-0790; www.eres.com
- **Cost of evaluation:** ~\$345 (includes general evaluation, course by course evaluation up to 60 courses and GPA); **requires documents translated into English by a certified translator**
- **Cost of document translation:** ~\$130 (includes translation of up to 60 course + supporting documents); applicant can have their documents translated by certified translator of their choosing
- **Turnaround Time:** Evaluations normally take 5 to 7 weeks to complete, with rush options available depending on ERES availability ranging from \$65-\$235; If additional research, correspondence or verification is required, the evaluation will take longer.
- **Important Notes on Requirements:** Does NOT require sealed transcripts directly from institution