



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 9, 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the historic and official relationship between the U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools and the "Regional" accreditors of the United States: the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Cognia (which consists of the following accreditors: NCA, NWAC, and SACS), and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA). Collectively, they are known as the "Regionals."

The U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools (A/OPR/OS) provides official support to 193 schools around the world. We designate these as "Assisted Overseas Schools." To maintain their "assisted" status, these schools must adhere to 16 criteria, one of which is accreditation by one of the Regionals named above.

Since 1961, the Office of Overseas Schools has collaborated with the Regionals to ensure that accredited American-style schools issue student transcripts and diplomas that assure the public that these institutions are reputable and provide a learning environment that adheres to established standards of institutional quality. In close collaboration with the Office of Overseas Schools, operating under the auspices of the Department of State, United States of America, the Regionals adhere to the principles and obligations outlined by the Hague Conference, including the convention of October 5, 1961.

Please note that United States higher education institutions generally require applicants to provide transcripts from a school accredited by one of the Regionals.

In summary, the Regionals play a pivotal role in accrediting and authenticating educational institutions and in facilitating the transition of graduates from accredited international schools to U.S. higher education institutions. These globally recognized and respected accreditation bodies foster a culture of continuous improvement and unwavering commitment to maintaining exceptional educational standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Ulfers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark E. Ulfers  
Director, Office of Overseas Schools  
Bureau of Administration  
United States Department of State