

# **On the Roles and Responsibilities of QA Agencies from Home and Receiving Countries in CBHE**

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## **Abstract:**

Cross-border higher education is undergoing rapid development across the world and in various forms. In China, one of the major forms of cross-border education is Sino-foreign joint degree programs. Those joint programs have become an important part of China's education system and a convenient channel for Chinese students to receive foreign education, but problems also arise.

Sino-foreign degree programs are carried out in various forms and at different levels. In regard to the degree conferred by HEIs, there are three types. In light of the different degree modes, QA agencies have carried out different QA measures. The home countries and receiving countries are supposed to share the responsibilities and play adequate roles in the QA process.

The number of countries involved in joint programs in China continues to increase, and it is crucial that home and receiving country QA agencies have close cooperation and promote continuous development of the programs.

## **Outline of the Paper**

### **1. Current Situation of Quality Assurance and the Key Issues in the Context of Global Cross-border Higher Education**

Cross-border higher education is undergoing rapid development across the world and in various forms. Meanwhile, problems arise and people's expectation for better education quality also grows, which impose greater challenge for QA agencies.

In China, one of the major forms of cross-border education is Sino-foreign joint degree programs. Those joint programs have undergone several stages of development since 1980s. They have become an important part of China's education

system and a convenient channel for Chinese students to receive foreign education, but problems also arise.

## **2. Effective Exploration and Practice of QA Agencies from Home Countries and Receiving Countries**

Sino-foreign degree programs are carried out in various forms and at different levels. In regards to the degree conferred by HEIs, there are three types. Some programs confer only Chinese degrees, some confer only foreign partners' degree, and some confer both foreign and Chinese degrees.

In light of the different degree forms, QA agencies have carried out different QA measures. The home countries and receiving countries are supposed to share the responsibilities and play adequate roles in the QA process.

### **2.1 QA Practice of Receiving Country Agencies**

#### **2.1.1 Evaluation of Joint Programs**

Chinese QA agency evaluates the quality of joint programs, focusing on the curriculum, delivery, teaching resources, academic staff, etc.

#### **2.1.2 Accreditation of Joint Programs of MBA**

Sino-foreign MBA programs account for a large percentage of all the programs. Besides quality evaluation which has been in place for years, China plans to launch a high-standard accreditation of all MAB programs, including the joint programs in the hope of promoting continuous improvement of education quality.

### **2.2. QA Practice of Home Country Agencies**

Chinese universities have cooperated with universities from around 24 countries and regions. A major percentage of the programs is partnered with nine foreign countries and regions, namely, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Russia, the US, the UK.

Home country universities and QA agencies are supposed to play a primary role in the quality assurance for their offshore programs. A number of countries have implemented QA measures for their cross-border programs. While QAA from the UK evaluates the transnational programs in China in 2012, China's QA agency is invited to participate as observer. But not all the education providers have adequate roles in

the QA process.

### **3. Challenges Facing Joint Programs and Suggestions**

The rapid development of cross-border higher education imposes more challenges for QA agencies. The number of countries involved in joint programs in China continues to increase, and it is crucial that home country and receiving country QA agencies have close cooperation and promote continuous development of the programs.

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