

ENGAGING in INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Substantive Change Application

# INSTRUCTIONS for SUBMISSION

**General Instructions:** Complete the following Engaging in International Activities Application at least 30 days prior to starting the proposed international activity. Submit the completed application and supporting documentation following DEAC’s *Guidelines for Electronic Submission*.

After the proposed substantive change is approved by DEAC and engagement in international activities is established, the institution undergoes a site visit within six to 12 months to evaluate the implementation of the international activities. The institution shall submit a report on the effect of the substantive change on the institution’s compliance with DEAC accreditation standards at least five week prior to the scheduled on-site evaluation.

**SECTION 1:** Complete the chart, including all locations (e.g., domestic and international). Provide contact information for an individual who is physically located at each location and able to answer location-specific questions.

**SECTION 2:** Provide the requested responses regarding the proposed engagement in international activities.

**SECTION 3:** Provide total enrollment information for the last calendar year and the total number of students as of the date of the Application submission.

**SECTION 4:** Review and acknowledge each institutional affirmation by marking the check box to the left.

**SECTION 5:** Provide the identified supporting documentation following DEAC’s *Guidelines for Electronic Submission*.

**SECTION 6:** The president/CEO certifies that all information and documentation provided is true and accurate.

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

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# ENGAGING in INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES – APPLICATION

An institution seeking to add active international functions (e.g., training sites, recruiting, instruction, marketing, business) outside the United States, add coordinating offices in another country, or contract with foreign agents or educational entities is required to obtain prior approval from the Commission.

An accredited institution offering educational programs outside of its home country must obtain all appropriate external approvals where required, including higher education system administration, and relevant government bodies. The institution documents the accepted legal basis for its operation in the host country and meets legal requirements of the host country.

Check the requested substantive change below.

[ ]  Adding active international functions outside the United States.

[ ]  Adding coordinating offices in another country.

[ ]  Contracting with foreign agents or educational entities.

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTION INFORMATION

**Institution Name:** Insert Institution Name

**Former Names:** Insert Former Name(s)

**Provide the address for the institution’s main facility1**

| **Address** | **City** | **State (Country, Province)** | **Zip Code** | **Local Contact** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Local Contact |

1Main Facility: A geographic location that houses the headquarters of an institution. The institution provides evidence it is approved in the state for the activity that it conducts at the location.

**Provide information for other locations (if any):** Complete the chart below. Add rows as needed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Address** | **City** | **State (Country, Province)** | **Zip Code** | **Location Type2** | **Local Contact3** |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Choose an item. | Local Contact |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Choose an item.  | Local Contact |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Choose an item.  | Local Contact |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Choose an item.  | Local Contact |
| Address | City | State | Zip Code | Choose an item.  | Local Contact |

2Location Type: Other than a main facility, DEAC institutions can operate:

* Administrative Site: A separate office located geographically apart from the main headquarters location, which typically provides an off-site workplace for the convenience of institution officials who do not live near the headquarters. Neither educational programs nor instructional services to students are offered from an administrative site.
* In-Residence Component (Facility): Instruction that requires in-person delivery of curriculum, learning of certain manual skills, technical proficiency with specialized equipment, access to resources or the application of certain techniques under professional supervision. In-residence components must not exceed 49% of a DEAC-approved program.

3Local Contact: Provide contact information (full name, email address, and phone number) for an individual who is physically located at each location and able to answer location-specific questions.

**Website(s):** Insert Website Link(s)

**Main Telephone Number:** Main Telephone Number

**Institutional Mission Statement:** Insert Mission Statement

**Primary Contact:** Name of President/CEO

**Title:** Title

**Email:** Email

**Telephone:** Telephone Number

**Compliance Officer Contact:** Name of compliance officer

**Title:** Title

**Email:** Email

**Telephone:** Telephone Number

Note: This individual must have already completed the *Preparing for DEAC Accreditation* tutorial.

1. Is the institution eligible to participate in Federal Student Assistance Title IV funding programs?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, list the accreditor of record for Federal Student Assistance Title IV funds.

Insert Response

1. Is the institution and/or any of its programs accredited by any other accrediting organizations (institutional or programmatic)?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, list the name of each accrediting organization, date of original accreditation, and the most recent action by the accrediting organization.

Insert Response

1. Has any owner or manager been directly or indirectly employed or affiliated with any institution that has lost or been denied accreditation by any accrediting organization during that individual’s period of employment or affiliation?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, please provide a statement of the facts and circumstances surrounding the action and identify the owner or manager involved. If the matter is not yet final, please describe the status of the matter (e.g., still under investigation, on appeal, etc.). If the matter is final, provide appropriate documentation.

Insert Response

1. Has the institution ever been denied accreditation, had its accreditation terminated, or voluntarily resigned its accreditation from any accrediting organization, including DEAC?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, please list the organization and date of action and include an explanation of the action taken the accrediting organization.

Insert Response

1. Does the institution have any pending accrediting action by any accrediting organization?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, please include an explanation.

Insert Response

## SECTION 2: PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

1. Provide a narrative on the proposed international activity.

Insert Response
2. Provide the rationale for the engagement in international activity.

Insert Response
3. Provide a narrative describing how the engagement in international activity supports the institutional mission.

Insert Response
4. Describe how the proposed engagement in international activities will impact the institution’s current curricular offerings and future growth.

Insert Response
5. Describe the institution’s capacity to support the engagement in international activities without adversely affecting current domestic students’ ability to continue their programs of study.

Insert Response
6. Describe the institution’s capacity to remain in compliance with DEAC accreditation standards throughout the implementation of engagement in international activities.

Insert Response
7. Describe the institution’s plans for monitoring all international activities and actions taken on behalf of the institution.

Insert Response
8. Describe how the institution plans to monitor ethical practices and academic excellence of all international activities.

Insert Response
9. Describe the financial and personnel resources required for engaging in the proposed international activities.

Insert Response
10. If entering into an international partnership, describe the non-U.S. agent or international educational entity.

Insert Response
11. Describe how the institution conducted due diligence prior to entering into any international partnership or employment agreements.

Insert Response
12. Describe how the partnering entity possesses the appropriate licensure, approval, and/or accreditation from the country’s higher education oversight organization and its local designee.

Insert Response
13. Provide a narrative disclosing how the partnering entity is operating ethically and legally in accordance with local, national, and/or provincial laws and regulations.

Insert Response
14. Describe the nature of the proposed international activities, including the duties and responsibilities of each party (e.g., advertising, recruitment, instruction, assessment of learning, student services, grade assignment, record keeping).

Insert Response

1. Provide a description of the educational programs that will be offered internationally.

Insert Response
2. List the language(s) in which the educational offerings will be presented.

Insert Response

## SECTION 3: ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

1. Provide the number of new enrollments in the last calendar year.

Insert Response

1. Provide the total number of students enrolled as of the date of this Application submission.

Insert Response

## SECTION 4: INSTITUTIONAL AFFIRMATIONS

Accreditation is a voluntary, peer review process. The institution assumes the burden of proof in demonstrating that its curricula are within DEAC’s recognized scope of authority and that all policies and procedures meet DEAC accreditation standards.

The president/CEO submits this application for the institution seeking the above noted substantive change and affirms the following:

|  |
| --- |
|[ ]  The institution is properly licensed, authorized, exempted, or approved by all applicable state education institutional authorities (or their equivalent for non-U.S. institutions). The institution complies with all law applicable to the jurisdiction(s) in which the institution operates. Exemptions from state law are supported by state-issued documentation or by express statutory/regulatory language. Should an institution lose its state licensure in its state of domicile for any reason (or international equivalent), DEAC accreditation of an accredited institution is automatically withdrawn as of the date of the loss of state licensure. Such a withdrawal of accreditation may be appealed by an institution pursuant to DEAC’s appeal procedures. In any such situation, the institution shall not be entitled to receive any refund of fees already paid to DEAC nor shall DEAC have any liability to the institution associated with the termination of the substantive change application/evaluation process. |
|[ ]  The institution has clearly articulated outcomes for its educational offerings and has an ongoing outcomes assessment program in place designed to measure student achievement and satisfaction. |
|[ ]  The institution documents, through audited comparative financial statements that cover its two most recent fiscal years, that it is financially sound and can meet its financial obligations to provide instruction and service to its students. All financial statements submitted to DEAC are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) or International Financial Reporting Standards[[1]](#footnote-1). If the financial operations of the institution are supported in whole or in part by a parent company or a third party, the institution understands that the Commission may require audited financial statements from the parent or third party to demonstrate that the entity possesses sufficient financial resources to provide the institution continued financial sustainability, as well as the commitment to do so. If the institution’s financial performance is included within the parent corporation’s statements, a supplemental schedule for the individual institution is appended to the parent statement. |
|[ ]  The institution demonstrates that its name is free from any association with any activity that could damage the standing of DEAC or of the accrediting process, such as illegal actions, unethical conduct, or abuse of consumers. |
|[ ]  The institution and the institution’s owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators possess sound reputations and show a record of integrity and ethical conduct in their professional activities, business operations, and relations. The owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators have records free from any association with any misfeasance, including, but not limited to, owning, managing, or controlling any educational institutions that have entered bankruptcy or have closed, to the detriment of the students. Ongoing state, federal or local indictments, enforcement activities, or other censure against an institution, an institution’s owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators must be promptly disclosed by an institution to DEAC regardless of whether initiated before or during the period in which an institution is applying for accreditation or reaccreditation and during any period during which an institution is accredited by DEAC (Section XIV.B). The notice should include an explanation from the institution as to the circumstances giving rise to the governmental action and why the governmental action should not result in a declaration of ineligibility under this section and/or a violation of Standard II. Upon receipt of the notice, the Commission may, in its sole discretion, initiate investigative proceedings and/or make a determination that the governmental action places the institution in violation of this eligibility criterion and of Standards II and/or XIV. |
|[ ]  The institution and the institution’s owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators possess sound reputations and show a record of integrity and ethical conduct in their professional activities, business operations, and relations. The owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators have records free from any association with any misfeasance, including, but not limited to, owning, managing, or controlling any educational institutions that have entered bankruptcy or have closed, to the detriment of the students. |
|[ ]  The institution, and its corporate affiliates, are free from any pending or final action brought by a state agency or recognized accrediting agency to (1) suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate any one or more of such entities’ legal authority to operate or (2) deny accreditation or renewal of accreditation to one or more of such entities. |
| *The institution’s owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators understand that, in applying to engage in international activities, the institution:*  |
|[ ]  Voluntarily submits itself for review and decision by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission of the its qualifications. |
|[ ]  Has reviewed the accreditation standards and supporting materials. |
|[ ]  Has the opportunity, as a part of the accreditation process, to demonstrate it meets all accreditation standards and assumes the burden of proof to document this compliance. |
|[ ]  Assumes the obligation to be honest, forthcoming, complete, and accurate in presenting information, answering questions, and providing information to the Distance Education Accrediting Commission and designated evaluators. |
|[ ]  Voluntarily accepts responsibility to comply with the accreditation standards and fulfill all the obligations of an accredited institution. |
|[ ]  Agrees to remain in compliance with all requirements set forth in the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook* and Bylaws. |
| [ ]  | Agrees to cooperate with DEAC in all aspects of the accreditation process, including, as applicable, DEAC’s policies and procedures for conducting on-site or virtual site visits, DEAC International Principles, and in facilitating surveys and inquiries to students, recruiting personnel, state and federal consumer and regulatory agencies, employers of graduates, and other individuals, agencies, or groups that may have an opinion about the institution, its programs, or its services.  |
| [ ]  | The institution acknowledges that accreditation information may be shared with other accrediting organizations, government entities, and the public in accordance with DEAC policies and procedures and applicable federal and state laws and regulations. |

## SECTION 5: DOCUMENTATION

* Non-refundable Engaging in International Activities Application Fee (see *DEAC Accreditation Fees* document). Provide evidence of payment (scanned copy of check or similar). Insert Date Fee was Mailed
* *DEAC State Authorization Form*
* Documentation of state authorization/licensure for institution’s state of domicile (where the institution maintains its primary facility, as listed in this application) or international equivalent.
* Documentation of state authorization/licensure in any other states or international equivalent.
* Audited comparative financial statements covering the two most recent fiscal years.

**Note:** Financial statements are audited and prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) or International Financial Reporting Standards. The institution’s budgeting processes demonstrate that current and future budgeted operating results are sufficient to allow the institution to accomplish its mission and goals.

* Timeline for engaging in international activities.
* Board of Directors or other governing body meeting minutes reflecting the discussion of the need and approval for engaging in international activities.
* International contracts/agreements.
* If partnering with an international entity, provide the partnering entity’s licensure, approval, and/or accreditation from the country’s higher education oversight organization or its local designee approval documents.
* Organizational chart for international location.
* Curriculum vitae or résumés of individuals responsible for oversight of the international location or of partnering entities.
* Proposed international teach-out plan

## SECTION 6: CERTIFICATION

I certify that all of the information contained on this application and in the submitted documentation is true and correct, and I understand that, by electronically typing my name in this document, it is considered to have the same legally binding effect as signing my signature using pen and paper.

**Institution’s President/CEO:** Name of President/CEO

**Institution’s President/CEO Signature:** Print Name or Insert Digital Signature

**Date:** Insert Date

1. The implementation and submission time frame of Standard XIV.A.’s requirement that institutions provide audited comparative financial statements (reviewed comparative financial statements will no longer be accepted) is as follows: For institutions with fiscal years ending between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, audited financial statements are due by December 31, 2025. For institutions with fiscal years ending between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, audited financial statements are due by June 30, 2026. In both cases, the Commission is waiving the requirement for comparative statements and accepting audits of one fiscal year. Future submissions of audited statements (submitted after June 30, 2026) must be prepared on a comparative basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)