



Paving the Way for Foreign-Trained Professionals

The Opportunity

World Education Services (WES) is committed to working with regulators, policymakers and others to improve access to professional licensing for internationally-trained individuals so that they can achieve their professional potential and fully contribute to their communities.

The successful integration of internationally-trained immigrants will give communities and employers access to highly qualified candidates in fields like health care, STEM, education, and social services. While filling important skills gaps, these professionals also bring valuable linguistic and cultural competencies to the communities they serve.

However, research indicates that internationally-trained immigrants have difficulty finding employment that fully utilizes their skills – especially in licensed occupations. They often face challenges in gaining recognition of their foreign professional experiences and credentials, navigating costly and/or time-consuming relicensing and recertification processes, and finding opportunities to address skills gaps such as language proficiency.

WES' Role

WES' rigorous credential evaluation services provide licensing boards with reliable authentication and evaluation of degrees and diplomas earned abroad, so that candidates can be judged on their merits alongside their US-educated peers.

Through its Global Talent Bridge program, WES works with a range of partners on initiatives to advance policy reform and best practices directed at reducing barriers to licensed occupations:

- WES serves on the Panel of Experts for the U.S. Department of Labor-funded Occupational Licensing Project, giving project assistance to 11 participating states.
- WES provides expertise and resources to state regulatory agencies, including Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (DLLR), and Colorado's Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).
- WES tracks policies and programs that address barriers to licensing and career entry.
- WES publishes Career Pathways e-guides to help immigrants navigate educational and professional pathways in various fields.

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