



Ms Marcia Pinheiro  
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**RE: AEI-NOOSR Educational Assessment of Qualifications from Brazil (N05/00030)**

Dear Ms Pinheiro

I am responding on behalf of the Director, Ms Di Roberts who is currently on leave. In addition to this email, we will send you a copy of this letter via registered post. Ms Roberts would like to pass on her apologies for the delay in confirming with you the telephone conversation that you had with her a few weeks ago.

At that time, Ms Roberts rang you to clarify whether the purpose of your qualification assessment application was for teaching purposes. You confirmed that it was for general employment/education purposes.

During the course of the rest of your conversation with Ms Roberts, Ms Roberts advised the following:

1. The length of the course of study you undertook in Brazil, or the number of majors included in the course, do not constitute a postgraduate qualification. Your qualification has been assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Bachelors Degree.
2. You sent additional information from the University of Melbourne website relating to a postgraduate course of study in education, in an attempt to have your assessment reviewed. This was not what we were seeking. AEI-NOOSR does not look at the content of specific Australian courses of study to determine comparability of an overseas qualification.
3. Ms Roberts said she would provide you with information about AEI-NOOSR's assessment methodology and what we will or will not assess. In summary:
  - a. Our assessment guidelines and assessment advice are only for advisory purposes. There is no Australian law recognising the education level of overseas qualifications. Education providers, employers and other bodies and individuals may use our advice but they are not bound by it. In fact, we advise assessing authorities that they should not rely solely on AEI-NOOSR guidelines when evaluating a person's overseas qualifications for specific educational, professional or employment purposes.
  - b. The guidelines (and our assessments) relate to the educational level of the qualification, not the field of study or content of the program. We use the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) learning outcomes as a general guide to the educational level of an overseas qualification and consider a number of criteria including (but not limited to) the: Education system in the country; Nature, recognition and/or accreditation status of the awarding institution; Level, length, structure and nature of the program. Furthermore, AQF qualifications are described

- in terms of the general nature of the program rather than the length and detailed content of the program.
- c. We assess qualifications in terms of comparison, not direct equivalence. Comparing different educational qualifications is not an exact process. Education systems are complex and differ widely from country to country. There are different educational philosophies, course names, structures, objectives and lengths, entry requirements, and educational outcomes.
  - d. As a general rule, we compare overseas first degrees with the Australian Bachelor Degree, even if the overseas qualification requires more years of study. We do this because a first degree or qualification normally serves a different function from a postgraduate qualification, and assessment at this level is more relevant for general employment purposes.
  - e. AEI-NOOSR does not assess qualifications in terms of:
    - i. admission to an educational institution - our guidelines may be only one factor considered by educational institutions for admissions purposes, or
    - ii. professional practice - only the relevant Australian professional body or registration authority can decide if an overseas qualification (e.g., in medicine, engineering, accounting, teaching, etc) meets professional requirements.
  - f. We do not assess Australian qualifications.
  - g. We do not take into account work experience or English language skills.
4. If you want your assessment reviewed, you need to provide evidence of other qualifications you have obtained from a Brazilian institution which you have not submitted to AEI-NOOSR previously. To apply for a review, you need to use the same method as you did for your original assessment. The review fee will be the same as the assessment fee.

Unless you are able to provide information not already considered by the Department about your Brazilian qualifications, we will not enter into any further correspondence with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jane Azurin  
A/g Director  
Overseas Qualifications Recognition Unit (AEI-NOOSR)  
International Education Group  
Department of Education Science and Training

27 November 2006