



UK NARIC

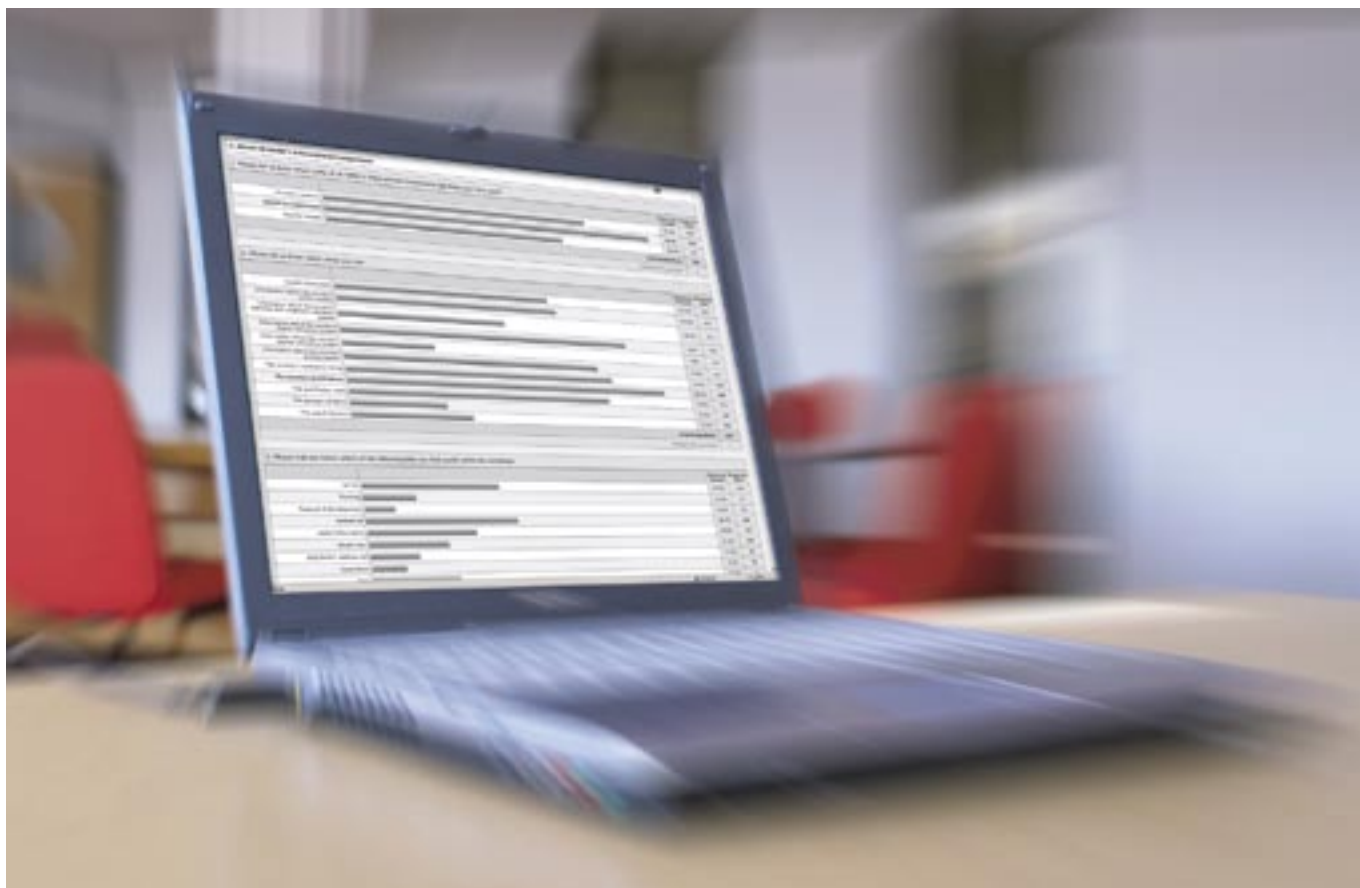
# NARIC news

NATIONAL RECOGNITION INFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

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MARCH 2007

## 'I really like UK NARIC but...'



Over the past couple of months we have been carrying out market research into what you, our members, think of the service that we provide. The results have been very interesting. We have received an excellent response rate to the *International Comparisons* survey, with over 21% of users responding.

The vast majority of members valued the service that we provide, and use us as the primary source of information and advice on qualifications and skills from overseas. The feedback on the changes that we have made to *International Comparisons* is that they have made finding the information you need easier and quicker.

The top 10 countries that you need most information on are, in descending order, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria, United States of America, Bangladesh, Ghana, Poland, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe.

The comments that we received were also very encouraging:

*'Thanks for all the help, keep up the good work!'*

*'Very good service.'*

But there is always room for improvement in the service that we offer:

*'Overall I think they are very good, although sometimes the equivalence judgements I believe are a little generous in some countries.'*

*'Responses to queries often take a long time.'*

*'Would like more rapid updates of country info.'*

A full breakdown of the market research findings will be published on the UK NARIC website in June this year.

## Opening up Europe

On the 1st of January this year, Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union with the hopes of greater future prosperity and economic stability that membership would bring to their countries.

UK NARIC can provide comparability advice and information for members who are trying to employ workers or recruit students from Bulgaria, Romania and the other eastern European member countries.

In 2004, the UK was the only large European country that had no immigration controls on workers from the new countries. This time new workers will require a visa to work in the UK, unless they are self employed.

The government has set limits of 19,750 low skilled workers to be allowed to work in two industries, agriculture and food processing. There are fewer restrictions on highly skilled workers, who will need a visa from *Work Permits UK*. Students will be allowed to work part time to fund their studies.

We have also been active in helping Bulgaria and Romania during the accession and in 2006 worked closely with the Bulgarian Ministries of Labour and Education to develop 80 vocational standards across several occupational sectors.

These standards were developed to help students working in vocational education and adults in technical colleges to develop their skills to meet the needs of Bulgarian employers. The work was delivered with the close co-operation of the European Commission, employers, colleges and schools.

Information about this project can be downloaded from the project website at <http://bulgaria.naric.org.uk>

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## The importance of combating fraud

Fraud, and its impact on society, has made the headlines recently. In early March the Association of Chief Police Officers reported that fraud is costing the UK £20bn a year, over £330 for every man, woman and child. There have been many high profile cases including presidential candidates in African states, senior civil servants in Ireland and several names from the world of TV. Finally, the forensic psychologist, Gene Morrison, was jailed for five years after it became clear that he had bought certificates by post for a BSc in Forensic Science, a Masters with excellence in Forensic investigation and a Doctorate in Criminology.

Qualifications have become a new form of currency, allowing the holders the ability to access work and change country. Unfortunately educational documents are not protected like currency and so the market for fake awards has increased dramatically. Being able to combat such fraud is important to all of us; no developed country is safe from the risk of being victim of fake credentials. Unless we have the knowledge and skills to combat education fraud we will not be able to safeguard public interests.

The new NARIC contract, awarded in January 2007, specifically identifies combating fraud as one of the new areas that fall within the responsibilities of UK NARIC. Over the past 10 years, we have built up a detailed and extensive knowledge that we use to help overcome the problems of identifying fraud. We run a number of training sessions dealing with practical ways of combating fraud and in April we are holding *Degrees of Deception*, the first national one-day event providing expert advice and guidance to those combating fraudulent applications. At the event we will launch our new publication *Degree of Deception* which sets out practical ways of overcoming document fraud.

For more information about training, the *Degrees of Deception* event and our new publication please visit [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk) or email us at [customer.services@naric.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@naric.org.uk)

## Europass

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the contract to be the National Europass Centre until 2013. We have a lot planned for the next year, but first we need to let you know what we have been doing since November 2006. Members of the UK NEC team and the UK Socrates-Erasmus Council delivered the final workshop on the Certificate and Diploma Supplement to representatives of the FE and HE institutions in Scotland. This event continued the promotion of the instruments as part of the wider Europass portfolio.

The run-up to Christmas saw the UK NEC host colleagues from three different National Europass Centres - Italy, the French Community of Belgium and Finland. This provided a great opportunity for all involved to share working methods, best practice and recent IT developments.

From 1st January 2007 the UK NEC has become responsible for the issuing, as well as promotion and management, of Europass Mobility. Organisations who are sending students or workers to other Member States to complete a placement may register their details on the specially designed database so that these individuals may receive this document. As part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, which will run until 2013, individuals completing Comenius, Grundtvig, Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci programmes are automatically eligible for a Europass Mobility document.

For further information visit [www.uknec.org.uk](http://www.uknec.org.uk) or contact us on [info@uknec.org.uk](mailto:info@uknec.org.uk) or on 0870 9901563.



# What's new

Following another few busy months of meetings, in-country reviews and desk based research, we have completed another long list of updates to many of our country files. These updates include revisions to higher education institution listings in:

- Bhutan
- Tajikistan
- South Korea
- Italy
- Azerbaijan

We have also added further information about:

- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Nigeria

In the Spanish country file, a new section regarding Quality Assurance has been added. The Sri Lankan country file now includes updated information on the grading systems at school level and higher education. A new qualification (Post HND) in Nigeria has been added to the list of qualifications in the postgraduate section.

The database now also includes updated individual country files for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

## Statistical update

The volume of enquiries we have received has increased significantly over the last few months. India and Pakistan still remain the top countries, with over 5000 enquiries being submitted since the beginning of this year. The number of enquiries regarding Romanian qualifications has doubled over the past year and we are still seeing a steady increase in enquiries from Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Bulgaria.

Half of our enquiries are from individuals wishing to enter professional employment in the UK, with the majority of these enquiries specifically aimed at entry into the teaching profession. The remaining 50% is split between entry to further, higher and postgraduate education.

Top countries by enquiries since 1st Jan 2007:

- 1 India
- 2 Pakistan
- 3 USA
- 4 South Africa
- 5 Australia

Countries showing the greatest increase in enquiries Jan – Mar 2007 compared to Jan – Mar 2006 (minimum 100 enquiries):

- |   |          |              |
|---|----------|--------------|
| 1 | Nepal    | 97% increase |
| 2 | Jamaica  | 64% increase |
| 3 | Romania  | 61% increase |
| 4 | Pakistan | 47% increase |
| 5 | Bulgaria | 21% increase |

## Where we have been

Over the past few months UK NARIC staff have been gathering information about qualifications, skills and the education system on a range of countries. This information is fed into the editorial process and used to update the UK NARIC websites.

The countries visited since November 2006:

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- China mainland and Hong Kong
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Romania
- Singapore
- South Korea
- The Netherlands

We have also received visits from representatives from the following countries since November 2006:

- Australia
- Finland
- France
- Hong Kong
- Sri Lanka

## Feedback

If you have any comments about the service that we provide, or any of the articles in this edition of NARIC News, please contact us on [feedback@naric.org.uk](mailto:feedback@naric.org.uk)

# Training

## External events 2007

### LONDON

We will be running a one-day programme at the Radisson Edwardian Marlborough Hotel on 2nd May:

- Essential Guide to Using the UK NARIC Database and Credential Evaluation Skills
- Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents

### Degrees of Deception

We are also proud to announce that we are organising the first one-day event on education, institution and identity fraud in the UK. It will take place at the Hilton Docklands Hotel, London, on 17th April.

For further information see page 2 or visit our website <http://www.eventsforce.net/uknaricfraud2007>

### AUSTRALIA

To give our Australian members a chance to benefit from our training sessions too, we have organised another series of courses in Sydney (21st & 22nd May) and Melbourne (24th & 25th May). Both cities will see us deliver the following programme:

- Day 1
- Essential Guide to Evaluating Academic and Vocational Qualifications
  - Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents
- Day 2
- Expert's Guide to Education in China
  - Expert's Guide to Education in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh

If you would like further details on any of the above events please contact our training team on [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or +44 (0)870 990 1561

## In-house events 2007

If you would like to attend our training courses here in Cheltenham, book now to avoid disappointment. Our morning sessions run from 09.30 – 12.30 and afternoon sessions run from 13.30 – 16.30.

Key Sessions and Schedule of Dates 2006	June	September	December
Essential Guide to Using the UK NARIC Database <i>Highly recommended for new subscribers, new staff</i>	25 am		
Essential Guide to Evaluating Academic and Vocational Qualifications		25 pm	11 am
Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents	26 am		11 pm
Expert's Guide to Education in China	27 pm	27 am	
Expert's Guide to Education in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh	27 am	26 pm	12 pm
New Expert's Guide to Education English Speaking Africa	26 am	27 pm	
New Expert's Guide to Education in the EU Accession States	28 am	26 am	12 am
Expert's Guide to Overseas Trained Teacher Qualifications	28 pm		
Essential Guide to Using the UK NARIC Databases for Nextstep Advisors <i>Training for Nextstep Advisors</i>		24 pm	

## Other external events 2007

Our training team are now busy organising training events for the second half of 2007. These will include Ireland, Scotland, South Africa and Dubai. Details of these will be sent out in our training newsletters that go out every 2 months.

For more details on any of these events or if you would like to host your own UK NARIC training please contact our training department on [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or +44 (0)870 990 1561.

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