



October 25, 2013

Dear International School Partner:

This year the U.S Department of Education (ED) is hosting its annual FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals in Las Vegas, Nevada from Tuesday December 3 through Friday December 6, 2013. The conference provides the forum for ED to share with the financial aid community the most up-to-date information on the Title IV Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs. There will be interest sessions covering a wide range of topics from the implementation of programmatic requirements to technologies associated with our information systems. The conference will include 45 sessions scheduled across four days. The session schedule is under development, please check the conference website referenced below for updates.

We are pleased to announce there will be a track of sessions designed specifically for our international school partners. Several new sessions have been added to the track this year that will offer an orientation to the Foreign Schools Participation Division and the conference specifically for Foreign Institutions, an update to FSA systems, and a session using COD to successfully process Direct Loans. Please see below a description of the sessions that will be offered for foreign schools during the conference. (**Note:** The sessions designed for the foreign schools will be offered during the conference beginning Tuesday, December 3, 2013. We will not be offering a pre-conference program this year.) Due to a change in the schedule on the first day of the conference, the COD from Origination to Reconciliation session will be on Thursday morning (Day 3).

*Printed conference materials and handouts will **not** be provided on-site at the conference. The materials will be posted on our conference website, and we ask that you print or download to your mobile device any documents that you would like to access during the conference.*

Information about the conference and the registration process is posted on the FSA Training Conference website at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/>. There is no registration fee for this training conference; however, attendees are responsible for their lodging, meals and travel expenses. Registration information for the FSA Training Conference is available at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/registration13.html>. The draft agenda and training session descriptions are available at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/program13.html>. We look forward to seeing and visiting with you at the conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Frola".

Michael J. Frola, Director
Foreign Schools Participation Division

Enclosure: Foreign School Track – Sessions and Descriptions

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

830 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20202

**Sessions for Foreign Schools
FSA Conference
December 3-6, 2013**

FS – Orientation to the Foreign Schools Participation Division and Orientation to the FSA conference

Members of the Department of Education's Foreign Schools Participation Division will provide an overview of its' compliance and oversight functions, including institutional eligibility, compliance audit resolution, program review, financial analysis and method of payment. The session will close with session recommendations and orientation to the 2013 FSA conference.

FS – Medical/ Veterinary/Nursing Programs Update

This session will provide an update on areas specific to administering the Foreign Medical/Veterinary/Nursing programs to include guidance on the latest developments with regards to how and when to obtain USMLE data from the ECFMG, constructing proper clinical agreements, new veterinary eligibility requirements/deadlines and a tour of the new website specific to international schools for students.

FS – Cash Management (G5) & R2T4

The focus of this session will be to provide an update on proper handling of Direct Loan funds and the timing of which they must be requested and disbursed to student accounts. Also, the Return of Title IV funds calculation will be used as a discussion mechanism to describe the outcome as it relates to returning cash to ED or making post withdrawal disbursements to students.

FS – Consumer Information

Consumer information is required of all Title IV eligible institutions and Foreign Schools are also required to provide consumer information to prospective and current U.S. students. This session will describe the required communications and the timeframes upon which it needs to be delivered to students as it relates to Title IV policies and procedures.

FS – Cost Of Attendance (COA)

This session will cover the key concepts of developing institutional Costs of Attendance (COA). Mandatory as well as optional COA components will be discussed. The session will also include information on COA's for different types of programs and students and guidelines for developing Costs of Attendance.

FS - Student and Educational Program Eligibility Updates

This presentation will look at the requirements of written arrangements with institutions to provide a portion of an educational program. The session also discusses internship/externship components of educational programs as they pertain to foreign institutions. The session will also look at changes with student eligibility as it relates to the 150% Subsidized Limitations for undergraduate borrowers and how to handle Unusual Enrollment History (UEH) flags on a student's SAR/ISIR record.

FS – Update on FSA systems

This session will provide an overview of FSA's systems and the order in which Foreign School partners will interact with each system as well as how the systems work together to accomplish the tasks involved in the successful administration of the Direct Loan Program. Recent and upcoming updates to FSA's systems that impact Foreign School partners will be covered.

FS - COD from Start to Finish

The Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system is integral to the processing of Direct Loan records. This session will cover using COD to originate and disburse Direct Loans using the available methods COD offers, as well as identifying and resolving origination and disbursement errors. Reconciliation will also be covered and will identify which reports and financial screens are most useful and beneficial.

FS Question and Answer Session with U.S. Department of Education

This session is to communicate any new guidance to Foreign School partners on topics specific to the FS audience. Ample time will be provided after the update portion of the session for question and answers with FSA subject matter experts.

FS – Ask-A-Fed Desk

Foreign Schools may have questions as a result of participating in Direct Loans or after attending conference sessions that may be specific to their school. The Foreign School Ask-a-Fed Booth will provide an opportunity to ask questions of subject matter experts.