



01 October 2014

Dear International School Partner:

This year the U.S Department of Education (ED) is hosting its annual Federal Student Aid Training Conference at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia from Tuesday December 2 through Friday December 5, 2014. 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 FSA Training Conference will include more than 60 sessions scheduled across four days. More information about the conference and the planned sessions may be found at the below link.

We are pleased to announce there will be a track of sessions designed specifically for our international school partners. The track will be offered during the conference beginning Tuesday, December 2, 2014. An orientation specific to foreign schools will be presented the morning of and prior to the conference Opening General Session. The orientation session will summarize the Foreign Schools track and highlight session topics: awarding of Direct Loans, using COD to successfully process Direct Loans, addressing program integrity issues, and reconciling Direct Loans. The orientation will also suggest conference sessions, in addition to the Foreign Schools track, that complement the topic of processing Direct Loans. A detailed description of the Foreign Schools track sessions is enclosed with this letter. The full conference information is available at the link below.

*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 conference; however, attendees are responsible for their lodging, meals and travel expenses.

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
Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division

Enclosure: Foreign School Track – Sessions and Descriptions

Foreign Schools Session Track

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

830 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20202
StudentAid.gov

FSA Training Conference, December 2-5, 2014

FS – Orientation to the FSA Training Conference and Foreign Schools staff

This session will describe the Foreign Schools track and recommend other sessions that will benefit the Foreign Institution audience. The orientation session will also offer an introduction to the Resource Room representatives with whom the Foreign Schools interact, including COD, FAA Access to CPS Online, and NSLDS. The Foreign Schools Program Compliance Office will provide an introduction to their office's functions.

FS – Awarding Loans

This session will cover the key concepts toward determining Cost of Attendance (COA), Estimated Financial Assistance, and awarding Direct Loans. Information on determining loan amounts for student and parent borrowers will be covered.

FS - Direct Loans and the COD System for Foreign Schools

The Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System is integral to processing Direct Loan awards for U.S. students. This session will highlight originating Direct Loan awards with the Direct Loan Origination Tool and online via the COD Reporting website, tracking accepted and rejected data via the COD Batch screens, and reconciliation tips using COD Reporting Website financial screens and COD generated reports.

FS – Program Integrity

This session will be a potpourri of topics that will assist international schools in successfully understanding and meeting compliance requirements. Information covered will include the compliance audit procedures, types of letters of credit and when an international school will be required to post a letter of credit with the Department, how to resolve ISIRs, including unusual enrollment history, and returning funds through G5 for International schools that do not have a US bank account; beginning January 1, 2015, funds may not be returned via paper checks.

FS – Reconciliation

All institutions that participate in Direct Loans are required to complete reconciliation on a monthly basis. This session will focus on the process to ensure accurate accounting of Direct Loan funds between institutions and the U. S. Department of Education's Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System. The process of reconciliation will be discussed from the perspective of the needed school procedures and documenting the school's efforts.

FS – Medical/ Veterinary/Nursing Programs

This session will offer a review of areas specific to administering the Foreign Medical/Veterinary/Nursing programs to include guidance with regards to obtaining USMLE data from the ECFMG, submitting student level participation data and consumer information, constructing proper clinical agreements, and new veterinary eligibility requirements/deadlines.

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

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 station will provide an opportunity to ask questions of subject matter experts.