

Building Capacity for QA in a Profession where Culture Matters:

**An Examination of How Counselling is
Connecting the Dots between Programs,
Faculty & Students**



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Today's Topics

- Counselling: A Global Need
- IRCEP: Providing Quality Assurance in Counsellor Education & Training
- IRCEP: A Globally-Connected Agency
- Present & Future Challenges



IRCEP

International Registry of
Counsellor Education Programs

When Culture Matters

Challenges

Counselling: A Global Need

- 450 million people with unmet mental health needs
- Leading cause of disability worldwide
- Insufficient number of global mental health professionals

Quality Assurance in Counsellor Education & Training

- Education and training varied
- Quality is contextual
- Recognition of the counselling profession



IRCEP History

- International Registry of Counsellor Education Programs
- An initiative of the CACREP Board of Directors developed in response to requests from counselor education programs outside of U.S. for quality assurance standards and processes
- CACREP Board established the IRCEP steering committee in January 2009
- IRCEP is structured so that it is governed by the steering committee and the committee reports to the CACREP Board of Directors who serve as the ultimate authority in registry decisions

IRCEP Vision

IRCEP will promote the ongoing development and recognition of the counselling profession worldwide through the creation of a registry of approved counsellor education programs that use common professional requirements essential to the education and training of counsellors, regardless of culture, country, region, work setting, or educational system

IRCEP Mission

IRCEP's mission is to

- develop standards that focus on common professional requirements for counsellor education and training programs;
- approve programs meeting the IRCEP standards;
- maintain a registry of approved programs; and
- create networks of counselor educators, students, and practitioners to further develop and promote excellence in counsellor education and training

IRCEP Core Values

IRCEP values

- advancing quality assurance in counsellor education and training worldwide through the creation of standards that reflect the needs of diverse societies and cultures;
- respecting the diversity of instructional approaches and strategies;
- encouraging program improvement and best practices;
- strengthening the public's understanding of counselling worldwide;
- serving as leaders and advocates for the profession of counselling worldwide; and,
- creating networks of counsellor educators, students and practitioners

IRCEP: A Globally-Connected Agency

- Transnational mobility of students for study or employment
- IRCEP Approved Programs in 7 countries & expands across 4 continents
- Interactive community for students, counsellor educators, and practitioners
- Global exchange of research, training methodologies, and cultural awareness



International Scope at the National Level

- Flexible standards that can be adapted to the needs within a specific society
- Common professional requirements that are essential to counsellors regardless
- Establish credibility & increase international visibility
- 25 year vision is to provide a template for countries to develop their own QA agencies that can offer nationally appropriate
- Regional QA networks and mutual recognition that would assist with growing demand for borderless & transnational education



2017 and Beyond: Trends, Challenges & Opportunities

Trends & Challenges:

- International dimension of higher education central to agenda for QA agencies
- Shift towards borderless education and transnational mobility of students and graduates
- QA agencies ability to assure and maintain quality across borders

Opportunities:

- IRCEP provides support for developing and recognizing excellence in counsellor preparation at a global level
- The international network will aid in the establishment of national QA organizations
- Promote cross-border recognition of qualifications

