

Hungary – University of Pécs

Institution	University of Pécs
Interviewed Person	Teacher and recruiter at the Faculty of Education, Pedagogy and Regional Development, University of Pécs
Note on the case study	<i>Only the special section for validation professionals was responded</i>

I – Preparation

The person interviewed is a teacher and recruiter at the Faculty of Education, Pedagogy and Regional Development, University of Pécs – institutional side, Borisz Végvári. The interview took place on 20th September 2017.

SPECIAL SECTION ONLY FOR VALIDATION PROFESSIONALS

VIII – Assessors profile and training needs

Right now there is only one recruiter on the Faculty who runs the validation of prior learning for international students for the Human Relations Consultant MA education program which is the only foreign language education program at the Faculty. He has been a teacher at the Faculty and its legal predecessors for fifteen years. Under the first dean he was responsible for Eastern relations which covered managing both student and teacher exchanges.

Specifically for being a recruiter he did not take part in any training or education. He is an HR expert so he's good in evaluating who is good and who is not. His mother tongue is Russian and speaks fluent English this is why he is responsible for this task at the Faculty. He obtained his first MA diploma in Russian language and literature while his second is a human relations consultant. He gives many HR courses in English including change management, corporation culture and management culture.

He has never thought he deserved additional training for this job, although it would be a great help to get access to a general database which enables the verification of documents of prior learning. For example, if there is an applicant from a university of an African country this database could provide a secure verification. This would be important especially in cases of those countries which languages they do not understand, this would help to find out what are the real contents of these diplomas. The foreign language educational program is quite new at the Faculty, and there was no case when an applicant got in without a BA diploma, although, there were some who met the criteria and received our official invitation but showed up. Once, there was a remarkable applicant who did very well during the skype interview. He was not visible but when he arrived it turned out, the real interviewee was his brother and he lacked knowledge and language skills. Later he had to return home as his father died and he couldn't afford his studies anymore.

Those who just say they have a diploma we are not engaged because they do not meet our administrative criteria.

The admission process in the following: I receive e-mails from applicants, then we arrange a skype interview, an informal one for the first time and during this informal interview the applicant can raise questions regarding the education program and is informed exactly what

documents are needed for the application. After the required documents arrive the applicant receives an interview questionnaire to be able to prepare for the formal admission interview, pays the 100 euros registration fee. Finally, after the official interview the recruiter decides about the admission. Several applicants have already been refused who seemed obviously not interested in the education just wanted to get an invitation letter for enabling to travel to Europe.

If refugees wanted to apply even the way they are already residing in Hungary, he would ask the immigration office first what to do but as this education program is not for free he does not think it is realistic to have refugees as applicants who could afford the education program. However, there are some students with refugee background at the Faculty, one came from Kurdistan (Iraq) and some from Palestine, some who are really underprivileged but they arrived through the Stipendium Hungaricum program and the real bottle-neck is whether they can afford the education program or not.

IX – Policy context

There is no central state support, despite the Stipendium Hungaricum (SH) program which covers four thousand foreign students nationwide. There is an SH coordinator at every Hungarian university. He is in contact with this coordinator but there is no direct monitoring or management, guidance or support happens just in extreme cases. There was only once, when Campus Hungary the predecessor of Stipendium Hungaricum organised a participation for the University of Pécs at a university fair in Moscow. He remembers only this factual example.

He does not know about any political means concentrating on refugees or asylum seekers. This question should be handled on governmental level even in the case of university integration as the lack of documents allows misuse as well. This kind of education is not for free, although quite cheap in regional comparison. The principle of antidiscrimination regulation of SH are general directing forces, so, for example, if someone claims for delay in the education process they follow SH regulation which provides full central orientation about courses and examinations through the Head of Administration of the Faculty.

The university intranet support which covers nearly every administrative process is the main set back of the integration of newcomers. It's very inflexible and needs a lot of restoration. For example, there is a difficulty with the traceability of incoming tuition fees. Furthermore, there is still no clear regulation about personal or unit responsibilities between different faculties and other supportive units of the university. Although, recent centralisation at university level helps a lot.