

Following are responses received from National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) members to the question asked by the Office of Degree Authorization on May 19, 2004, **“Does your agency consider PhD degrees issued by Berne University on St. Kitts to be equivalent to PhD degrees issued by a regionally accredited U.S. institution?”**

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO): “The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is the internationally accepted authority for the recognition of postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth and former Commonwealth countries. The ACU indicates that the only recognized university serving the Nevis and St. Kitts area is the University of the West Indies. Berne University claims accreditation by the Government of St. Kitts; however, we do not recognize such ‘accreditation’, in light of the decision by the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Office (letter dated 4/29/03) in which the US Department of Education declares that Berne University does not meet the criteria as an institution eligible to participate in the federal student loan program and does not meet the criteria as a foreign school to do the same. Therefore, Berne University should be regarded as a non-accredited (by US standards), or a non-recognized (by generally accepted international standards) institution.” – June 17, 2004

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc: “In our judgment, a public Tertiary Educational institution operating in another country has the equivalent of regional accreditation in the United States when it has received official degree-granting recognition from the authorities who supervise tertiary education in that country after having met the requirements set forth for public tertiary educational institutions in that country.

“In our judgment, a private tertiary educational institution operating in another country has the equivalent of regional accreditation in the United States when it has received official degree-granting recognition from the authorities who supervise tertiary education in that country after having met the requirements set for public tertiary educational institutions in that country.

“If a country has no public tertiary educational institutions, then de facto there are no requirements set for public tertiary educational institutions that private tertiary educational institutions can meet, and in our judgment no private tertiary educational institution in that country has the equivalent of regional accreditation in the United States.

“There are no public universities in St. Kitts. Therefore, in our judgment, Berne University is the equivalent to an institution in the United States that does not have regional accreditation. Consequently, we do not recommend acceptance of its courses and degrees.” – June 4, 2004

Educational Evaluators International: “Our organization does NOT recognize studies that are completed at Berne University on St. Kitts.” – May 24, 2004

Education International: “We do not evaluate their degrees.” – May 28, 2004

Educational Perspectives: “We do not.”

Educational Records Evaluation Service: “Educational Records Evaluation Service does not recognize the Berne University degree as equivalent to a Ph.D. degree issued by a nationally accredited university in the United States.” – May 25, 2004

Evaluation Service, Inc.: “We do not evaluate degrees from Berne, Ph.D.’s or others. We stay away from the hassle.”

Foundation for International Services: “We consider Berne University to be equivalent to those which do not have regional accreditation. Berne does not meet the standards of GAAP, Generally Accepted Accreditation Principles, and were denied certification by the U.S. Department of Education.” – May 25, 2004

International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.: “IDC declines to evaluate documents from Berne University on St. Kitts. Our benchmark for evaluation is equivalency to a regionally accredited US university, and since we have serious concerns with their accreditation/recognition status, we couldn’t say with confidence that such equivalency exists.” – June 9, 2004