

International Student and Intern Issues

NDEP Roundtable Discussions at FNCE

October 22, 2018

Pre-FNCE Questions/Comments/Issues

- * What to do about barriers to providing experiences to International Students”
 - How about the perception by some educators (anecdotally) that students who speak English as a second language might struggle more persistently on the RD exam? I have heard this hypothesis discussed in many dietetics circles and I believe it needs to be explored more thoroughly.
- Regarding international students: I have had two recently who will not clear background checks and some of our facilities. I then need to scramble to find them another site and this disrupts everything and everyone. I am at the point I discourage international students from applying and I explain the problems I have had. On a similar note, we have many international students who expect our DPND to just verify them with no coursework. We absolutely refuse to do this and have a minimum set of courses that any transfer student needs to take to be verified by us. When students hear this they get angry with us. Guidance on this issue would be helpful.

On-Site Table Questions/Issues/Concerns

1. What support does AND have for credentialed international students?
2. Does AND have support to find employment? Or, rather, how are foreign credentials related to Dietetics/Nutrition screened?
3. Preceptors demand excellent oral and written skills
4. Application is more important than memorization ... critical thinking is required
5. Time/efficiency are critical skills
6. Certain sites will not allow international students to be badged in
7. Upon completion, they can't get sponsored
8. International students will ask us to verify employment information for a visa
9. English language issues = big concern
10. Gaining employment = big concern
11. Training for preceptors/supervisors to increase their confidence in managing is needed
12. Need better knowledge of international students in food products

International Student and Intern Issues

NDEP Roundtable Discussions at FNCE

October 22, 2018

13. Some concerns include:
 - Program STEM designation
 - Preceptors not wanting international students
 - International student learning is different from US colleges' memorize vs. synthesize
 - Sponsorship once for graduate and RD
 - Allowing international students to do supervised practice hours internationally
14. Preceptors' reluctance in taking students with language barriers
15. Students need lots of money to attend school
16. Job placement

Discussion Notes

1. Many students do want the opportunity to travel outside US
2. Preceptors are volunteers – they demand excellence in oral and written skills, and they will not take a student with any type of barrier
3. Some international students have great written skills, but take too long in oral interactions with patients and take too long to document information
4. Unable to decipher/adjust/adapt the “script” to cater to each patient on an individual level - i.e. they will go in with a list of questions from the RD, but can't adapt (example: for a patient on TPN, the intern asked “how is your appetite?”) ... critical thinking skills are lacking
5. Differences in cultural politeness
6. Students will only memorize without practicality
7. 2nd round ISPP should look at low GPAs (such as 2.4) – need people who have time to give them extra attention
8. International students will spend more than 1200 hours in supervised practice, up to 600 hours more (i.e. Pepperdine)
9. Many international students will finish, but can't get hired
10. STEM graduates only get a 1 year designation to stay in the country – several designations related to dietetics and food science (federal designation)

International Student and Intern Issues

NDEP Roundtable Discussions at FNCE

October 22, 2018

11. Implement a university fee to look over/review applications, coursework/transcripts for possible application to DI – a Nutrition Enhancement Fund (go through university legal)
12. Grid created on program website with equivalencies, but **student** must fill out an Excel spreadsheet with grades, date taken, equivalencies, transcripts
13. Affiliation agreements with international sites – director goes with student but your program must have an established program in that country in order for the student to be able to go