System of Information Consultation and Verification Service for China Higher Education Students

Presenter: Ning Xiaohua
Vice Director

China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC)

Higher Education in China

- Regular HE
- Adult HE
- Web-based HE
- Self-taught

- Doctor
- Master
- Bachelor/benke
- HVE/zhuanke

- 4 programs
- 4 levels
- 2 systems
- 4 national exams

- Master’s Entrance Exams
- NCEE
- Adult NCEE
- Self-taught Exams

- HEQC system (Graduation Certificate/Diploma)
- Degree system

Benke including the second Bachelor and update HVE to undergraduate
What is HEQC

Higher Education Qualification Certificates (HEQCs)

- Qualification certificate system and degree certificate system are two different systems in higher education in China
- HEQC is also known as ‘Diploma’ or Graduation Diploma/Certificate
- Are state-recognized evidence of their holders higher education experiences
- The qualification level refers to a person’s experiences of formal educational training and the level of the institution where he/she had studied
  - Primary Education level
  - Secondary Education level
  - Higher Education level
- Qualifications are recorded in personal archives and connected to compensation in China
Qualification Certificates vs Degree Certificates

- HEQC System was setup in 1950
- Degree System was setup in 1981
- Normally students are awarded both HEQCs and degrees after completing Bachelor, Master or Doctor degree level study successfully
- The Degree is an academic award and can be obtained without obtaining a HEQC
- A HEQC holder does not always hold a degree award
- Higher Vocational Education (‘Zhuanke’) level programmes do not lead to degree awards
Qualification Certificates vs Degree Certificates

Student information published by MOE every year is based on qualifications.

- 10.96 million people received higher education qualifications in 2012 while 3.6 million got degrees, about 1/3 of qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students of Formal Education of All Types and Levels</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Intakes</th>
<th>Total In-school Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>一、高等教育 Higher Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(一)研究生 Postgraduates</td>
<td>429994</td>
<td>560168</td>
<td>1645845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>博士 Doctor’s Degree</td>
<td>60229</td>
<td>68592</td>
<td>271261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>硕士 Master’s Degree</td>
<td>378760</td>
<td>494099</td>
<td>1374584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(二)非普通本科 Undergraduates in Regular HEIs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本科 Normal Courses</td>
<td>2796229</td>
<td>3686411</td>
<td>1399657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>专科 Short-cycle Courses</td>
<td>3285320</td>
<td>4285986</td>
<td>9588501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(三)成人本科 Undergraduates in Adult HEIs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本科 Normal Courses</td>
<td>1906640</td>
<td>2195141</td>
<td>5474862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>专科 Short-cycle Courses</td>
<td>766402</td>
<td>897241</td>
<td>2336132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(四)其他各类高等教育 Students Enrolled in Other Formal Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 在职人员攻读硕士学位 Master’s Degree Programs for on-the-job personnel</td>
<td>130061</td>
<td>161983</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 在职本专科生 Web-based Undergraduates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本科 Normal Courses</td>
<td>1209253</td>
<td>1871510</td>
<td>4024333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>专科 Short-cycle Courses</td>
<td>460149</td>
<td>6435913</td>
<td>1764760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>专科 Short-cycle Courses</td>
<td>83904</td>
<td>1227128</td>
<td>3170173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Types and Classifications of HEQC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HVE Diploma (zhuanke)</th>
<th>Undergraduate Diploma</th>
<th>Master Diploma</th>
<th>Doctor Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Higher Education</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Higher Education</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self Taught Exams</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web-based education</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study duration</strong></td>
<td>2 or 3 years</td>
<td>4 or 5 years</td>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
<td>3 to 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

undergraduate study in a short-cycle (HVE or zhuanke)
undergraduate study in a long-cycle (benke)
Three Verification Organizations under MOE

- **CHESICC**: Verification of study records and qualifications awarded by higher education institutions in China
- **CGDGC**: Verification of degrees awarded by higher education institutions in China
- **CSCSE**: Verification of degrees awarded by higher education institutions overseas

Qualification enquiry and verification on MOE official website are links to CHSI website run by CHESICCC

http://www.moe.gov.cn
21 July 2004, The China Higher Education Student Information Website [www.chsi.com.cn] is the only website for inquiries about Chinese higher education qualification certificates.
Registration process of student record and qualifications

Provincial Enrollment Organizations

- Enrollment Management
  - Graduate program
  - Undergraduate program
  - Adult program
  - Web-based program
  - Self-taught program

Entry
- Freshmen registration

At school
- Academic year registration

Graduate
- Qualification Registration

Student record and qualification management department of higher education institution
E-registration of student record and qualification

All higher education institutions: all kinds of colleges and universities with qualification programs

All students: all the students with recognized qualification

All categories: regular, adult, Web-based and self-taught

All programs: higher vocational education (zhuanke), undergraduate (benke), master and doctorate programs

Process management: from school entry, and study at school to graduation

Online enquiry: conditional access to online enquiry of higher education institution and students
Database of Student Information

- Database of 720 million pieces
- Increase by 100 million pieces
- Differ in the starting year but cover the entire nation
106 million pieces since 1991
increase by 10 million pieces every year
Objectives

**Initial period:** crack down on fake certificate and maintain justice

**Current period:** open information, better service and enhanced supervision to meet requirements of information service with more functions

**Next period:** data mining to provide better service and support policy making
Verification System for HEQC and Student Record

Online Enquiry

- Online Verification
- Qualification Verification (paper)
Online Enquiry

One-time verification and cannot be used repeatedly. CHSI provides study record and qualification enquiry in different forms:

- **Self-enquiry:** inquiry into their own qualification or study record at no cost by 10 million students.
- **Individual enquiry:** online qualification enquiry by text payment.
- **Member enquiry:** online qualification enquiry by registered members.
- **Group enquiry:** enquiry into a group of people.
- **Special enquiry (data exchange XML/Web service):**
  - Bank credit system
  - Exam application system
  - High requirements on system stability and data accuracy.
Online Verification of Qualification

- Repeated verification within the valid period.
- Application for online verification report (of qualification and study record) by students.
- One-month default valid period for the report, can be extended.
- Unlimited free review and download within the valid period.
- Anti-counterfeiting: online verification + Guilloche pattern
- Multiple versions: Print, PDF, email (Html+PDF)
- Features: easy application, low cost, flexible usage and convenient verification.
- Online verification report of qualification is available in both Chinese and English, easy for overseas use.
- Build a English and Chinese match database for higher educational institutions and majors to address Chinese name and pinyin.
Du Yubo, vice-minister of MOE, and Lin Huiqing, assistant minister of MOE present at CHSI’s 10 university activity to launch system in foreign languages.

Barcode can be pasted in a resume.
Qualification Verification (paper)

- Free online verification for good, paper anti-counterfeiting report, which can be files.
- CHESICC is Only-authorized verification organization, and 35 agencies using the same platform, process and report.
- Verification for both diploma authenticity and legitimacy of obtaining process.
- Qualification certificates awarded any time (including certificates before 1991). Earliest certificated ever verified was issued in 1954.
- Scope: in addition to HEQC, the followings:
  - Study record and scores at higher education institutions.
  - Qualification of high school and scores in NCEE.
  - Verification reports in both Chinese and English.
Uniform HEQC verification process

Every agency needs to use "HEQC verification online office system"

Entire process management from "application, preliminary review, second review, printing to online report"
Qualification Verification (paper)

Uniform HEQC verification report

Qualification Verification (paper)

Verification Report for Scores in NCEE

Report(paper+PDF)  Report(english+PDF)
The verification report can be verified on CHSI website as many times as you like.
NCEE in China

- NCEE is the largest-scale exam. Number of applicants is decreasing: 10.6 million in 2008, 9.23 million in 2012, 8 million estimated in 2017. Competition for good students is intensifying.
- Enrollment rate is increasing every year.

**Estimated Amount of NCEE**

[Graph showing the trend of NCEE applicants from 1990 to 2008]
NCEE in China

- The fairest exam with the most attention from government and the public.
  The public call for NCEE reform to ensure equal opportunities and reduce burden on students.

- NCEE scores are the most important criteria for colleges to evaluate and recruit students in China.
NCEE informatization

- All applications and enrollments are done by network and managed by provincial exam institutions.
- Application are now filed after scores are out rather than before exam in the past.
- One-time application filing changed to separate applications for different rounds. Benke: 4 rounds; Zhuanke(HVE): 2-4 rounds. Invite applications for openings in each round.
- Recruitment publicity and enquiry:
  - CHESICC started online NCEE enquiry week in 2003 during SARS breakout and continued to do it for the next 10 years.
  - Internet has become the key channel. Gaokao platform provides comprehensive recruitment information enquiry and becomes a major publicity channel too. Provincial exam institutions and college websites also offers some information service.
  - Apart from “Open Day”, colleges rarely hold any big-scale on-site enquiry activity.

Information technology optimizes NCEE process, brings convenience to applicants and colleges and ensure justice.
CHESICC’s Role for NCEE

Platform http://gaokao.chsi.com.cn

All HEIs (2400) and their majors
Establish the nation-wide information service platform to disclose information and accept public supervision.
Help applicants to choose college and major

Service in three aspects: college + major + previous scores

- College database: detailed introduction of 2,400 colleges and universities
- Major database: detailed introduction of majors provided by each college
- Previous scores: admission scores for each college and major in recent 3 years

Data are connected to facilitate information search; online enquiry week activities are carried out in 3 stages every year in which applicants can talk with colleges online.
Help applicants to choose college and major

Gaokao Paltform Provide featured services based on data mining.

- Satisfaction rate for colleges and universities
- Strong major recommendation comments made by students at that school, highly relevant and well accepted by applicants.
CHESICC’s Role for Graduate School Enrollment

Platform http://yz.chsi.com.cn

- Publish information of colleges and update college database
- Enquiry of all majors provided by colleges
- Organize online enquiry
- Online application and exam certificate download
- Review qualifications of applicants and decline applicants who fail in the review
- Exams organized and scores collected by provincial institutions
- Online reassignment on the platform directly by colleges

Postgraduate platform covers all applicants, graduate schools, provincial exam institutions and application outlets.
CHESICC’s Role for Graduate School Enrollment

Platform http://yz.chsi.com.cn

Provincial Enrollment Organizations

Scores
Enrollment

Management

Service

Enrollment instruction
Major introduction
Enrollment plan
Online redistribution
...

Enquiry
Registration
Consultation
Supplementary application

Applicants

Uniform registration
840 HEIs
530 registration outlets
31 provincial enrollment institutions
Entire process coverage

HEIs
CHESICCC’s Role for Graduate School Enrollment

1.65 million applicants for postgraduate (Master) program in 2012 with an enrollment rate of 32%.
1.55 million applicants reassigned online in 2012. Easy to find out which schools and majors do not have enough applicants. Schools send interview notices to applicants on the platform and the platform sends text messages to remind applicants.
Issues about study abroad

- Lack of high-quality educational resources in China and higher family income, leading to more people to study abroad.
  - Not attending NCEEE: a few good students take SAT and get admitted by foreign colleges.
  - Attending NCEEE: scores achieved in the exam are not high enough to go to expected colleges.
- Media reports cheating in scores and application materials. But it is not an issue for colleges and universities in China.
- China differs from foreign countries in enrollment systems. Students or agencies should not take all the blame.
- Blind selection of school and majors leads to unemployment or low salary.
What should foreign colleges do?

- Foreign colleges should consider the different enrollment system in China and borrow some local models.
- College enrollment is government dominated rather than market-oriented. Therefore no agency is allowed for student admission in China.
- Foreign colleges need to trust and use the Chinese way of recruiting students.
  - **NCEE scores**: use NCEE scores to evaluate students’ learning ability. The most authoritative exam, used in China for more than 30 years. The most reliable, comparable system and can be verified and recognized by a third party.
  - **Publicity channel**: send accurate recruitment information via the main channel. International education exhibition / CHSI Gaokao platform.
  - **Supervision**: strong government supervision and weak market force.
  - **Creditability**: applicants trust professional institutions run the government more.

HK and Macau have recruited many good students by localized recruitment method and high scholarship.
Taiwan also recruits students from Mainland and use NCEE scores. Some overseas colleges use NCEE scores and refer to the 4 rounds of enrollment.
What is CHESICCC going to do

Strengthen cooperation with foreign colleges and institutions to better leverage our resources and platform.

- Applicants with NCEE scores:
  - Verify NCEE scores;
  - Evaluate NCEE scores or refer to 4 enrollment rounds or admission scores of Chinese counterparts;
  - CHESICCC will focus on these services this year.

---

**Distribution model of NECC scores**

- Identify where a score stands at
- Compare scores between different provinces and subjects
What is CHESICC going to do

- Applicants for graduate schools abroad: we can provide a wide range of services.
  - verification of qualification, study record and scores of undergraduate program.
  - assessment of the school and major.
- Strengthen international communication and cooperation.
  - Learn about the difference, demand and model to narrow the gap in understanding each other.
  - Enhance cooperation to start with something simple and then go deeper and broader.
Informatization remarkably improves education credit system

- All kinds of Exams (NCEE, adult NCEE, self-taught exams, postgraduate exam, bar exam, CPA, public servant exam, etc.); Student Loans; Credit Cards; Job Application; Overseas Study, etc.; when CSCSE conducts overseas degree verification, it also requires verification of qualifications acquired before study abroad provided by our online verification report or paper report.
- Use IT and database advantages and deploy them in a broader field to crack down on fake qualifications.
  - Data review can solve most qualification issues.
  - When data review fails, manual review can be utilized.
- Information service become more standardized, fairer, convenient and cheaper to be better understood and accepted.
Informatization remarkably improves education credit system

- Over 70 million data reviews and online enquiries in 2012.
- Nearly 3 million online verification reports in 2012 (up 50%).
- Stable grow for paper verification reports in 2012.
  - Percentage of fake or unrecognized qualifications has dropped dramatically in the recent 10 years.
  - Education credit system has improved considerably and qualification cheating problem has been addressed for all kinds of admission.
  - Education background report will be launched this year and integrate a few pieces of qualification information in one report.

![Graph showing percentage decline from 2002 to 2011]
CHESICC informatization

- Play a leading role in education informatization.
- Remarkable changes have taken place in enrollment and student management for colleges in China and their management system becomes more standardized and professional.
- Crack down on fake qualifications, regulate education programs, maintain justice and fairness, drive the development of education credit system and set up a milestone in the history of higher education in China.
- Continue to promote international cooperation and play a bigger role in education internationalization.