

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, Pasig, Metro Manila

September 12, 1994

CHED ORDER NO. 2, S. 1994

To: Heads of State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

**RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 188**

1. Enclosed is a copy of the Rules and Regulations to implement Executive Order No. 188 entitled, "Guidelines on the Entry and Stay of Foreign Students in the Philippines and the Establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee for the Purpose", for the guidance of all concerned.
2. Strict compliance therewith is requested.

(SGD.) RICARDO T. GLORIA
Chairman

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**Rules and Regulations to Implement Executive Order
No. 188, "Guidelines on the Entry and Stay of
Foreign Students in the Philippines
and the Establishment of an
Inter-Agency Committee
for the Purpose"**

1. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 188 dated July 13, 1994 entitled "GUIDELINES ON THE ENTRY AND STAY OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE", these Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated to implement the specified policies and procedures.
2. It is the policy of the government to promote the Philippines as a Center for education in the Asia Pacific region by encouraging foreign students to study in the Philippines, developing awareness of the Philippine educational system by neighboring countries, and allowing duly accepted foreign students to avail themselves of the facilities of the Philippine educational institutions.
3. Foreign students are aliens belonging or owing allegiance to a country other than the Philippines who will study in any educational institution recognized by the government of the Philippines, to include researchers, trainees, grantees, scholars, and other similar categories, who will conduct research work in any other government/private department or agency, or who will study in any special training institution or center in the country.
4. Any Philippine school whose programs are recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and approved for admission of foreign students by the Commission

on Immigration in accordance with Section 9-f of Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 118, 135, 144, 503, 749 and 827, is hereby authorized to accept foreign students.

5. Such schools may launch information campaigns to solicit and receive application directly from prospective foreign students. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Tourism have been designated to assist the schools for this purpose.

6. Once the applicant is accepted for admission, the school may forward to the applicant the appropriate Notice of Acceptance to the course of study applied for. However, the school may be required to obtain in advance an appropriate Certificate of Eligibility for Admission (CEA) from the CHED for certain courses of study, such as in medicine and in nursing, where restrictions may exist on the enrollment of foreign students due to a shortage of facilities. Once issued, the CEA shall remain valid for the duration of the course of study, provided the student attends his classes and continues to receive satisfactory grades. A list of such courses of studies which have been pre-determined as quota courses shall be regularly published by the CHED in consultation with the different Technical Panels concerned.

7. The CHED shall provide all schools with comparative equivalences for the major foreign educational systems, and should any question concerning equivalences arise, the school concerned shall secure the comments of the CHED before accepting a foreign student for enrollment.

8. Enrollment in any level shall require completion of the lower pre-requisite level. For example, an applicant for the tertiary or collegiate level should be a graduate of high school or its equivalent.

9. Elementary, secondary and tertiary enrollment in Philippine schools by the spouses and children of the following categories will be treated on the same basis as Philippine nationals: (a) permanent foreign students, (b) aliens with valid working permits, (c) foreign diplomat personnel, and (d) personnel from duly accredited international organizations residing in the Philippines, and (e) holders of Special Investor's Resident Visa (SIRV) and Special Retiree's Resident Visa (SRRV).

10. Issuance of Student Visas. (Section 9 f of the PIA of 1940, as amended)

The procedure and documentation for the issuance of student visa shall be kept to a minimum. The applicants for student visa shall submit the following documents to the Philippine Foreign Service Establishments (PFSE) located in the country of their residence:

- (a) A copy of the Notice of Acceptance from a Philippine school and where applicable, a copy of the Certificate of Eligibility for Admission (CEA);
- (b) Documentary proof of support to cover expenses incidental to their studies, such as board and lodging as well as return air tickets;
- (c) Authenticated scholastic records;
- (d) Authenticated Police Clearance Certificate from the applicant's country of origin or residence;
- (e) Results of medical examinations conducted by an authorized physician; and
- (f) Other documents that may be required in the individual case by the Consular Officer, provided that it shall not be the task of the PFSE to determine the applicants' scholastic fitness for the program applied for. If all documentary requirements are in order, the PFSE concerned shall issue a student visa.

11. Arrival and Stay in the Philippines.

- (a) The process for duly authorized foreign students to enter and stay in the Philippines, including the issuance of the Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR), shall be facilitated. The student's authorized period of stay shall be consistent with the length of the course of study to which he has been accepted by a Philippine School.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the individual school in which the foreign student is enrolled to report promptly at the close of each enrollment period, to the Bureau of Immigration, those foreign students who have been accepted by the school but who failed to register, either for the first time or for subsequent terms. Similarly, the individual school shall also report promptly after the end of each term, those students who were absent from the final examinations for the term.
- (c) Appropriate arrangements shall be made by the agencies concerned for foreigners who are already in the Philippines under other valid

visa arrangements, to facilitate their conversion into student visas, provided all the relevant prerequisites listed herein are complied with.

12. Security Matters.

- (a) The appropriate authorities may check whenever necessary the activities of foreign students brought to its attention, whose activities appear to be inimical to the security of the state. They shall be responsible for the apprehension of foreign students not complying with Philippine Immigration laws and regulations. For instance, a report that a foreign student is under employment shall be immediately forwarded to the Bureau of Immigration as basis for the cancellation of the foreign student's entry permit and for initiation of deportation proceedings.
- (b) Those agencies charged with the maintenance of internal security shall undertake steps necessary to safeguard national security interests, without in any way further encumbering the process of application, visa issuance, and entry authorization of foreign students in the Philippines.

13. For records purposes and for the regular updating of the statistics on foreign students, the schools shall submit the list and student profile of all foreign students enrolled in their respective schools on a semestral or trimester basis, as the case may be.

14. Establishment and Composition of the Committee on Foreign Students. There is hereby created an Inter-Agency Committee on Foreign Students herein referred to as the Committee, which shall have the following members pursuant to E.O. 188 and in the light of the law creating the Commission on Higher Education (RA 7722):

Commission on Higher Education	- Chairman
Department of Foreign Affairs	- Co-Chairman
Department of Education, Culture & Sports	- Member
Bureau of Immigration	- Member
National Bureau of Investigation	- Member
National Intelligence Coordinating Agency	- Member

Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee. The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Promulgate simplified procedures and implementing guidelines governing the entry

and stay of foreign students in the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of these rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity thereof;

- (b) Monitor and coordinate the implementation of these rules and regulations by the departments and agencies concerned;
- (c) Meet regularly to assess the progress of the whole program; to ensure that the promotion of the Philippines as a center for education in the region is effectively encouraged and undertaken; and
- (d) Request representatives from other agencies and/or the private sector to attend its meetings, when it deems necessary and proper.

(SGD.) RICARDO T. GLORIA
Chairman