

September 2015

Language School Associations endorse the ‘London Statement’

Representatives of 19 language school associations and other related bodies from across the world met in London on 4 September to discuss matters of common interest.

One matter for discussion was the ongoing global dialogue on the important role played by education agencies in supporting students seeking to travel to another country for the purpose of language study.

Attendees discussed a joint statement of principles for ethical international student recruitment, known as the ‘London Statement’, which was issued by education officials from the UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand in 2012, following talks in London in March 2012 hosted by the British Council.

GAELA members agreed that the ‘London Statement’ provided a valuable platform to inform their discussions regarding effective partnerships between language schools and agencies, and endorsed the principles espoused in the London Statement, namely:

- *Agents and consultants practice responsible business ethics.*
- *Agents and consultants provide current, accurate and honest information in an ethical manner*
- *Agents and consultants develop transparent business relationships with students and providers through the use of written agreements*
- *Agents and consultants protect the interests of minors.*
- *Agents and consultants provide current and up-to-date information that enables international students to make informed choices when selecting which agent or consultant to employ.*
- *Agents and consultants act professionally.*
- *Agents and consultants work with destination countries and providers to raise ethical standards and best practice.*

About GAELA

GAELA (the Global Alliance of Education and Language Associations) was formed in 2000. GAELA Associations represent quality language providers in Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States of America as well as other countries represented by associations with international membership.

Key stakeholders including accreditation and quality assurance bodies also attend GAELA meetings to discuss matters of common interest across the language teaching industry.

For more information: www.gaela.org

About the ‘London Statement’

Education officials from the UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand issued a joint statement of principles for ethical international student recruitment in early 2012.

The London Statement stresses the need for professionalism and ethical responsibility on the part of the commission-based agents who help many schools, colleges and universities to recruit international students.

The London Statement sets out seven principles that agents will be urged to adhere to, in an effort to ensure they practise responsible business ethics, providing current, accurate and honest information to prospective students so they can make informed choices.

It says that agents’ business dealings should be made transparent through written agreements, and they should work with destination countries and higher education providers to help raise ethical standards and best practice.

Underpinning these principles is an ethical framework that also lays great stress on professionalism, integrity, objectivity, transparency and confidentiality.

The countries that participated will each work towards implementing the principles with the agents that they use and share information about their efforts at another international forum in 2013. In terms of how the countries will implement the principles, this will be decided by each country but is likely to be incorporated into training and communications with agents.

For more information:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/press/landmark-international-code-ethics-education-agents>

National Associations



AEPLE
(Portuguese in Portugal)



ASILS
(Italian in Italy)



Education South Africa
(English in South Africa)



English Australia
(English in Australia)



English New Zealand
(English in New Zealand)



English UK
(English in the UK)



English USA
(English in the USA)



FEDELE
(Spanish in Spain)



FELTOM
(English in Malta)



Groupement FLE
(French in France)



Italian in Italy
(Italian in Italy)



Languages Canada
(English & French in Canada)



MEI
(English in Ireland)



Souffle
(French in France)

International Associations



Accreditation / Quality Assurance Bodies



ABLS Accreditation
(UK)



ACCET
(USA)



Accreditation UK
(British Council/English UK)
(UK)



CEA
(USA)



FELTOM
(Malta)



NEAS
(International)