Private Education Act 2009 and EduTrust Certification

The Private Education Act was gazetted in October 2009 to provide a regulatory framework to promote best practices in the development and to raising quality standards of Private Education Institutions (PEI) in Singapore. The Committee for Private Education a part of SkillsFuture Singapore was appointed to regulate and provide new measures for best practices to raise quality standards in private education. SkillsFuture Singapore is a statutory board under the Ministry of Education since 3 October 2016.

Enhanced Registration Scheme
The Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) as legislated under the PEI Act required private institutions to register with the Committee of Private Education (CPE) while EduTrust certification is a voluntary quality assurance scheme. Under the ERF, Private Education Institutions are required to comply with legal requirements stipulated under the Act pertaining to courses, managers, teachers, premises, advertisements and disclosure of information. All courses offered by Dulwich College (Singapore) are registered with CPE (Registration No. 201027137D).

EduTrust Certification Scheme
EduTrust Certification Scheme (EduTrust) is a voluntary quality assurance scheme administered by CPE for PEIs in Singapore. It aims to recognise PEIs that are able to consistently maintain high standards in key areas of management and in the provision of education services.

EduTrust assesses PEIs against six criteria which cover management commitment and responsibilities, corporate governance and administration, external recruitment agents, student protection and support services, academic processes and assessment of students and quality assurance, monitoring and results.

A private education institution is awarded EduTrust certification if it has achieved the stipulated standards by meeting the 6 criteria in the areas of:

1 Management Commitment and Responsibilities
This criterion examines a PEI’s leadership system, its commitment to achieve its vision and how responsibilities are spelt out to ensure that its vision and mission would be met.

2 Corporate Governance and Administration
This criterion examines how the PEI manages its operations and resources effectively and efficiently to meet its vision and mission. In addition, it examines how the PEI
manages its partnerships to value-add to its students’ education experience. This criterion also examines how a PEI ensures that the information it disseminates is accurate, and also how it ensures privacy of the information it holds. The process the PEI manages feedback and complaints in order to improve its services to students and staff is also examined here.

3 External Recruitment Agents
This criterion examines how a PEI selects, manages and monitors its local and overseas external recruitment agents effectively to ensure that the agents continue to deliver quality service, and not engage in any misrepresentation and unethical practices.

4 Student Protection and Support Services
This criterion examines how the PEI provides student protection through the fee protection scheme, the student contract, and the refund and transfer/withdrawal processes. It also examines the PEI’s student support services and how they enhance student welfare.

5 Academic Processes and Assessment of Students
This criterion examines how a PEI sets up processes and oversees the academic quality and rigour of its courses. It also examines how a PEI monitors the progress of its students through the most appropriate modes of assessment to achieve the course outcomes. The PEI will also be assessed on its system to select and recruit the most appropriate academic staff to deliver the courses to achieve its learning outcomes.

6 Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Results
This criterion examines the effectiveness of the systems and processes a PEI have in place to meet quality assurance requirements for continual improvement.

The implementation of EduTrust helps to distinguish higher quality educational institutions in Singapore’s private education industry. Additionally, Private Education Institutions (PEIs) need to be EduTrust certified before being able to offer placement for international students who require Student Passes from the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

Dulwich College (Singapore) was awarded a 4 year certification valid through 26 October 2015 to 25 October 2019.

For further information, please visit the Committee for Private Education a part of Skills Future Singapore website at www.cpe.gov.sg