U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Non-Precedent Decision of the Administrative Appeals Office

MATTER OF E- LLP

DATE: SEPT. 15, 2017

APPEAL OF NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER DECISION

PETITION: FORM I-140, IMMIGRANT PETITION FOR ALIEN WORKER

The Petitioner, an accounting firm, seeks to employ the Beneficiary as a risk advisory manager. It requests classification of the Beneficiary as a member of the professions holding an advanced degree under the second preference immigrant classification. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) section 203(b)(2), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2). This employment-based immigrant classification allows a U.S. employer to sponsor a professional with an advanced degree for lawful permanent resident status.

The Director of the Nebraska Service Center denied the petition, concluding that the record did not establish that the Beneficiary possessed the minimum educational requirements to qualify for the offered position under the terms of the labor certification and for classification as an advanced degree professional.

On appeal the Petitioner submits additional evidence and asserts that the Beneficiary has the requisite education to qualify for the offered position and for classification as an advanced degree professional.

Upon *de novo* review, we will sustain the appeal.

The Petitioner's Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, was accompanied by an ETA Form 9089, Application for Permanent Employment Certification (labor certification). The labor certification states that the offered position requires an individual with a bachelor's degree and five years of experience, or a master's degree and four years of experience.

The record includes the following evidence of the Beneficiary's education:

- A degree certificate and transcripts showing that the Beneficiary was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce from the [redacted] in India, following the completion of a three-year degree program.
- A diploma and transcripts showing that the Beneficiary was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Management from the [redacted] India, following the completion of a two-year academic program.

In denying the petition, the Director concluded that the Beneficiary's PGD is not equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.

On appeal, the Petitioner correctly points out that the Educational Database for Global Education (EDGE), created by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), states that a PGD program recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) following a three-year bachelor's degree in India is the foreign equivalent of a U.S. baccalaureate degree.

We consider EDGE to be a reliable, peer-reviewed source of information about foreign degree equivalencies.[1] According to EDGE, a PGD following a three-year bachelor's degree represents "a level of education comparable to a bachelor's degree in the United States."

The Petitioner also submits three equivalency evaluations of the Beneficiary's educational credentials – from of of and of – as evidence that the Beneficiary's two-year PGD following his three-year bachelor's degree is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. All three evaluations assert that the Beneficiary's PGD, as the capstone of his post-secondary studies, is equivalent to a bachelor's degree in business administration, with a concentration in information technology and finance, from a U.S. college or university. The Petitioner claims that these equivalency evaluations are consistent with the EDGE credential advice.

Taking into consideration the findings of EDGE, the submitted credentials evaluations, and the fact that the is an AICTE-recognized, degree-issuing institution of higher education, we conclude that the Beneficiary's PGD is a foreign equivalent degree to a U.S. bachelor's degree.

In summary, the Petitioner has established that the Beneficiary's PGD is a foreign degree that is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. Therefore, we conclude that the Beneficiary meets the requirements of the labor certification and the requested advance degree professional classification.

III. CONCLUSION

The Beneficiary possesses the required baccalaureate degree for classification as an advanced degree professional and to meet the minimum educational requirements of the labor certification.

[1] AACRAO is described on its website as "a nonprofit, voluntary, professional association of more than 11,000 higher education admissions and registration professionals who represent more than 2,600 institutions and agencies in the United States and in over 40 countries." AACRAO, http://www.aacrao.org/about (last accessed September 12, 2017). "Its mission is to provide professional development, guidelines, and voluntary standards to be used by higher education officials regarding the best practices in records management, admissions, enrollment management, administrative information technology, and student services." *Id.* EDGE is "a valuable resource for evaluating educational credentials earned in foreign systems." AACRAO EDGE, http://aacrao.org/aacrao-solutions/aacrao-international/aacrao-edge/edge (last accessed September 12, 2017).

Accordingly, we will sustain the appeal.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained.

Cite as *Matter of E- LLP*, ID# 558263 (AAO Sept. 15, 2017)