

# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE



# **GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE**



## **A FREE, OPEN AND STANDARDIZED ONLINE DIRECTORY OF INSTITUTION CODES & IDENTIFIERS**

**FOR USE BY  
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND  
STAKEHOLDERS WORLDWIDE**

# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

## *Global Institution Code* is the principal project of PESC's Global Data Mobility User Group.

*Global Institution Code* operates as a Workgroup and participation in Workgroup meetings is encouraged and open to representatives of PESC Member organizations.

### ➤ *Workgroup Co-Chairs*

**W. Matthew Bemis**, Associate Registrar, University of Southern California

**James Kelly**, Senior Director of Technology, ECE

**Dave Landry**, Director of Data Exchange Services, National Student Clearinghouse

**Rick Skeel**, Director of Product Management, Ellucian

### ➤ *Workgroup Participant Organizations*

AACRAO

AcademyOne

ApplyAlberta

Arizona State University

Bardic Systems

Brigham Young University

California Community Colleges

College Board

CollegeNET

Credentials Solutions

Educational Credential Evaluators

Ellucian

Elon University

Florida International University

Georgetown University

Groningen Declaration Network

International Education Research Foundation

National Student Clearinghouse

Ontario College Application Service

Ontario Universities' Application Centre

Oracle

Paradigm

Parchment

San Francisco State University

Smart Catalog

Stanford University

Student Connections

University of Málaga

University of Maryland University College

University of Phoenix

University of Southern California



# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

## OVERVIEW

A free, centralized global institutional code list or directory does not exist. Without such a vital service, every college and university in the world is forced to manually map or link various and numerous codes and identifiers that may exist for the very same institution. As the number of students studying internationally grows each year, the manual labor required to secure and identify accurate institution codes increases correspondingly becoming both more intensive and error-prone.

The consequences are substantial and include:

- excessive cost due to manual processing and redundant technical resources to maintain mapping of disparate code sets
- significant delays in processing and delivery of student data and information due to a lack of efficient interoperability
- extensive risk of fraud and abuse due to untimely and sometimes inaccurate translation and inconsistencies in data matching and controls

Several critical challenges exacerbate the establishment of a directory due to the nature of disparate efforts and lack of cooperation:

- historical data must be maintained for institutions that no longer exist
- institutions that have merged or split must be represented accurately
- changes in institutional demographic data require constant maintenance
- each country maintains its own code set (many more than one set) yet no country uses or shares the same methodology in constructing and designing its respective codes sets

For these reasons, PESC and the PESC Membership have concluded that establishment of a free, open and standardized free online directory of institution codes and identifiers for use by education institutions and stakeholders is now a necessity.

# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

## BENEFITS

Establishment of a free, open and standardized global institutional code list or directory provides a number of benefits that can be immediately realized:

- improved data quality and integrity
- decreased risk of fraud and abuse
- faster, streamlined processing and delivery of student data and results
- an open, community-based, value-added-service like an online directory is positioned for success based on best practices in other industries (see below)
- the service is free, unlike other services which are provided on a subscription-paid basis
- the service will be designed with an open architecture using standardized web services and protocols
- institutions and organizations have already committed to using such a list once established

### EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL VALUE-ADDED DIRECTORY SERVICES

Many industries collaborate to enable interoperability through use of community-based, service-driven directories.



#### ATM MACHINES

Interbank networks such as PLUS, Cirrus, STAR, and LINK require directories to identify multitudes of networks and banks in order to provide immediate consumer services and results upon request.



#### CREDIT CARDS

Networks like MasterCard and VISA require directories to identify numerous merchants and financial entities to also provide immediate services and results.



#### MORTGAGES

Mortgage companies rely on directories due to the various and disparate entities involved in the mortgage process.



#### TOLL BOOTHS

Toll booths require financially based directories and government based directories in order to operate.

# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

## HISTORY

With an escalating, common global awareness around systems, technology and standards, PESC's footprint is correspondingly growing. PESC's Membership is expanding beyond USA, Canada and Europe and PESC Members are rapidly implementing PESC APPROVED STANDARDS in order to meet the needs of this growing digital economy.

New development ideas continue to grow within PESC as well, and the Board of Directors and Membership have been strategizing on how to meet this need.

At the Spring 2016 Data Summit in Washington, D.C., PESC launched its *Global Data Mobility* User Group. This User Group, comprised of leaders and experts across practice, policy and technology immediately identified several high profile initiatives to advance global interoperability.

The need for a *Global Institution Code* set surfaced as the highest priority. Leaders within PESC and the education community have been discussing this need for a number of years.

Today's technological innovation with open, transparent collaboration (the cornerstone of PESC's foundation and guiding principle) and having finally reached the tipping point whereby most experts agree that such a code set is not only needed, but now impacts data quality, cost and fraud, all contribute to the conclusion that such a list is now a necessity.

# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

## GOVERNANCE

At this stage in the development lifecycle of this project, the Workgroup operates as the development entity and is managed by Co-Chairs from PESC Member organizations.

It is envisioned that the *Global Institution Code* Workgroup will establish a Steering Committee in 2017. This Steering Committee will be made up of nine (9) PESC member representatives; will be diverse, representing the various sectors across education; will be semi-autonomous, with reporting directly to the PESC Board of Directors, and; will be responsible for the overall governance and operation of the *Global Institution Code* directory.

Each Steering Committee seat has one (1) equal vote, simple majority rules decision-making and terms are one (1) year. The Steering Committee establishes its own roles, responsibilities, schedule and leadership.

*Global Institution Code* Workgroup meetings occur via conference call every other Friday at 1pm EST (10am PST, 6pm Greenwich) and communications are supported by a PESC list.

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## CURRENT STATUS

At this time, the Workgroup is proposing a *proof of concept*. This *proof of concept* entails establishment of a unique *Global Institution Code* using seven (7) digits:

- Two (2) digit ISO country code, plus
- Five (5) digit automated code

To test this approach and underlying methodology, the Workgroup is assigning this unique *Global Institution Code* to institutions in the following countries:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| ➤ <i>Canada</i> | ➤ <i>Netherlands</i> |
| ➤ <i>China</i>  | ➤ <i>Poland</i>      |
| ➤ <i>France</i> | ➤ <i>USA</i>         |
| ➤ <i>India</i>  |                      |

Results of this proof of concept will be analyzed and evaluated by the Workgroup to determine how successful this methodology is and how to best proceed.

## AVAILABILITY & COST

The *Global Institution Code* Workgroup is still in development stage and therefore, no service is available at this time.

The Workgroup envisions availability sometime in 2018.

As a driving principle and in alignment with PESC's mission, use of the *Global Institution Code* is free and open to the education community.



# GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE

PRESENTATION FOR GRONINGEN DECLARATION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017**

**14:30-15:15**

**MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**

## ***GLOBAL INSTITUTION CODE DIRECTORY | CORNERSTONE OF INTEROPERABILITY***

*Presenters:*

**W. MATTHEW BEMIS, ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)  
JAMES KELLY, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY, ECE**

The secure, timely, legal and accurate delivery of data is the highest priority for all stakeholders in the tertiary or higher education domain. Yet a simple concept – certainty in the validity, integrity and even the existence of an institution, remains a high risk with consequences of poor data quality, delays in processing and results, and in more extreme cases, fraud and abuse. Co-Chairs of PESC's Single Institution Workgroup have been analyzing and evaluating this challenge and are proposing a proof of concept, using a new, standardized methodology for codes, for input and feedback from the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN). In true collaboration leaders from Ellucian and the National Student Clearinghouse are also Co-Chairing this Workgroup which now includes the GDN as official collaborator and partner with PESC. The vision shared by all, is establishment of an online directory of institutional codes (along with additional supporting information) provided openly, transparently, freely and without charge for use by education stakeholders worldwide. PESC and GDN look to welcome participants to the Workgroup and Co-Chairs will present additional methods for everyone to participate and provide input and feedback.