

Degree Verification Practices 2018

A study by Personnel Screening Helpdesk

August 2018

This study examines the current degree verification facilities provided by major universities in the world. The sampled universities include the top 50 universities listed on *Academic Ranking of World Universities 2018*. There is also a statistical review of the verification fees charged by universities or their agents.

Facilities Provided by Third Party Agents

Out of the 50 sampled universities, 36 of them (72%) have outsourced their verification services to third party agents. All third party agents provide online (accessible 24/7) facilities which allow online submission of degree verification requests, as well as online delivery of verification results, in an instant or available-after-research manner. The third party agents include:

- National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) (in the United States)
- Higher Education Degree Datacheck (HEDD) (in the United Kingdom)
- China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC) (in China)
- AuraData (in Canada)
- Digitary CORE

The above third party agents are contracted to handle degree verification requests from requestors such as HR and screening professionals. Among them, NSC, HEDD and AuraData impose charges for the verification services. The applicable fees are varied for different universities. For the 34 sampled universities working with NSC, HEDD and AuraData, the average verification fee is USD 23.28 per request.

NSC currently charges USD 49.95 per request for University of California, San Francisco, the highest among all sampled universities. Also, during the year, NSC's verification fee for Johns Hopkins University increased from USD 14.95 to USD 29.95.

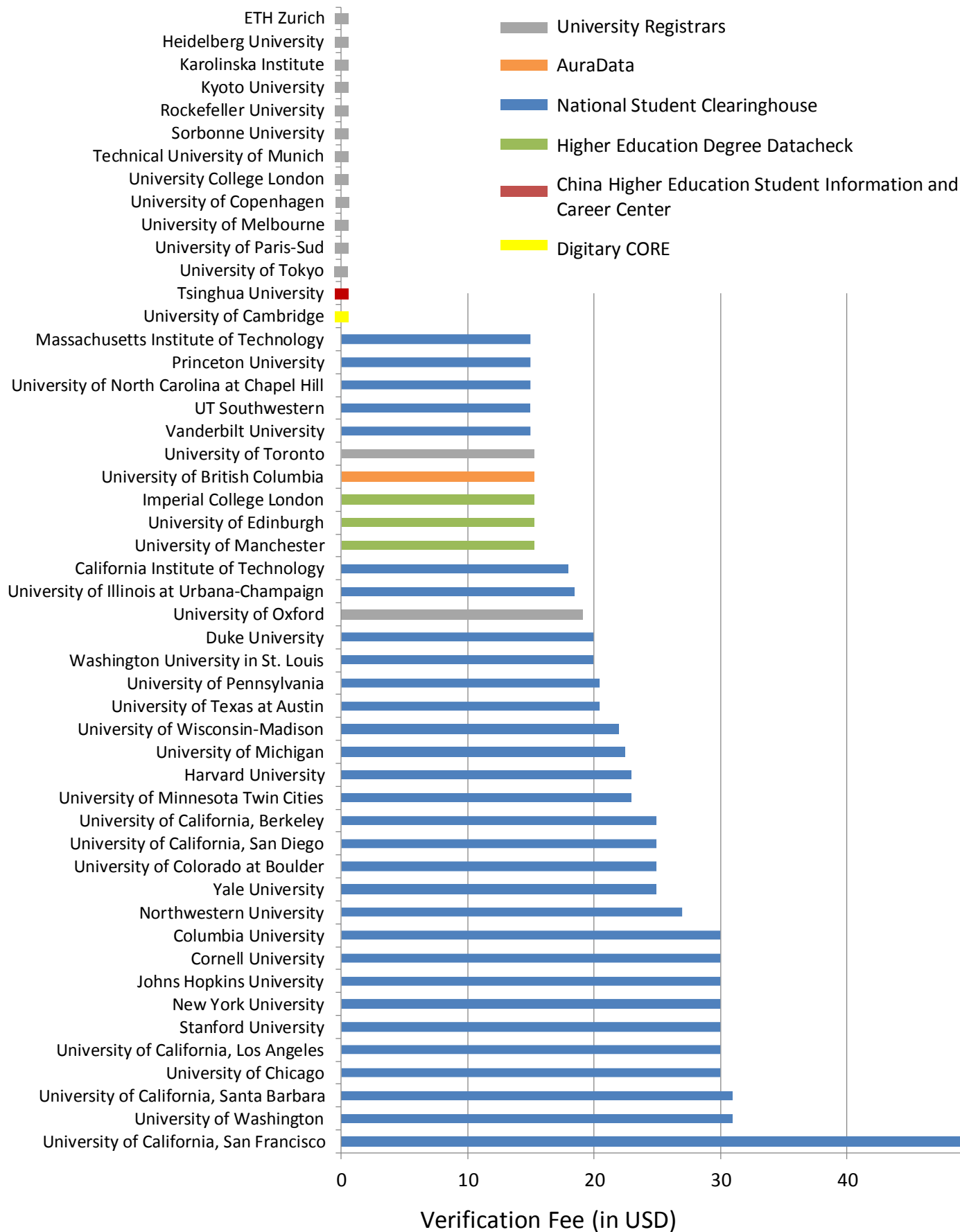
Facilities Provided by University Registrars

For the other 14 universities, the degree verification requests are handled by the university registrars directly. Requests could be submitted via email, fax, mail or online facility. Confirmation over the phone is generally not available. Except for University of Oxford (GBP 15) and University of Toronto (CAD 20), the other 12 universities do not charge for the verification services.

It is worth noting that, to facilitate degree verification, the following universities provide online searchable databases of their university graduates:

- University of Melbourne
- Australian National University - not one of 50 sampled universities
- National University of Singapore - not one of 50 sampled universities

The above search facilities are free and accessible 24/7, and hence provide great convenience to HR and screening professionals.



Exchange rate: USD 1 = CNY 6.9 = GBP 0.79 = EUR 0.88 = CAD 1.31 (as of 16 August 2018)