

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Discriminatory Regulations Against International Applicants: A Letter to the Editor

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The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is a credential organization for Radiographers, a.k.a Radiologic Technologists in the United States. This organization must be a non-bias organization that allows the qualified Radiographer to take an exam then to be allowed to practice in the United States. This organization accepts programs inside the United States that has a Joint Review Committee on Education Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) accreditation and ARRT accreditation for their programs. The ARRT and JRCERT limited the curriculum of any accredited program into specific subjects and prohibited any additions. The ARRT does not allow overseas applicants to take the ARRT exam, which will allow them to practice in the United States, even if they are qualified. Instead, they ask them to retake an accredited program or an advanced placement program in the United States, so they can be to work in the United States.^[1] If a qualified Radiographer with many years of experience wants to move to the United States or an American citizen who studied abroad will have to start all over again. The ARRT allows few university graduates from Canada, Great Britain, and Australia to work in the United States. This is not the same situation with physicians where they are able to set for the United State Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) exams, which allow foreign physicians to be licensed with Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and if they pass, they can work in the United States because they are qualified. The ARRT is trying to protect the jobs of the American workers by accepting only local Radiographers with low scores and experience, which is jeopardizing patients' health. Let's imagine a qualified Radiographer from India scored a 99% on the ARRT exam plus a 3.9 out of 4 as a cumulative GPA in the bachelor degree and a local Radiographer in the United States scored a 60% on the ARRT exam with 2.5 out of 4 as a cumulative GPA in

the bachelor degree. Are they the same in terms of providing good healthcare for patients? Which one is more qualified? Or an international Radiographer with 10 years of experience compared to a local fresh graduate. Are they the same? The ARRT is practicing institutionalized discrimination against new skilled immigrants. Under which authority the ARRT is allowed to make such decisions? The ARRT is making rules that affect the American workers by making tracks such as ultrasound track, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) track, radiography track, interventional and angiography track, and nuclear medicine track. These tracks affect the American healthcare providers by over-saturating one field of these tracks with too many graduates. The rest of the world provide radiography programs that teach ultrasound, X-ray, MRI, computed tomography, etc. The hospital can make the Radiographer who studied different tracks to work in anyone of them without any issue. Using this track system, the ARRT is closing all doors in front of international Radiographers because there tracks are specialized and the rest of the world uses the general radiology educational system. The American Radiologic Technologists work in one field and when they want to work in another field, they have to take another course and start again studying and licensing themselves all over again. The ARRT became the source of all the issues that Radiographers have to face when they want to work in the United States. The ARRT allows a company to test the graduates. This company is Pearson VUE which makes exams all over the world and provides the same exams of the ARRT worldwide intentionally. The score of their exam is invalid if you take it in another country outside the United States which does not make any sense. It is the same exam that the American Radiologic Technologists are taking. This shows that the ARRT is practicing discrimination against international Radiographers worldwide. The ARRT, as a society or credential organization,

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did not help radiology practice for Radiographers compared to other societies. For example, the Society of Radiographer in the United Kingdom fought until they allowed Radiographers in the United Kingdom to have an advanced practice known as reporting Radiographers where the Radiographers make the diagnosis and radiology reports just like a Radiologist.^[2] The ARRT compared to the previously mentioned example, is still in the medieval ages hunting witches. The ARRT must be replaced totally with another compatible modern society that can help Radiographers worldwide to have a better radiological practice. Now, the ARRT is setting a bad example for all the radiological societies and credential organizations to follow globally.

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