

Hot Topics and Regional Perspectives

Region 7 Representative: Jenny Tassell
International School of Panama



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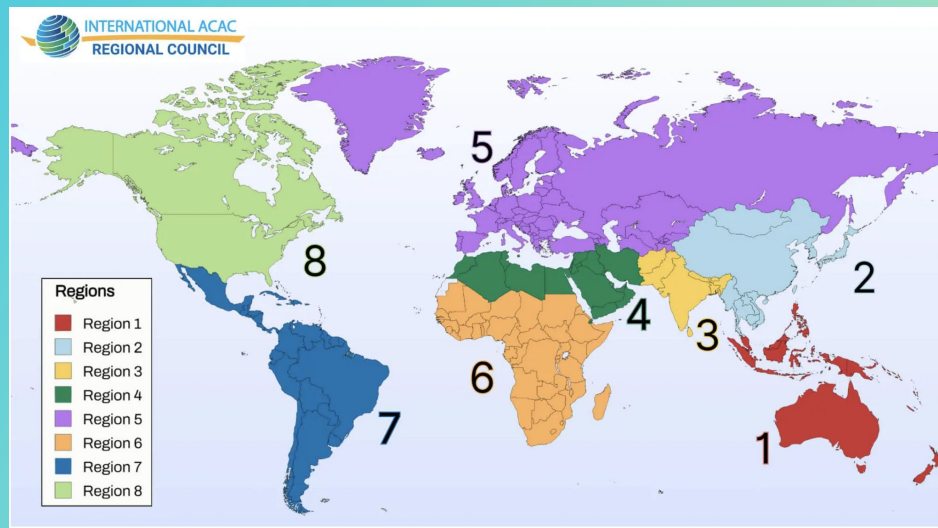
Who Am I?



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What/Who is the Regional Council

			
Region 1 Danika Pierce St. Joseph's Institution International Singapore region1_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 2 Ruru Huang Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong China region2_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 3 Shikha Vij Step by Step School, Noida India region3_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 4 Nidal Nassar Northwestern University in Qatar Qatar region4_rep@internationalacac.org
			
Region 5 Beatriz Plagaro Cenoz University of Navarra Spain region5_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 6 Yaw Fosu-Korankye International Community School Ghana region6_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 7 Jennifer Tassell International School of Panama Panama region7_rep@internationalacac.org	Region 8 Molly Witt University of Vermont United States region8_rep@internationalacac.org



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Survey Data for Region 7

- Budget & Time Constraints
 - Across all experience levels, budget resources, and high workloads/time limits are consistently cited as the primary obstacles to active participation. Distance from global conference sites remains a major hurdle
- Critical financial support mechanisms like Gathering Grants, Bursaries, and Opportunity Grants remain underutilized or marked as "unfamiliar" by many
- Preferred Communication Channels: WhatsApp and Email Newsletters are overwhelmingly preferred for day-to-day and urgent communications



Survey Data for Region 7

- Members desire structured spaces to discuss emerging trends. Specifically:
 - AI Integration: Exploring how counselor colleagues and institutions are using AI in counseling offices
 - Targeted Regional Webinars: Focus on non-US/UK destinations with high student interest but lower university visit density, particularly Germany, Italy, Spain, and Korea
 - Recognition of National Curricula: Advocating for global higher education recognition of local exams, such as Brazil's ENEM



Survey Data for Region 7

Mentorship & Onboarding for New Counselors

- Strong demand for a Regionally Focused Mentorship Program pairing seasoned counselors with new advisors.
- Need for a Regional Onboarding Toolkit/Contact Directory containing organizational contacts, country leads, and institutional requirements for quick reference.

Active Member Willingness to Contribute

- Several respondents explicitly expressed willingness to take on leadership tasks:
 - Country Contact/Representative
 - Hosting/Co-Hosting Virtual Chats



International ACAC Supports

- [International ACAC Gathering Grants](#): Designed to build local communities by funding informal, face-to-face meetups for international admissions and counseling professionals. Up to \$250 USD per grant, 12 are awarded each year.
- [Opportunity Grants](#): To fund high-impact, innovative initiatives that serve as models for the counseling and admissions profession, such as regional college fairs, counselor training workshops, and outreach initiatives in underserved areas. Preference is given to proposals that foster equity, expand access to higher education, and reach low-income or underrepresented student populations.
- [Bursaries](#) : Assist members who lack institutional funding to attend the annual International ACAC Conference. Covers conference registration fees and on-campus housing. Priority is given to applicants demonstrating financial need, institutional backing for remaining travel costs, thoughtful application essays, and the ability to contribute diverse perspectives to the event.



International ACAC Supports

- [Mentor Year Program:](#)
 - Aim of MYP is to provide a formal mentorship program where members build relationships with members in support of their professional development.
 - You can apply to be a mentor or to be a mentee, applications open in June and close in July, matches are made in August
- [Scholar Program:](#)
 - International ACAC supports those who work directly with HALI students.
 - Scholarship recipients are funded to attend the International ACAC Annual Conference, Pre-Conference Institute, and a counselor bus tour following the conference.



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Resources

The screenshot displays the website's interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with navigation links: Home, My Info, My Billing Info, My Directory Listing(s), My Subscriptions, Events, Member Directory, Job Opportunities, Monthly Member Bulletins, International ACAC Opportunities, Regional Community Resources (highlighted), 2027 Summer Enrichment Programs, and Member Conduct Reporting Form. The main content area is titled 'Regional Community Resources' and features a search bar, a 'Show only...' dropdown, and a 'Customize Results...' button. Below this, there is a grid of resource cards, each with a flag or logo, a title, a description, and a date. The visible cards are: Bangladesh - Bangladesh College Counselor (10/3/2024), CEESA - Central and Eastern European Sch (10/17/2024), China (3/17/2025), Colombia (12/19/2025), and the start of a card for Thailand.

Resource	Date
Bangladesh - Bangladesh College Counselor	10/3/2024
CEESA - Central and Eastern European Sch	10/17/2024
China	3/17/2025
Colombia	12/19/2025
Thailand	

The graphic features the Caribbean Latin America Network logo at the top. Below it is the title 'Caribbean and Latin America Network Website' and a list of services: School Directory • High School College Fairs • Tours • Resources • Events. A QR code is provided with the text 'Visit our Website today'. Below the QR code is the contact email: caribbeanlatinamericanetwork@gmail.com. A laptop screen displays the website's homepage, which includes the title 'The Caribbean and Latin America Network' and a paragraph about the network's history and mission. At the bottom, a thank you message is directed to sponsors who supported the 2025 Caribbean and Latin America Network, listing names and institutions.

Caribbean and Latin America Network Website

School Directory • High School College Fairs
Tours • Resources • Events

Visit our Website today

Contact us: caribbeanlatinamericanetwork@gmail.com

Thank you to all sponsors who supported the 2025 Caribbean and Latin America Network! Sponsors include: Brandon and Catherine, Buffalo State University (New York, USA); Christine Culp, Loyola Marymount University (California, USA); Danny Parra, University of Redlands (California, USA); Lorraine Castañares, Navitas (Mexico); Suzy Urrutia, The College Coach (Guatemala).



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HOT TOPICS

- Group 1: AI + Unpredictability of Student Visas
- Group 2: Student interest in Europe and Asia is rising, but university visits remain low.
- Group 3: Better understanding of local national exams (for global universities)
- Group 4: Difficulty getting funding to attend PD opportunities like this/School buy-in
- Group 5: Unethical behaviors or Agents or College Advising Programs impacting your job



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Breakout Groups

- Pick your HOT Topic
 - Discuss in your group for 15 minutes, someone in your group should take notes
 - As time allows, we will rotate 2-3 times and mix up the groups and topics
 - At the end of the rotations, we will highlight key themes of each topic

Scan here for Notes Doc



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Thank you!



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Please review this session in the WHOVA app.



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