NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I02050017

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We received an allegation that a Principal Investigator (PI)[1] had forged undergraduate transcripts, grades, course titles, and diplomas.

The biographical sketch, submitted by the PI in the NSF proposal, listed receipt of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and a Masters of Science (M.S.) degree from an overseas institution[2] as well as numerous published articles. It also listed receipt of a Masters of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy from educational institutions in the United States.

In a related legal matter, we learned that the PI had admitted that there were discrepancies between the original foreign documents and the English translations. The PI acknowledged preparing the translations and obtaining the university seal. The PI explained that the overseas institution did not have the capabilities to translate material. We confirmed that the PI had received a Masters of Science degree[3] and a Doctor of Philosophy[4] from US institutions.

We also learned that the NSF grant was awarded based on the quality of the proposal and its scientific merit. The PI's overseas education was not considered in awarding the grant. During the peer review, the proposal was ranked number one among competing proposals. The panel felt the PI was qualified, had access to experimental facilities, and had worked with a well-known thesis advisor[5] in that area of study. The panel based its recommendation on the work the PI had done while in the United States.

We concluded that although the PI had altered information about her foreign training, this information had not been provided to NSF, and was not considered in its evaluation of her proposal and therefore, had no affect on NSF's decision making.

Accordingly, this case is ***closed***

[1] Footnote redacted
[2] Footnote redacted
[3] Footnote redacted
[4] Footnote redacted
[5] Footnote redacted

	Agent	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				