

# Migration and Academic Exchange of Dentists: Current Landscape and Global Implications

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**Abstract:** The migration and academic exchange of dentists have intensified in recent decades, motivated by professional, economic, and academic factors. While these movements foster scientific development and professional qualification, they also bring challenges related to diploma validation, cultural barriers, and ethical implications. This editorial discusses the impacts of dental mobility, highlighting the importance of international policies that balance professional mobility with the strengthening of local oral health systems.

**Keywords:** Dentist Migration; Academic Mobility; Global Oral Health; Diploma Validation; International Cooperation.

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Dear authors,

The migration of dentists is a growing phenomenon in global health, reflecting broader trends in the mobility of highly qualified professionals [1]. Among the main motivations are the pursuit of better working conditions, higher salaries, and access to cutting-edge technologies [2]. However, such movements can create imbalances, as developed countries tend to attract most professionals, while developing nations face significant losses of human resources, leading to the so-called “brain drain” [1].

Academic mobility programs play an important role in scientific and clinical training, providing intercultural experiences and strengthening international networks of collaboration [3]. Nonetheless, these opportunities must be conducted ethically, avoiding the widening of existing asymmetries between countries with different structural capacities [4]. Among the main challenges of migration are degree recognition and revalidation processes. Countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia require rigorous examinations, clinical assessments, and additional academic training for foreign-trained dentists to practice [5]. Beyond these formal requirements, language and cultural barriers directly affect the integration of professionals into new healthcare contexts [6].

In this context, educational initiatives have proven essential to supporting responsible mobility. One example is *Brazucas on Board* (<https://brazucasboard.com/pt/curso-preparatorio-do-inbde/>), a project that offers preparatory courses specifically for Brazilians and Latinos seeking to take the INBDE (Integrated National Board Dental Examination) in the United States. This initiative has contributed to democratizing access to high-quality study materials, reducing preparation inequalities among candidates, and increasing success rates in highly competitive exams. Such efforts represent a concrete path to transform professional migration into an opportunity for both individual and collective growth.

From a global perspective, international organizations advocate for ethical and sustainable mobility practices. The WHO, through its Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, recommends that countries protect regions facing critical workforce shortages [4]. The FDI, in its Vision 2030, emphasizes the need for resilient oral health systems and collaborative policies that promote equity and sustainable development worldwide [7]. Thus, the migration and exchange of dentists should be understood not only as challenges but also as opportunities. When carried out with planning and ethics, these processes can enrich clinical practice, strengthen academic production, and advance global oral health [3,7].

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**Conflicts of Interest:** None.

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