December 5, 2019

Honorable Santia O. Bradshaw
Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training
Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training
The Elsie Payne Complex
Constitution Road, St. Michael
Barbados, West Indies

Dear Ms. Bradshaw:

On September 27, 2019, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) on behalf of the Government of Barbados regarding the country’s medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA’s review was to monitor the continuing comparability of the country’s medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools’ participation in the Direct Loan program, access the Foreign School Information Web page at: http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html.

The NCFMEA accepted the special report from Barbados. However, the NCFMEA requires Barbados to report on the results of CAAM-HP’s plan to increase its staff and its capacity to conduct site visits to clinical sites on a going-forward basis. This report should be included in the country’s next redetermination for comparability review at the spring 2022 meeting of the NCFMEA.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank you, along with Ms. Valda Alleyne, Barbados Accreditation Council; Ms. Violet Barriteau, University of the West Indies; and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Barbados and CAAM-HP’s accreditation activities. Your testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued your participation in the meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact CAAM-HP and the Government of Barbados prior to the spring 2022 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material.
If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country’s accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,

Betsy DeVos

cc: Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Barbados Desk Officer