



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 20, 2017

Mr. Gülcan Erkut-Yildiran
Department for International Policy
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
P.O. Box 16375
2500 BJ The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Erkut-Yildiran:

On April 20, 2017, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Accrediting Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands regarding the country's medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing comparability of accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in the Netherlands, to the system used to accredit medical schools in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited medical schools in a country that the NCFMEA deems 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, please access the Foreign School Information Web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.


The NCFMEA wishes to thank Ms. Michele Wera, Policy Advisor of the NVAO, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding NVAO's accreditation activities. Her testimony was very helpful and the Committee valued her participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA accepted the report submitted by the Netherlands and requested a report on the following two issues for the fall 2018 NCFMEA meeting: 1) United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) pass rate and residency placement data for students, and 2) the NVAO's process for the review of clinical sites, including how information is used to improve the program.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact NVAO before the fall 2018 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 or Patricia Howes, Committee Coordinator, at patricia.howes@ed.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Netherlands Desk
Office