



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 24, 2016

Honorable Steadroy Benjamin  
Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs  
Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs  
Government Complex  
Parliament Drive  
St. John's  
Antigua

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

On September 19, 2016, 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 Antigua and Barbuda describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the 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>.

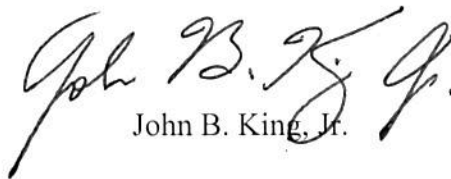
The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding CAAM-HP's accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank the Honorable Michael Sherwin Browne, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, Executive Director, CAAM-HP, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Antigua and Barbuda and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA determined that it needs additional information in order to make its decision regarding the comparability of the standards used by CAAM-HP to accredit medical schools in Antigua and Barbuda. Therefore, the NCFMEA will defer its comparability determination until its spring 2017 meeting, pending receipt of supporting documentation and outstanding information identified in the final staff analysis. During the deferral, the NCFMEA's prior determination of comparability remains in effect.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact CAAM-HP and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda before the spring 2017 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](mailto:jennifer.hong@ed.gov) or Patricia Howes, Committee Coordinator, at [patricia.howes@ed.gov](mailto:patricia.howes@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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. King, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John B. King, Jr.

cc: Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda  
Desk Office