



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 5, 2019

Honorable Michael S. Browne
Minister of Education, Science and Technology
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Government Complex
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua

Dear Mr. Browne:

On September 27, 2019, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by 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 accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in Antigua and Barbuda, 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 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, access the Foreign School Information Web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA determined that it needs additional information in order to make its decision regarding the comparability of the standards used by Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) to accredit medical schools in Antigua and Barbuda.

Specifically, the NCFMEA requires the following:

- 1) A report for review at the fall 2020 NCFMEA meeting that details the changes that CAAM-HP has made to its standards and processes to ensure rigor in its enforcement and monitoring of attrition rates and admissions criteria.
- 2) A report for review at the fall 2021 meeting regarding the attrition rates – by admissions cohort – for the American University of Antigua, College of Medicine.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank you 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. Your testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued your participation in the meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and CAAM-HP prior to the fall 2020 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos

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