



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

November 20, 2017

Honorable Ruel B. Reid  
Minister of Education  
2-4 National Heroes Circle  
Kingston 4  
Jamaica  
West Indies

Dear Mr. Reid:

On September 21, 2017, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Government of Jamaica describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing comparability of accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in Jamaica, 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 wishes to thank Dr. Tomlin J. Paul, University of the West Indies; Dr. Phylcia Marshall, Ministry of Education, Jamaica; and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, Executive Director, Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Jamaica and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA accepted the report submitted by Jamaica. Jamaica is due for a redetermination of comparability at the NCFMEA's fall 2020 meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Government of Jamaica and CAAM-HP before 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](mailto: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, Jamaica Desk Office