



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 10, 2019

Honorable St. Clair Prince
Minister of Education
2nd Fl. Coreas Building
Halifax Street, Kingstown
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Dear Mr. Prince:

On April 16, 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 St. Vincent and Grenadines 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, visit the Foreign School Information web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank Dr. Linda Adkison, Dean of Trinity School of Medicine, and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, Executive Director, CAAM-HP, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding St. Vincent and the Grenadines and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. Their testimony was insightful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA accepted the update report from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and further advised the country of the NCFMEA eligibility requirement, Part I(b), which requires that: "Applicants should demonstrate within six years of a comparability determination that at least one of its accredited medical programs has been certified by the Office of Federal Student Aid to participate in the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program."¹

¹ National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, Guidelines for Determinations of Comparability. <https://sites.ed.gov/ncfmea/files/2018/11/NCFMEA-Guidelines-Revised-9.27.18-Final.pdf> September 2018.

The country's six-year comparability determination will expire in fall 2022, at which time St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be removed from the list of comparable countries, unless one of its medical schools is certified by the office of Federal Student Aid.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact CAAM-HP and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines several months before the fall 2022 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the application.

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, St. Vincent and the Grenadines