

<b>Name:</b> St Maarten, Government of	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 09/25/2018	<b>Response Submit Date:</b> 08/13/2018	<b>Status:</b> Final Review	<b>Type:</b> Redetermination
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## **U.S. Department of Education**

### St Maarten Redetermination Report

Prepared July 2018

#### **Background**

In October 1997 the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) first determined that the accreditation standards used by the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) to evaluate the American University of the Caribbean (AUC), then located in Montserrat, were comparable to those used to evaluate medical schools in the United States. This was the ACCM's first agreement with a Caribbean country to serve as its designated accreditor. (The commission later became the designated accreditor for the governments of Saba, Belize and the Cayman Islands, as well.)

After a volcano erupted on Montserrat, the AUC was forced to relocate to St. Maarten. Since St. Maarten does not have a governmental body to conduct accreditation activities, it officially designated the ACCM in December 1997 to be its authorized representative in accrediting the AUC, which is the one medical school in the country. In March 1998, the NCFMEA found that the ACCM's accreditation system, now being used in St. Maarten, continued to be comparable to the system used in the United States.

During its March 2004 meeting, the NCFMEA reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used by the ACCM for its evaluation of the medical school on St. Maarten remained comparable to those used to evaluate medical schools in the United States. The NCFMEA also requested that the ACCM submit periodic reports describing its continuing accreditation activities. The commission submitted reports for 2005 and 2006. Since the NCFMEA did not meet in 2006, both of those reports were reviewed at the March 2007 meeting. At its March 2007 meeting, the NCFMEA accepted the annual report submitted by the ACCM on behalf of the government of St. Maarten and requested that the ACCM submit another report on its accrediting activities for review at the March 2008 NCFMEA meeting.

At its March 2008 meeting the NCFMEA accepted the commission's report and invited it to reapply for a comparability redetermination at the Spring 2010 NCFMEA meeting. The Spring 2010 meeting was cancelled, pending appointment of a new committee, causing St. Maarten's redetermination to be deferred to the Fall 2011 meeting.

At the Fall 2011 meeting, the country's report was reviewed and St. Maarten was requested to provide an update on its activities at the Fall 2013 meeting, as well as information related to its recent change in ownership, the availability of residency positions, financial burdens faced by students, and a follow-up on the evaluation of student complaints. That information was accepted. The current report, submitted in Summer 2018, is the country's submission for redetermination of their comparability.

#### **Summary of Findings**

Additional information is requested for the following questions. These issues are summarized below and discussed in detail under the Staff Analysis section.

-- NCFMEA may wish to ask for the country to provide documentation demonstrating that a review to ensure that students can review their records has occurred. [Admissions, Recruiting, and Publications, Question 6]

-- NCFMEA may wish to ask for the country to provide documentation demonstrating that a review to ensure that students can review their records has occurred. [Student Services, Question 2]

#### **Staff Analysis**