



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

MAY 23 2003

Dr. Gábor Mészáros
General Director
Ministry of Education
Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre
Hungarian ENIC/NARIC Office
1055 Budapest
Szalay utca 10-14.
Hungary

Dear Dr. Mészáros:

In March 1997, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the medical accreditation standards used by Hungary were comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. On March 13, 2003, the NCFMEA reviewed the information recently provided by the Hungarian Accreditation Council (HAC) on its current medical accreditation standards in order to reassess the comparability of those standards. At the meeting, the NCFMEA members also heard testimony from Dr. László Kiss of the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre and Dr. Peter Kiss of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee. Their testimony was most helpful and the NCFMEA members wish to thank them for their participation in the meeting.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA, based on the most recent information and materials received from Hungary, reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used by the Hungarian Accreditation Council to accredit medical schools in Hungary are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. This determination of comparability by the NCFMEA has a maximum duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws, extends or renews its determination prior to that date. Before expiration of the six-year period, the NCFMEA will seek to confirm that your standards and processes for accrediting medical schools in Hungary are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the United States. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

As a result of the determination of continued comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in Hungary that is accredited by the HAC may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program by contacting the Department's Foreign Schools Team at (202) 377-3168, fax (202) 275-3486. Please note that it is not necessary for medical schools that are currently participating in the FFEL program to contact the Foreign Schools Team at this time; the status of those schools remains unchanged by the NCFMEA's decision of continued comparability. A medical school's participation in the

FFEL program allows U.S. students studying medicine at that school to apply for FFEL loan funds to finance their medical education.

In an effort to keep apprised of the accreditation activities of the HAC, the NCFMEA has requested that Hungary submit a report on its accreditation activities for review at the March 2005 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of that report, which is requested by December 1, 2004, is to provide the NCFMEA with the following information:

- *List of medical schools and their current status:* A list of all Hungarian universities that have programs leading to the M.D. degree and the accreditation status of those programs and universities.
- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the Hungarian Accreditation Council from April 2003 through November 2004, such as a list of accreditation reviews conducted, accreditation decisions reached, and accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- *Laws and Regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes in your country's laws or regulations since March 2003 that affect the accreditation of your medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards, Processes and Procedures:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since March 2003 in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that the AMC uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools and clinical clerkship sites for the two-year period covering December 2004 through November 2006.

Please provide the above report on accreditation activities to the U.S. Department of Education at the address below:

Carol Griffiths
Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7105
Washington, D.C. 20006-8509
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Ms. Griffiths at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or carol.griffiths@ed.gov (e-mail).

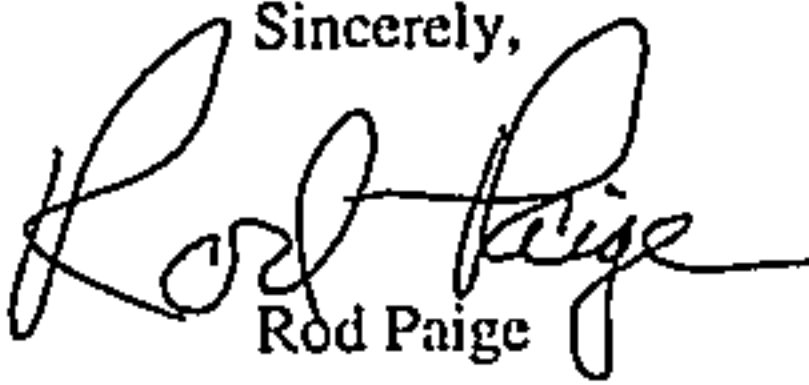
During the executive session at the meeting, the NCFMEA also requested that an answer to the following question be provided to the Committee for its September 2003 meeting: What health

care services are available to non-Hungarian students who are studying medicine in Hungary and what are the costs to students for those services? Please provide that information as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 2003, to Ms. Griffiths at the address above.

In the fall of 2004, Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the NCFMEA, will contact you to provide information regarding the March 2005 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions about the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or bonnie.lebold@ed.gov (e-mail).

I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your ongoing interest and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rod Paige

cc: Dr. László Kiss
Deputy Director
Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre

Dr. Peter Kiss
Programme Officer
Hungarian Accreditation Committee

U.S. Department of Education



Staff Analysis

Hungary

**For the March 13, 2003 Meeting
of the
National Committee on Foreign Medical
Education and Accreditation**

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis
of the Standards Used by

Hungary

for the Evaluation of Medical Schools

Prepared February 2003

Background

This is an application for redetermination of comparability submitted by the Government of Hungary. At its March 1997 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation or approval standards used by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) to evaluate the medical education at four universities that offer programs leading to the M.D. (or equivalent) degree were comparable to standards of accreditation used to evaluate medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. The NCFMEA reviews the comparability of countries' standards on a periodic basis and in June 2000 the NCFMEA revised its review guidelines. In September 2002, the HAC was provided a copy of those new guidelines and requested to provide information to demonstrate compliance with the revised guidelines. The information provided by Hungary in response to that request is the subject of this analysis.

Summary of Findings

The HAC provided Department staff with a substantial amount of information pertaining to its oversight of medical education. There were only a few areas in which Department staff was unclear as to the HAC's standards and requirements pertaining to:

- an institutional evaluation of its medical curriculum and program and how the process may include faculty and data on student performance and other student outcome indicators;
- the inclusion of communication skills integral to the education and function of physicians in the curriculum; and
- student services to be provided by institutions

Based on the information provided by the HAC, it appears that the country has an evaluation system that remains substantially comparable to the system used in the United States to evaluate the quality of medical education. At least once since 1994, the HAC has applied its standards to the four medical education

