

U.S. Department of Education
Staff Analysis
of the Annual Report Submitted by
Israel

Prepared August 22, 2002

Background

At its September 1999 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation standards used by the Council for Higher Education (Council) to evaluate medical schools in Israel were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

At its September 2001 meeting, the NCFMEA accepted the annual report submitted by the Council on the accreditation activities of the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools (Committee) in Israel. The NCFMEA also requested that the Council submit another report in a year on the Committee and its accrediting activities. The Council submitted its report to the Department in July 2002, and that report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by Israel's Council for Higher Education, Department staff concludes that the Council has provided all of the information requested by the NCFMEA. Department staff also concludes that the country's actions during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

Staff Analysis

The Council reported on the following three categories of information as requested by the NCFMEA:

Overview of accreditation activities:

Activities within the requested reporting period include:

In January 2002, the secretariat of the Council requested a progress report from one institution (Ben Gurion University of the Negev) that was to be reviewed by

the Committee this summer. At that time, the Committee was to meet with BGU officials to verify the information in the institution's report and to clarify any issues that remain unclear.

At its March 2002 meeting, the Council reviewed the progress report of one institution (Tel Aviv University: The Sackler School of Medicine), the Committee's evaluation report and the institution's response. The Council then adopted the committee's report and determined there to be no change in the institution's 5-year accreditation status.

The Council reports that in July 2002 it will be requesting a progress report from one other institution (Technion – Israel Institute of Technology) that will be reviewed by the Committee at the end of this year.

Also during 2002, the Committee compiled its final evaluation report on the Hebrew University (HU) of Jerusalem: Hadassah Medical School for the Council's consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

Laws and Regulations:

As described in last year's annual report, the Council decided in principle to begin a national system of quality assurance and assessment for all Israeli higher education institutions and programs. The quality assessments for institutions will take place every eight years and for specific academic programs every six years. The Council intends to approve the system this summer and begin its operation during the academic year 2003-2004.

When the system is fully operational, it will incorporate the re-evaluation of all the medical schools. Until that time, the Committee for Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools will continue its work.

Standards, Processes and Procedures:

The annual report confirmed that there were no changes in the standards, processes and procedures used by the Committee for the Re-Evaluation of Medical Schools in Israel.

Schedule for upcoming accreditation activities:

During October – November 2002, the Committee is planning to convene for a series of meetings to summarize the first cycle of re-evaluation of the four medical schools in Israel resulting in a concluding report regarding medical education in Israel. The Committee also plans to review the processes, standards and procedures and to make changes, as necessary.

The Committee has no site visits planned for July 2002 – June 2003.