

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

MAY 23 2003

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Dr. M. Sachdeva
Secretary
Medical Council of India
E-163, Preet Vihar
Delhi, India 110092

Dear Dr. Sachdeva:

In March 1997, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the medical accreditation standards used by India 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 Medical Council of India on its current medical accreditation standards to reassess the comparability of those standards.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA, based on the most recent information and materials received from India, reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used by the Medical Council of India to accredit medical schools in India 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 India 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 India that is accredited by the Council may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school's application is approved, students enrolled in the school who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive FFEL loans to finance their medical education if they meet all other eligibility requirements. Medical schools that wish to participate in the FFEL program may obtain the proper application forms from the Foreign Schools Team by calling (202) 377-3168 or by writing to the following address:

Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.

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Foreign Schools Team
FSA/Schools Channel/CMO
U.S. Department of Education
Room 73C3
830 First St., NE
Washington, DC 20202-5340
U.S.A.

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.

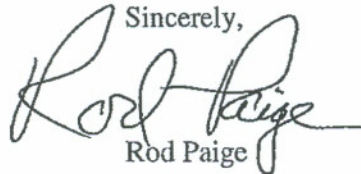
At the March meeting, the NCFMEA also requested that India submit a report on its accreditation activities for review at the March 2004 NCFMEA meeting. Please see the enclosure for specific details about the report. Please provide the requested report by December 1, 2003 to the U.S. Department of Education 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).

In the fall of 2003, Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the NCFMEA, will contact you to provide information regarding the March 2004 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

Enclosure

**Information Requested from the
Medical Council of India
by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Due Date: December 1, 2003

Submit to: 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.

Phone: (202) 219-7011
Fax: (202) 219-7005
E-mail: carol.griffiths@ed.gov

Content: The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of the accreditation activities involving the medical schools in India, including the following information (and any applicable supporting documents):

- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in India, indicating whether each school has gone through the accreditation process and what the outcome of that accreditation process has been; for example, whether the school is fully accredited, whether the school is provisionally accredited, whether accreditation has been terminated, etc.
- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the Medical Council in 2003, 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 during 2003 in your country's laws or regulations that affect the accreditation of your medical schools, and if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2003 in the accreditation standards that the Medical Council uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools in the areas listed below, and, if so, what those changes were:
 - administration,
 - faculty,
 - curriculum,
 - admissions procedures,
 - student services,
 - methods for evaluating student achievement, and
 - facilities.
- *Processes and procedures:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2003 in the accreditation processes or procedures used by the Medical Council for the following –
 - conducting site visits,

- selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make accreditation decisions,
 - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools,
 - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools,
 - ensuring the Medical Council has effective controls against the conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of accreditation standards, and
 - ensuring that accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools and clinical clerkship sites for the period covering December 2003 through December 2004.