



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

DEC 4 2003

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Dr. Leszek Sikorski  
Minister of Health  
ul. Miodowa 15  
00-952 Warsaw  
Republic of Poland

Dear Dr. Sikorski:

On September 11-12, 2003, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review materials from 14 countries, including the information and documentation provided by the Accreditation Committee of Polish Universities of Medical Sciences (ACPUMS) and your office for the purpose of reassessing the comparability of Poland's medical accreditation standards to those used in the United States. At the meeting, the NCFMEA members also heard testimony from Professor Maciej Gembicki, Dr. Roman Danielewicz, and Ms. Anna Niewiadomska. 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 information and materials submitted and the testimony presented, reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used by the Ministry of Health and the ACPUMS to accredit medical schools in Poland 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 Poland 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 Poland that is accredited by the ACPUMS 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:

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 September meeting, the NCFMEA also requested that Poland provide (1) a report describing the evolution of the relationship between ACPUMS and the State Accreditation Committee for review at the September 2004 NCFMEA meeting and (2) a full report on accreditation activities involving Polish medical schools for review at the September 2005 NCFMEA meeting.

We would appreciate receiving the requested report on the relationship between ACPUMS and the State Accreditation Committee by June 15, 2004, so we have sufficient time to review the information prior to the September 2004 NCFMEA meeting. Please send the information to the U.S. Department of Education at the address below.

Mr. John Barth  
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff  
U.S. Department of Education  
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7105  
Washington, DC 20006-8509  
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Mr. Barth at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or [john.barth@ed.gov](mailto:john.barth@ed.gov) (e-mail).

The Executive Director of the NCFMEA, Bonnie LeBold, will contact you in the late spring or early summer to provide information regarding the September 2004 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or [bonnie.lebold@ed.gov](mailto:bonnie.lebold@ed.gov) (e-mail).

Thank you very much for providing information regarding your country's accreditation of its medical schools. The NCFMEA members and the U.S. Department of Education appreciate your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Rod Paige

cc: Dr. Roman Danielewicz  
Director, Department of Science  
and Higher Education  
Ministry of Health

Dr. Maciej Gembicki  
Chairman, Accreditation Committee of  
Polish Universities of Medical Sciences

Ms. Anna Niewiadomska  
Counselor  
Embassy of the Republic of Poland

**U.S. Department of Education**



**Staff Analysis**

**Poland**

**For the September 11-12, 2003 Meeting  
of the  
National Committee on Foreign Medical  
Education and Accreditation**

U.S. Department of Education  
Staff Analysis  
of the Standards Used by  
Poland  
For the Evaluation of Medical Schools

Prepared July 2003

Background

This is an application for a re-determination of comparability submitted by the Government of Poland. Poland was initially reviewed at the September 1996 meeting of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) as to the comparability of its accreditation/evaluation of its medical schools to the system used to accredit medical schools in the United States. At that meeting, the Committee determined that Poland's standards for the evaluation of medical schools were not comparable to those used to evaluate medical school in the United States. Poland provided additional information that was considered at the October 1997 NCFMEA meeting and the Committee determined at that meeting that the accreditation standards used by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to evaluate the medical schools in Poland are comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

Accreditation of Polish medical schools is currently conducted by the Accreditation Committee for Polish Universities of Medical Sciences (ACPUMS). ACPUMS, established by the Conference of Presidents of Polish Medical Schools in 1997, is composed of one academic teacher from each medical school, one student, one representative of the Center for Post-graduate Medical Education, and a representative from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Each member of the Committee serves a term of three years and can serve one additional term.

Summary of Findings

Based on the information provided by Poland, it appears that the country has an evaluation system that is in many ways comparable to that used to accredit medical schools in the United States; however, Department staff notes that Poland did not provide information on some areas of the questionnaire. For example:

- Under the area of Administration, the country did not discuss how it ensures that student evaluations are consistent at affiliated clinical sites;
- Under the area of Educational Program, there was no indication that the curriculum included instruction in clinical pathology nor was there any discussion on how the country ensured that a medical school's publications, advertising, and student recruitment must present a balanced and accurate representation of the mission and objectives of its educational program;

