



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

OCT 1 3 2000

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Mr. Torsten Kalvemark
Senior Advisor
National Agency for Higher Education
Birger Jarlsgatan
Box 7851, SE-103
99 Stockholm
Sweden

Dear Mr. Kalvemark:

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., on September 15, 2000, to review, among other things, the additional information provided by the National Agency for Higher Education pertaining to Sweden's standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA had decided, at its March 2000 meeting, to defer making a decision on the comparability of Sweden's accreditation standards for medical schools until its September meeting, pending the receipt of additional information.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA, at its September 15, 2000, meeting, determined that the accreditation or approval standards used by the National Agency for Higher Education to evaluate the medical schools in Sweden are comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree 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 procedures for accrediting or approving medical schools in Sweden 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 part of its comparability decision, the NCFMEA has requested that the National Agency for Higher Education submit annual reports to the NCFMEA. The first report will be due to the U.S. Department of Education by August 1, 2001, for review at the September 2001 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of the annual report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities including the following information:

- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the National Agency for Higher Education during the past year (August 2000-July 2001), such as accreditation reviews conducted, accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.

- *Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:*
 - *Laws and Regulations:* Any changes in your country's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of your medical schools.
 - *Standards, Processes and Procedures:* Any changes in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that the National Agency for Higher Education uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of accreditation meetings and listing of on-site visits to medical schools planned for August 2001 - July 2002.

At the meeting the Committee members also expressed their appreciation for your assistance in ensuring that the NCFMEA Chair and Executive Director received detailed information on the Swedish system of higher education and accreditation during their August site visit to Stockholm.

In addition the NCFMEA members wish to thank Ms. Kerstin Eliasson from the Swedish Embassy for her participation in the September meeting.

As a result of the determination of comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in your country that is accredited or approved by the National Agency for Higher Education may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school's application is approved, otherwise eligible students enrolled in the school who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive loans to finance their medical education through the FFEL program. Medical schools that wish to participate in the FFEL program may obtain the proper application forms from the Foreign Schools Team at the following address:

Foreign Schools Team
U.S. Department of Education
Room 3674, ROB-3
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20407
U.S.A.

Please send the annual report that is due by August 1, 2001, to the Director of Accreditation and State Liaison at the address below. If you have any questions concerning the nature of the information the NCFMEA is seeking, Dr. Karen Kershenstein can be reached at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax) and Karen_Kershenstein@cd.gov (e-mail).

Dr. Karen W. Kershenstein, Director
Accreditation and State Liaison
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7105
Washington, D.C. 20006-8509

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TheExecutiveDirectoroftheNCFMEAwillcontactyou nextyearinthelatespringtoprovideinformationregarding theSeptember2001meetingandmoredetailsonsubmissionsoftheannualreport.

Intheinterim.ifyouhaveanyquestions,pleasedonot hesitatetocontactMs.LeBold at(202)219-7009(telephone),(202)219-7008(fax),orBonnie_LeBold@ed.gov(e-mail).

Iwanttothankyoufortakingyoufortakingthetimetorespondtoourrequestsforinformationaboutyour standardsandprocessesforaccreditationofmedicalschoools.

sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "R".

cc:Ms.KerstinEliasson
EmbassyofSweden

