

U.S. Department of Education
Staff Analysis
of the Annual Report Submitted by
Sweden
Prepared August 2001

Background

At its September 2000 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation or approval standards used by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (National Agency) were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. The NCFMEA also requested that the National Agency submit annual reports on specific aspects of its accrediting activities to the Committee, the first report due by August 1, 2001. The National Agency submitted its first report to the Department in July 2001, and the report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, Department staff concludes that the National Agency has satisfied all of the reporting requirements imposed 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 National Agency reported on the following three categories of information as requested by the NCFMEA:

Overview of accreditation activities:

The National Agency notified Sweden's medical schools of the NCFMEA's comparability decision and the requirements related to this decision. It also reported that it did not conduct a major review of any of the country's medical schools, as no important changes occurred in the existing schools, and no new medical schools were established. The National Agency's Legal Department

monitored the medical schools' activities, and there were no complaints of any kind.

The National Agency continues to require that all medical schools submit comprehensive annual reports that cover administrative, economic and educational matters of importance. It analyzed these reports and found no reason to take any action with respect to the information submitted.

Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

Laws and Regulations:

Effective January 1, 2001, a new law authorizes the National Agency to conduct accreditation and quality reviews of all academic programs and subjects every six years.

Standards, Processes and Procedures:

There have been no changes to the standards or the general procedures for accreditation and quality reviews. However, these procedures have been "developed and refined in order to give the National Agency a better basis for decisions on accreditation and the right to award degrees."

Schedule for upcoming accreditation activities:

The National Agency will not review any medical schools during the next year. It will conduct regular meetings with the presidents and vice-presidents of universities on quality assurance and accreditation issues.