



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

109 Barima Avenue Bel Air Park,
Phone: 592-225-9526/ 592-225-7662
Email: info@nac.gov.gy

*Suelle Findlay-Williams, Communications Specialist
225-8360, communicationspecialist@nac.gov.gy*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAC PROMOTING QUALITY, EXCELLENCE AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

(Georgetown, November 25, 2016) As part of its public education and awareness programme, the National Accreditation Council-Guyana (NAC-G) will be issuing on a regular basis, information about its services for post-secondary and tertiary institutions, details about the services available to prospective and current students, and information for the general public.

In this issue the Council would like to provide a brief overview of its services. In later communication the NAC will offer greater details about its mandate as is set out in the National Accreditation Act No. 12 of 2004.

WHO ARE WE?

The National Accreditation Council (NAC) was established by an ACT of Parliament (the National Accreditation Council Act No. 12 of 2004), which mandated that all post-secondary and tertiary institutions operating in Guyana must be registered with the NAC. The NAC is governed by a Board of Directors that is set up by the Office of the President. In promoting the quality of education and training in Guyana, the NAC advises **post-secondary and tertiary level educational institutions** (local or foreign) on registration, accreditation, and programme approval, and also provides recognition of awarding bodies, and equivalency of foreign qualifications.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE NAC?

Registration is a mandatory quality assurance process. This means that schools **MUST** meet the criteria and standards necessary to offer their services. This process must be completed in order for any post-secondary and tertiary institutions (private and public) to operate legally in Guyana.

The registration process determines whether an institution has the capacity to offer quality education to its students. Every institution must satisfy seven criteria namely: Legal, Policy and Regulatory Requirements; Government and Administration; Quality Management System; Resource Management; Teaching-Learning Process; Review; and Continuous Improvement. Under each criteria, institutions are required to fulfilled corresponding standards—23 altogether.

Teams of External Evaluators, that is, persons who are experts in the particular programme areas, are used to evaluate an institution during the registration process. In some countries, registration is known as pre-accreditation.

PLEASE NOTE!!!

The NAC's Registration and Accreditation standards are in keeping with international best practices and are similar to those implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Jamaica.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ACCREDITED?

Accreditation is a voluntary process by which the National Accreditation Council externally reviews **REGISTERED** post-secondary and tertiary education institutions and/or programmes that have been evaluated and have met or exceed stated criteria for learning quality. It is important to note that some tertiary institutions in Guyana offer internationally accredited programmes. These institutions must be registered with the NAC to be able to offer their services in Guyana.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!!

Ensure that you find out from an education institution that you are interested to attend, whether or not they are registered with the National Accreditation Council BEFORE you pay your fees and begin your studies! You must see current evidence!

ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) is the legally constituted body established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that is empowered to determine and prescribe standards and to accredit programmes of medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions education on behalf of the contracting parties in CARICOM. CAAM-HP will serve as the means of providing the assurance of quality that generates confidence in the principal stakeholders, students and the public.

Medical schools established in Guyana are required to seek accreditation with CAAM-HP AFTER being registered with the National Accreditation Council.

The accreditation process assures that medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions schools meet standards of structure, function, and performance and assures society and the health professions that graduates of accredited schools meet the education requirements for further training and

the health care needs of the people in the Caribbean. The accreditation process adopted by the CAAM-HP has two general aims:

- To certify that a medical education programme meets prescribed standards, and
- To promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement.

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATION AND INSTITUTIONS

Persons who wish to pursue a course of study with a foreign institution, or who have completed a programme at a foreign post-secondary or tertiary institution, may apply for recognition of their foreign qualifications at the National Accreditation Council. A Statement of Recognition will be issued, which provides information on the accreditation and/or recognition status of the institution and the programme offered.

EQUIVALENCY

The equivalency process determines the level of comparability or academic value of qualifications attained overseas. An equivalency assessment equates or compares a qualification obtained overseas, to a qualification locally. Equivalency also allows applicants to receive credit transfers for study completion, gain entry to institutions for the purpose of furthering their studies in Guyana, and facilitate employment or promotion.

PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH STUDENT COMPLAINTS

According to the NAC's ACT No. 12 of 2004, one of the functions of the NAC is to "protect the interest of the students".

If a student wishes to bring a matter to the attention of the Council, he/she is required to formally submit details of the matter. Students are required to visit the NAC and complete a Complaint/Query Form on which they state the nature of the complaints by answering some questions. **This form provides the means by which the Council can formally act on the students' behalf.** Students are encouraged to visit the NAC which is located at 109 Barima Avenue, Bel Air Park to meet with an officer to discuss the matter and have their concerns **documented**. Students can also write to the NAC about their complaints.

All matters brought to the NAC by students are kept in strictest confidence. The same principle is applied to post-secondary and tertiary institutions registered with the NAC.

NAC, as a quality assurance agency, is recognized regionally and internationally and is affiliated with several agencies for quality assurance in higher education. The Council has acquired membership within the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE).

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the following institutions that have successfully met the requirements and have attained full registration status with the NAC.

Quality, Excellence and Standards

Full Registration:

1. Art Williams and Harry Wendt Aeronautical Engineering School
2. Nations Incorporated
3. New Guyana School Inc.
4. American University of Peace Studies
5. Accountancy Training Centre
6. Texila American University
7. Greenheart Medical University
8. The Business School
9. University of the Southern Caribbean
10. Alexander American University
11. Government Technical Institute
12. Rajiv Gandhi University of Science and Technology

The following institutions have attained **Provisional Registration** which allows them the time needed to set-up operations **only**. **Institutions with provisional registration are prohibited from enrolling students.**

Provisional Registration:

1. Al-Mustafa Islamic College
2. Ajeenkya DY Patil University at Turkeyen

The institutions below are currently **in the Process of Registration:**

1. American International School of Medicine
2. JTW Management Institute
3. Georgetown American University

Persons who wish to obtain information about any of the services provided by the National Accreditation Council can access further details of each service on its website: www.nac.gov.gy

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