



THE WFME PROGRAMME FOR RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

Introduction

March 2013, revised June 2016

Quality of accreditation: why is there a programme for the recognition of accrediting agencies?

Accreditation systems may appear to be a valid method for the quality assurance of medical education, but the existence of an accreditation system does not provide a guarantee that the system is working well and resulting in trustworthy decisions on the quality of programmes in medical education.

Another challenge is to ensure the integrity of accrediting agencies in the evolving market for accreditation, where private firms and individual consultants offer their services in conducting a review and issuing an accreditation. In countries without a national accreditation system, it is tempting for an institution in higher education to pay for accreditation from a private firm or individual.

These problems in accreditation stress the need for a robust and independent system for the evaluation and recognition of accreditation agencies.

Papers available on the WFME website

The papers on the WFME website about this programme include:

Background - the paper in this section describes the background to the development of the process for recognition of accreditation agencies

1. Recognition of accreditation agencies – Introduction

Recognition criteria and process - the papers in this section describe the types of accreditation agencies that will be considered for recognition by WFME, the criteria WFME uses to assess accreditation agencies and the WFME process to assess accreditation agencies and reach a decision on recognition

2. **WFME policy on accrediting agencies that are eligible to apply for WFME recognition**
3. **Recognition criteria**
4. **Policies and procedures**

Documents for accreditation agencies applying for recognition - this section includes forms and other documents to assist accrediting authorities considering applying for recognition

5. **Application form**
6. **Summary of the recognition process and timeline**
7. **Specimen evaluation form**
8. **Specimen status report form**

WFME operating procedures - this section deals with policies and procedures that relate to how WFME manages the recognition process

9. **WFME staff and advisers participation agreement**
10. **Complaint against an agency**

Work programme and outcomes

11. **List of agencies that are recognised**

At all times, WFME can be contacted by email at accreditation@wfme.org

Acknowledgements

The project to develop and test procedures and guidelines for recognition of accreditation agencies was the work of many individuals and organisations. Particular thanks are due to the staff and advisers of WFME, and of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research.

Note: In 2017 the document design was updated. The content remains unchanged.