



Enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide

WFME works with doctors, educators and universities worldwide through its six member regional associations of medical education, which form the WFME Executive Council. WFME was established in 1972 by the World Medical Association (**WMA**) and the World Health Organisation (**WHO**), which are the additional voting members on the WFME Executive Council, along with the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (**IFMSA**) and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (**ECFMG**). The partner organisations include **AMSE**, **CenMEDIC**, **CIDMEF**, **FAIMER**, **JDN** and **UNESCO**.

The mission of enhancing quality in medical education is met through the development of standards, by the promotion of accreditation of medical schools, with the development of databases on medical education, through projects on the future of medicine and medical education, and through other publications and partnerships.

Our current priorities include the promotion of quality in accreditation through the WFME **Recognition of Accreditation Programme**, raising the **standards** for basic and postgraduate medical education and continuing professional development through the publication of expert consensus of minimum and quality standards, and maintaining the **World Directory of Medical Schools**.

Standards

The WFME standards are the global expert consensus on the standards for medical schools throughout the continuum of medical education and training: **Basic Medical Education**, **Post Graduate**, and **Continuing Professional Development**.

Standards are not equated with a universal core curriculum, and they do not define the detail of content and quantity. Diversity of educational programmes must be fostered, to account for different educational, socio-economic and cultural conditions, different disease patterns, and offer social accountability. The standards provide a template for medical schools and the agencies which accredit them to define institutional, national and regional standards, and to act as a lever for reform programmes.

WFME Recognition of Accreditation Programme

The Recognition Programme delivers an independent, transparent and rigorous method of ensuring that accreditation of medical schools worldwide is at an internationally accepted and high standard. WFME evaluates compliance of accrediting agencies against pre-defined criteria regarding their legal standing, the accreditation processes, post-accreditation monitoring and decision-making processes. There are currently **10** agencies that have been awarded WFME Recognition Status and **9** applications in progress.

The Recognition Programme was established in response to two primary concerns:

- An exponential growth in the number of medical schools worldwide, of variable quality. Accreditation has rapidly become the preferred means of quality assurance for undergraduate medical education programs internationally. The existence of a system alone does not provide a guarantee that it will result in trustworthy decisions on the quality of programmes in medical education; this requires the accreditation system itself to operate in a robust, transparent and norm-referenced way.
- An evolving market for accreditation, where private firms and individual consultants offer their services in conducting a review and issuing an accreditation decision. In countries without a national accreditation system, it may be tempting to pay for accreditation from a private firm or individual.

World Directory of Medical Schools (www.wdoms.org)

The *World Directory of Medical Schools* is a free, searchable directory of the world's undergraduate (basic) medical education programmes. It contains information on about 3,000 schools, both operational and historical. Each record highlights available school details including start year, school type, operational status, programme details and contact information. In the future, the school detail should also include information about accreditation. WFME and FAIMER manage the *World Directory* in partnership.

Listing in the *World Directory* is based on a proof of recognition of the school in the corresponding country from the local regulatory authority (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health or the medical council), it does not denote recognition, accreditation, or endorsement by the *World Directory*, the WHO, or the sponsors.

www.wfme.org

Twitter: [@wfme.org](https://twitter.com/wfme.org)

General enquiries: admin@wfme.org

Accreditation: accreditation@wfme.org

World Directory: info@wdoms.org