

President: Professor David Gordon FRCP FMedSci

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (AQU) IN CATALONIA AWARDED WFME RECOGNITION STATUS**

Press Release

25 October 2021

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (AQU) which operates in Catalonia, Spain has been awarded Recognition Status by the World Federation for Medical Education ([WFME](#)). WFME Recognition Status has been awarded for ten years with immediate effect.

AQU Catalunya is an independent actor in the university system that works with higher education institutions across Catalonia to assure and enhance the quality of programmes of study, teaching and teaching staff, faculties and schools, for which institutions themselves are ultimately responsible. It works to make a decisive contribution as a knowledge builder at local, national and international levels and to facilitate the quality enhancement of higher education institutions in a global context.

WFME is satisfied that the accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring and decision making by AQU when it accredits these medical schools and faculties is to an appropriate and rigorous standard.

The [WFME Recognition Programme](#) follows the same principles as a medical school accreditation system: evaluation of documentation, policies and procedures; a site visit; and a decision taken by an independent committee with reference to pre-defined criteria.

The WFME Recognition Programme aims to raise the standards of medical education worldwide, through ensuring that national and regional accrediting agencies are acting in an appropriate, robust and transparent way. The intention is for all eligible accrediting agencies to be evaluated by WFME or to an equivalent standard. There are about 120 organisations listed in the Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools ([DORA](#)). 25 accrediting agencies have been recognised by WFME to date, and a further 19 have formally commenced the process. A further 14 organisations are in communication with WFME regarding their application.

Notes to editors:

1. The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in official relation with the World Health Organization representing medical education and medical schools worldwide.
2. WFME was established in 1972. It works in partnership with its six Regional Associations for Medical Education, the World Health Organization, the World Medical Association and other global professional organisations to enhance the quality of medical education through delivery of its work programme, including:
  - Development of standards for medical education
  - Promotion of accreditation of medical schools
  - Management of the *World Directory of Medical Schools*, jointly with FAIMER

For further information please see [www.wfme.org](http://www.wfme.org).

3. The WFME programme of Recognition of Accrediting Agencies was established following the 2005 WHO-WFME strategic partnership to improve medical education. The programme aims to address the need for a robust and independent system for the evaluation and recognition of accreditation agencies. Detail about the criteria for eligibility and the policies and procedures of the programme are published on [www.wfme.org](http://www.wfme.org).
4. The following accrediting agencies have been recognised by WFME:
  - Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) (Countries of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM) – recognised until May 2023
  - The Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD) (Tıp Eğitimi Değerlendirme ve Akreditasyon Derneği) (Turkey) – recognised until July 2023
  - Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (Canada) – recognised until April 2024
  - Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) (United States of America) – recognised until April 2024
  - Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation (KIMEE) (Republic of Korea) – recognised until September 2026
  - Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) (Selected Caribbean countries) – recognised until December 2026
  - Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME) (Japan) – recognised until March 2027
  - Australian Medical Council (AMC) (Australia and New Zealand) – recognised until January 2028
  - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) (Kazakhstan) – recognised until January 2028
  - Sudan Medical Council (SMC) – recognised until June 2028
  - Independent Accreditation Body for Health Professional Education (LAM-PTKes) (Indonesia) – recognised until October 2028
  - Institute for Medical Education Accreditation (IMEAc) (Thailand) – recognised until October 2028
  - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE) (Georgia) – recognised until October 2028
  - Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie) (NVAO) – recognised until November 2028
  - Mexican Board for Accreditation of Medical Education (Consejo Mexicano para la Acreditación de la Educación Médica (COMAEM) – recognised until April 2029
  - National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAEE) (Egypt) – recognised until April 2029
  - System of Accreditation of Medical Schools/Sistema de Acreditação de Escolas Médicas (SAEME) (Brazil) – recognised until April 2029
  - Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council (TMAC) – recognised until April 2029
  - Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) (UAE) – recognised until June 2029
  - Secretariat of the Council for Undergraduate Medical Education (SCUME) (Iran) – recognised until June 2029

- Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) (Cyprus) – recognised until February 2030
  - Working Committee for the Accreditation of Medical Education, Ministry of Education (WCAME) (China) – until June 2030
  - Medical Council of Ireland (MCI) (Republic of Ireland) – until June 2030
  - Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institution (AQACHEI) (Jordan) – until 30 September 2031
  - Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (AAQ) (Catalonia) – until 31 October 2031
5. The following accrediting agencies have an application under consideration by WFME (listed in alphabetical order):
- Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) (Germany)
  - Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programs and Organizations (AAEPO) (Kyrgyzstan)
  - American Osteopathic Association, Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOA COCA) (United States of America)
  - Bahrain Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) (Bahrain)
  - Conférence Internationale des Doyens et des Facultés de Médecine d'Expression Française (CIDMEF) (Selected Francophone countries world-wide)
  - Consejo Nacional de Acreditación (CNA) (Colombia)
  - Council for Higher Education (Israel)
  - Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA) (Kazakhstan)
  - Grenada Medical and Dental Council (Grenada)
  - Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) (Hungary)
  - Instituto Acreditación Internacional (IAI) (Selected Latin American countries)
  - Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) (Italy)
  - National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) (Spain)
  - National Center for Academic Accreditations (NCAAA) (Saudi Arabia)
  - Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) (Philippines)
  - Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ) (Switzerland)
6. For more information please contact WFME at [accreditation@wfme.org](mailto:accreditation@wfme.org).