

POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF CROSS-BORDER ACCREDITATION

PGME Recognition Programme

Background

WFME regularly receives enquiries about the option of the possibility of an accreditation by an agency with WFME Recognition Status outside of their original country of operation (the agency in which the agency holds a legal seat or where the initial core of operation is).

For an agency's operation in any country to be considered for WFME recognition, WFME needs to assess its legal standing and recognition by the local authorities. During the assessment of an agency, WFME reviews this process for the accreditation activity in the original country (or countries) of operation and not for any other country.

If an agency aims to venture outside of the originally evaluated remit, WFME needs to verify that the agency is recognised by the appropriate authorities in the new intended country of operation, that the decisions made by the agency have impact in the country, and also that the agency has considered the appropriateness of the policies, procedures and standards in the context of another country.

For more information, please refer to the PGME Recognition Criteria, specifically to the Context section and Criteria 6 and 7.

Cross-Border Accreditation Recognition Status Procedure

Agency in progress

For the agency in progress (applying agency), the element of cross-border accreditation is to be considered within the standard assessment of eligibility by the WFME PGME Recognition Committee. The agency is expected to describe its activities in the other countries as described in the Criterion and the guidance, and to provide relevant documentation in support of the information provided. In addition to the documentation provided by the agency, the WFME Office will reach out to the appropriate authority (authorities) in the target country (countries) to confirm the recognition in the first instance by the Eligibility Questionnaire and, if necessary, by a follow-up communication. The agency is required to facilitate the communication with the authority by indicating a responsive contact within the authority.

In its eligibility decision, the PGME Recognition Committee reserves the right to determine whether the applying accrediting agency is eligible for all, or only some, of the countries for which Recognition Status is being sought.

Based on the information provided in the Preliminary Application and follow-up, the PGME Recognition Committee may decide on the necessity of an additional site visit or a site visit to a

specific country. The same procedure and fees as for an additional site visit under the deferment process apply as per the WFME PGME Recognition Programme Policies and Procedures.

Recognised agency

The agency is expected to submit a formal request to extend their Recognition Status for a new country to the WFME Office. In the next steps the agency is asked to complete a Cross-Border Accreditation form and provide a responsive contact within the relevant authority to allow the WFME Office to request a completion of the Eligibility Questionnaire.

WFME Office will reach out to the recognising authority (authorities) in the target country (countries) to confirm the recognition.

The information will be reviewed by the WFME PGME Recognition Committee resulting in a decision on the inclusion of the cross-border activity in the WFME Recognition Status.

If the Recognition Committee, based on the information provided, deems it necessary, a decision on an additional site visit could be adopted. The same procedure and fees as for an additional site visit under the deferment process apply as per the WFME PGME Recognition Programme Policies and Procedures.

Until this process is successfully completed, any accreditation activity outside of the original country of operation is not recognised by WFME.

There is a fee applicable to this request in the amount of USD 6,000 and it is non-refundable. It is invoiced at the time this application is submitted.

At any stage of the process, WFME can consult with the recognising authority about the status of the agency in relation to any other agencies operating in the country. The authority may be asked to expand on the mandates of the individual agencies and indicate whether there is any difference in the level of acceptance or impact. The authority may indicate the primary agency within the system and any other levels of mandate.

The process from the initial request to the WFME decision should not exceed 8 weeks, provided that all documentation is submitted, and meetings held timely. If there is any information pending, the process may be delayed.

This information will be made public on the WFME website to provide the information on the level of the accreditation efforts.

Appendix A

Recognition Criteria for Cross-Border Accreditation

Context

Agency mandate

WFME Recognition Status is given for a specific **territory** and **scope of activity**.

Specify the country(ies) / geographic region(s) and scope of activity, including the postgraduate medical education (PGME) training / specialties / sub-specialties for which the agency seeks WFME Recognition Status.

Guidance:

Name the country or list all countries or geographic region(s) (such as territories or states) for which the agency seeks WFME Recognition Status.

Then, specify the educational programmes (such as prevocational, core, each specialty and/or sub-specialty) for which the agency seeks WFME Recognition Status.

Medical Education System overview

Provide an overview of the medical education system in the country / geographic region for which the agency seeks recognition of its operations. If the agency operates in more than one country / geographic region, describe the medical education system in each.

Guidance:

The description should focus on PGME with contextual summary of how PGME fits with other stages ((Basic Medical Education (BME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)) and types and timings of licensure/certification that may exist in the country. It must include:

- Postgraduate medical education pathways including duration or indicative duration of training programmes.
- Any other organisations or agencies involved in regulating, accrediting and/or managing PGME in the country or region, their nature and role in the system and how their role fits with that of the applicant agency.
- Both national and institutional bodies involved in PGME (such as universities, hospitals, deaneries, medical colleges and programmes). Provide the external organogram.
- Names of organisations or agencies responsible for accreditation and/or regulation of other medical education stages such as BME and CPD / other specialties/sub-specialties, if relevant.

- Process and organisations responsible for recognition of new disciplines as formal specialties and sub-specialties, including how these become subject to the agency's accreditation process.
- Any recent or planned medical education reforms that will affect PGME.

Criterion 6

The agency adheres to documented policies and procedures that ensure the quality of the cross-border accreditation process conducted outside of their primary country / geographic region of operation.

Guidance:

Describe the policies and procedures in place that pertain to cross-border accreditation:

- Has the agency introduced any targeted policies and procedures to ensure the consistent quality of all cross-border accreditation efforts? How were these developed?
- How does the agency manage the related financial and administrative resources necessary to support cross-border accreditation?

Criterion 7

The agency adheres to a documented process to analyse and, if necessary, adapt its policies, procedures and standards to the context of the target country / geographic region.

Guidance:

Describe the process of ensuring that the agency's standards, policies and procedures are appropriate for the target country.

- Does the agency consider and put in place arrangements to ensure that the agency's standards, policies and processes are appropriate for the local context?
- Were any changes made to the agency's standards and/or policies and procedures for any cross-border operations, including but not limited to process and scope of the site visit, staff and associate training, composition of the visiting team, decision-making and subsequent monitoring? If yes, describe what changes were made and the rationale for the changes.