

“A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its stakeholders.”

BAClight

Barbados Accreditation Council Newsletter

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Chairman's Word...

WELCOME



It is a great privilege to welcome all readers of this communication of the Barbados Accreditation Council. The Council was established in October 2005, and has two mandates: to register and accredit all institutions offering tertiary or post-secondary education in Barbados; and to facilitate the movement of skilled CARICOM

nationals through the issuing of a Certificate of Recognition, or the verification of certificates from other jurisdictions.

The first has become necessary because of a number of circumstances: the demand that education be seen as a service, open to foreign providers. Institutions abroad, which offer programmes that have no real value, and which frustrate those who invest in them. Offshore providers, whose programmes are sometimes open to question. It is now accepted that even reputable institutions offer overseas programmes, which are not of the same standard as those offered in their home institutions. The mandate of the Council is to ensure that those who have invested in further studies are not frustrated at the end of those studies.

The mandate of the Council is to ensure that those who have invested in further studies are not frustrated at the end of those studies.

The second mandate deals with the movement of people in the region to seek employment - movement in search of opportunity, subject to certain restrictions. The Council, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, has established clear guidelines on the process of obtaining this Certificate; and the public is invited to contact the Council for information and advice.

The establishment of the Council is a new development, and the purpose of this publication is to inform the public on its functions and the initiatives that it has undertaken. It is a valuable resource, which deserves careful reading and will be found to be helpful. I commend it to everyone and thank the entire staff for this effort. My hope is that you will enjoy reading this publication.

Noel Titus

Rev. Dr. Noel Titus, **Chairman**

The Official Launch

A morning of elegance with a prestigious flair. That's how the Barbados Accreditation Council Official Launch was hosted on November 15, 2006.



Held at Amaryllis Beach Resort, the feature address was delivered by Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, the Honourable Anthony Wood, J.P., M.P. The Minister, in his speech told the audience of stakeholders, "It is without doubt that the Barbados Accreditation Council has a strategic role to play in the development of the human resources in Barbados. I therefore wish to urge each one of you to assist the Council in its activities which can only rebound to

the benefit of Barbados and the region, as a whole." The launch was followed by the Strategic Visioning Retreat. The Council has embarked on a path of providing access to post-secondary and tertiary education and training - a path paved with quality assurance and quality enhancement for all stakeholders.



Logo Competition Winner

The Council wishes to congratulate Miss Shondelle Clarke for submitting the winning design in our recently held logo competition.

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From the Desk of The Executive Director



Barbadians have generally viewed education, and certainly post secondary and tertiary education as a means of advancing financially and even socially. As a result, they have pursued studies locally and overseas in order to acquire the necessary qualifications.

Over the years, that situation has not changed. However, the local post-secondary and tertiary environment has been changing as a result of global competitiveness and technological advances. At the same time, concerns are continually being raised with regard to the quality of educational provision as a result of the growing number of local education and training institutions; influx of qualifications; various programmes/courses of study being offered by local and foreign-based institutions through distance learning and other modes of delivery; and the increasing presence of foreign institutions operating in Barbados.

Up until October 2005, there was no national accreditation body which could assure the public of the quality of programmes and courses offered by local and foreign institutions operating in Barbados or provide advice on the recognition of foreign-based institutions and their qualifications. As a consequence, some persons may have found themselves in situations where they were unwittingly exploited or short-changed as the institution or programme of study was not accredited.

With the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) about to be implemented in 2006 in Barbados and the challenges facing the local tertiary sector, the need for a national accrediting body was recognized, and so the Barbados Accreditation Council came into existence.

The Council is ready to work with its various stakeholders: institutions, providers, parents/guardians, employers and students towards the attainment of ***“A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its stakeholders.”*** Together we can achieve this vision!

Valda V. Alleyne

Staff Members



Standing from left to right: Ms. Diana Yearwood, Administrative Officer I; Mrs. Sharon Alleyne, Accreditation Officer; Mrs. Sherry Ann Stephen, Assistant Accountant; Ms. Pamela Dottin, Accreditation Officer; Mr. Bryan Blades, Driver/Messenger; Mrs. Althea Cox-Riley, Clerical Officer; Ms. Katrina Ifill, Information Officer.

Sitting from left to right: Ms. Patricia Forde (on student attachment); Ms. Esther Moore, Maid; Ms. Valda Alleyne, Executive Director.

Missing is Ms. Juanita Bovell, Executive Secretary

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

Booker T. Washington

Vision

“A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its stakeholders.”

Mission

“To be a high quality provider for registration, accreditation and related services in post-secondary or tertiary education and training in Barbados and beyond.”

Registration

Local and foreign institutions operating in Barbados at the post-secondary and tertiary level must seek registration with the Barbados Accreditation Council.

What is Registration?

Registration signals that an institution or provider offering post-secondary and tertiary education and/or training programme(s) of study has met the registration requirements of the Council to operate legally in Barbados.

Purpose of Registration

The purpose of registration is to certify that an institution satisfies the requirements established by the Council for registration.

Registration does not address the quality of programmes of study of an institution or a provider. Institutional and programme quality are assessed through the accreditation process.

Procedure for Registration and Re-registration

1. The owner or principal must complete and submit the application form to the Council.
2. All supporting documentation must be included with the application form. Any unclear or incomplete response will delay the registration process.
3. Additional material should be included if it will assist the Council in processing the application form. Generally, supporting materials are required for each programme of study or course.
4. Upon evaluation of the application, a site visit will be conducted at the location.
5. Once all requirements are met, registration of the institution or provider will be approved and the owner/principal will be notified in writing to pay the required registration fee and collect the Certificate of Registration.

Registration Period

One (1) year (January to December) to be renewed annually. Registered institutions should apply for re-registration at least two (2) months before the registration period expires and pay the requisite registration fee.

Registration Fees

Application fees are based on enrolment numbers as shown below:

Student Enrolment Numbers (Local/Caribbean Single Market)	Fee (BDS\$)
Under 100	125.00
100 - 499	250.00
500 - 999	375.00
1,000 - 2,499	500.00
2,500 - 3,999	500.00
4,000 and over	1,000.00
Foreign/non-Caribbean Single Market and Trans-national	3,000.00
Other Charges: Registration Guidelines	
- Regular mail (print)	15.00
- Email/website download	No charge

NB: Mailing costs will be dependent upon prevailing postage rates.

REGISTERED INSTITUTIONS

One of the responsibilities of the Council is to inform the public about registered institutions. The Council therefore takes this opportunity to congratulate all registered institutions and providers:

1. Advanced Management Services
2. Advantage Training Solutions Ltd.
3. Applied Performance Solutions Inc.
4. Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP)
5. Barbados Productivity Council
6. Career Development Institute
7. Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
8. CariMEC
9. Computer Knowledge Centre
10. Genesis Training Systems Inc.
11. Insurance Institute of Barbados
12. Interchange Language Institute
13. International Airline Academy
14. Peacehaven Holistic Therapy School
15. Professional Security Training College
16. Profiles School of Beauty and Salon
17. Quality Control & Computer Services
18. Semaj International School of Cosmetology & Trichology
19. The Caribbean College of Mortuary Science
20. The School of Gastronomy
21. Trinity Business Solutions
22. University of the Southern Caribbean
23. Welches Lifelong Learning
24. Youth With A Mission

Accreditation Corner

Welcome to the *Accreditation Corner*, which will consist of a series of articles looking at the concepts of ‘quality’, ‘quality assurance’, ‘quality enhancement’ and ‘accreditation’. We hope that this series will educate the general public on issues associated with accreditation and quality, and provoke readers to reassess their perceptions of both concepts. As we move through the series, it is envisioned that readers will make incremental steps away from the notion of accreditation being only a mechanism for accountability, to the notion of quality enhancement as a move towards continuous improvement and the fostering of mutual trust between the Barbados Accreditation Council, and the institutions.

In Barbados, the accreditation of post secondary and tertiary institutions and training providers, is the sole responsibility of the Barbados Accreditation Council, and “is a voluntary process”. Accreditation is the process by which the Council formally evaluates an educational institution or programme of study against the Council’s standards and speaks to quality improvement beyond the minimum (accepted) standards. It is one means by which an institution or programme of study may assure students and the general public of the quality of its educational provision. The major purposes for accreditation are to provide objective assessment of the quality of the educational institution or programme of study offered and to stimulate continuous improvement. The Council views the accreditation process as one which should ensure quality enhancement and institutional improvement.

In order to assure relevance and importance of the standards, the Council hosted a series of Consultations, which commenced on 18th June in order to gather feedback from institutions, providers and professional bodies. Some of the major benefits of accreditation are highlighted below:

Benefits of Accreditation to Key Stakeholders

Students

- Highlights the capabilities/competencies of the institution;
- Assures recognition of qualifications and transferability locally, regionally and internationally;
- Improves education/training and learning achievement as the quality of the institution’s provision is assured;
- Provides assurance that an individual is getting value for money for time spent on a programme of study;
- Facilitates the transfer of learner credits from one institution to another;
- Provides recognition for entry into higher education, profession and business.

Institution

- Provides national, regional and international recognition of quality, accountability, and public trust;
- Verifies the quality of the educational provision to potential students, businesses and governments;
- Facilitates access to support and services designed to continually improve the quality of education and training;
- Lends prestige to the institution;
- Highlights strengths and capabilities of the institution;
- Aids with student recruitment efforts; and
- Provides credibility by enhancing the image of the institution.

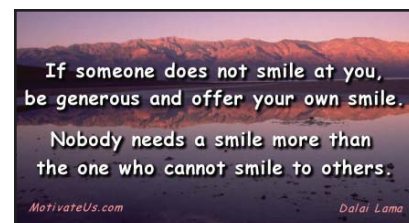
Employers

- Assures the quality of human capital;
- Assures the quality of qualifications and credentials presented;
- Increases productivity and performance which may lead to increased profitability; and
- Provides benchmarks against which educational provision can be measured against employment requirements.

Nation

- Assures a highly skilled workforce, which should enhance international competitiveness;
- Increases the global competitiveness of local institutions;
- Provides assurance to taxpayers of the quality of educational provision; and
- Assures government of positive returns on investment in the educational sector.

Until the next article, remember, “*Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives*” (William A. Foster)



News & Upcoming Events

September 3, 2007

Workshop on Credential and Institutional Fraud at Amaryllis Beach Resort, Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados

Cost: BDS\$500.00

This one-day workshop will cover essentials in identifying fraudulent documents. Participants will be exposed to many different forms of credential fraud and common methods to help overcome the problems associated with fraudulent documentation. The facilitator is Margrit A. Schatzman, President of Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE) with over 20 years of experience in credential evaluation principles and methods, British-based educational systems, education in the Caribbean and falsified and altered documents.

EARLY BIRD 10% DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE IF PAYMENTS ARE MADE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2007

Call 436-9094 , 429-9111 or 429-5385 **TODAY!**

September 4 - 6, 2007

Workshop on Equivalency of Qualifications at Amaryllis Beach Resort, Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados

The workshop will provide training in the evaluation/equivalency of qualifications from a number of countries.

October 2007

20th anniversary month of the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ)

Calender of Events includes:

October 9 - 11: 4th Annual Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) Conference at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort and Spa, Jamaica.

Theme: Transforming Tertiary Education to Meet Global Challenges

The Strands for the Theme **include: Governance and Policy Issues, Quality Issues, Partnerships and Alliances and others.**

October 24, 2007

Post Consultation on Draft Accreditation Standards at Hotel PomMarine, Christ Church, Barbados

Staff News



The Council welcomes its first baby, Master Jaheim Bovell, born to Ms. Juanita Bovell (Executive Secretary) on Wednesday, May 16, 2007.

Over the past few months the following staff members have attended In-Service Training conducted by the Training and Administration Department:

Ms. Esther Moore - Customer Service Skills and General Housekeeping

Mr. Bryan Blades - Driver/Messenger Development

Ms. Diana Yearwood - Customer Service Skills

Ms. Katrina Ifill - MicroSoft Access 2003 (Advanced)

Poetry Stop

A Simple Little Prayer by Patricia Forde

Everyday I say a little payer
For the dying to see another day
For hate and jealousy to go away
For all those who have been led astray
That all those living in the dark can see the light
For those who run away to stay and fight
For people to be proud not to be alike
Yet for people of the world to unite
And for the practice of world peace
For all the drug abuse and violence to cease
For the cost of living to decrease
And that the hungry be able to feast
And for the homeless to have a home
And for the lonely not to be alone
For the protection of the ozone
That their be blindness to skin tone
For the end of prejudice and partiality
For the end of human and animal brutality
For the re-emergence of morality
For the world to become one big sorority
For everyone to be able to travel everywhere
For no one having to shed a tear
For everyone to experience love and care
For people's disabilities to disappear
I pray when it comes to doing good for the use of I would
instead of I could and should
I pray no one will again have to live or die by the sword
I pray life will never again be as hard
I pray for a better world.

Distance Education: How Much Do You Know?

What is Distance Education?

Distance education is a formal method of teaching and learning where the instructor and students are separated by time and/or place, that is, the instructor and students are not in the same place at the same time. Instruction may be synchronous i.e. instruction is provided in real-time (at a specific time and location) or asynchronous i.e. teaching and learning that does not occur at the same time (instruction is delivered at one time and students can respond at their own convenience, as long as they have access to the instructional delivery mode). Distance education and distance learning are often used interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference between the two terms. Distance education speaks to the educator providing the learning opportunity. Distance learning speaks to the learner studying in a non-classroom setting.

Forms of Distance Education

More and more institutions and providers worldwide are offering distance education programmes to students. Instruction may be delivered wholly or partially by distance using various technologies such as print (regular mail), radio or television broadcasting, audio/video teleconferencing, computer-aided instruction, Internet (e.g. online learning/e-learning, web-based learning), computer broadcasting/webcasting, video cassette recorders (VCRs), CD/DVD-ROMs, amongst other delivery modes. Some distance education programmes may have a blended format where students are required to attend certain classes on campus.

Why Choose Distance Education?

Distance education provides persons with the flexibility to continue working and/or take care of their families while continuing with their education. Commute time is a huge issue for persons with full time jobs and/or families. Evening classes usually start around 6 p.m. on average and last two to three hours. Between work and commute, your day can be over 14 hours long, leaving very little time to spend with family and friends. With distance learning, persons can take classes wherever it is convenient for them. Also, it may not be economically, financially, culturally or politically feasible to attend the institution where the programme is being offered distance education eliminates that challenge.

Skills Needed to Succeed

Distance education is not for everyone. To be successful in this environment you must:

- be self-motivated - able to work without supervision (work independently);
- be able to pace yourself well - do not wait until the last minute to do all your work;
- be able to do most of your learning through reading - although video and audio are becoming more available, most instructional materials are provided in written form;

- have a high level of reading comprehension;
- have certain technical skills - use of computers and Internet;
- be very good at prioritising - put your studies ahead of socialising with friends;
- have excellent time management skills.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to determine if distance learning is right for you:

- Do I work consistently or tend to put everything off until the last minute?
- How well do I work on my own? Am I good at figuring out directions on my own?
- Will my schedule allow me to devote the necessary hours to study?
- Is my environment conducive for effective study?
- Am I comfortable with, or knowledgeable of existing technology?
- Do I have someone to assist me with any technical difficulties?
- How do I feel about not being in the same room with the instructor and other students?
- How helpful is classroom discussion to my learning?

If you did not answer “ yes” to each question, then distance learning is not for you.

Choosing a Distance Education Programme

Here are some things to consider when choosing a distance education programme:

1. What are the specific educational outcomes and are they aligned to my professional goals?
2. What is the duration of the programme or course?
3. What is the total cost of the programme? Are there any hidden costs?
4. Is any kind of financial aid available with this programme?
5. Can the programme be completed entirely at home or will I need to attend classes on campus? What is the residency cost?
6. Is programme delivered at a specific time and location? Am I able to attend classes at the times and place specified?
7. What is the delivery method for the programme content? Do I have the necessary equipment to access the material?
8. Will I receive the information in a timely manner to complete the course?
9. What assistance, academic or technical, is offered by the institution delivering the programme?

10. How does this programme compare with similar accredited programmes or courses?

So, you have decided that distance education is right for you. Before you make that all important decision to enroll, find out if the institution is recognised or accredited. Contact the Barbados Accreditation Council at 436-9094 or info@bac.gov.bb. Good luck on your journey!

Links to some interesting articles on distance learning:
<http://distancelearn.about.com/od/distancelearning101/a/5Myths.htm>
<http://distancelearn.about.com/od/choosingaschool/a/choosingaschool.htm>

Caribbean Single Market and Economy: Free Movement of Skills and Labour

It's now as easy as 1, 2, 3 for CARICOM Nationals to move freely among the 13 qualifying Caribbean Community States.

That's because of the introduction of the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification. CARICOM nationals, who fall under the categories of graduates, sports persons, musicians, artistes, media persons, professional nurses and teachers; wishing to find gainful employment in any of the CARICOM Member States just need to take these three simple steps:

1. Apply for the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification in your home or host country.
2. Travel to any of the Member States, and go to the relevant authority to have your Certificate of Recognition (which you'll need to have on you) verified.
3. On verification of your Certificate of Recognition in Barbados, return to the Immigration Department and have your stay regularised.

It is important note that in Barbados you'll need to produce the originals of your Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification (for verification), degree, any relevant qualifications, birth certificate, passport, two (2) passport size photos, and a Police Certificate of Character (for every country in which you have lived for more than 6 months since the age of 16 years). The fee for the Certificate of Recognition is BDS\$100.00. There is currently no charge for verification of the Certificate of Recognition.

Also consult the relevant authority in the host country to clarify the required documents and procedures **before** you travel, as there maybe specific requirements. You may also contact the Barbados Accreditation Council at (246) 436-9094.

Photo Gallery

Accreditation Consultations, June 18th, 21st and July 4th 2007



Useful Websites

With developments within the area of technology, and the easy access to the internet, the world is being proliferated with fraudulent academic qualifications and accrediting bodies. These fake documents are generated by bodies called Diploma/Degree Mills and authenticated by Accreditation Mills. That's why it is extremely important to check whether the institution you're interested in attending is accredited by a reputable accrediting body to avoid a waste of money, time and effort. Below is a list of some of the websites which maybe used to verify whether an institution is accredited.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

<http://www.chea.org>

This site contains a listing by State and by accrediting agency of all accredited degree-granting and non degree-granting institutions.

Information about Diploma Mills used by the State of Oregon

<http://www.osac.state.or.us/oda/unaccredited.html>

This site contains information on accredited schools in the United States as well as information on fraudulent accrediting agencies, institutions and diploma mills.

Non-accredited institutions

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

This database lists approximately 6,900 post secondary educational institutions and programmes in the United States that are accredited by a recognized accrediting agency and/or recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). Please note that the New York Board of Regents is the ONLY State agency in the USA that the USDE has recognized to accredit degree-granting institutions.

UNITED KINGDOM

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/index.cfm?fuseaction=filtered=institutes.list&InstituteCategoryID=2>

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/index.cfm?fuseaction=filtered=institutes.list&InstituteCategoryID=1&OrderBy=Category#Alpha>

These sites provide a list of accredited universities and degrees in the United Kingdom. There are approximately 145 institutions with their own degree awarding powers and 19 colleges and institutions that the University of London have given the permission to award University of London degrees listed on these sites.

CANADA

<http://www.cicic.ca>

This site provides information on the recognition of Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Canada. A list of all recognized

universities in Canada can be found on the site.

<http://www.aucc.ca>

This site represents 90 Canadian public and private not-for-profit universities and degree-granting colleges in the Maritime Provinces.

INDIA

<http://www.naac-india.com>

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. This site lists the recognized colleges and institutions in India.

AUSTRALIA

<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm>

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) registers recognized education institutions and authorized accreditation authorities in Australia.

<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm#state>

Information can be found on government accreditation authorities for all sectors.

<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm#university>

Information can be found on universities and other self-accrediting higher education institutions.

<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm#highered>

Information can be found on non self-accrediting higher education institutions and their AQF-approved qualifications.

NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) website.

HONG KONG

<http://www.hkcaa.edu.hk/Forms/List%20of%20Post%20Secondary%20Programmes.htm>

The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) was set up to carry out academic accreditation at tertiary institutions in Hong Kong and to provide advice to Government on education standards and qualifications in general. This website lists post secondary programmes accredited by the HKCAA.

SOUTH AFRICA

www.sqa.org.za