

Caribbean Offshore Medical Schools

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About Us



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Overview

Project Background

Intro to Caribbean Offshore Schools

The Research

Accreditors

Evaluation of Accreditors

Other Forms of Recognition

Chart Samples

Recommendations

Questions? Ask us in the chat!

Project Background & Intro to Caribbean Offshore Medical Schools

Background

- Received inquiries from medical agencies
 - Questions from medical schools regarding admissibility to graduate medical programs
 - Inquires from state medical boards for licensure purposes
- No comprehensive list of offshore schools which include accreditation information exists
- Project assigned to research fellows on AACRAO's International Education Standards Council (IESC)
- **Purpose of Research:**
 - Develop reference chart for medical schools in region
 - White paper

The Issues

- Atypical accreditation structure
 - Not familiar to US institutions
- Multiple accreditors in region
 - What's the difference between them?
- Other non-accrediting agencies with influence
- Disagreement between agencies regarding the same school

Terminology Specific to this Research

Recognition

- When an agency approves or disapproves of a medical school or accreditor for its own purposes

Accreditation

- A form of quality assurance
- Formal recognition by a country's Ministry of Education (or equivalent), or by an entity legally authorized to perform that function on its behalf
- Typically requires renewal

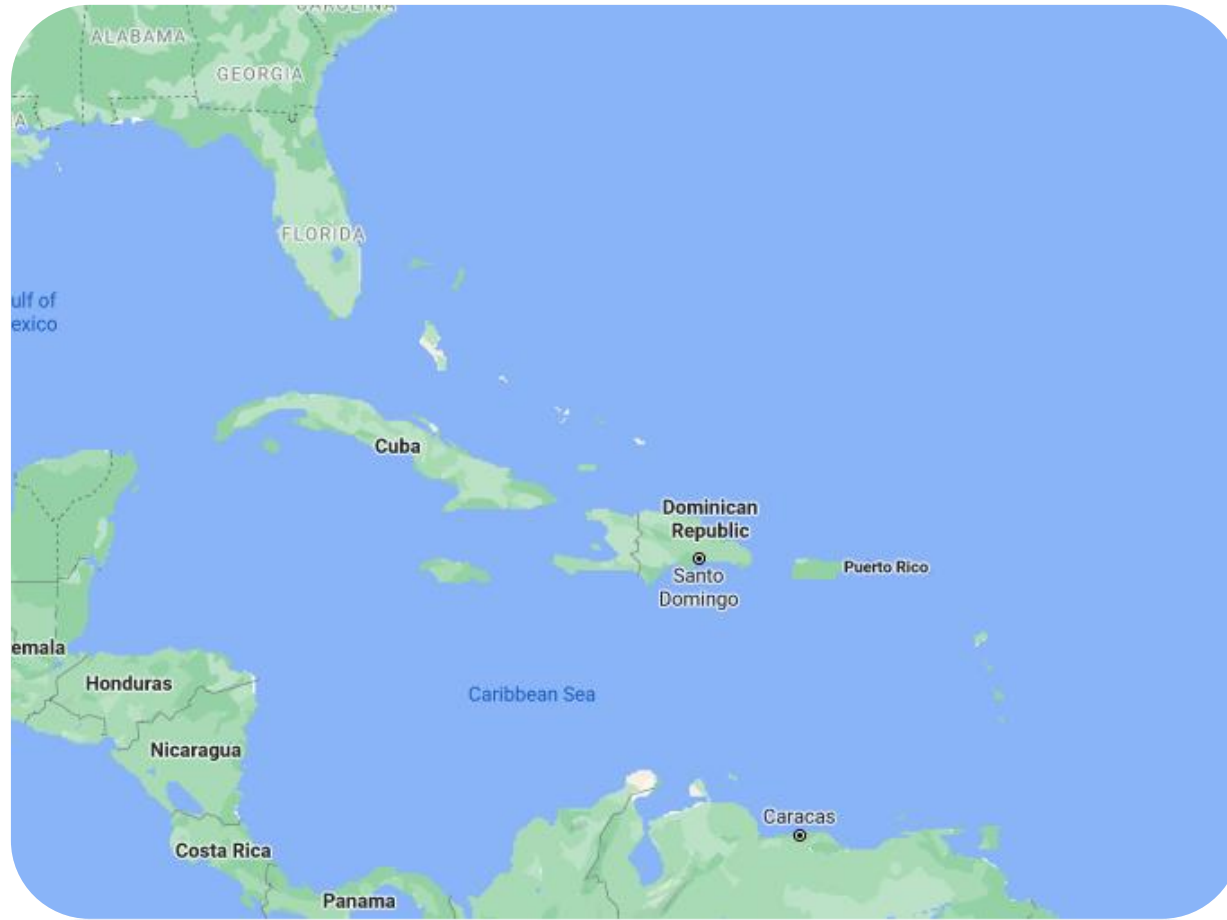
Indigenous School

- Integrated with the local educational structure, designed for students from the country in which the school is located

Offshore School

- Integrated with the educational system of a different country other than where the school is located

What is the Caribbean?



- Geographic region
- Also a political region
- Legacy of colonization, political diversity

CARICOM

Caribbean Community



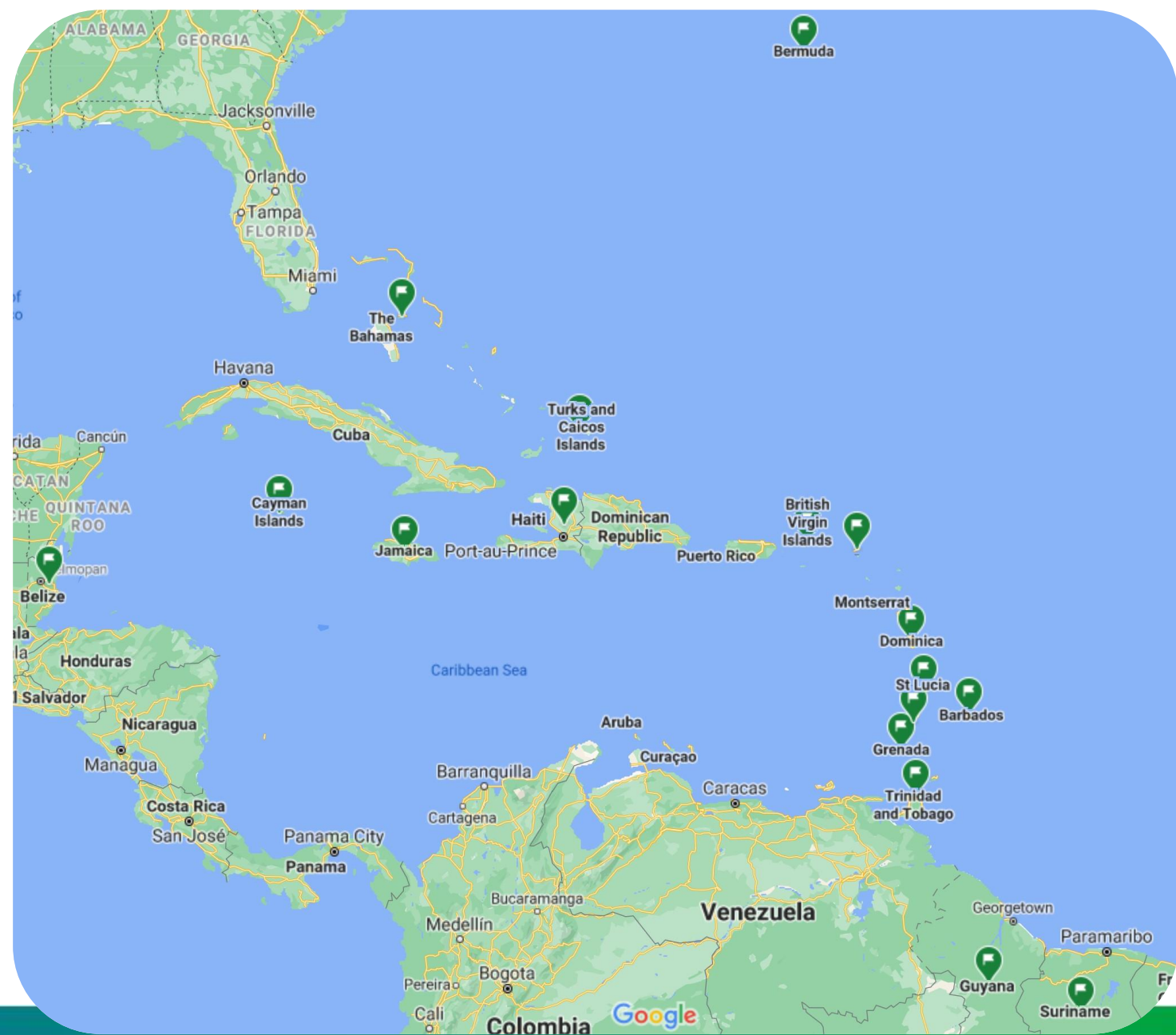
- Union of 20 countries
- Established 1973 with the Treaty of Chaguaramas
- Four pillars:
 - Economic Integration
 - Foreign Policy Coordination
 - Human & Social Development
 - Security

Member Nations

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Montserrat
Saint Lucia
St Kitts and Nevis
St Vincent and the
Grenadines
Suriname

Associate Members

Anguilla
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Turks and Caicos Islands



How to identify an “offshore” school

- Generally styled after US medical education system
 - Admissions requirements – usually 3 years of undergrad
 - 4-year program
 - Advertises itself as a pathway to practice in US
 - May have offices based in US
- Some recruit from India
 - Admissions requirements reflect Indian system
 - May offer MBBS vs. MD
 - May have offices based in India

Example: Ross University

MEDICAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

+ MCAT REQUIREMENTS

+ GPA REQUIREMENTS

+ WHAT IS THE AVERAGE GPA FOR MED SCHOOL?

— YOUR APPLICATION CHECKLIST

IN ORDER TO MEET MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS, A COMPLETE APPLICATION MUST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- A completed [Ross application](#).
- Official transcript(s) from each college and/or professional school attended.
- At least two official letters of recommendation, which are confidential and become the property of Ross: At least one academic letter from a pre-medical professor acquainted with the applicant's academic ability or a recommendation from a college pre-health advisory committee; a second academic letter or reference from a physician acquainted with the applicant's healthcare work experience, if applicable. The second letter may also be a character reference from an employer or volunteer activity. All letters must be on appropriate letterhead with contact information included, and sent directly from the recommending party to the Ross Admissions Office.
- Medical College Admission Test scores.

All letters of recommendation and transcripts must be mailed to:

Ross University School of Medicine
Office of Admissions
2300 SW 145th Avenue, Suite 200
Miramar, FL 33027

Admissions office is in Florida, not Barbados

Example: Ross University

- + BACHELOR'S AND GRADUATE WORK ← Requires Bachelor's degree
- + REQUIRED PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK
- + THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW
- FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate studies in countries that have an educational system different from that of the United States or Canada will be evaluated on their merits but will be expected to have completed a pre-medical curriculum comparable to that completed by US and Canadian students.

Our admissions associates can help you get started. Please contact us with any questions you may have about the medical school admissions requirements.

← Applicants not from US or Canada considered "international"

US system, offshore

Example: University of the West Indies

CSEC = Caribbean
Secondary
Education
Certificate



FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

To be qualified for entry, applicants must satisfy both the general matriculation requirements of the University and the specific requirements of the Faculty of Medical Sciences for entry to the MBBS.

General Matriculation requirements:

Minimum of five (5) CSEC (CXC) subjects (gen. prof. Grades I-III) and/or GCE 'O' Levels (grades A-C) including English Language and Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Specific requirements:

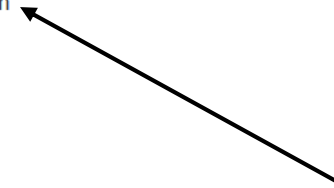
The minimum academic requirements for admission to the MBBS Programme are based on performance in the Caribbean Proficiency Examination (CAPE)/GCE 'A' Level Examinations or their equivalent.

Applicants must:

- Have attained their 18th birthday by December 30 of the year of entry
- Have achieved passes in three (3) Two-Unit CAPE or three (3) 'A' Level subjects according to any one of the following schemes

Scheme	(CAPE)/GCE 'A' Level passes	Must include these subject(s) among the five (5) CXC /GCE 'O' Level passes required for matriculation
A	Chemistry, Biology/Zoology and either Physics or Math.	
B	Biology/Zoology, Chemistry and a non-science subject	Physics

Caribbean Advanced
Proficiency Examination



Indigenous system, not offshore

Example: Lincoln American University

Eligibility Criteria

1. The candidate must complete the age of 17 years on or before 31st December of the year of admission. To put it simply, if you are born on or before 31st December 2002, you can apply for 2019 intake.
2. The candidate must have passed in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology and English individually and secure at least 50% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects of 12th standard. Students belonging to the reserved category (OBC/SC/ST) get a relaxation of 10%. Further, physically challenged students in general/ unreserved category get relaxation of 5%. Minimum aggregate marks required for different category of students are tabulated as under:

Student Category	Required Minimum Aggregate Marks in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology Subjects of 12th Standard
Unreserved/ General	50%
Unreserved with benchmark disability	45%
Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (with or without benchmark disability)	40%

Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes are Indian terms

Note: For Indian Students, NEET is mandatory. Candidates do not have to appear for any additional entrance exam to get admission in LAU MD Program.

NEET is an Indian Exam

Example: Lincoln American University

OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Get Sup

DELHI NCR

Address: 4th Floor, 8 Square, Sector 125, Noida
Uttar Pradesh 201313
Tel: 0120-4066400

MUMBAI

Office No: 223, 2nd Floor Trade Center Building, MMRDA Area
Bandra Kurla Complex BKC, Mumbai-400051
Tel: 022-49232211

ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

Address: Lincoln American University Beside Maruti Suzuki
Showroom, Himayatnagar Hyderabad 500029

UTTAR PRADESH

Address: Excel Career Academy FF-1, Arohi Plaza, Beside Bhumani
Films, Patrakarpuram Crossing , Ptrakarpuram Rd, Vikas Khand 1,
Gomti Nagar , Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226020
Mobile: 05224000571

OUR PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH

Address: Zaman Tower, Level 12, room 1202/1203, 37/2 Purana
Paltan (Culvert Road) Dhaka 1000
Bangladesh

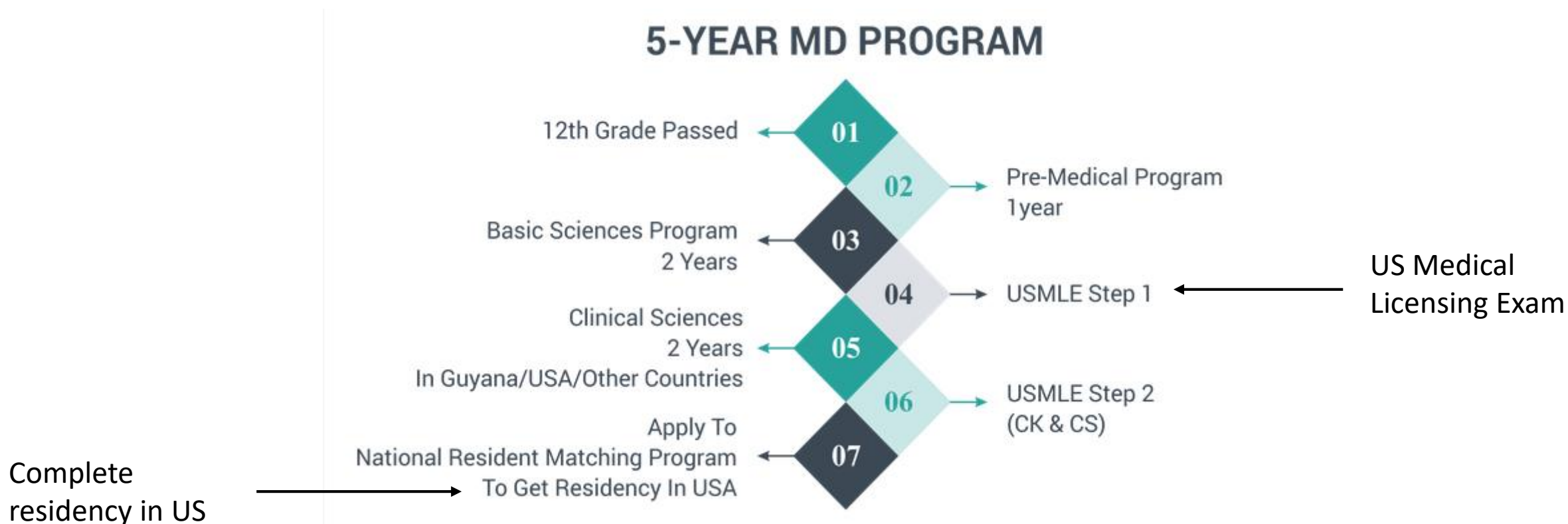
OUR PRESENCE IN NIGERIA

Address: No. 22, Saadu Zungur Street, 4th Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja
Nigeria

OUR PRESENCE IN SRI LANKA

EDULANKA Study Abroad (ELSA)
Mr. MZM Faizeen Director/CEO
Address: No: 7, Rajaguru Sri Subuthi Road, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka.

Example: Lincoln American University



Indian targeted, but US system, offshore

The Research

Research Methodology

- Developed list of possible countries in region
 - CARICOM and non-CARICOM members
- World Directory of Medical Schools
 - Does not show or provide accreditation
 - Initial list of institutions
 - Utilized by several key agencies in licensing process
- US state and territorial medical boards
 - Which states have a list of approved schools?
- History of colonization and political influence
 - UK, Netherlands, India

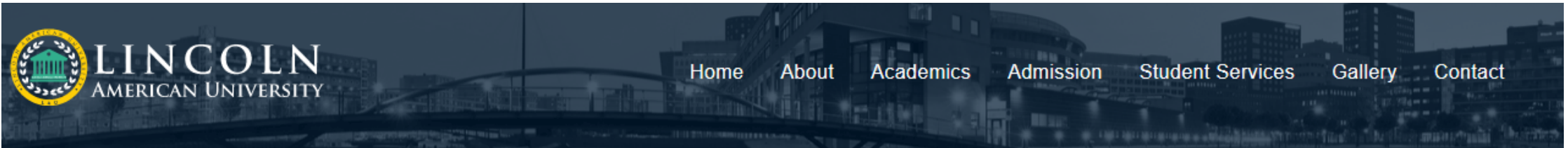
Research Methodology cont.

- Institution websites
 - Current and historical
 - Websites of affiliated/owning companies
 - ICANN web domain registration
 - Mailing addresses
- Accreditation
 - Several accreditors and “accreditor-types” in region
- Other agencies of influence
 - NCFMEA, WFME, ECFMG

Highlights: India

- Several schools with similar websites
- Web domain registered by Rus Education in India
- Checked all schools for Indian mailing addresses
 - Matched to Rus Education
- Exact nature of relationship unknown
 - Notated in chart

Highlights: Example Webpage



Accreditation

Lincoln American University is listed in the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Directory of Medical Schools. Students who have completed their MBBS in LAU are eligible to apply for any license exam in any country including the Medical Council of India screening exam to register their degree. Lincoln American University is registered with the National Accreditation Council of Guyana under the Ministry of Education. Any student graduating from a WHO listed Medical University is entitled to appear for the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) in Order to practice in USA. So accordingly any student who has completed his or her studies from Lincoln American University can appear in this examination.

The IMED is an International Directory which contains accurate information on all medical universities after they have been accredited by the concerned government authorities of the country in which they are located. Lincoln American University is approved by Ministry of Health, Guyana and is listed in IMED. An MD degree awarded by Lincoln American University is recognized all over European Union (EU).

The Results

- Chart of 73 medical schools in Caribbean
- Data fields:
 - Institution name and former names
 - Location and former locations
 - Year founded
 - Accreditation
 - Other forms of recognition
 - Disapproval by accreditors or other agencies
 - Credential required for admission
 - Length of program
 - Other degrees offered
 - Affiliated or owning companies
 - Notes

The Results cont.

- All 73 schools checked against:

Accreditors	State Boards	Others
CAAM-HP	Alabama Board of Medical Examiners	Medical Council of Canada
ACCM	Medical Board of California	ECFMG
NVAO	Florida Department of Education	Medical Council of India
Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board	Medical Licensing Board of Indiana	UK General Medical Council
Barbados Accreditation Council	Kansas State Board of Healing Arts	
Grenada Medical and Dental Council	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine	
National Accreditation Council of Guyana	New York State Board for Medicine	
St. Kitts and Nevis Accreditation Board	Texas Medical Board	
Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago		
Ministry of Education of Belize		

Accreditors

CAAM-HP

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions



- Established 2003
- Accreditor for medical schools in Caribbean
- Operates on behalf of CARICOM nations
 - Multi-national accreditor
 - Also accredits schools in non-CARICOM nations
- Based on LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education)
- Why CAAM-HP?
 - Many smaller nations do not have resources to independently accredit medical schools

CAAM-HP cont.

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions



- Statuses
 - Accredited
 - Not Accredited/Accreditation Denied
 - Different terms, same meaning
 - Provisional
 - Schools already in operation applying for accreditation
 - Candidacy
 - *Not* considered accreditation
 - For new programs still in development

ACCM

Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine



- Founded 1994
- Based in Republic of Ireland
 - Does not accredit schools in Ireland
- Compared to CAAM-HP
 - Independent agency
 - Does not operate of behalf of CARICOM
- 8 schools in Caribbean, 1 in Jordan

Local Accreditation

- Often a two-tiered system
 - Registration
 - Accreditation
- More research on these agencies needed
 - Process for registration/accreditation
- May conflict with CAAM-HP

Evaluation of Accreditors

NCFMEA

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation



- Part of the US Department of Education
- Evaluates foreign medical accreditors
 - Determines if it is comparable to US medical school accreditation (LCME)
- Required for Title IV eligibility
- NCFMEA comparable accreditors on chart
 - CAAM-HP
 - ACCM
 - NVAO
 - Grenada Medical and Dental Council

WFME

World Federation for Medical Education



- Evaluates medical accreditation agencies worldwide
 - Confers its recognition as a standard of quality
- Non-governmental
 - Does not grant eligibility for Title IV
- Registered under English & Welsh Law, and in France
 - Office in London, France, and Czech Republic
- Will play a critical role in upcoming changes to US licensure process
- WFME recognized accreditors on chart
 - CAAM-HP
 - ACCM
 - NVAO
- Applied for recognition
 - Grenada Medical and Dental Council

Other Forms of Recognition

ECFMG

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates



- Private, non-profit US agency
- Assesses foreign medical graduates for
 - Readiness for residency or fellowship programs
 - Eligibility for US Medical Licensing Exam
- Receive a certification from ECFMG
 - Required by many US state medical boards for licensure
- Restrictions on who can apply
 - Eligible medical schools listed in World Directory
 - Requirements changing in 2024 – WFME recognition

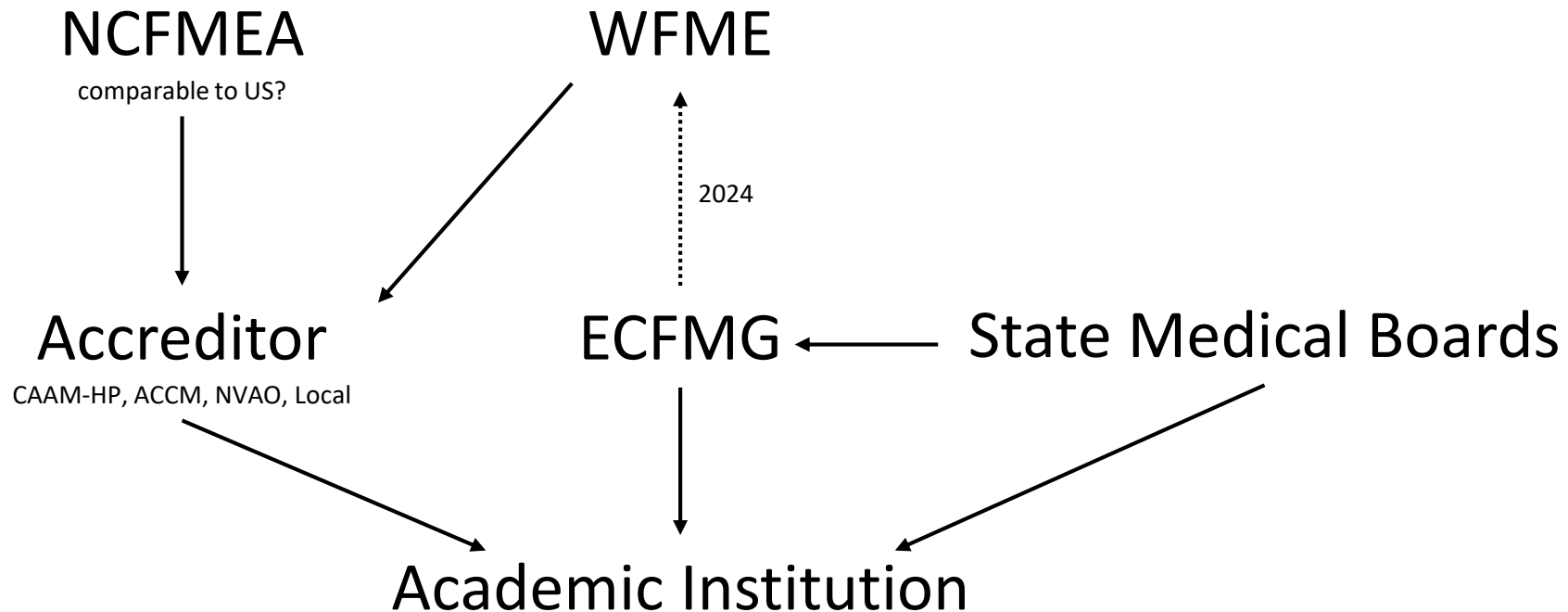
State Medical Boards

- Licensure for medical practice
 - Varies by state
- Many depend on/require ECFMG certification
- Some states directly maintain own list of approved schools
 - California and Texas have large lists
 - Sometimes referenced by other states
- Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
 - Reciprocity of medical licensure among 28 states
 - Eligibility: school must be accredited or listed in World Directory
 - World directory is not accreditation or endorsement
 - CA and TX not included, but TX has begun the process

Foreign Medical Boards

- Do not accredit any of the schools on chart
 - May accredit schools in their own country
 - Exception: Saba University School of Medicine
 - Saba is a special municipality of the Netherlands
 - Accredited by NVAO
- Maintain lists of approved/disapproved foreign schools for licensure
 - Canada
 - United Kingdom
 - India
- Included in chart as second opinion, reveal conflicts

Connecting the dots...



What will your institution look for?

Chart Samples and Recommendations

Samples from the Chart

Institution	Location	Accreditaion	Other Recognition	Dissaproved by
St. Matthew's University School of Medicine	Cayman Islands	ACCM [†] Accredited since 2001	Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG FL, NY	UK General Medical Council, CA, IN, KS
Caribbean Medical University School of Medicine	Curaçao		Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG	UK General Medical Council, Denied accreditation by CAAM-HP [†]
All Saints University School of Medicine	Dominica	ACCM [†] Conditional Accreditation since 2019	Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG, UK General Medical Council	Not accredited by CAAM-HP [†] after review in 2017
St. George's University School of Medicine	Grenada	Grenada Medical and Dental Council [‡]	Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG, Medical Council of India, CA, FL, IN, MA, NY, TX	Voluntarily withdrew accreditation from CAAM-HP [†] Jan 2021, formerly accedited Accredited with Conditions 2015-2019

Key	
†	WFME recognized & NCFMEA comparable
‡	NCFMEA comparable accreditor

Samples cont.

Institution	Location	Accreditaion	Other Recognition	Dissaproved by
Texila American University College of Medicine	Guyana	National Accreditation Council of Guyana (Registered)	Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG, Medical Council of India	Denied accreditation by CAAM-HP† 2018
Windsor University School of Medicine	Saint Kitts and Nevis	St. Kitts and Nevis Accreditation Board	Medical Council of Canada, ECFMG, Medical Council of India, UK General Medical Council	Not accredited by CAAM-HP† after review in 2017, pending new review after COVID-19

Key

†	WFME recognized & NCFMEA comparable
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Recommendations

- Use this presentation and the upcoming white paper as an informational guide
- Determine what form of accreditation and/or recognition is acceptable for your institution
- Develop an institutional policy that manages conflicts of accreditation
- Consider equity

Thanks for joining

Look for our white paper available on the AACRAO website.

Digital: [https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-\(digital\).pdf?sfvrsn=1b6f8402_2](https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-(digital).pdf?sfvrsn=1b6f8402_2)

Print: [https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-\(print\).pdf?sfvrsn=1c4207f8_2](https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-(print).pdf?sfvrsn=1c4207f8_2)

Please visit aacrao.org for more information on the IESC and the Fellowship Program.