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Our reference

IZ 3073908

Enclosure(s)

2

All correspondence addressed to the postal address quoting date and reference of this letter.

Date **2 AUG 2011**
Subject Status International University School of Medicine after
10 October 2010

Dear Dr Ghaus Choudry,

I am writing to inform you of the most recent developments concerning the transitional regime up to October 2013, the measures that you will need to take to retain your status under Dutch law after 2013, and the issue of a declaration by the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport for IUSOM's use in the transitional period.

Education

Since the constitutional changes of 10 October 2010, medical schools in the Netherlands in the Caribbean can apply to the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science for accreditation of their educational programmes under the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act. Your school needs this accreditation in order for your medical graduates to be admitted to residency or fellowship programmes in the United States (a condition set by the American accreditation organisation Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates – ECFMG). The ECFMG also requires the Dutch government to issue a declaration concerning graduates eligibility to register as a doctor in the Netherlands (more information is provided below and in the annexe).

The recognition procedure, as laid down in the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act, comprises several components. A legal body that wishes to provide a study programme, as referred to in the Higher Education and Research Act, must apply to the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) for extensive initial accreditation. One of the conditions to be met is that the subject programme must have been provided to its full extent at least once. NVAO bases its judgement on the quality of the education provided within the framework of that programme. Upon a positive recommendation by NVAO, the legal body may request permission from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to award degrees (i.e., become a legal entity for higher education).



The Education Inspectorate subsequently advises the Minister regarding the institution's (administrative and financial) continuity and its compliance with the statutory provisions regarding quality assurance, registrations, the education provided, examinations and admission requirements. Upon receipt of the Inspectorate's recommendation, the Minister will make a decision.

A positive decision by the Minister entails recognition, which means that the institution is regarded as a legal entity for higher education, authorised to award degrees (to those who complete an accredited study programme provided by that institution) as referred to in the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act. For more information regarding the procedure, please refer to www.nvao.com

Until October 2013, schools may remain listed in the International Medical Education Directory, providing they submit a formal application for initial accreditation to the NVAO no later than 1 January 2012. After 2013 listing in the IMED will depend on a positive outcome of the Dutch accreditation procedure at the NVAO, i.e. recognition as a legal entity providing higher education.

Recognition of medical degrees

During this transitional period up to 1 October 2013, the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport is willing to issue you with a declaration concerning the status of your graduates. We have been given to understand that your organisation needs this declaration to keep its IMED listing during this period. Please see annexe 2 for the exact wording of the declaration.

If a programme provided by a medical school is accredited by the NVAO during or after the transitional period and the body in question is recognised as a legal entity providing higher education, the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport will regard the graduates as international medical graduates (IMGs). Graduates wishing to practise medicine in the Netherlands are required to submit to an assessment in order to qualify for entry in the Individual Healthcare Professions Register (BIG Register). Only doctors on this register are entitled to practise medicine in the Netherlands.

Should IUSOM fail to acquire the status of a legal entity providing higher education in the period up to 2013, its graduates would no longer qualify to apply for entry in the BIG register, and would thus also be barred from practising medicine in the Netherlands.

After October 2013, application for entry in the above register will be open *only* to graduates of accredited educational institutions in the Netherlands in the Caribbean (account having been taken of both the pre-clinical and clinical components of the programme).

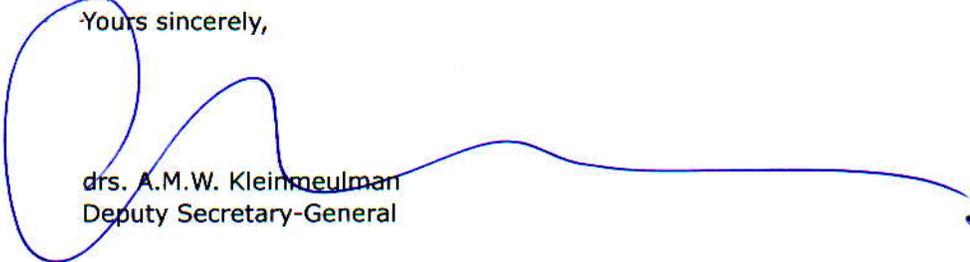


I trust that this letter and annexe provide you with sufficient information on the transitional period up to 1 October 2013, the declaration you requested from the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, and the measures you will need to take to be recognised as a legal entity providing higher education under the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act after 2013.

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Yours sincerely,


drs. A.M.W. Kleinmeulman
Deputy Secretary-General

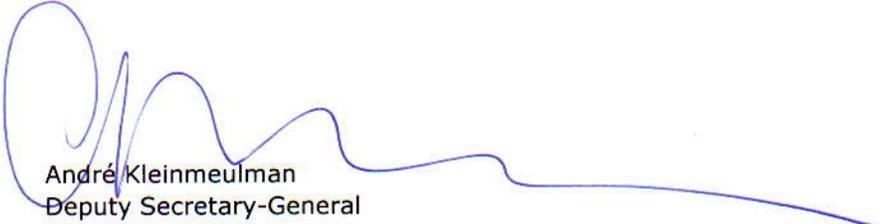


Annexe II

Declaration by the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport concerning graduates of the International University School of Medicine.

The Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands hereby certifies that graduates of the International University School of Medicine, upon successful completion of their course of studies and presentation of their diploma conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine, are eligible to submit a request for recognition of this degree in the Netherlands. Such consideration does not confer or imply accreditation of IUSOM's programme of medical education until 2013, nor does it in any way confer a licence upon such graduates. Such a licence is awarded subject to Dutch legislation, including an individual assessment of a graduate's credentials.

Signed,


André Kleinmeulman
Deputy Secretary-General
For the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport