

President: Professor David Gordon FRCP FMedSci

Alina Zhumagulova
Director
Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)
Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana City
Kabanbay Batyr ave. 42-17 EP

Friday 15 December 2017

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Alina Zhumagulova,

I am delighted to tell you that the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) has been awarded WFME Recognition Status, with conditions, for a period of 10 years for its accreditation activity within the Republic of Kazakhstan. The World Federation for Medical Education extends its congratulations to you, and all your colleagues at IAAR.

The WFME Accreditation Committee concluded its meeting on 14 December 2017, and has agreed that IAAR is recognised as working to standards that have been appropriately formulated and applied. IAAR is deemed to be credible in its policies and procedures to assure the quality of medical education in programmes and schools that it accredits.

The period of Recognition Status is 10 years, until 31 December 2017, pending acceptance of four conditions and taking all reasonable steps to address the first three of these within six months, by the end of June 2018:

1. The governance structure of IAAR currently gives the authority to the Director, and sole owner of the IAAR as a business, to approve the decisions of the Accreditation Council. The final authority to approve the decisions of the Accreditation Council must be independent of the Director, for the avoidance of any conflict of interest.
2. IAAR must have documented procedures for the investigation of any complaint about a medical school accredited by IAAR, if the complaint is substantiated and might compromise the accreditation status of the medical school.
3. IAAR must have documented procedures for the investigation of complaints against the agency or its staff or processes, by anyone other than an educational institution undergoing accreditation at that time.
4. Any extension of the activities of IAAR outside of the Republic of Kazakhstan will not be recognised by WFME in the WFME Recognition Programme without further evaluation by WFME.

There is a process whereby annual status reports are requested from agencies with WFME Recognition Status. This is a process to inform WFME of the activities of IAAR, and of any substantive changes to standards, policies and procedures. Ordinarily for IAAR these should be completed and returned by the end of December each year; exceptionally, in 2018 we will ask for an additional report after 6 months setting out compliance with the first three conditions of Recognition Status as set out above. I remind you that non-compliance with the conditions, failure

of completion of the Status Reports, or any substantive change which compromises compliance with the WFME Recognition Criteria may result in withdrawal of Recognition Status.

In addition to the conditions of Recognition Status, the Recognition Committee offer recommendations that IAAR takes steps to address the following areas of partial compliance, in addition to the quality improvement recommendations in the letter from the Recognition Team on 26 June 2017. Although these do not form conditions of Recognition Status, we ask to be informed through the annual monitoring reports of progress made by IAAR to address these:

1. IAAR should follow in full its own published process for the conduct of the site visit. The site visit should allow for the observation of classes in action, without interruption of teaching by the IAAR team to ask questions. The review of the application should be divided amongst the IAAR site visit team in advance, as described in the protocols.
2. The accreditation decision should be made based only on information presented from the accreditation visit, not from information obtained outside of the process or from hearsay.
3. The protocol for the Accreditation Council should be amended to state that accreditation decisions are made individually for each programme or school, to allow genuine reflection.
4. The IAAR application stated that an accreditation decision is notified to the medical school within seven days of the decision. This timeline is not documented and the IAAR should include this in its guidance.
5. The process for appealing an accreditation decision currently presents a conflict of interest. The Appeals & Complaints Commission makes a recommendation to the Accreditation Council who make the decision whether or not to overturn the appeal. The final decision on an appeal should be taken by the Appeals & Complaints Commission in isolation.
6. The timeline for publicly notifying an accreditation decision, or maintaining the register on the IAAR website, is not specified. A reasonable time period for public notification and for updating the website, such as 30 days, should be adopted as policy and followed by IAAR.

I am personally delighted at the outcome of the application for Recognition Status from IAAR.

I look forward to receiving your response to this letter. On receiving written acceptance of the conditions, timeline and monitoring, we will provide you with a Certificate of Recognition Status which can be shared publicly, and we will announce the award of Recognition Status to IAAR on our website. I confirm that we will not disclose the conditions publicly.

I also attach an evaluation form through which we ask for your feedback on the Recognition Programme process. Please complete this and return to accreditation@wfme.org within 30 days.

Yours sincerely,



Professor David Gordon
President
World Federation for Medical Education