

WHO WE ARE

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) was established by Chapter 39:06, as the principal body in Trinidad and Tobago for conducting and advising on the accreditation and recognition of post-secondary and tertiary educational training institutions, programmes and awards, whether local or foreign and for the promotion of quality and standards for post-secondary and tertiary education and training in Trinidad and Tobago.

WHAT WE DO

- ▶ Registration of higher education institutions
- ▶ Accreditation of institutions and programmes
- ▶ Recognition of foreign qualifications and awards
- ▶ Conferment of institutional titles
- ▶ Institutional development
- ▶ Programme approval

For a full list of our functions you can find a copy of our Act at www.actt.org.tt

WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

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ACTT Transforms Tertiary Landscape



Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director (Ag.) leading the Council as it undertakes the national registration drive.

Established in 2004 by Parliament to assure and improve the quality of local higher education, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) has stepped up to take its place among the drivers of social and economic development in Trinidad and Tobago. As it became operational in 2005, ACTT has successfully managed

to make the vision of the Government to provide quality higher education, a reality by registering 80 tertiary education institutions thus far; this accounts for approximately 99% of the tertiary student population. The registration of these institutions signals a growing commitment to quality assurance and continuous

quality improvement among key stakeholders in the sector and of this, the Board, management and staff are truly proud.

The national quality assurance system implemented by ACTT is built on three pillars; mandatory registration, voluntary accreditation and continuous improvement. It is widely considered as the most comprehensive in the English speaking Caribbean and comparable to those in the developed world. Trinidad and Tobago now stands among only one third of nations in this world to have fully developed and implemented quality assurance systems for higher education.

Upon reaching this milestone, ACTT now looks forward to working with all registered institutions to assist in continuous improvement in quality and to encourage them to exceed the minimum requirements of registration and pursue accreditation.

For a full listing of registered institutions check our website www.actt.org.tt

ACTT Works Towards Deadline for the Recognition of Transnational Qualifications

Post the registration deadline of July 8th, the Council shifts its focus as it now works towards a deadline of 31st December, 2009 to recognise all transnational programmes that are offered by registered institutions. Institutions that fail to comply with this deadline will cease to have authorisation to offer those transnational programmes. In Trinidad and Tobago, there is a prevalence of collaborative arrangements between foreign universities and/or awarding bodies and registered local

tertiary institutions. In order to protect the interest of students, employers and the wider national community, ACTT has established standards and criteria, which are based on international standards and best practices. All programmes offered by registered local tertiary institutions in collaboration with foreign universities and/or awarding bodies must be evaluated by ACTT to ensure that the delivery in Trinidad and Tobago meets the highest international standards

and is comparable in quality, delivery and currency, to the country of origin or internationally. The Council examines the equivalency of the programme, the teaching-learning process and the administrative aspects before issuing its stamp of approval. To date, we have recognised thirty-two transnational programmes and continue to encourage institutions to submit their application for processing.

Recognition of Foreign Awarding Body

As part of its mandate to assure quality in tertiary education, ACTT has granted Recognition status to the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) as a foreign awarding body. In a ceremony at ACTT's office, ACCA President- Brendan Murtagh was presented with the institution's Certificate of Recognition by ACTT Deputy Chairman- Dr. Alvin Ashton. As a first time visitor to our islands, Mr. Murtagh was also presented with a tuned miniature steel pan from ACTT's Chairman, Dr. Janet Stanley-Marcano. Mr. Murtagh shared his sentiments by stating that "Recognition of ACCA as an awarding body is a significant landmark in our history in this region...it places even more confidence in the minds of students that they are pursuing a prestigious qualification of global relevance, and is an indication of the very high standards to which ACCA subscribes."

ACTT ensures that students have access to internationally recognised qualifications. Its recognition process ensures that holders of recognised transnational awards have acquired comparable skills and competencies to those expected in the country of the awarding institution. Recognition status from ACTT means that the Council will recognise ACCA's accredited qualifications delivered at registered institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. Other foreign awarding bodies recognised by ACTT include Educational Development International (EDI), City and Guilds of London Institute and Association of Business Executive (ABE) all of the United Kingdom.



Mr. Brendan Murtagh, ACCA President (left) receives their Certificate of Recognition as a foreign awarding body from Dr. Alvin Ashton, Deputy Chairman, ACTT (right).

Update On Accreditation

Accreditation can be described as both a status and a process. It is the status granted to an educational institution or programme that has been evaluated and found to meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. It is also the process used to evaluate the quality of the institution or programme and to assist in institutional or programme improvement. Accreditation must be maintained by continual improvement, monitoring and periodic re-evaluation. It is a voluntary process to which all registered post secondary and tertiary education institutions are eligible. Institutions and programmes that are not accredited often do not enjoy public confidence or earn international reputation. An institution

can be accredited by ACTT for a maximum period of seven years after which the institution must be re-accredited.

ACTT continues to facilitate capacity building for institutions seeking accreditation through workshops and other technical support. "Guiding the Self-Study Process: A Workshop for Candidates for Accreditation" explored topics such as an overview of ACTT's accreditation process, institutional accreditation criteria, approaches to effective institutional self-study and preparing for the accreditation team visit. The workshops were facilitated by ACTT staff and the feedback received has been very encouraging as the contribution by the Council is highly valued by the institutions.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR ACCREDITATION

- Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB)
- Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies (CCLCS)
- College of Science, Technology, and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT)
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)
- The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus
- Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTTI)
- University of Southern Caribbean (USC)

ACTT Goes Global



ACTT recently conducted site visits at the Gibaran Learning Group in Australia and The National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) in London, as both institutions work towards achieving the status of Recognition as a foreign awarding body.

1. L-R: Curtis Floyd, Registration Manager (Ag.), ACTT; Parameswari Abraham, Chairman, Gibaran Learning Group (GLG); Claudia Drake, External Evaluator, ACTT; Professor Halia Silins, External Evaluator, School of Education, Flinders University of South Australia.



2. (Back Row L-R): Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director (Ag.), ACTT; Dr. Vena Jules, Team Chair External Evaluator, ACTT; Chris Webb, Accreditation Manager, NEBOSH; (Front Row L-R) Avryl Mohammed, Team Chair External Evaluator, ACTT; Sydney Sears, Director of Operations, PAL Institute.



Quality Assurance
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