

FAIMER[®]

Data Resources

building data resources to understand
medical education • accreditation • licensure
around the world

Data Resources

There are many determinants of the quality of health care, including the scope and breadth of medical education that individual physicians receive. Before we can begin the task of improving medical education, we must first understand the world's medical education systems as they exist today. By collecting accurate data on medical education worldwide, we can begin to appreciate how educational capacity and pedagogical processes impact the health of individuals and societies.

FAIMER strives to be the single best source of information on international medical education and international medical graduates. Much work has been done to create, assemble, and maintain high quality data repositories on medical education and physicians worldwide. Our goal is to provide both current and historical information to medical educators, researchers, policy makers, and organizations concerned with credentialing and licensure. These data are also intended to be an important resource for health care consumers and prospective medical school students.

Together, these complementary resources provide a comprehensive picture of the world's medical education systems, from undergraduate instruction through specialty training.

International Medical Education Directory (IMED)

The *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* is a web-based resource on the world's medical schools that is freely available on the FAIMER website. The information available in *IMED* is derived from current and historical data collected by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG[®]) throughout its history of evaluating the medical education credentials of international medical graduates. Using these data as a starting point, FAIMER began developing *IMED* in 2001 and made it publicly available in April 2002.

A medical school is added to *IMED* when FAIMER receives official notification of a school's recognition or accreditation from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, or other responsible authority in the country where the school is located. This notification must confirm that the medical school is recognized by the government of the country for award of the Doctor of Medicine (or equivalent) degree, the date that recognition was granted, and that graduates of the medical school are eligible for medical licensure in the country.

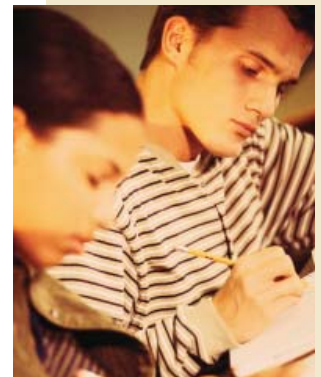
Recognizing that accurate medical school information can be of great value to members of the international medical community, FAIMER offers subscription-based access to *IMED*. For an annual fee, subscribers have access to download all records and information fields in the *IMED* database.

International Opportunities in Medical Education (IOME)

The directory of International Opportunities in Medical Education (IOME) provides information on the extent and nature of international health opportunities available for medical students, residents, and faculty at medical schools around the world. IOME represents the collaborative efforts of FAIMER and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Our objective is to develop a comprehensive resource that details the myriad programs and opportunities available. IOME is available on the FAIMER website.



*promoting
research on the
effectiveness
of medical
education*



*supporting
development of
indicators of
educational
quality*



Before we can improve medical education, we must first understand it. The collection of accurate and up-to-date data on the world's medical education programs is the key.

Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)

As part of our goal to build information resources on medical education worldwide, FAIMER is developing a directory of organizations that recognize, authorize, or accredit medical schools and/or medical education programs. These organizations are often responsible for the establishment of national standards for medical education and the recognition of medical schools in their countries. The *Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)* is available on the FAIMER website.

Where available, *DORA* includes information regarding an organization's accreditation standards, evaluation processes, and other details. The directory does not encompass all organizations that have responsibilities related to approving medical schools and/or medical education programs. Interested individuals should verify information directly with the appropriate entity or governmental agency. Recognition by an organization listed does not imply that a medical school will be listed in *IMED*. FAIMER is not an accrediting agency and has no relationship with the organizations listed in *DORA*.

Master's Programs in Health Professions Education

As the number of graduate programs in health professions education increases and interest in these programs also increases, the need to have program information readily available in a centralized location has become apparent. In conjunction with directors of master's programs in health professions education, FAIMER developed and disseminated a survey instrument to gather information on programs of health professions education. FAIMER has published on its website responses to this survey including descriptive information, a link to each program's website, and contact information for each program. As new and updated details about health professions education master's programs are received, they will be added to the Master's Programs website. We believe this information will be useful to the international health professions education community.

Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) Project

FAIMER continues to work on the Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) Project, a web-based data resource describing postgraduate medical education programs worldwide. This directory will provide information, at the country level, on formal medical education and clinical training beyond the basic medical school curriculum. The PME Project is intended to be a resource for those who want to learn about postgraduate medical education internationally. It will be especially valuable to those who wish to evaluate, compare, and contrast postgraduate training programs between or among countries.

Learn More

FAIMER continues to build informational resources on medical education worldwide, and share them broadly with physicians, patients, students, researchers, medical schools, organizations concerned with credentialing and licensure, and the public. These resources support the development of indicators of educational quality and promote research on the effectiveness of medical education.

For more information on FAIMER's data resources or to search its directories, visit the FAIMER website at www.faimer.org.

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Contact FAIMER

FAIMER welcomes your questions and comments on these important resources:

IMED

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IOME, Master's Programs in Health Professions Education

E-mail: inquiry@faimer.org

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DORA, PME Project

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