

World directory of medical schools

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Preface

The seventh edition of the *World directory of medical schools* is the result of a wide and coordinated effort encompassing the design, field-testing and translation of questionnaires, the development of an electronic database, and editing, printing and dissemination. The resulting directory provides information on 1642 schools worldwide and is a continuation of the work carried out in previous editions.

The electronic database on which the directory is based provides additional information relevant to medical curricula, educational approaches, the assessment of students, the availability and use of facilities and equipment, staff activities, continuing education, the mutual recognition of qualifications, and the evaluation or accreditation of medical school programmes. For those concerned with and committed to improving the quality of medical education and its relevance to the health needs of society, this database will provide information on the status and trends of medical education worldwide.

While medical education must be adapted to respond to the specific needs of individuals and the populations they intend to serve in a given environment, certain capacities of a physician are universal. In a world where borders are becoming increasingly illusory, there are growing opportunities and expectations for international collaboration to enhance quality assurance in medical education through research and development.^{1,2} Interest in the contribution of medical schools to respond to people's health needs and to participate in shaping the future health system through their education, research and service-delivery missions is also growing worldwide.³⁻⁶ Benchmarks and evaluation mechanisms are required to assess and promote the role of medical schools in educating future generations of doctors and in influencing the features of their future practice environment for an optimal response to the health needs of society. In particular, action is needed at the institutional, national and global level to design and promote the most appropriate approaches to allow medical schools to be the principal contributors to people's health.

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Introduction

The seventh edition of the *World directory of medical schools* lists institutions of basic medical education in 157 countries or areas. It also provides information on the conditions for obtaining the licence to practise medicine in 14 countries or areas that do not have medical schools. The information presented in general reflects the situation during the academic year 1995–96, and is based primarily on answers to two questionnaires designed by the World Health Organization and sent: (i) to ministerial authorities requesting information of a general nature on medical education and conditions for practice in the country; and (ii) to all medical schools of whose existence the World Health Organization has been informed by the national government, either by confirming existing lists or by providing specific information. The questionnaires were field-tested in several parts of the world, but it sometimes proved difficult to accommodate data provided from ministerial authorities or medical schools within the suggested layout.

At the time of going to press, and in spite of follow-up, a number of governments and medical schools had not replied to the questionnaires. In these cases only those schools that were previously recognized by the government concerned have been listed. It is therefore not possible to guarantee in all cases the complete accuracy of the information presented, particularly in regard to up-to-date addresses. In addition, compatible information was not always provided by the authorities of the countries cited, particularly concerning agreements between countries. Schools that have been established but where instruction has not yet started have not been listed.

The World Health Organization would appreciate notification of any errors and omissions. These should be addressed to the Department of Organization of Health Services Delivery, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

The population figures were made available to WHO by the United Nations Population Division following their 1996 revision of *World population prospects*. The number of physicians per 100 000 population (1993) was taken from *The world health report 1997* (WHO, Geneva, 1997). The medical schools in each country are listed alphabetically by city, except in the case of Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, India, Mexico and the USA, where they are listed under the state or province; Japan, where they are listed by prefecture; and the United Kingdom, which is subdivided into England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The data were either submitted by the governments or obtained directly from the institutions. Where no information was available, this is indicated by a dash (—). As the information included in the Directory must of necessity be restricted in scope, the name and address, where available, of the national registration body or licensing authority from which further information can be obtained has been given for each country or area.

Scope of the directory

The following information is provided for most of the medical schools listed: the name and address, the year instruction started, the language of instruction, the length of the degree course, and whether the applicant is required to pass an entrance examination and foreign students are eligible for admission.

Name and address

The names and addresses of the medical schools are in the language of the country concerned, unless the language does not use the Roman alphabet. In that case an English or French version is given, depending on which of the two languages was used to answer the questionnaires. Capital letters have been used for all names and addresses; diacritical marks and accented characters have been omitted as these posed problems for the computerized database.

Year instruction started

This is the year in which medical education began at the institution; it does not necessarily correspond to the date when the institution was founded.

Language

This refers to the language(s) used in teaching. Where more than one language is used, they are listed in decreasing order of importance.

Duration of basic medical degree course, including practical training

The degree course is often followed by an internship of 1 or 2 years.

Database

A database is being constructed, based on the replies to the two questionnaires. It covers the following areas:

Ministerial questionnaire

- Current number of medical schools within the country.
- Duration of the programme of medical education.
- Title of degree awarded.
- Medical registration/licence to practise.
- Mutual recognition of qualifications.
- Accreditation/recognition or equivalent system.

Medical school questionnaire

- General information.
- Curriculum.
- Assessment of students.
- Facilities/equipment.
- Staff activities.
- Continuing education.
- Interaction with other entities.
- Evaluation and accreditation.

Copies of the two questionnaires are available on request from the Department of Organization of Health Services Delivery, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

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¹ *Towards the assessment of quality in medical education*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1992 (unpublished document WHO/HRH/92.7; available on request from Department of Health Systems, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).

² Towards a global consensus on quality medical education: serving the needs of populations and individuals. Proceedings of the 1994 World Health Organization/Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates invitational consultation. *Academic medicine*, 1995, 70 (Suppl.).

³ *Defining and measuring the social accountability of medical schools*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1995 (unpublished document WHO/HRH/95.7; available on request from Department of Health Systems, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).

⁴ Improving the social responsiveness of medical schools: proceedings of the 1998 Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates/World Health Organization Invitational Conference, Barcelona. *Academic medicine*, 1999, 74 (Suppl.).

⁵ Reorientation of medical education and medical practice for health for all. In: *Forty-eighth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 1–12 May 1995. Volume 1. Resolutions and decisions, and list of*

participants. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1995 (unpublished document WHA48/1995/REC/1):8–10.

⁶ *Doctors for health. A WHO global strategy for changing medical education and medical practice for health for all*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1996 (unpublished document WHO/HRH/96.1; available on request from Department of Health Systems, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).