

# Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean



# *Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean*

*by Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., 2010*

*Vol. I available free on-line until Nov. 30, 2010.*

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# Map of the Caribbean Region





# Beginnings of our research

- In the fall of 2008, ECE decided to begin a research project on education in the Commonwealth Caribbean. We expected a two-year time frame. Since the last major publication on the subject was in 1979, we knew there would be a large amount of information to update.
- We expected to find a lot of similarity between the educational systems. Instead we were surprised by the great diversity between countries at all levels of education.



- ECE's newest publication, *Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean* is being produced in three volumes. Each volume will include chapters that are common to the region, and chapters on separate countries. The first volume is now available on-line free of charge until Nov. 30. Information on how to get it is on our website under the publications tab for institutions. See [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org).
- Volumes II and III will be available over the next few months. All the volumes will be produced both on-line and in print.





# Chapters on Regional Topics

## (Highlighted chapters are in Vol. I)

- Accreditation and Quality Assurance
- The Caribbean Examinations Council
- The University of the West Indies
- Health Professions in the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Nursing Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Teacher Training in the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Theological Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean

In Vol. I



# Country Chapters

- |                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Anguilla                       | In Vol. I |
| • Antigua and Barbuda            |           |
| • The Bahamas                    |           |
| • Barbados                       |           |
| • Belize                         |           |
| • The British Virgin Islands     |           |
| • The Cayman Islands             |           |
| • Dominica                       |           |
| • Grenada                        | In Vol. I |
| • Jamaica                        |           |
| • Montserrat                     | In Vol. I |
| • Saint Lucia                    |           |
| • St. Kitts and Nevis            |           |
| • St. Vincent and the Grenadines | In Vol. I |
| • Trinidad and Tobago            |           |
| • The Turks and Caicos Islands   | In Vol. I |



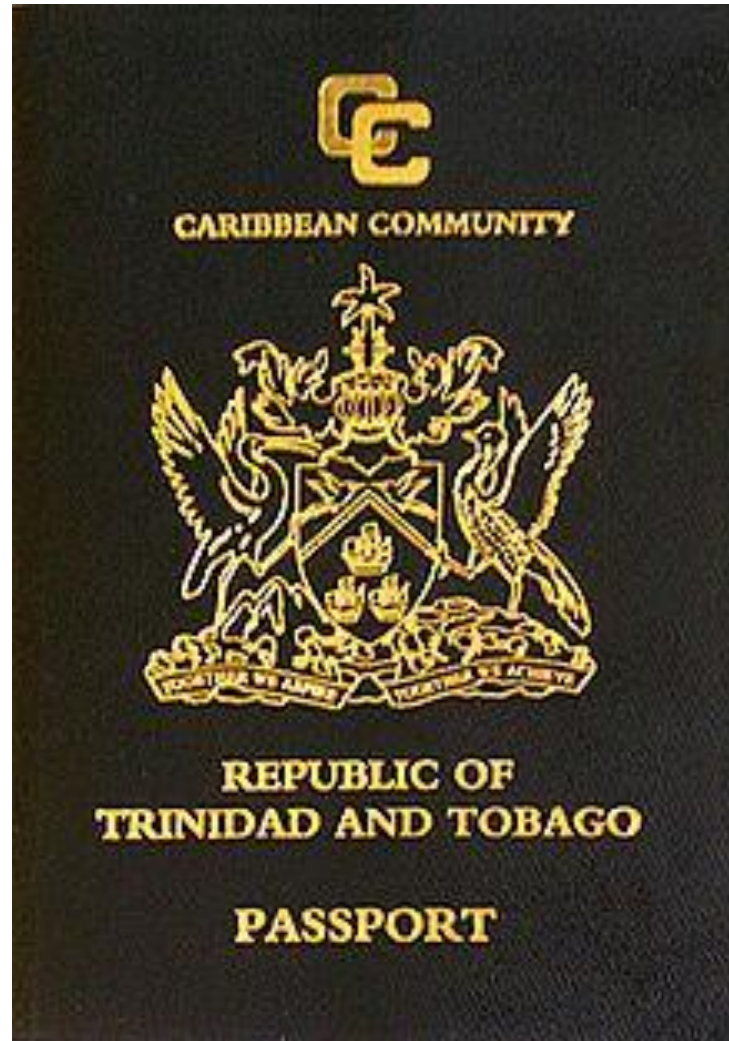
## Three Major Topics affecting Education in the Region

- Universal Secondary Education
- Caribbean Community [CARICOM]
- Accreditation in Higher Education



- Until very recently, many of the Caribbean countries provided education for all children through only grade 6 or grade 9.
- In order to have Universal Secondary Education, most of the countries had to eliminate secondary education entrance examinations. With all students now entitled to at least five years of secondary education (following at least 6 years of primary), governments are working hard to increase teaching staff, revamp curricula, and build more classrooms.
- The Caribbean Community, known as CARICOM, is very much like the European Union. Since 2000, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy has established a regional economic block for increased international competitiveness.
- Citizens of CARICOM countries may work in most CARICOM countries without having to obtain a work permit. Many people educated in one CARICOM country are seeking employment in other CARICOM countries.
- To really benefit from the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, an educated workforce is needed, so the number of colleges has multiplied dramatically in the region. Now there are over 150 colleges and universities, up from around 30 in 1979.
- The higher education community has reacted by establishing systems for quality assurance and student transfer. In 2002, the CARICOM Secretariat made it a priority for each country to establish a national accreditation body for higher education. As of 2009, they have been established in seven of the fifteen CARICOM countries. More are in process.

# CARICOM passport





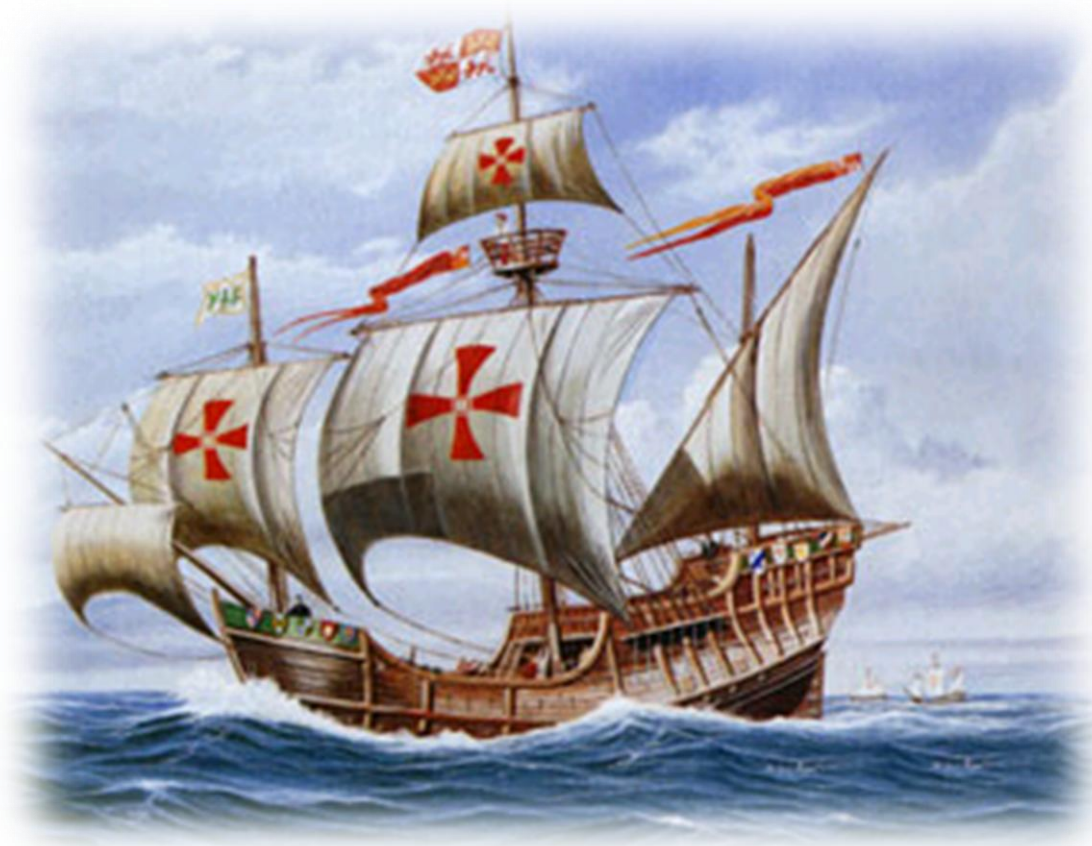
# Accreditation or other Supervisory Bodies for Higher Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean

COUNTRY	NAME OF NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODY	LEGISLATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCREDITATION BODY	Provides registration services (yes/no)		CURRENT SUPERVISORY BODY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IF A NATIONAL ACCREDITING BODY IS NOT YET PROVIDING SERVICES
			Provides accreditation services (yes/no)		
			Provides foreign credential evaluation services (yes/no)		
Anguilla	-	-	Registration	-	Education Department of the Ministry of Social Development
			Accreditation	-	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	-	
Antigua & Barbuda	National Accreditation Board of Antigua and Barbuda	The Accreditation Act, 2006	Registration	-	Ministry of Education
			Accreditation	-	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	-	
Bahamas	National Accreditation and Equivalency Council of the Bahamas [NAECOB]: not yet operational. Services now provided by the TQA Division.	NAECOB Act, 2006	Registration	Y	Tertiary/Quality Assurance [TQA] Division of the MOE (supervises tertiary institutions), est. 2000; works in conjunction with Public Service Department of the Ministry of Public Service and Cultural Affairs. Approves qualifications awarded by public and private institutions for government employment purposes.
			Accreditation	N	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	Y	
Barbados	Barbados Accreditation Council	The Barbados Accreditation Council Act, June 2004	Registration	Y	-
			Accreditation	N	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	Y	

Belize	National Accreditation Council of Belize	Belize Accreditation Act, October 2004	Registration	-	Ministry of Education
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	
Bermuda*	Has draft legislation	-	Registration	-	Ministry of Education
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	
British Virgin Islands	-	-	Registration	-	Department of Education and Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	
Cayman Islands	-	-	Registration	-	Ministry of Education, Training and Employment
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	
Dominica	National Accreditation Board	Accreditation Act, December 2006	Registration	-	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	
Grenada	-	-	Registration		Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
			Accreditation		
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>		
Guyana	National Accreditation Council of Guyana	Accreditation Council Act, 2004	Registration	Y	-
			Accreditation	Y	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	Y	
Jamaica	University Council Jamaica	University Council of Jamaica Act, 1987	Registration	Y	-
			Accreditation	Y	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	Y	
Montserrat	Has draft legislation	-	Registration	-	Ministry of Education
			Accreditation	-	
			<u>Foreign Cred. Eval.</u>	-	

Saint Lucia	Has draft legislation	-	Registration	-	Ministry of Education and Culture
			Accreditation	-	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	-	
St. Kitts and Nevis	Saint Christopher and Nevis Accreditation Board	Saint Christopher and Nevis Accreditation of Institutions Act, 1999 amended in 2001	Registration	N	-
			Accreditation	Y	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	N	
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	National Accreditation Board of St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Further and Higher Education Accreditation Act, 2006	Registration	-	Ministry of Education
			Accreditation	-	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	-	
Trinidad & Tobago	Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago	Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago Act 2004, amended in 2008	Registration	Y	-
			Accreditation	Y	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	Y	
Turks & Caicos Islands	-	-	Registration	-	Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture
			Accreditation	-	
			Foreign Cred. Eval.	-	

\* Bermuda College is a candidate for accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States).



# 2009/2010 ECE RESEARCH TRIPS





## Bermuda

Education Reform beginning 1997,  
fully phased in by 2003

- Changed from 7+5 to 6+3+4
- Abolished the Secondary School Entrance Examination
- Introduced three-year middle schools
- Added an additional year to secondary schools
- Another reform began in the school system this fall (2010).  
The Cambridge International Curriculum is being integrated at all levels in public schools. Students entering secondary school will follow the UK International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) curriculum for some subjects and the Bermuda national curriculum for other subjects.





# Bermuda National Curriculum compared to Cambridge International

Bermuda National Curriculum Social Studies & remaining subjects	Cambridge International Curriculum English, Math, Science
Bermuda P1 to P6	Primary Stage
Bermuda M1 to M3	Lower Secondary Stage
Bermuda S1 and S2	Middle Secondary Stage (I/GCSE)
Bermuda S3 and S4	Upper Secondary Stage (GCE A-levels)

# STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION IN THE USA, BERMUDA, & THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN, 2010



PhD: variable	PhD: variable		PhD: variable	PhD: variable
MA or MS: 1-2 years			MA or MS: 1-2 years	
BA or BS: 2 years	BA or BS: 4 years		Bachelor of Arts or Science degree: 3 years**	
Associate: 2 years		Associate: 2 years	Associate Degree/ CAPE/Sixth Form: 2 years	
Middle + Senior Secondary: 6 years leading to high school diploma	Senior Secondary: 4 years leading to BSC		Secondary: 5 years leading to CXC CSEC	
	Middle: 3 years			
Primary: 6 years	Primary: 6 years		Infant/Primary: 6 or 7 years in total	
Kindergarten: 1 year				
<b>USA</b>	<b>BERMUDA - 1997 REFORM</b>		<b>COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN*</b>	

\* Excludes Belize, which has an 8+4 structure, and The Bahamas which has a 6+3+3 structure. Tertiary education then follows the same pattern as in the USA.

\*\* At some Jamaican universities and the University of Guyana, BA and BS degrees require 4 years of study following secondary education (CSEC).



# Comparison of Curricula offered in Secondary Schools

Public Senior Secondary until 2009-10: Bermuda National Curriculum	Public Senior Secondary since 2010-11: Bermuda National Curriculum & Cambridge International Curriculum	United States or Private US-style Bermuda Secondary Schools	United Kingdom or Private UK-style Bermuda Secondary Schools
S1	S1: IGCSE, year 1	Grade 9	Form IV: GCSE, year 1
S2	S2: IGCSE, year 2	Grade 10	Form V: GCSE, year 2
S3	S3: GCE A/S-Level	Grade 11, AP exams, or IB curriculum	Lower Sixth Form: GCE A/S-Level
S4	S4: GCE A-Levels	Grade 12, AP exams, or IB curriculum	Upper Sixth Form: GCE A-Level



## The Bahamas



PRIMARY EDUCATION						SECONDARY EDUCATION						HIGHER EDUCATION				
Grades 1-6						Junior High School			Senior High School			College				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
								A			B	F	G		K	M
											C		H		L	
											D		I			
											E		J			

- A Bahamas Junior Certificate
- B Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education
- C Diploma awarded by a Senior High School
- D Certificate of Attendance awarded by the Ministry of Education, new as of 2011
- E High School Diploma awarded by the Ministry of Education, new as of 2011
- F Certificate (generally one to two semesters)
- G Diploma (generally three to four semesters)
- H Associate of Arts or Associate of Science
- I Associate of Applied Science (four or five semesters)
- J Associate of Science in Nursing (five semesters)
- K Diploma in Community Health Nursing, Midwifery, or Critical Care Nursing (approximately three semesters following credential J)
- L Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Education, or Bachelor of Science
- M Diploma in Secondary Education (one year following credential L)

# Public Higher Education Institutions in the Bahamas



- Two National Institutions, funded by the Bahamas Government
  - The College of The Bahamas (COB),
  - The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI),
- Two Regional Institutions funded collectively by CARICOM countries
  - Open Campus site for the University of the West Indies (UWI),
  - Eugene Dupuch Law School

- The College of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute are national institutions funded by The Bahamas government
- UWI and the Law School are regional institutions collectively funded by CARICOM region countries.
- COB offers associate degree and bachelor degree programs. It is working to upgrade into the University of The Bahamas.
- BTVI offers career and technical training in certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs
- A University of the West Indies “Open Campus” site is located in each of the 16 countries. It is primarily an office that assists students with administrative or technical issues. Some tutorial services are also offered for some programs. More details will be given when we show our visit to the UWI Cave Hill campus in Barbados.
- Eugene Dupuch [pronounced as DEW push] Law School offers a 2-year Legal Education Certificate (admission after Bachelor of Laws).
- Several private accredited US institutions also have campuses located in the Bahamas.





# Private Bahamian Institutions with Credentials Accepted by the Public Service Department, 2009

- <http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/96F64ADEB1B1AE3A852575000048D2B5>
- <http://www.bahamaseducation.com/ri.html>

The lists should be reviewed for periodic updates.

Institution	Accepted Credentials	Institutions of Articulation Agreements	Effective Date of Acceptance
Atlantic College, also known as Atlantic College & Theological Seminary	Associate degrees: Business Administration (in Accounting Technology, Business Management, Computer Information Technology, Financial Services, Office Systems Technology); Criminal Justice Human Services; Public Administration	Awarded in affiliation with Shaw University (USA)	February 2000
Bahamas Baptist Community College	Associate degrees: Humanities; Natural Sciences; Secretarial Studies; Social Sciences	College of The Bahamas; Florida Memorial University (USA); Northwestern College (USA)	November 1995



I Galilee College	Associate degrees: Accounting; Business Administration; Communications; Economics; Finance; Psychology; Public Administration; Secretarial Science	Franklin University (USA); Kaplan College (USA)	August 2004
Omega College	Associate degrees: Accounting; Economics; Finance; Management; Organizational & Human Resource Management	University of St. Thomas (USA)	July 2004
	Bachelor of Arts degrees: Business Administration (Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Finance, Human Resource Management, Management); Elementary Education	University of St. Thomas (USA)	August 2006
Success Training College	Associate degrees: Accounting Management, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Business Studies, Computer Studies, Executive Management Systems, Humanities, International Business Management, Natural Science, Public Administration, Technology, Travel and Tourism Management	Sojourner-Douglass College (USA)	August 1995

Note: The Public Service Department also recognizes degrees awarded by The Bahamas campus of Sojourner Douglass College (USA). Programs offered by the public postsecondary institutions of Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, The College of The Bahamas, and the University of the West Indies, are recognized by the Public Service Department, as well.



# CANQATE

- 5 ECE people on the project attended the CANQATE (CAN-kate) conference: (Kathy Schoeneck, Shelley Feagles, Lindsey Soerens, Majka Drewitz, and Meggan Stodola).
- CANQATE stands for the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education. It's purpose is to share information about evaluation, accreditation, and improvement of higher education in the region.
- About 300 people from all over the Caribbean region attend this conference—the first conference was in 2004. Everyone concerned with quality assurance in higher education in the region attends, such as people working at Ministries of Education or other government offices, colleges and universities, and accreditation bodies.



Meggan

Majka

Lindsey

Kathy

Shelley







# CXC Barbados

- ECE visited the CXC office in Barbados.
- The Caribbean Examinations Council is a regional body that develops and administers exams in the Commonwealth Caribbean, Saba, St. Maarten, and Suriname. For most of the region's countries, the syllabi prepared by the CXC are used as the main source for curricula at the secondary level (grades 7 to 11) and the post-secondary level (grades 12 and 13).
- The CXC offers four types of qualifications: the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate [CSEC] (pronounced SEE-sek) since 1979, the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination [CAPE] since 1998, the Caribbean Certificate for Secondary Level Competence [CCSLC] since 2007, and examinations for Caribbean Vocational Qualifications [CVQs] since 2008.



# Teacher Training programs

- Two-year Associate Degree in Education, Primary and Secondary options
- One-year (Postgraduate) Diploma in Education, Primary and Secondary options.
- The Associate degree in Education has replaced the Teacher's Certificate which was phased out over the past few years.
- (The program in Jamaica differs: it is a 3-year Diploma in Teaching)



# JBTE

- The **Joint Board of Teacher Education** is the certifying and accrediting body for non-graduate teacher education in the Commonwealth Caribbean. (“Non-graduate” refers to non-Bachelor degree.) The exceptions to this are Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago which have their own national Boards of Teacher Training.
- The programs are: a two-year Associate degree and a one-year postgraduate diploma in education, both with primary and secondary options.



# BAC News



## EDUCATION CREDENTIAL EVALUATORS (ECE), USA VISITS BAC

BAC continued to build relations with international recognition agencies with a visit from the personnel of the Education Credential Evaluators (ECE). The meeting was held to discuss the research project on the different educational systems in the Caribbean. This project, being undertaken by the ECE, will assist with the evaluation of the comparability of qualifications gained in the Caribbean with the educational system in the United States of America.

The meeting took place the day after the conclusion of the CANQATE Conference 2009, and the ECE personnel were presented with a gift as a token from the appreciation by the BAC.

From left: Kathleen Conrad (Evaluator), Shelley Feagles (Senior Evaluator) and Lindsey Soerens (Evaluator) of ECE, and Sharon Alleyne (Accreditation Officer) and Katrina Ifill (Information Officer) of the BAC

## CANQATE CORE GROUP WORKSHOP

At the first CANQATE Core Group workshop over 15 representatives from various

ECE evaluators visited the **Barbados Accreditation Council**. It is one of just a few operational national accreditation bodies in the Caribbean. As yet, it is just registering institutions, and has not yet begun accrediting programs. It is also the body responsible for credential evaluation in the country. They have an extensive website describing their services and are very willing to help if you have questions about education in Barbados.





# UWI Cave Hill

- The Cave Hill Campus is one of three University of the West Indies “physical” campuses (Mona Campus is in Jamaica, and the St. Augustine Campus is in Trinidad). There is also the “virtual” “Open Campus”. It has the same status as the physical campuses, and its programs have the same recognition and status as physical campus programs.
- The Open Campus is an amalgamation of several other departments, including the School of Continuing Studies and the UWI Distance Education Centre. These departments have been offering distance education programs for about 30 years.
- The UWI Open Campus offers face-to-face programs, on-line programs, and combination of on-line and face-to-face programs at 42 locations in 16 countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Each country has at least one office that services students enrolled in Open Campus programs.
- Certificate, diploma, associate degree, bachelor degree, and master degree programs are offered through the Open Campus. It is the only UWI campus to offer associate degree programs.



# Major Developments in T&T Education

- **Nationalizing secondary school curriculum**
  - Development of T&T's own secondary school leaving credential: National Certificate of Secondary Education
- **Establishment of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago in 2004**
  - No institutions have yet been accredited, but a number of them have received Candidate for Accreditation Status
- **Establishment of the first national university and national college**
  - University of Trinidad and Tobago
  - College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago



## Meeting at the Accreditation Council of T&T





# ACTT

- Majka and Meggan spent a day with the representatives of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago [ACTT]. Established in 2004, ACTT is one of the few accreditation boards currently operating. Its primary duties are: accreditation, recognition of foreign qualifications, and promotion of quality assurance in higher education.
- Prior to 2004 private institutions were largely unregulated. Many institutions operated as business entities and were not quality assured.



## COSTAAT and UTT in Trinidad & Tobago

- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago was established in 2000. Although this is a relatively new institution, it was formed from a number of pre-existing institutions. Today COSTAATT consists of four schools in six locations and offers programs ranging from arts and sciences, business, performing arts and many others.
- University of Trinidad and Tobago is the first national university in the country, as opposed to the University of the West Indies which is a regional university.
- UTT was established in 2004 by merging five pre-existing institutions, and it continues to expand. It is working on building a new UTT campus.





# Guyana

- Guyana is the only Commonwealth Caribbean country that is not one of the UWI-13 and does not have a UWI Open Campus site. The UWI 13 refers to the countries whose governments contribute to the finances of UWI and do not have a physical campus (Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago). Before 1962, Guyana did contribute to the UWI, but withdrew that year. The University of Guyana, a national university, then enrolled its first students beginning in 1963.





# University of Guyana

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- Most of Guyana's institutions of higher education are located in or around Georgetown



# NAC in Guyana

- In 2005, the government established a National Accreditation Council. As of 2010, 30 postsecondary institutions are in the council's database. Of these, eight have been granted full accreditation and four have been granted provisional accreditation. The list has not yet been made public, but access to the database will be possible once it has been published.



# UWI Mona

- University of the West Indies (UWI, pronounced YOU-ee) is the Caribbean's oldest and largest university. Established in 1948, the Mona campus was the first UWI campus. It started out as a college of the University of London. It became independent in 1962.
- The Mona campus covers 653 acres and enrolls 11,000 students. 93% of them are Jamaicans.

University College of the West Indies was granted the following Arms on July 18, 1949:

*Barry wavy of six Argent and Azure an open Book proper bound Gules garnished Or on a Chief of the third a Lion passant guardant Erminois.*

*Crest: A Pelican proper.  
(Grants 111.231)*

Huh?!







# UWI



# UWI Logo

- For those of us who don't understand that, the Coat of Arms is also described in much simpler terms:
  - Forming the main background of the shield is the sea represented by white and blue wavy lines on which is the open book; the upper part of the shield, the chief, is red with a Lion to show the connection with the Crown, but the Lion is covered with black spots. This is the Lion borne by Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, appointed by King George VI to be the first Chancellor, so that this appointment is recorded forever in the Arms of the University.
  - The Crest is the brown Pelican which fishes in its prehistoric fashion along the coasts of the Caribbean Lands: the pelican is a symbol of care for the young because of the medieval, but untrue, belief that it punctures its breast to feed its young on its blood. It is also used as a crest by both Corpus Christi Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge.





# Antigua and Barbuda

## ACTI conference

- The last country visited for research was Antigua (an-TEE-ga) and Barbuda.
- It comprises three islands. The largest, Antigua, is 12 miles long and 9 miles wide (108 square miles). Barbuda is 62 square miles, and the third island is an uninhabited rock close to Montserrat called Redonda. The country is not far from Puerto Rico, toward the southeast.
- There are three public institutions of higher education: Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), and Antigua State College (ASC). There are plans to merge these into a new University College of Antigua and Barbuda (UCAB).
- In 2006, the government passed the Accreditation Act establishing the National Accreditation Board. It began functioning but is not yet fully operational
- The Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions, Inc. ( ACTI ) 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was hosted by The Antigua State College.
- ECE was represented by Melissa Ganiere and Liliane Bauduy who co-presented a session at the conference.





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**Volume I**

**Thank you**

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