

APHEA statement on COVID-19 Response to Accreditation Activities

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With the strain of COVID-19 on the international academic community and particularly on international travel, APHEA has adopted short and mid-term contingency plans to help applicants. These revolve around the integration of virtual site visits into our procedures.

RE-ACCREDITATION. On-line site visits for alternate (every other) re-accreditations for programmes and schools. Exceptionally, if there had been particular concerns about an accreditation decision APHEA reserves the right to request an on-site visit.

INITIAL ACCREDITATION. Adoption of online virtual accreditation site visits for the immediate future and in cases where physical visits are restricted. Under this scenario, APHEA will accredit schools and programmes for a mid-term length of 2 years maximum until a representative group can visit in-person allowing for a full-term (6 year) accreditation.

To achieve these goals and maintain the robustness and integrity of our accreditation system APHEA will:

1. When necessary, allow longer lead times on Curriculum Validation external reviews.
2. Strengthen the interactive nature of the self-evaluation process so that wherever possible questions emerging at this stage are clarified and addressed prior to the virtual site visit.
3. As part of the preparation for the virtual site-visit we will seek greater access to the applicant's electronic resources, electronically submitted documentation, audio-visual resources, as well as video conferencing. This could include for example virtual interviews with randomly selected students and alumni and a video tour of facilities prior to the virtual site visit.
4. Review the timing and content of the virtual site visit to ensure a focus on strengths and weaknesses based on the current self-evaluation processes.
5. For re-accreditations, where possible, include members from the original site-visit team.
6. Integrate an evaluation of the new processes to ensure transparency, rigour and self-reflection for continuous improvement.

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact the secretariat to discuss.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Professor John Middleton

President

On behalf of the Board of Accreditation



Professor Selena Gray *MBChB, MD, FRCP, FF*

Chair