

# Benefits

FAIMER DL can have a powerful, positive impact, not only for health professions educators, but for their institutions.

Benefits for **health professions educators** include:

- Potential for career development
- Acquisition of expertise in health professions education
- Improved teaching skills
- Development of leadership skills with the potential to take on greater roles in health professions education

Benefits for **health professions education institutions** include:

- Development of faculty experts in assessment, curriculum, teaching and learning, and research
- Opportunity for regional leadership in quality assurance
- Access to international expertise on assessment and health professions education
- Assessment and self-review practice that meets World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) standards
- Better alignment of curriculum and educational practice with local needs
- Improved preparation for accreditation



## What participants had to say:

*“Superb course material, very thought-provoking and clear.”*

*“...an exceptional module for me as I was able to prepare the self-appraisal of our institutions.”*

*“Thanks to the whole team for this empowering experience...”*

*“Quick and detailed feedback is going to stimulate me to learn further.”*

# Accrediting Agencies and Regulators

With its focus on accreditation and assessment, FAIMER DL can benefit accrediting agencies and regulators—organizations entrusted with a mission to protect the public by ensuring that physicians are educated to the highest standards. FAIMER DL courses provide an opportunity for representatives of those organizations to receive training in the highest accreditation standards, quality assurance processes, and educational practices—training that can be used to raise accreditation standards and improve the evaluation of medical schools.

While there are currently no universally accepted benchmarks or processes for medical school accreditation, in 2023 the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®), the organization that evaluates the qualifications of international physicians who wish to train in the United States, will require that applicants graduate from a medical school that meets certain accreditation requirements. Specifically, physicians will need to graduate from a school that has been appropriately accredited through a formal process that uses criteria comparable to those established for U.S. medical schools by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or that uses other globally accepted criteria, such as those put forth by WFME. The model put forth by ECFMG and being developed by WFME for meeting this requirement calls for a process for evaluating and recognizing the agencies that accredit medical schools. Graduates of medical schools accredited by an agency that is recognized through this process would meet ECFMG’s 2023 accreditation requirement for ECFMG Certification.

FAIMER DL can assist accrediting agencies in meeting those accreditation criteria by providing:

- Training in WFME standards for medical education
- Training in the WFME accreditation process
- Access to WFME experts
- Knowledge of regulation and accreditation models as well as international benchmarking
- Context-sensitive approaches to assessment, medical education, quality assurance, and accreditation
- The opportunity to undertake a development project relevant to the accreditation body or agency

## For More Information...

If you are interested in FAIMER DL and would like additional information, please contact us at: **[distancelearning@faimer.org](mailto:distancelearning@faimer.org)**.

FAIMER®

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FAIMER® DL  
Distance Learning

Certificate  
Diploma  
Master’s Degree

in Accreditation and Assessment

Foundation for Advancement of International  
Medical Education and Research

# Introduction

The Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research Distance Learning (FAIMER® DL) program offers health professions educators the opportunity to receive advanced training in all aspects of health professions education. Educators in medicine, nursing, dentistry, and other health professions can acquire the knowledge and skills to advance health professions education at their institutions to the highest international standards.

FAIMER DL courses are designed and developed in partnership with the FAIMER Centre for Distance Learning in the United Kingdom. Beginning in 2013, FAIMER will partner with Keele University in the United Kingdom to expand FAIMER DL into a program that grants academic credentials in accordance with international standards. Participants will be able to earn a **Certificate, Diploma, or Master’s Degree** in Accreditation and Assessment. The Certificate and Diploma programs are conducted entirely on-line. The Master’s Degree is a blended learning program that will include a brief residential session and a dissertation in addition to on-line course work.

FAIMER DL is unique among health professions education programs. Program features include:

- Training and mentoring from international experts in health professions education
- A flexible learning format, which allows busy working professionals to learn new skills and advance their careers while continuing to practice in their current positions
- Evidence-based teaching with an emphasis on implementing real-world improvements in participants’ own practice and at their institutions
- A focus on accreditation and assessment, in which international standards, accreditation processes, quality assurance, and monitoring are integrated into study

FAIMER DL empowers health professions educators with the knowledge and skills to take educational standards and practice to a higher level—to develop their own practice, to improve health professions education at their institutions and in their communities, and ultimately to help bring about real and lasting advances in local health care.

## Distance Learning that Works

A 2011 report from the London International Development Centre (LIDC) cited FAIMER’s distance learning programs as examples of effective educational models that incorporate distance learning. Authored by Chris Joynes, “Distance Learning for Health: What Works,” presented findings from a global review of distance learning programs for medical professionals in low- and middle-income countries. The report was launched at the February 23, 2011 LIDC-3ie seminar “What works in international development? Internet-based medical education: findings and lessons from a realist review.” More information on the report, as well as links to summaries and the report in its entirety, can be found on the LIDC website at [www.lidc.org.uk](http://www.lidc.org.uk).

# Certificate, Diploma, and Master’s Courses

The FAIMER-Keele DL Certificate, Diploma, and Master’s Degree courses are conducted in partnership with Keele University and the Centre for Medical Education in Context (CenMEDIC) in the United Kingdom. Courses are administered by CenMEDIC and follow the strict quality assurance guidelines and policies of Keele. Modules are developed, presented, and facilitated by experts in health professions education under the leadership of FAIMER faculty member Janet Grant, Ph.D., Director of CenMEDIC and Emerita Professor of Education in Medicine at The Open University in the United Kingdom.

## Certificate

The FAIMER-Keele Certificate in Health Professions Education: Accreditation and Assessment provides a thorough, robust grounding in accreditation and assessment as the foundation of a comprehensive understanding of health professions education. Students take on-line units in the following two modules:

- **Module 1: Assessment**  
Sample topics: blueprinting, objective structured clinical exams (OSCEs), multiple choice questions, standard setting
- **Module 2: Accreditation and Self-Review**  
Sample topics: standards for medical education, self-review in low-resource circumstances, implementing improvements after a self-review, planning an external review

There are eight units each in Modules 1 and 2; each unit is 15 hours.

The Certificate is a one-year course of study. Successful completion of all units in Modules 1 and 2 is required to earn the Certificate.

## Diploma

The FAIMER-Keele Diploma in Health Professions Education: Accreditation and Assessment provides comprehensive training in health professions education. Beginning with a solid foundation in accreditation and assessment, the program progresses to cover research design, curriculum planning and design, and teaching/learning methods. Students take Modules 1 and 2, described above under Certificate, as well as the following modules:

- **Module 3: Assessment and Accreditation 2**  
Sample topics: self assessment, on-line testing, the role of the external examiner, models of regulation
- **Module 4: Research Design**  
Sample topics: mixed methods research and evaluation, research designs and sampling, quantitative and qualitative research methods, data analysis, research governance
- **Module 5: Curriculum Design and Evaluation**  
Sample topics: curriculum models and theories, the process of curriculum development, managing the curriculum, curriculum evaluation

- **Module 6: Teaching and Learning in Health Professions**  
Sample topics: learning theories, learning clinical and communication skills, learning in the community, learning through simulation, clinical problem solving

There are eight units each in Modules 3–6; each unit is 10 hours.

The Diploma (Modules 1–6) is a two-year course of study. Successful completion of all units in Modules 1–6 is required to earn the Diploma. Students who have already taken units for the Certificate program can apply the credit from that program to the Diploma program.

## Master’s Degree

The FAIMER-Keele Master’s Degree in Health Professions Education: Accreditation and Assessment is a blended learning course for health professions educators who aspire to a leadership role in health professions education at their institution. The program includes comprehensive training in all aspects of health professions education as well as training in advanced research design and leadership/management. Participants take Modules 1–6, described above under Certificate and Diploma, as well as the following:

- **Module 7: Educational Management and Leadership**  
Sample topics: understanding and managing self, others, performance, and conflict; strengths-based leadership; team building; managing change

There are eight units in Module 7; each unit is 10 hours.

The Master’s Degree is a three-year course of study. Students who have already taken units for the Certificate and Diploma programs can apply the credit from those programs to the Master’s program.

In addition to successful completion of Modules 1–7, participants in the Master’s program must complete a one-week residential session that integrates learning. They must also conduct an approved research project and write an acceptable dissertation to earn the Master’s Degree.

