

## The Differences Between Registration and Accreditation

Registration	Accreditation
Mandatory	Voluntary
First form of recognition by the Council	Provides international recognition by the Council
Indicates that institution/training provider has met specific standards to operate	Indicates that institution/training provider has met specific standards which are governed by quality assurance and quality enhancement
Involves a general overview of the institution/training provider as a whole	Involves thorough investigation of the institution/training provider and programmes of study
Provides local recognition of the institution/training provider	Provides local and international recognition of the institution/training provider/programme of study, and may facilitate transferability of credits
Certificate of Registration issued	Certificate of Accreditation and Quality Mark Certificate issued

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V2: Oct 2014



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# REGISTRATION

## The Foundation of Recognition in Barbados

Post-secondary/Tertiary  
Educational Providers

*"A coherent system of post-secondary or tertiary education and training which assures excellence and integrity to all its stakeholders."*

### ***What is registration?\****

- Registration signals that an educational provider has met the minimum standards required to deliver post-secondary or tertiary education and training in Barbados. These standards are established by the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC). Registration provides a general overview of the operations and educational offerings of the provider. However, it does not confer any particular standing or guarantee of quality or recognition to the programmes/courses offered by a provider.
- No provider can apply for accreditation of the institution and/or programme(s) of study or courses without registration status.
- Where a provider meets all of the General Registration Criteria, registration will be granted. Registration may be granted for a period of up to three (3) calendar years. During this period, the provider is required to submit an annual registration report to maintain its registered status. Once all the requirements for registration have been met, providers will be issued with the Certificate of Registration upon payment of the requisite fee.

### ***What is re-registration?\****

- Registered providers are required to apply for re-registration at least two (2) months before the registration period expires.

\*\* See the *Registration Guidelines* for details.

### ***Does an educational provider have to be registered?***

In Barbados, registration is mandatory according to the Barbados Accreditation Council Act, 2004-11, which states the mandates of the Council that include: the registration of institutions offering post-secondary and tertiary education and programmes of study.

### ***Can your institution or programme(s) of study do without registration?***

No. Registration is mandatory; and more prospective students are seeking the recognition status of educational providers and the programmes of studies offered BEFORE they apply!

### ***Why is registration important?***

- Registration seeks to assure quality education
- Registration is the first form of national recognition by the Barbados Accreditation Council
- Registration indicates that an educational providers has met specific standards to operate in Barbados.

### ***The benefits of Registration***

Being a registered educational provider has many benefits, which include:

1. Recognition of the educational provider at a local level;
2. Public trust;
3. Validation of registration status could be used as a marketing tool to increase student numbers;
4. Access to educational funding from funding agencies;
5. Exemption from Value Added Tax on educational text books and supplies;
6. Access to support services by the Council designed to continually improve the quality of education and training.
7. Continuous improvement process that increases the focus on student learning and experiences
8. Eligibility for application for accreditation
9. Free promotion on the Council's website, publications and other promotional mechanisms.

### ***Are there different types of registration?***

No. Registration involves a general overview of the operations of the educational provider as a whole.