








## Red Flags

-  The awarding of the degree does not make sense with the biographical information supplied.
-  It is difficult to find the location of the institution itself.
-  The degree is based largely on life experience or prior learning with little or no coursework completed at the awarding institution.
-  Special offers of “Order by Midnight Tonight” or “Order Now”
-  The institution is accredited by an agency which you are not familiar with or one with no accreditation information.
-  The institution is not listed by any reliable sources for recognised institutions.
-  Accreditation information is vague or absent on literature about the institution or programme.

## Additional Resources

### Books

- *Degree Mills: The Billion-dollar industry that has sold over a million fake diplomas* (2005) by Allen Ezell and John Bear
- *Fraud and Education: The Worm in the Apple* (2001) by H. J. Noah and M. A Eckstein
- *Diploma Mills - Degrees of Fraud* (1988) by D. W. Stewart and H. A. Spille
- *Bear’s Guide to Earning Degrees by Distance Learning* (2003) by J. Bear and M. Bear
- *What You Need to Know Before You Choose* (2007) pamphlet by the Barbados Accreditation Council

**IF IN DOUBT  
CHECK IT OUT!**

The Council wishes to acknowledge the contribution to this pamphlet by Ms. Margit Schatzman of Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE), USA.

v3 6/2017



“Your Gateway to Global Recognition”

**FACTS  
ABOUT  
FRAUD**

**Tips for Detecting  
Fraudulent  
Credentials**

Suite 1, Building 1,  
Manor Lodge Complex,  
Lodge Hill,  
St Michael BB14000  
BARBADOS  
Tel#: (246) 535-6740  
Fax#: (246) 622-1089  
Email: info@bac.gov.bb  
Website: www.bac.gov.bb

With developments within the area of technology, and the easy access to the internet, the world is being proliferated with fake documents that are generated by bodies called Diploma/Degree Mills and falsely authenticated by Accreditation Mills.



**Fraud Is A Serious Problem,  
But Its Full Extent Is Unknown**

Diploma or Degree Mills are not academic institutions as we know them.

- They are institutions that operate without the supervision of a state/national or professional agency.
- They have no academic value.
- They are not accredited or recognised by an official accreditation/recognition authority.
- They are “certified” by disreputable or incompetent accreditation agencies.
- Fees are paid in exchange for a diploma that appears to be authentic.

There is no comprehensive list of Diploma/Degree Mills since the names of these institutions constantly change.

## Students and Parents

Do not be fooled. Diploma/Degree Mills issue a graduation package that may include not only the Diploma or Degree, but also a student identification card, letter of recommendation and transcript! Numerous transcript storage facilities are fraudulently created, and employer verification letters are sent from any of these fraudulent locations.

That is why it is extremely important to check with the Barbados Accreditation Council to determine whether the institution you are interested in attending is accredited by a reputable accrediting body. By doing this, you avoid wasting your money, time and effort.

## Employers and Professional Bodies

Employers and Professional Bodies also have a role to assist with detecting fraudulent credentials. They should always have foreign qualifications verified before employing or accepting membership of

the holder. The Barbados Accreditation Council offers services of Recognition of Qualifications, and Recognition of Institutions or Programmes. By requesting these services, you are doing your part in the **fight against fraud**. Remember, the reputation of your business and the profession is at stake!

## STOP:

- Unqualified individuals from becoming doctors, dentists, engineers, etc.
- Individuals from presenting qualifications which they do not possess.
- The erosion of public confidence in holders of bona fide qualifications.
- Devaluing tertiary education and training.
- Insecurities regarding public safety and well-being.

## What is The Best Defense?

Use the services of the **Barbados Accreditation Council.**

Call us today at (246) 535-6740!  
Also, log on to [www.bac.gov.bb](http://www.bac.gov.bb)

**DO YOUR PART IN THE  
FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD!**