



Advisory on Transitional Arrangements for Registered and Accredited Institutions offering Programmes during the Period of Closure

Following the announcement on Monday, March 16, 2020 by the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley, on the closure of post-secondary and tertiary education (PSTE) institutions, The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) recognises that PSTE institutions may opt to offer courses using open, distance and online learning (ODOL) modalities to reach their student populations. Registered and accredited institutions are reminded that their signed *General Conditions of Registration* or *General Conditions of Institutional Accreditation* detail **substantive changes** with respect to ODOL, as follows:

- The initiation of delivery of 60% or more of a programme's contact hours through distance education or electronic media;
- The offer of courses or programmes that are not currently included within the institution's registered or accredited status.

In an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19 through on-campus congregation, PSTE institutional staff and students may desire to adopt remote access to learning materials and delivery channels that may range from synchronous (real-time) to asynchronous (delayed) modes. Registered and accredited institutions may be interested in continuing their offer of programmes and courses using ODOL modalities during a transitional period. Accordingly, given the immediacy and urgency of the changes that institutions must now put into effect to

reach their student populations, ACTT officially recognises **March 16 to April 30, 2020** as a period of **Transitional Arrangements for Registered and Accredited PSTE Institutions in Trinidad and Tobago**.

During this period, PSTE institutions may desire to utilise best practice technology-mediated learning resources and methods that are at their disposal in order to quickly and effectively deliver their courses and programmes to their students. The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) has adopted the Regional Community of Practice (CoP) Quality Assurance Guidelines in Open and Distance Learning (ODL), which may be sourced at <http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/3126>. COL has also recommended online learning strategies in the wake of COVID-19 (see links below).

- [COL Resources and Tools](#)
- [Keeping the Doors of Learning Open COVID-19](#)

For those who are introducing online learning tools for the first time, you may want to begin by using existing social media tools. We recommend the presentation on creating ‘The New Google Classroom’ for your consideration. You may view the session at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6L-nZGIUTE>. We also encourage institutions to share knowledge/experiences with each other on virtual learning systems.

Please note that this period may be extended, depending on whether extensions are prescribed by the Ministry of Education. As such, we will not consider any temporary changes made during this period as ‘substantive changes’. Once the transitional period is over, PSTE institutions will be required to revert to their usual methods of delivery for their courses and programmes, as documented in their most recent registered or accredited self-study and evaluator reports.

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