

ACTT is the *principal body* in Trinidad and Tobago for conducting and advising on the accreditation and recognition of *post-secondary and tertiary educational and training* (PSTE) institutions, programmes and awards.

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# A diploma/degree mill is a fraudulent institution unregulated by recognised national or professional agencies.

This type of institution offers bogus educational degrees, often giving credit for 'life and work experience'. Diploma mills may use aggressive marketing and sales tactics, such as 'limited time' offers that force potential students to make hasty enrolment decisions.

Diploma mills are most times supported by accreditation mills: organisations that grant 'Accreditation' to higher education institutions without having government authority to operate as an accrediting agency.

Any certification obtained from a diploma mill is worthless and would not be considered for employment or further study.

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## How do you avoid being TRAPPED BY DIPLOMA MILLS?

ENSURE THE INSTITUTION IS QUALITY ASSURED



Verify whether the institution is registered, accredited or recognised by a legitimate agency. Most legitimate accreditation agencies provide information on their quality assured institutions online.

Council of Higher Education Accreditation: https://www.chea.org/search-institutions Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: https://www.qaa.ac.uk Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago: https://actt.org.tt/services/registration/compendium-of-institutions

Make sure the institution has an online and a legitimate physical presence. No P.O. boxes.

RESEARCH THE INSTITUTION



CONSULT
WITH THE
EXPERTS



I.e. — us! Liaise with an ACTT team member by emailing recognition@actt.org.tt. Begin the application process for a Statement on Recognition at www.actt.org.tt/services/recognition/statement-on-recognition.

## What is ACTT's STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION?

A **Statement on Recognition** is an official document that provides information on whether a post-secondary or tertiary level institution is registered, accredited or recognised.

Statements on Recognition also include information on specialised accreditation of qualifications for professions that require a licence to practise.

#### Application Process

- The Statement on Recognition costs TT\$150
- The process takes a minimum of 10 working days
- Apply online at actt.org.tt/services/recognition/ statement-on-recognition
- One application form is required for each qualification or programme of study

#### Required Documents

- · Original certificate if programme has been completed
- Official English translation for a certificate issued in a foreign language
- Deed Poll or Marriage Certificate where there has been a name change subsequent to the award of the qualification
- Original final transcript in cases where the field of study is not stated on the original certificate of qualification

## How does it Benefit YOU, THE STUDENT?

#### ACCESS TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



Agencies that award scholarships and grants need to ensure that the institution and programme of study are recognised.

## REQUIREMENT FOR CARICOM SKILLS CERTIFICATE



CARICOM citizens with certain qualifications, earned through recognised institutions and programmes, are able to move freely within the region.

### RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS BY EMPLOYERS



Employers are assured that job candidates have authentic documents as well as the requisite skills and knowledge to perform.

## FACILITATES TRANSFERS BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



Students may not always complete their course of study at one institution. To be able to transfer credits, the student must have attended a recognised institution.