

Creating an Enabling Environment

**Policy and Regulatory Changes For Improving The
Caribbean As A Destination For Foreign Students**

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The CARIFORUM-EU EPA

Provisions

- ❑ The CARIFORUM-EU EPA represents a contemporary trade agreement which includes development components.
- ❑ Promotes a more mature trading relationship between the two sides, encompassing
 - a trade in Goods regime
 - a trade in Services (*including Education Services*)
 - Trade-Related Issues and Development Cooperation

Implications for Higher Education

- ❑ Each member state committed to allow individuals of entities from the other side to provide education services to their nationals
 - ❑ 20 signatory European Union States are open to foreign direct investment in Higher Education. They commit to allow key personnel and graduate trainees related to the investment to enter Europe.
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Best Practices: Europe

The Bologna Process

Works to promote compatible education systems in Europe by harmonizing the following:

- system with three main cycles (Bachelor/Master/Doctorate)
 - system of easily readable and comparable degrees (reporting)
 - European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS)
 - promoting mobility by overcoming legal recognition and administrative obstacles
 - Standards established for quality assurance
 - national frameworks of qualifications which plug up into a regional system
 - awarding and recognising joint degrees (cotutelle,
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Best Practices: ACP

The African Union Higher Education Initiatives

- ❑ **Nyerere Programme:** increases access & promotes intra-African student mobility
- ❑ **Harmonization of higher education program:** to foster continental academic integration
- ❑ **African Quality Rating Mechanism:** to improve quality in African Universities
- ❑ **Pan African University:** to promote the continent's research and innovation capacity

Framework

- ❑ revised Arusha Convention – allows for academic recognition
- ❑ Tuning approach (pilot) – harmonises curricula
- ❑ Africa Quality Rating Mechanism – fosters comparability in qualifications

Best Practices: **C A R P I M S**

*Caribbean-Pacific Island
Mobility Scheme*

The Caribbean-Pacific Island Mobility Scheme

Partner universities legally bound with **Consortium Partnership Agreement**, which establishes the terms of agreement for the partners

- Partners commit to **recognising degree-seeking mobilities** (full Master's and Full PhDs) for admissions to further study or employment of CARPIMS alumni
 - Makes provisions for an **Academic Recognition Agreement**, which ensures that mobilities (non degree-seeking) are recognised and credit-earning
 - CPA outlines the **communication and management tools** for the consortium
 - Prioritises **quality assessment and control**
 - Common Grading Scale** in the process of being developed
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Prescriptions: Policy Changes

- ❑ Harmonising National Legislation, Higher Education policies and Strategic Education Plans of member countries – the role of the CARICOM's Regional Project Steering Committee and the development of a **regional strategic plan for education** (services?, products?)
- ❑ Defining core areas of collective competitive strength (current and future)
- ❑ Establishing common policy positions on **equal opportunity issues**, for example disabled or LGBTQ international students
- ❑ Revising current degree classes in the context of the developed **Regional Qualifications Framework** (French, English, Spanish, Dutch)
- ❑ Operationalising a **Regional Accreditation Regime**
- ❑ Implementing **Regional Quality Assurance** systems
- ❑ Establishing policies to guide **work and study**
- ❑ Committing to and providing **resources** to support policy changes and implementation
- ❑ Defining **Local content** requirements (services, curriculum, etc.)

Prescriptions: **Regulatory Changes**

Defining a comprehensive regulatory framework for internationalization, which may include:

- Appropriate **immigration** laws (classification, duration of stay, process to obtain student permits, etc.)
 - Data protection and cyber security** laws (protecting identity and payment information)
 - Equal opportunity / non-discrimination** laws
 - Incentivizing **private sector investment** into higher education services for export
 - Encouraging **PPP's** in Higher Education
 - Supportive **taxation** rules / incentives to institutions and individuals in the Higher Education Sector
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Prescriptions: **Institutional Changes**

- Investment in regularly updated **websites**, featuring useful created and curated information needed by international students
 - Institutionalised **support services** for international students (recruiting, admissions, support, alumni)
 - Dedicated international student **support staff**
 - Facilitation of **online payment** systems
 - Development of **Exchange programmes** (student and faculty)
 - Developing Centers of Excellence in **Research** (competitiveness)
 - Developing **unique/competitive programmes** and courses
 - Offering **internship and work options** during and post-programme
 - Develop **business partnerships/relationships** (reduce costs, increase revenues)
 - Commit **financial resources** for execution
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