

## Frequently Asked Questions about Institutional Accreditation

### What is the value of accreditation?

Accreditation serves two main purposes:

1. To assure the quality of the institution and/or its programmes- shows that the institution offers high-quality education and training, in a sound and stable environment.
2. To assure educational quality and accountability, and to encourage quality enhancement i.e., it ensures that the institution maintains its mandate and promise to its clients, to ensure that SJPI provides the best technical and vocational education and training.

### What does the accreditation process entail?

- ❖ Eligibility for candidacy- the institution collects and presents evidence to the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC) to prove that they have met the minimum requirements necessary to proceed with the institutional accreditation process.
- ❖ Statement of intent- the institution indicates to the BAC that it would be interested in commencing the accreditation process.
- ❖ Self-Evaluation Report (SER) - the institution is required to provide a comprehensive review of the entire institution (policies, procedures, practices etc.) against standards established by the BAC.
- ❖ Evaluation Visit- After the successful submission of the SER, the BAC selects a panel of external evaluators who visit the institution to validate the report, review existing evidence, and communicate with the staff and students to determine the legitimacy of the claims in the report. A report of their findings is then compiled and submitted to the council.
- ❖ Review and Decision- The council reviews the institution's SER and the report compiled by the evaluators and determines if the institution is eligible for accreditation.
- ❖ Award of accreditation- The decision as well as the report of evaluation is then provided to the institution.

### Who is responsible for ensuring the institution is accredited?

The Barbados Accreditation Council is the accrediting organization tasked with this responsibility. The council has established guidelines, procedures and standards to which each institution seeking accreditation is reviewed against. This ensures that the institution is outfitted with the necessary tools, environment, staffing and knowledge to deliver on its promises made in the mission and vision statements.

### Why is the accredited status of the institution important?

- Having an accredited status provides a reliable indication to students, industry and the public that the institution is capable of providing training and education that is of high quality and value.
- It assures that the institution will be held accountable for breaches in its responsibilities.
- Ensures that all certificates and diplomas from SJPI are validated and accepted from other accredited schools, universities and the business sector.

- National, regional and international recognition of quality, accountability, and public trust.
- Expansion of educational and learning opportunities for students, as the institution would be part of a national network of quality educational providers.
- Increases the opportunities for access to support and services designed to continually improve the quality of education and training.

### How does accreditation benefit me as a student?

- Should you choose to further your education, it allows for increased chances of you gaining a placement in another institution.
- Allows for the institution to be able to gain scholarship opportunities as well as the ability to partner with other examining bodies, so you gain more than just an SJPI certificate/diploma.
- Helps potential employers to determine the credibility of programmes you have done at the institution & gauge your knowledge level.

### How do students know that the institution will keep its word as an accredited institution?

The accreditation process requires the institution to conduct evaluation of itself as a whole, inclusive of policies, procedures, practices and fit for purpose. This evaluation sees not just the institution providing statements about these aspects, but also providing evidence which is evaluated by external evaluators. Additionally, it is expected that the institution makes available to the public a copy of the evaluation report, inclusive of any projections for improvement.

### Is accreditation a one-time process?

No. Accreditation is in fact an ongoing process, as it involved the thorough and continuous evaluation of the institution processes, procedures, policies and practices. After the initial accreditation status is awarded, SJPI will be subject to evaluation every three, five or seven years. This is to ensure that the institution maintains and improve on the standard of its education and training offerings.

### Can an institution that was awarded accreditation lose its status?

Yes, the institution can lose its accreditation status if it is determined that:

- The institution is found to be in violation of policies and/or procedures;
- The institution has exhibited a failure to maintain appropriate standards.

### How can I get involved in the accreditation process?

- Take every opportunity to familiarize yourself with the institution, including its mission and vision;
- Your feedback is valid and valued. Take the opportunity to complete the End of Semester Course Evaluation Form;
- Establish channels of communication between yourself and your instructor/Head of Division;
- Get involved with the Student Council and/or become a course representative;
- Cooperate with the Barbados Accreditation Council and/or External Evaluators;
- Do your best to excel in field in which you are enrolled. Your success is the institution's success!

Where can I find more information about the accreditation process?

Check the institution's website [www.sjpi.edu.bb](http://www.sjpi.edu.bb); the Barbados Accreditation Council's website [www.bac.gov.bb](http://www.bac.gov.bb); or call the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology's Quality Assurance Office at [1 246 535-2245](tel:12465352245).