

**Chronology of events relating to the application
for accreditation of an Associate Degree Programme in Nursing made by
the Hong Kong Institute of Technology to the Nursing Council of Hong Kong**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Events</u>
23.10.2004	Letter from the Hong Kong Institute of Technology (HKIT) to the Nursing Council of Hong Kong (the Council) informing its intention to offer an Associate Degree Programme in Nursing (the Programme) in 2005 and requesting the Council to provide information on the criteria for offering accredited Nursing Programmes in Hong Kong.
27.10.2004	Written response from the Secretary of the Council to HKIT enclosing a copy of the Handbook for Accreditation of Training Institutions (the Handbook), and advising that the Council would need a minimum of nine months to process an application for accreditation.
3.9.2005	HKIT's submission of documents about the Programme to the Council for accreditation.
15.9.2005	Accreditation of the Programme by the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (renamed as the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications with effect from 1 October 2007).
October 2005	Commencement of the Programme, with the first cohort of students expected to graduate in May 2008.
November 2005	Revision of the Handbook by the Council.
19.12.2005	Announcement by the Council of a new set of rejection criteria for accreditation of training institutions and updating of the flowchart indicating the process of accreditation of pre-registration/pre-enrolment Nursing Programmes.
22.2.2006	Letter from the Council to HKIT advising that HKIT had met three of the rejection criteria, namely teaching team, student entry requirements and clinical placement, and hence its application for accreditation was rejected.
23.2.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council providing evidence to prove that HKIT did not meet the rejection criteria.

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1.3.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council suggesting that a meeting be held to discuss the application.
8.3.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council indicating that further information would be provided by mid-March.
13.3.2006	Submission by HKIT of further information on clinical placement, student profile and curriculum vitae of academic staff.
21.3.2006	Letter from the Council to HKIT advising that it would reconsider HKIT's application and requesting the submission of a full self-study report in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Handbook by 21 April 2006.
30.3.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council expressing concern on whether the rejection criteria, implemented with effect from 19 December 2005, should be applied to HKIT's application which was made before that date.
13.4.2006	Submission by HKIT of further information to the Council.
28.4.2006	Response from the Council to HKIT's letter dated 30.3.2006 with the following comments - <i>"In assessing the suitability of a training institution for providing nursing education for the purpose of registration with the Council, the Council refers to the Handbook for Accreditation of Training Institutions, which became effective in 1997. There has been no change to the Handbook since then."</i>
19, 24 & 26 July 2006	Letters from HKIT to the Council enquiring about the progress of its application and providing further information to substantiate the application.
31.7.2006	The Council's issuance of a circular memorandum entitled <i>"Provision of Clinical Placements to Students Enrolled in Non-accredited Nursing Courses"</i> to all hospitals, nurse associations, the Social Welfare Department and the Department of Health reminding them to take note of the following when considering the offer of clinical placements to students from non-accredited courses run by organizations which were not gazetted training schools - (a) the students might not be registered or enrolled as nurses; and

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	(b) priority should be given to students from accredited courses run by gazetted training schools.
7.8.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food expressing concern about the operation of the Council.
16.8.2006	Acknowledgement of HKIT's letter by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food.
29.8.2006	Letter from the Council to HKIT advising that clinical placement was an important criterion for accreditation, and requesting further information in this regard.
30.8.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council enclosing a letter from the New Territories West Cluster (NTWC) which confirmed the clinical placement arrangement for HKIT.
4.9.2006	Letter from the legal representative of HKIT to the Council alleging that " <i>the circular from the Nursing Council dated 31 July 2006 was a sign of the Council's attempt to interfere with hospitals' decision to offer clinical placement to nursing students for the sole purpose of creating difficulty for our client to meet the accreditation requirement set by your Council</i> ".
11.9.2006	Letter from the Secretary of the Council to the legal representative of HKIT denying the allegation.
12.9.2006	Submission by HKIT of details on the clinical placement to the Council.
15.9.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council suggesting the conduct of a campus visit by the accreditation panel.
24.10.2006	Letter from the Council to invite HKIT to make a presentation on its application on 7 November 2006.
26.10.2006	HKIT's confirmation of its attendance and provision of further information about the clinical placement.
7.11.2006	Presentation by HKIT to the accreditation panel at which members of the accreditation panel pointed out the deficiencies identified in the Programme including quality assurance, medium of instruction and clinical placement.
9.11.2006	Letter from HKIT to the Council claiming the imposition of a different set of standards for clinical placement on HKIT.

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13.11.2006	Request from HKIT to the Council for expediting the accreditation process.
22.11.2006	Letter from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (renamed as the Food and Health Bureau starting from 1 July 2007) to HKIT advising that HKIT should refer to the Handbook for details of the accreditation process, and the circular issued by the Council in July 2006 did not represent the view of the Hospital Authority. The Bureau stated that it was not in a position to comment on individual applications for accreditation.
23.11.2006	Letter from HKIT's students to the Council urging the Council to speed up the accreditation process.
8.12.2006	HKIT's written enquiry about the latest position of its application and expressing concern about the application of consistent accreditation requirements to all accredited programmes.
3.1.2007	Letter from the Council to HKIT indicating that there remained a lack of solid documentation and information to support HKIT's application, and HKIT had not yet confirmed the clinical placement arrangements. The Council stated that HKIT's application would be rejected, unless HKIT furnished the Council with material information on areas of concern outlined in the letter for consideration by 24 January 2007.
5.1.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Council questioning the latter's view that HKIT had not yet confirmed the clinical placement arrangements.
23.1.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Council substantiating its claim that it had fulfilled all the accreditation requirements.
27.2.2007	Letter from HKIT to invite the Council to conduct the accreditation visit.
1.3.2007	Letter from the Council to HKIT asking for information about the Programme and proposing a fact-finding visit.
2, 6 & 9 March 2007	Series of letters from HKIT to the Council about the fact-finding visit and providing information about the Programme.
6.3.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food expressing concern about the accreditation process.
6.8.2007	Letter from HKIT to invite the Council to conduct the accreditation visit as soon as possible.

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17.8.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee seeking clarification and information about the accreditation criteria relating to laboratory facilities and equipment.
11.10.2007	Reply from the Secretary of the Council to HKIT stating that the information requested by HKIT was not relevant and would not be provided.
17.10.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Secretary of the Council asking for an explanation on how and why the Council considered nursing laboratories irrelevant to the accreditation of the Programme.
13.12.2007	Letter from HKIT to the Council enquiring about the date scheduled for the accreditation visit.
17.12.2007	Letter from HKIT's students to the Council expressing concern about the progress of the accreditation.
February 2008	Conduct of the accreditation visit by the Council.
31.3.2008	Letter from the Council to HKIT informing the rejection of its application for accreditation of the Programme.
3.4.2008	Letter from the Council to HKIT providing detailed reasons for rejecting HKIT's application for accreditation.
7.4.2008	Letter from HKIT to the Council responding to the queries raised in the Council's letter dated 3 April 2008, and requesting the Council's reconsideration of its decision to reject HKIT's application for accreditation.