

**Chronology of Events
in respect of the Hong Kong Institute of Technology's
Application for Accreditation
of Associate Degree in Nursing**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
23 October 2004	The Hong Kong Institute of Technology (HKIT) obtained the criteria for accreditation of nursing programmes and other related information from the Nursing Council ("the Council") in writing.
27 October 2004	The "Handbook for Accreditation of Training Institutions" ("the Handbook") was sent to HKIT upon its request for criteria for offering accredited nursing programme in Hong Kong.
11 August 2005	HKIT submitted the documents prepared for seeking accreditation from the Hong Kong Academic Accreditation Council as an initial submission to the Nursing Council.
16 August 2005	The Council wrote to the HKIT, explaining that it was required to submit a self-study report in accordance with the Handbook, a copy of its most up-to-date version was also sent to the HKIT.
26 August 2005	HKIT submitted a self-study report.
6 October 2005	The Accreditation Committee (AC) of the Council considered the HKIT's application at a meeting and found that the HKIT's self-study report failed to prove its compliance with the accreditation criteria as well as its competency in organising the programme. The AC decided not to further process the HKIT's application pending the rejection criteria to be derived from the laid down accreditation criteria.
19 December 2005	The Council endorsed at a meeting the rejection criteria and the revised accreditation procedure as proposed by the AC.
11 January 2006	The Council sent the updated version of accreditation handbook to HKIT.
16 February 2006	The AC re-considered the HKIT's application at a meeting and concluded that the HKIT had met the rejection criteria nos. 2, 3 and 4.
20 February 2006	The Council decided at a meeting to reject the HKIT's application.
22 February 2006	The Council rejected the HKIT's application, since its self-study report failed to prove its compliance with the accreditation criteria as well as its competency in organizing the proposed programme, and it had met certain rejection criteria, one of which was failing to provide evidence to substantiate confirmed clinical placement with appropriate supervision.
23 February 2006 & 13 March 2006	HKIT requested the Council to re-consider its application.

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21 March 2006	<p>According to legal advice, the Council allowed the HKIT to make a re-submission due to the following considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) the rejection criteria and the operational procedures associated with them first became effective at a time when the HKIT had already submitted its application; andii) HKIT seemed to be attempting to submit new information or documents in support of its application. <p>HKIT was explicitly told that the re-submission would be subject to scrutiny according to the rejection criteria, and that if it fell again within any one of the rejection criteria, any new application for accreditation of the same nursing programme would not be entertained within the next 18 months.</p>
13 April 2006	<p>HKIT made re-submission. The re-submission was subsequently forwarded to the relevant accreditation panel members for consideration on 18 April 2006.</p>
12 May 2006	<p>The accreditation panel produced a report indicating that the HKIT fell within at least one of the rejection criteria.</p>
27 July 2006	<p>The AC considered the HKIT's re-submission at a meeting and found that it fell within at least one rejection criteria.</p>
29 August 2006	<p>The Council found no confirmed clinical placement in the HKIT's re-submission. The Council thus advised and requested the HKIT to provide supporting documents from its clinical partner(s) to the effect that clinical placement would be offered for students during the whole course of study.</p>
24 October 2006	<p>Upon consideration of the HKIT's further submissions, the Council wrote back, advising that it remained unable to provide the Council with sufficient supporting documents to confirm that clinical placement would be offered to their students during the whole course of study.</p>
26 October 2006	<p>HKIT forwarded to the Council additional information on clinical placement, including a copy of the letter from the Senior Executive Manager (Nursing) of the Hospital Authority (HA), which stated that HA "would support credible programme in principle...However, the capacity and availability to support your nursing students rest upon the discretion of individual hospital...". The Council however was not satisfied that the same sufficiently provides for clinical placement.</p>
7 November 2006	<p>The AC invited the HKIT for presentation. The HKIT however failed to address, among other areas of concern, the issue of clinical placement to the satisfaction of the AC members.</p>
3 January 2007	<p>The Council informed the HKIT that it was minded to reject the HKIT's application unless and until the HKIT could provide additional material information within three weeks. The Council had an overall</p>

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	impression that there was a lack of solid documentation and information in support of the HKIT's application
23 January 2007	The HKIT provided additional information.
7 February 2007	The AC considered the HKIT's additional information at a meeting and found that the HKIT failed to prove its provision of the following which was essential to a quality nursing programme: (a) clinical tutors for supervising clinical placement; and (b) sufficient training for clinical mentors.
8 February 2007	The Council decided to conduct a fact-finding visit to the HKIT to verify the inadequacy of the programme.
27 February 2007	The HKIT requested the Council to conduct an accreditation visit.
28 February 2007	Dr. Joy SHI, the HKIT's President, raised her objection to a fact-finding visit during her telephone conversation with the Acting Secretary to the Council.
1 March 2007	The Council informed the HKIT of its latest observations and decision of conducting a fact-finding visit to the HKIT.
2 March 2007	According to the advice of the Council's Legal Adviser, the Council wrote to the HKIT to put it on record that the HKIT was not agreeable to a fact-finding visit.
2 March 2007	The HKIT informed the Council that they would arrange for the fact-finding visit to show their full cooperation, though they had a grave concern about the legitimacy or legality of the visit.
6 March 2007	The HKIT requested the Council to provide a date for accreditation visit and the names of the Accreditation Panel members assessing the HKIT's application.
9 March 2007	The HKIT responded to the Council's observations as informed on 1 March 2007 and requested the Council to provide a date for accreditation visit.
12 March 2007	The HKIT alleged that it was the Council's requirement for a training institution to submit its application for accreditation when the nursing programme was in full operation.
11 May 2007	Fact-finding visit to HKIT.
21 May 2007	The fact-finding visit team reported their initial findings in the visit to the AC at the meeting held on 21 May 2007.
14 June 2007	HKIT published press release in 8 major newspapers announcing that the Hospital Authority had cooperated with HKIT to provide nurse training. The press release emphasized that the course would alleviate

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	the nurse shortage problem without mentioning that the course had not yet been accredited.
26 June 2007	The Council noted at its meeting that the AC would make appropriate recommendations to the Council after the relevant accreditation panel had finalized the evaluation results.
10 July 2007	In response to the press release on 14 June 2007, the Council uploaded a declaration on its website announcing that the programme has not yet been accredited.
14 September 2007	The AC meeting considered that HKIT should be requested to submit a revised self-study report to incorporate all its piecemeal clarifications made subsequent to its last submission of self-study report, so as to fully reflect the existing operation, including the content and process of the theoretical and clinical components of the curriculum, as well as the quality assurance mechanism.
20 September 2007	The Council endorsed at its meeting the AC's recommendation to request the HKIT to submit a revised self-study report.
7 November 2007	HKIT re-submitted a revised and updated self-study report to the Council for consideration in response to the Council's written request on 11 October 2007.
21 December 2007	The AC considered HKIT's revised self-study report at its meeting and decided to conduct an accreditation visit to HKIT.
12 February 2008	Accreditation visit to HKIT.
13 March 2008	The Council at its meeting on 13 March 2008 decided to reject HKIT's application for accreditation.
31 March 2008	Provisional reply was issued to HKIT informing the latter of the Council's decision.
3 April 2008	Final reply was issued to HKIT providing the latter with reasons for rejection of its application.

The Nursing Council of Hong Kong

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