

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Public Notice on Conducting Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) Accredited Programs by Avid College in Sri Lanka in Contravention of the MQA's Accreditation Regulation and the Regulation on Conducting MQA-Accredited Programs Abroad.**

In violation of the MQA Accreditation Regulation (Regulation No. 2022/R-77), the Guidelines for Program Accreditation (Guideline No. 2022/G-39), and the Regulation on Conducting Programs Accredited by the Maldives Qualifications Authority Abroad (Regulation No. 2025/R-89), information received to the Authority indicates that specific programs approved by Avid College were conducted through Amazon College (Sri Lanka) and Alzette University (country unidentified), with graduates receiving certificates bearing the name of Avid College. This raises serious concerns regarding the validity and international recognition of these qualifications.

Furthermore, the following institutes have advertised Avid College programs;

- Chester College of Higher Education
- Imperial Wisdom Graduate Campus
- Innovatus Campus
- Ceylon College of Applied Studies
- Bitwin Campus

The Authority has received and verified the above information. It is particularly concerning that none of the above institutions are registered with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), the University Grants Commission (UGC), or the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education of Sri Lanka.

Since 29 August 2024, the Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) has repeatedly advised Avid College against conducting MQA-accredited programs abroad without prior approval. Despite these warnings, Avid College has continued to offer such programs without obtaining the necessary authorization from the Authority.



These actions undermine the credibility of Maldivian Higher Education internationally, which may adversely affect bilateral relations between the Maldives and Sri Lanka and could negatively impact overseas students, as the international recognition of these qualifications may be questioned.

The Authority issued a formal reminder to all Higher Education Institutions on 17 February 2025 that accredited programs must not be conducted abroad without prior approval. A public announcement was made on 18 February 2025, and the provisions of the Regulation on Conducting Programs Accredited by the Maldives Qualifications Authority Abroad, published in the Government Gazette on 30 September 2025, reaffirm that all programs conducted abroad require prior approval from the Authority.

Despite repeated instructions, Avid College continues to operate in violation of the Program Accreditation Regulation (Regulation No. 2022/R-77) and the Regulation on Conducting MQA-Accredited Programs Abroad (Regulation No. 2025/R-89). Accordingly, and upon the advice of the MQA's Advisory Board, the authority issues this public notice under Article 12(a)(1) of the Regulation on Conducting MQA-Accredited Programs Abroad (Regulation No. 2025/R-89) as a formal advisory step.

