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SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
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Kerala council gets tough with foreign medical degrees

It has doubted genuineness of the course, citing visa details

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The Travancore Cochin Council of Modern Medicine (TCMC) has refused to give registration to a group of medical undergraduate students holding certificates from universities abroad, despite them having cleared the Foreign Medical Graduates' Examination (FMGE), after their passports revealed that they had not actually spent the course period abroad.

In the normal course, a foreign medical graduate who has cleared the screening

test (FMGE, conducted by the National Board of Examinations) is eligible to seek registration from the State Medical Council. However, the TCMC took the conscious decision not to give registration to some of these students as it doubted the veracity of the certificates they produced.

"We have no idea whether this is another racket. Every year, the number of foreign medical graduates from Kerala has been going up and because we have no means of ensuring the genuineness of these certifi-

cates, we began checking their passports. The visa stamping clearly showed that many of the students have not spent more than two weeks in the country where they chose to study," says V.G. Pradeepkumar, TCMC vice-president.

"We cannot allow those who attained medical education through off-campus means or distance education to practice in Kerala," TCMC registrar A. Muhammed Hussain, told *The Hindu*. The students are free to seek the registration in other States.