ACQUIN

Your intention. Our focus.

Ukrainian-Bavarian Conference
on Double Degree Programs
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Agenda

(1) About ACQUIN

(2) Cooperation with Ukraine

(3) International Accreditation Procedures

(4) Accreditation of Double Degrees

(5) Questions

(6) Contact persons

- The **Ac**creditation, **C**ertification and **Qu**ality Assurance **In**stitute ACQUIN was founded in 2001 on decision of the Bavarian Rectors' Conference to establish an independent agency which performs accreditation for <u>all types of higher education</u> and <u>all types of study programmes and disciplines</u>

- One of eleven accreditation agencies currently approved by the German Accreditation Council (GAC)

- ACQUIN operates as a non-profit organization which is financed

  - through membership fees
  - through providing accreditation services for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- As a self-governing institution of HEIs, ACQUIN is free from state influence and independent in the spirit of academic standards and traditions.

- The aim of ACQUIN is to contribute to shaping the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and to ensure the comparability of the quality of higher education qualifications.

- The core task of ACQUIN's work is to promote the quality of higher education and to support the establishment of a quality culture at HEIs in Germany and abroad. The implementation of all quality assurance procedures is based on the international standards of good practice, especially on the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (ESG).

- more than 150 members
  - mainly Germany but also Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Liechtenstein and Mongolia
  - research-oriented, professional and trade associations

European registration – ENQA and EQAR

- The reconfirmation of full membership in the "European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education" (ENQA) in 2021 officially acknowledged again that ACQUIN's work complies with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG) (membership since 2003, valid until 2026).

- Therefore, ACQUIN has been registered again in the "European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education" (EQAR) (since 2008, valid until 2026).

Cooperation in international networks

- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

- European University Association (EUA)

- International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

- Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA)

Main Regions

- Asia

  - Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

  - Mongolia

  - Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia

- Middle and Eastern Europe

  - Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Ukraine, Turkey, Georgia

- Middle East and Africa

  - Egypt, Oman, Syria, Lebanon

  - Ethiopia

Bilateral cooperations and registrations

- since January 2023 included in the „List of foreign accreditation agencies that issue accreditation certificates recognised in Ukraine"

- Recognised by the Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA)

- Since 2012 ACQUIN has been registered in the "National Register for Accreditation Agencies in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and is thus entitled to carry out accreditation procedures at all universities in Kazakhstan

- Recognised by the Swiss Accreditation Council (SAC)

- Registered in Turkey, Austria, Vietnam and other countries

ACQUIN's fields of international activities

- International Programme Accreditation Procedures

- International Procedures of Institutional Accreditation

- International Certification Procedures

- Cooperation in international networks

- Projects with foreign accreditation agencies

- EU Research Projects

2. Cooperation with Ukraine

- Participation on the BMBF (*German Federal Ministry of Education and Research*) funded and HRK-(*German Rectors' Conference*)-organized Project for support the quality management system in higher education in Ukraine, 2014-2016

- Ukrainian-German Forum „*Education, Science, Innovation at Universities: Current Challenges*" (Kiev 2015)

- Conference „*German-Ukrainian Dialogue: perspectives for education and science*" (Berlin 2016)

- Since January 2023 included in the „List of foreign accreditation agencies that issue accreditation certificates recognised in Ukraine"

- Current International Programme Accreditation Activities in der Ukraine

КИЇВСЬКИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ

Інтеграція німецького досвіду

На фото — учасники німецько-української зустрічі в місті Констанц

Центр комунікацій

Президент спілки ректорів України, ректор КНУ імені Тараса Шевченка Леонід Губерський взяв участь у багатосторонній німецько-українській зустрічі з питань реформування вищої освіти, яка відбулася в Університеті міста Констанц. Німецьку сторону на заході представляли президент Конференції ректорів вищих навчальних закладів Німеччини професор Хорст Гіпплер, ректор Університету м.Констанц професор Ульріх Рюдігер та інші. Учасники зустрічі обговорювали

Високий рівень Конференції ректорів внз Німеччини засвідчує той факт, що її президент за посадою є віце-президентом європейської Асоціації університетів. Конференція має представництво в Брюсселі при європейській Асоціації університетів. Це справді потужна сила. І саме її представники навчали нас того, як будувати внутрішні системи забезпечення якості освіти. Адже Університет міста Констанц на сьогодні має такий рівень довіри до якості отриманої в ньому освіти, що може самостійно проводити переакредитацію своїх програм. У Німеччині досить жорстко регламентовано акредитаційні процедури — саме це гарантує кінцевому споживачеві (студенту, викладачу) отримання

- Programme Accreditation

  - one or more study programmes ("cluster accreditation")

- Institutional Accreditation

  - Clarification whether the structures and the performance of a higher education institution (HEI) in research, study and teaching as well as administration is in accordance with scientific standards.

  - The objective of an institutional accreditation is therefore the safeguarding of the scientific performance of a higher education institution including the internal quality assurance.

- Certification

  - continuing education programmes

International Programme Accreditation

- As an external quality assurance instrument, the international programme accreditation aims **both at assessing the study programmes' existing quality** and at **recommending improvements**. Accountability and enhancement are at the core of the accreditation.

- The accreditation is performed by **independent external reviewers** who evaluate and assess the study programmes. The competence of the reviewers in their respective field of expertise assures the quality of the external audit.

- The ACQUIN accreditation procedures comply with and are based on the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (**ESG**).

Accreditation criteria

- ESG-principles provide a framework for quality assurance processes that may also integrate

  - national or

  - more subject-specific standards

- Under certain circumstances, incompatibility between national standards and the ESG may occur. The experts will address such issues in the assessment report, and the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN will take this into account when making its decision.

Outcomes

- In the assessment of each standard, the expert group distinguishes between (full or substantial) compliance, partial compliance and non-compliance. Depending on the level of fulfilment, the procedure of accreditation can have three different outcomes:

  - **Unconditional Accreditation**

    o Compliance with the ESG Standards

  - **Accreditation with Conditions**

    o Partial Compliance with the ESG Standards

  - **Refusal of accreditation**

    o Fundamental flaws regarding one or more ESG Standards

Follow-Up

- If a programme or the HEI's structure are accredited with conditions, the HEI has to submit documents proving the condition's fulfilment within a period of 12 months. The decision is taken by the Accreditation Commission. The handling of recommendations is a part of a reaccreditation procedure.

- The decision about the accreditation and the accreditation report are published

  - on ACQUIN's website as well as
  - in the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR).

- In case of a successful evaluation the accreditation will be valid for six years.

European Approach

- **Joint programmes** are understood as an integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions from EHEA countries, and leading to double/multiple degrees or a joint degree.

    - **Double/multiple degrees**: Separate degrees awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme attesting the successful completion of this programme (if two degrees are awarded by two institutions, this is a 'double degree').

    - **Joint degree**: A single document awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised award of the joint programme.

- The *European Approach* (EA, mutual recognition of assessment results of an EQAR-listed agency) relates only to joint programmes offered jointly by higher education institutions from two or more countries, and does not address the quality assurance of programmes delivered jointly by different institutions from a single country.

Applicability of EA in Germany

- The EA provides a certain set of Standards (cf. previous presentation) and Procedures for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA

- Important: For German HEIs, EA is only applicable for <u>genuine joint degrees</u> – not for double degrees. The national requirements in Germany (MRVO – "specimen decree") do not provide specific criteria for the assessment and accreditation of double degrees other than the regular demands.
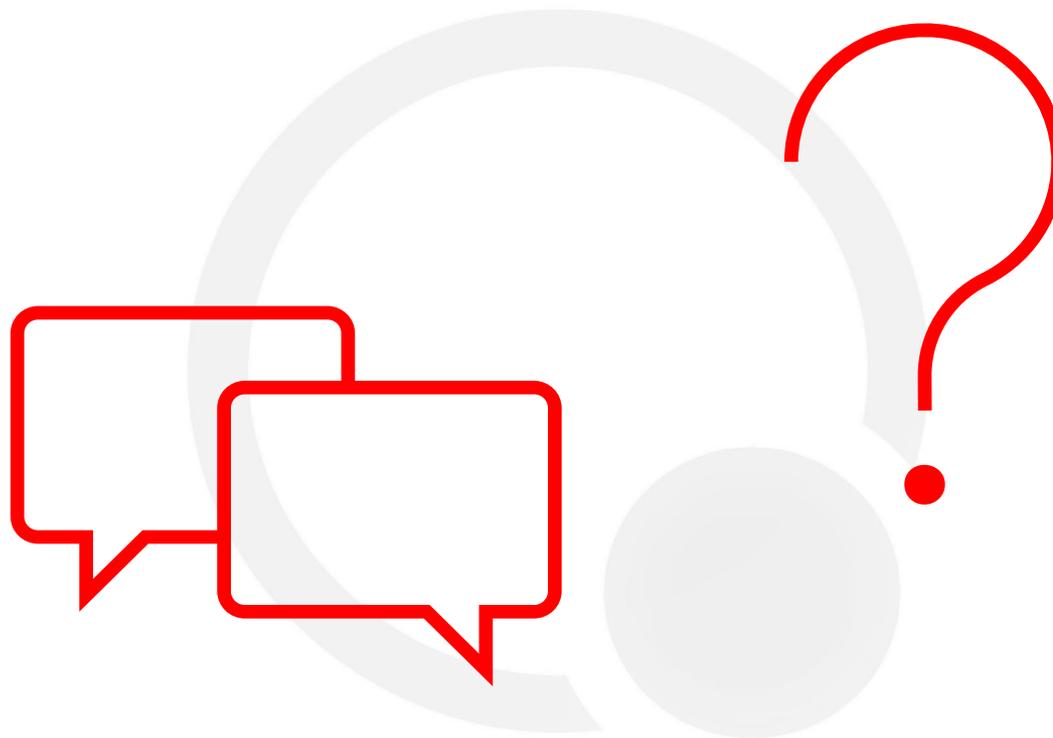
Main aspects

- **Self-Evaluation Report**

  - The external quality assurance procedure should be based on a self- evaluation report (SER) jointly submitted by the cooperating institutions. The SER should contain comprehensive information that demonstrates the compliance of the programme with the Standards for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA.

- **Review Panel**

  - Through their international expertise and experience the panel should be able to take into account the distinctive features of the joint programme. Collectively, the panel should possess knowledge of the HE systems of the HEIs involved and the language(s) of instruction used. The panel should include members from at least two countries involved in the consortium providing the programme.

- **Site Visit**

  - The site visit should therefore include discussions with representatives of all cooperating institutions and in particular the management of the institutions and the programme, the staff, the students, and other relevant stakeholders, such as alumni and the professional field.

Example for successful international accreditation of Double Degrees at the Kazakh-German University in Almaty:

- „Business Management" (Bachelor) *(University of Applied Sciences Mittweida, Germany)*

- „Energy and Environment Engineering" (Bachelor) *(University of Applied Sciences Hamburg, Germany)*

- „Finance" (Bachelor) and „Marketing" (Bachelor) *(University of Applied Science Zittau/Görlitz; Germany)*

- „Telematics" (Bachelor) and „Transport Logistics" (Bachelor) *(Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, Germany)*

- „Information Engineering in Economics" (Bachelor) *(University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden, Germany)*

- „International Relations" (Bachelor) *(Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany)*

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