

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

**Activity Report
2019**

Printed Matter AR 58/2020

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Bonn, July 2020

This document also serves as an Annual Report within the meaning of section 44 of the North-Rhine Westphalia Fiscal Code (LHO NRW)

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Activity Report 2019

Reporting period: January – December 2019

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Foreword

For the Accreditation Council, 2019 was a year under the banner of digitalisation. The stand-alone accreditation database went online at the beginning of the year. This is part of the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS), which in addition to the database also enables higher education institutions to submit paperless applications for (re)accreditation. As ELIAS supports the entire application handling process, both the members of the Accreditation Council and the staff of Head Office benefit from its functionality.

The Accreditation Council's new task under the 2016 Interstate Treaty of deciding applications for programme accreditation, system accreditation and alternative accreditation procedures came to prominence for the first time in the second half of 2019. Following a small number of applications received in 2018, the number of applications (submitted in ELIAS alone) grew to 222.

There was much discussion in this context on how to ensure that Accreditation Council members can handle large numbers of applications and how to prevent the Accreditation Council itself from becoming a bottleneck in the overall process. The focus of this debate was on the requirements for plausibility checking and on report quality. I am delighted to report that the application system proved fit for purpose at full capacity.

I was also pleased by the German Rectors' Conference decision at the beginning of 2019 to appoint substitute members and permanent guests. The Accreditation Council can make good use of this additional expertise. It is a major aid in our work considering the increasing number of applications from all academic disciplines. A number of other member groups are now also making use of the possibility of nominating substitutes.

There have been many changes at Head Office in 2019. Alongside the streamlining of numerous processes as a result of ELIAS, 2019 has also seen the Head Office grow considerably in size, in terms of both office space and personnel. The now 14-strong Head Office team is well placed to meet the challenges presented by the Accreditation Council's new tasks and to support its members in their work.

With a view to the new role assumed by the Accreditation Council in the accreditation system, the Foundation sought advice on a new communication strategy. When fully implemented in 2020, the new communication strategy will ensure that decisions of the Accreditation Council are communicated with full transparency.

I would particularly like to thank the higher education institutions and agencies for their valuable feedback, questions and constructive suggestions for the design of the new accreditation system, for their patience and willingness to experiment with ELIAS and for their readiness to embark with us on this new, digital journey.

The 'new' Accreditation Council has now reached the halfway point in its new framework and we have completed further groundwork on the basis of the Specimen Decree and Interstate Treaty. We can look with pride on what we have achieved and with confidence to the future. I also look forward to continuing our good working relationship.

Bonn, July 2020



Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm

Overview

1st Quarter 2019

99th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Berlin on 25/26 February 2019.

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Four applications for programme accreditation (covering five study programmes due to cluster applications)
- Accreditation Council Code of Conduct supplemented to cover substitute members and permanent guests
- Establishment of Appeals Commission
- Exceptional approval of extensions in alternative accreditation procedures

Retroactive resolution:

- Size of review panels in cluster accreditations
- Requirements for accreditation reports

Consultations:

- Best Practice Award for study programmes and QM systems
- Treatment of programme accreditation applications: prioritisation of applications; division of responsibilities between rapporteurs and Head Office

2nd Quarter 2019

100th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Bonn on 4 June 2019

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Eleven applications for programme accreditation (covering 15 study programmes due to cluster applications)
- Rules of procedure for alternative accreditation procedures:
- Mission statement of the Foundation Accreditation Council

Consultations:

- Size of review panels in cluster accreditations

- Status of the transformation process
- Internal governance in higher education quality management

3rd Quarter 2019

101st meeting of the Accreditation Council in Frankfurt on 17 September 2019

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Basic principles of an internal quality management system based on the mission statement of the Foundation Accreditation Council and on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
- Requirements for quality reports from system-accredited higher education institutions
- 86 applications for programme accreditation (covering 105 study programmes due to cluster applications)
- Business plan 2021
- Establishment of Appeals Commission

Consultations:

- Digitalisation in accreditation. Implementation of the Standing Conference's recommendations on digitalisation in higher education

4th Quarter 2019

102nd meeting of the Accreditation Council in Berlin on 21/22 November 2019

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- 71 applications for programme accreditation (covering 229 study programmes due to cluster applications)
- Resolution to avoid temporary accreditation gaps
- Resolution to clarify the descriptions of data fields in the specified report structures
- Establishment of a Quality Development Award

1. Current developments

1.1 Applications for accreditation in ELIAS

The Foundation Accreditation Council made the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS) available in January 2019. ELIAS was developed with the primary aim of making the application and review process efficient and reliable.

All categories of initial accreditation, concept accreditation and reaccreditation were covered from the outset, in both programme accreditation (individual, cluster and combined study programme accreditation) and system accreditation.

ELIAS is also used to process other application categories, some of which are still being developed or refined. These include applications for:

- Extension
- Cluster approval
- Recognition of accreditation decisions for joint degree programmes
- Approval to implement alternative accreditation procedures
- Decisions on material changes to study programmes and QM systems (to be implemented in 2020)

Some 276 higher education institutions registered and used an ELIAS account by the end of 2019 – a gratifying number.

ELIAS is publicly available at <https://antrag.akkreditierungsrat.de>.

The Accreditation Council has addressed its working methods in many meetings, and the ability to process and handle the large number of applications expected from 2019 consequently remains assured.

ELIAS supports the entire application process, from submission by the higher education or

other institution and processing by the Accreditation Council Higher Office to preparation of the Accreditation Council meetings and the accreditation decision and its announcement.

1.2 The new database of accredited study programmes

Connected to ELIAS is the **database of accredited study programmes and higher education institutions** (henceforth the 'accreditation database'). If the Accreditation Council issues a positive decision on an application for (re)accreditation – and after expiry of the period for comment where applicable – the (accredited) study programmes and quality assurance systems are automatically published in the database.

A new feature is that it is a standalone database, independent of the Higher Education Compass. In contrast to the Higher Education Compass, where higher education institutions themselves enter information on the study programmes they offer in order to provide applicants with an information platform, the accreditation database focuses on presenting study programmes from the accreditation perspective (meaning all study programmes, including combined study programmes and partial study programmes).

For the first time, the 'accreditation history' of each study programme is now available, so that the public (students, graduates and also employers) can obtain reliable information on whether a study programme is accredited or was accredited at a specific time.

A particular challenge in representing study programmes in the database relates to teacher training and combined study programmes, which the database does not yet fully provide for. This is due to the specific structure of such

study programmes and the fact that the database logic differs from that of the Higher Education Compass. In contrast to the Higher Education Compass, the accreditation database contains the three study programme categories 'individual study programme', 'combined study programme' and 'partial study programme'. The groundwork was laid in 2019 for the Database 2021 project in which, among other things, information on study programmes that are affected by this can be added to the accreditation database.

To enter accreditations under the prior legal framework, agencies (for programme accreditations) and system-accredited higher education institutions (for internal accreditations) are able to select corresponding application categories so that they are published in the new database accordingly (see also [Section 4.2](#)).

The work to improve data quality by completing and correcting existing accreditation data is proceeding in constructive collaboration with the higher education institutions and agencies.

2. Accreditation Council activities in 2019: responsibilities and outcomes

2.1 Accreditation and reaccreditation of study programmes and quality assurance systems, and applications for alternative accreditation procedures

After the Accreditation Council's Head Office received the first few applications under the new legal framework in the second half of 2018, the number of applications rose to 222 by the end of 2019. The Accreditation Council decided on a total of 172 applications in 2019;

due to cluster applications, these related to 445 study programmes.¹

In some cases, the Accreditation Council departed from the recommendation of the agency or the review panel. In this situation, the higher education institution was given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

The first application for system accreditation under the new legal framework was submitted in ELIAS in 2019 and approved at the November meeting.

For alternative accreditation procedures – the third category of accreditation procedure alongside programme and system accreditation – an Accreditation Council working group drafted, in March 2019, [Rules of Procedure for Alternative Accreditation Procedures](#), which were adopted at the 100th meeting (see [Section 2.7](#)).

Besides the IT support from ELIAS, one of the basic requirements for efficient application processing is a uniform report structure (and report quality). So that the Accreditation Council can efficiently process the accreditation reports from currently ten different accreditation agencies, the reports have to be comparable in structure and follow a uniform outline across all agencies. The uniform report structure ensures that accreditation reports are comparable and readable. Four report structures (the [report structure for programme accreditations](#), [report structure for combined study programmes](#), [report structure for cluster accreditation applications](#) and [report structure for system accreditation applications](#)) provide the outline for accreditation reports and are also used for self-evaluation reports.

¹ The differing figures for the number of applications relates to the fact that applications were received subsequent to the last meeting.

A revision of the specified report structures is planned for 2020.

Report quality is an ongoing subject of consultation between the Accreditation Council and agencies and was also a topic at the first joint meeting in early 2019.

2.2 Applications for extensions and cluster approvals

In the course of 2019, the Accreditation Council received numerous applications for extensions and cluster approvals, the latter being mostly decided with the aid of members with close ties to the academic subjects involved.

The discussion begun in 2018 regarding the size of review panels in cluster accreditations was continued in 2019. Its outcome was a ► **resolution of 21 March 2019** on the size of review panels in cluster accreditations. Additionally, the Accreditation Council determined at its 100th meeting that in the event of a subsequent objection regarding the size of the review panel, rather than the entire assessment being invalidated, an opportunity is provided to resolve the matter in a reassessment.

It was already possible to submit applications for extensions and cluster approvals in ELIAS in 2019, although the decision notices were still sent outside of ELIAS. The entire process is planned to be made digital in 2020.

2.3 Authorisation of agencies

Under the new legal framework, the Accreditation Council authorises accreditation agencies operating in Germany for their activity of conducting accreditations. The basis for formal authorisation is the agency's listing in EQAR (the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). As a condition for authorisation, the Interstate Treaty stipulates that an

agency must demonstrate that it is reliably able to exercise the tasks of assessment and of preparation of review reports; for EQAR-listed agencies, there is a rebuttable presumption that this is the case. In 2018, the Accreditation Council authorised all – currently ten – EQAR-listed agencies that were accredited as of 31 December 2017 to conduct accreditations under the new legal framework. The Accreditation Council did not authorise any additional agencies for accreditation activities in 2019.

2.4 Accreditation Council resolutions

The Accreditation Council passed the following key resolutions in the reporting period:

► Code of conduct

To avoid potential conflicts of interest between membership of the Accreditation Council and members' other activities, the Accreditation Council adopted **Rules of conduct for members of the Accreditation Council** in 2018; these were extended in 2019 to cover substitute members and permanent guests (► **resolution of 21 March 2019**).

► New mission statement

At its 100th meeting on 4 June 2019, the Accreditation Council adopted a **new mission statement** reflecting the altered legal framework and the Council's new primary field of activity. The new mission statement replaced the previous one dating from 2007. It articulates the Accreditation Council's fundamental purpose, its tasks and its approach to quality development in the accreditation of study programmes and higher education institutions' internal QA systems.

► Internal quality management

At its 101st meeting on 17 September 2019, the Accreditation Council adopted the **basic principles of an internal quality management**

system based on the mission statement of the Foundation Accreditation Council and on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

► Appeals Commission

An integral feature of quality management is an Appeals Commission whose members are external to the Accreditation Council and which was established by the Accreditation Council at its meeting of 17 September 2019 (► members of the Appeals Commission; see Annex 1). The Appeals Commission consults on objections and appeals and submits recommendations for resolutions of the Accreditation Council for final decision.

► Automatic extension of previous accreditation for the duration of the accreditation procedure

If a higher education institution submits an application for accreditation in good time for an accreditation decision to be made before the previous accreditation expires but the accreditation procedure is not completed before that time, then under a November 2019 resolution of the Accreditation Council, it is possible for the previous accreditation to be extended for the duration of the accreditation procedure (► resolution of 22 November 2019). This is to avoid any detriment to students or graduates.

2.5 Monitoring of accreditations

Monitoring of accreditations ceased to be among the Accreditation Council's tasks from 2018. Until all new accreditation decisions are made under the new legal framework, the Accreditation Council may however continue to perform ad-hoc monitoring of accreditations under the prior legal framework when there are indications of deficiencies in performance of an accreditation or an incorrect accreditation decision.

The reporting period saw the commencement of one ad-hoc procedure and the completion of one ad-hoc monitoring procedure commenced in 2018.

2.6 Events

First quality dialogue: academic further education

The Foundation Accreditation Council's first quality dialogue took place in Frankfurt in collaboration with the University of Oldenburg on 16 September 2019, the day before the 101st meeting of the Accreditation Council. The quality dialogue focused on quality standards and quality assurance in academic further education.

Independently of the quality dialogue, Mr Bartz gave an in-depth interview on the topic of accreditation and academic further education.

Quality development award

At its 101st meeting, the Accreditation Council decided on further details for the conferment of a quality development award to be conferred for the first time in 2020.

Under the Specimen Decree (section 24 (3) and (4)), "the review report can also name best-practice models for the study programme". In this way, accreditation contributes to quality development and to the discussion of quality issues beyond the level of the individual study programme.

To avoid competition between programme and system accreditation, separate awards will be conferred in these two categories. Candidates may be nominated by the members of the Accreditation Council and of the Board (that is, Head Office by way of the Managing Director). This group of individuals has an overview of all submitted accreditations during the application

period and is best suited to nominate a short-list.

Conferment of the award will be decided by a jury, which at the latest by the time of the 2021 award is to be composed of members external to the Accreditation Council.

2.7 Working groups

► Rules of Procedure Working Group

Alternative procedures are the third category of accreditation procedures alongside programme and system accreditation and represent a continuation of the experimentation clause under which alternative quality assurance procedures could be tested in the prior accreditation system.

Requirements for alternative accreditation procedures and the mandate to the Accreditation Council to develop rules of procedure for them are laid down in the Specimen Decree.

The Accreditation Council had already resolved to establish a working group to draw up rules of procedure for alternative accreditation procedures at its 98th meeting on 6 December 2018 (see Annex 1). The working group met on 18 March 2019 and drafted the rules of procedure, which the Accreditation Council adopted at its 100th meeting (► [Rules of Procedure for Alternative Accreditation Procedures](#), resolution of 4 June 2019).

What is accredited in this category of accreditation procedure is the alternative accreditation procedure itself.

► Supporting Committee

The Supporting Committee established – initially on a trial basis – by the Accreditation Council in its meeting of 17 September 2019 met in Hannover on 21 October 2019 to consult on the matters referred to it: standard periods of study in extra-occupational study

programmes; guidance notes versus the imposition of conditions; and supervision ratios, in particular at distance learning higher education institutions. It was decided that the Supporting Committee should continue its activities beyond 2019. (For members of the Supporting Committee, see Annex 1.)

3. International cooperation

Quality assurance and quality development are key requirements in making the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) a reality. Promoting international cooperation and collaboration therefore continues to be one of the central responsibilities assigned to the Accreditation Council by the states under the new legal framework. The main aim of international cooperation must be to promote mutual understanding of quality assurance systems, develop comparable quality assurance criteria, methodologies and standards, and improve transparency in study programmes to aid mutual recognition of qualifications and thus foster student mobility.

The respective European and international quality assurance networks consequently play an especially important role.

► Networks, conferences and talks

The Accreditation Council was a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2005 and has been an ENQA affiliate since 2018. It is also a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG).

Together with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Council is represented in the Working Group on Implementation of the Bologna Follow-Up

Group (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, seminars and conferences. In 2019, these included:

- The CHEA/CIQG annual conference (Washington, D.C., 29-31 January 2019)
- The ENQA Members' Forum (Tallinn, 24-26 April 2019)
- The European Quality Assurance Forum (Berlin, 21-23 November 2019)
- The ENQA General Assembly (Yerevan, 17-18 October 2019)

The annual meeting of the Quality Audit Network was hosted this year by the Irish accreditation agency QQI and took place in Dublin on 13-14 May 2019. These network meetings serve the purpose of regular exchange between European quality assurance agencies whose procedures are geared to various different aspects of internal quality management in higher education institutions. Matters discussed included a **trends analysis** compiled by two member organisations, an (abridged) reissue of the 2014 publication *Quality Audit in the European Higher Education Area*.

On 25-26 May 2019, Mr. Bartz took part in the Volkswagen Foundation conference, Bologna: *The Surprising Success of an Educational Vision*.

On 7 January 2019, Mr. Grimm, Mr. Bartz and Ms. Mayer-Lantermann visited NVAO, the Dutch-Flemish accreditation organisation. Together with Anne Flierman and Ann Verreth from the NVAO Board and the Managing Directors of the Netherlands and Flanders departments and with the policy advisers for international affairs in the NVAO bureau, they discussed current topics such as the new German accreditation system, the ESG evaluation of the Foundation Accreditation

Council planned for 2021 and the recognition of joint degree programmes.

The second meeting of the BFUG Peer Group on Quality Assurance took place in Limassol, Cyprus, from 26-29 May 2019. The Peer Group is one of three groups established by BFUG to support new Bologna states, in particular in implementing the key commitments set out in the Paris Communiqué (quality assurance, recognition, and a three-tier degree system). The aim of the meeting was to strengthen contacts with potential cooperation partners.

International cooperation enables the Accreditation Council to share its expertise and learn from the experience gained by its foreign partners.

► ENQA membership

The Accreditation Council was a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2005 to 2018; its membership was most recently renewed for five years in 2013. In September 2018, the Foundation switched to affiliate status, as restructuring for the new system – which was in progress at the time – meant that the Foundation was unable to apply in time for renewal of full membership. Following consolidation of the new system, however, the Accreditation Council is now considering reapplying for full membership in ENQA and also applying for a listing in EQAR, the European agency register.

► DEQAR European database project

To pool all quality assurance results for agencies that feature in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), EQAR has established a European Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR). This enables a broad range

of users to easily access quality assurance results on study programmes and institutions assessed according to ESG in the European Higher Education Area.

A temporary export interface was established in 2019 between DEQAR and ELIAS. This allowed the accreditation outcomes for study programmes in ELIAS to be exported via .csv files to DEQAR. The export was carried out on 26 August 2019. The resulting data can be found in the [public DEQAR database](#).

Implementation of DEQAR was completed in November 2019 with a two-day conference in Madrid and an automated web interface between the two databases is currently in preparation.

► **EU twinning project: Strengthening Capacities for Quality Assurance and Governance of Qualifications**

A two-year EU twinning project was launched in July 2019 on institutional and human resources development at the Georgian national accreditation agency (NCEQE). The project partners are Germany (with the involvement of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Accreditation Council) and Estonia (via EKKA, the Estonian accreditation agency).

The project covers three thematic areas:

- Strengthening quality assurance of education and training in a lifelong learning (LLL) perspective
- Contribution to implementation of the new National Qualifications Framework
- Contribution to an improved model of governance; monitoring and dissemination of NCEQE's outputs

Various workshops are planned for each of the three components over the duration of the project. The workshops are referred to in the project as expert missions and address a range of topics. Two study visits (to Germany and Estonia) are organised for NCEQE staff.

In most cases, one expert is nominated from Germany and one from Estonia for each mission. Mr. Bartz took part in a mission in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 2-6 December 2019.

4. Information and communication

During 2019, the Accreditation Council obtained advice on and developed a communication strategy together with agency TRIO Service GmbH. A number of related measures were implemented in 2019 and others will follow in 2020.

4.1 Presentation, information and consultation

The Accreditation Council regularly publishes information on its resolutions and all other matters concerning the accreditation system. The Accreditation Council makes accreditation data available in its new [database of accredited study programmes](#) (see [Section 4.2](#)).

Alongside [press releases](#) published via the German Science Information Service (idw), information for the states, higher education institutions, students and agencies is provided on the Foundation's [website](#). A new, reprogrammed website went online in September 2019.

The website also provides an overview of all published [Accreditation Council resolutions](#). Users can find the resolutions together with related legislation and [information on submitting applications](#) under the new legal framework. The website also contains information on

the German accreditation system, the members of the Foundation's bodies and committees, and the agencies authorised by the Accreditation Council.

Information on the accreditation system under the prior legal framework remains available at archiv.akkreditierungsrat.de.

The **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)** section added in spring 2018 is constantly being added to. It provides answers to frequently asked questions about interpretation of the Interstate Study Accreditation Treaty and the Specimen Decree.

The Accreditation Council has posted current events and developments in its Twitter channel ([@StiftungAR](https://twitter.com/StiftungAR)) since October 2019. Head Office staff received training for the purpose in a workshop on using Twitter.

Agencies and system-accredited higher education institutions are sent occasional email **announcements** on matters such as the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS).

A revision of the newsletter is planned for 2020.

4.2 Publication of accreditation data

From 2018, under the Specimen Decree and Interstate Treaty, the Accreditation Council itself is responsible for publishing accreditation data². The Accreditation Council's own database has been online since 8 January 2019 (see [Section 1.2](#)).

► **Study programmes**: Study programmes bearing the Accreditation Council's quality seal have been published in ELIAS since the beginning of 2019. This provides information

on accreditation periods, conditions attached to accreditation, the participating peer reviewers and their external review reports, and decisions of the Accreditation Council.

► **System-accredited higher education institutions**: Accredited study programmes at system-accredited higher education institutions are also contained in the new ELIAS database. System-accredited higher education institutions are able to make their own entries in the database, which are then (after formal checking) approved by the Accreditation Council Head Office.

A number of (new) required fields help ensure that database entries made by system-accredited higher education institutions are more uniform. For example, to make allowance for the diversity of the quality assurance systems, system-accredited higher education institutions do not necessarily have to prepare accreditation reports on the basis of the report structure specified by the Accreditation Council (see the ► [resolution of 2018 on the reporting obligations of system-accredited higher education institutions](#)). That reports from system-accredited higher education institutions have to be published is stipulated in section 29 of the Specimen Decree. In 2019, the Accreditation Council formulated a set of guidelines on quality reports by system-accredited higher education institutions (► [resolution of 17 September 2019](#)). These cite the central elements of such reports as evidence, plausibility and transparency.

► **Agencies**: All agencies that are entitled to carry out accreditations following authorisation by the Accreditation Council are listed on the [Accreditation Council website](#).

² Article 3 (6) of the Interstate Treaty and section 18 (4) sentence 2 and section 29 of the Specimen Decree

4.3 Communication with agencies

Constructive cooperation in a spirit of partnership between the Accreditation Council and accreditation agencies is one of the fundamental requirements for an effective accreditation system in Germany, more than ever under the new legal framework.

Agency participation in Accreditation Council working groups and having a representative of the agencies as a member of the Accreditation Council in an advisory capacity have proven effective in ensuring reliable exchange of information between the parties involved.

The (regular) annual exchange with agency representatives took place for the first time in February 2019 and will henceforth be repeated at the first meeting each year. This year, the Accreditation Council and agencies debated the principles of their future working relationship and jointly consulted on the (ideal) timescale of accreditation procedures. Agencies also reported on their (initial) experiences with the new accreditation system.

Agencies have previously been informed of new or amended Accreditation Council resolutions in letters from the Chairperson communicating the conclusions. They are informed about changes in the FAQ – some of which directly affect them – via Twitter (see [Section 4.1](#)).

For communication over the rest of the year, it has proved helpful for the Chairperson or individual members of Head Office staff to be occasionally invited to agency meetings in order to exchange views there on specific topics relating to the new legal framework. On several occasions, these discussions have served the purpose of gaining input from agencies' own experiences, among other things with a view to the Accreditation

Council's new database or to exchange views on the composition of accreditation reports and how agencies approach them. Bilateral talks were additionally held with individual agencies on several occasions in the course of 2019.

4.4 Statistical data

At the end of December 2019, a total of 6,354 Bachelor's and 6,138 Master's study programmes offered by state or state-approved higher education institutions in Germany carried the Accreditation Council quality seal.

These figures are based on the data contained in the Accreditation Council database.

In accordance with the requirements under the new legal framework:

- Accreditation outcomes in programme and system accreditation are published in the database by the Accreditation Council once decided;
- Accreditation outcomes for study programmes conferred the Accreditation Council seal by (partially) system-accredited higher education institutions are entered in the database by the higher education institutions concerned;
- Accreditation outcomes for study programmes accredited under the prior legal framework are entered in the database by the agencies.

A total of 93 state or state-approved higher education institutions had also completed (partial) system accreditation. This represents about 20% of Germany's higher education institutions.³ A number of higher education

³ Based on 460 higher education institutions listed in ELIAS: schools of cooperative education, universities of applied sciences, colleges of art and music, music academies, police academies, mainstream universities, tertiary administrative colleges and other higher education institutions in a category of their own.

institutions are in the process of becoming system-accredited; how many is not known to the Accreditation Council as this no longer has to be reported under the new framework. One higher education institution already submitted an application for system accreditation under the new legal framework to the Accreditation Council in 2019 (see [Section 2.1](#)).

5. Resources

5.1 Finances

In accordance with section 4 (1) of the Act Establishing the Accreditation Council (Accreditation Council Act), funding of the Accreditation Council is a shared responsibility of the 16 German states. Under section 4 (4), the Foundation may charge fees, as specified in its fee schedule, in order to cover its administrative expenses; it implemented this in the [fee schedule](#) adopted on 11 July 2018. This provides for an annual basic fee tiered according to size of higher education institution and procedure fees for each accreditation decision. The basic fee is paid by each higher education institution that has at least one currently accredited study programme (including Bachelor's programmes at schools of cooperative education). The amount of the basic fee and all remaining fees are listed in the ► [fee schedule](#).

For fiscal year 2019, the German Finance Ministers' Conference (FMK) set the annual amount of states-provided funding for the Accreditation Council at €969,000. In accordance with the recommendations of the Budget Commission (written conclusions dated 22 August 2018), the Ministers of Finance approved the draft supplement to the Foundation's 2019 business plan.

This figure includes funding for collectively agreed pay increases, an increase in staffing by 5.5 full-time equivalents for 2019, the cost contribution of approximately €12,000 that the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has received since 2016 for linking the database of accredited study programmes to the Higher Education Compass, and in particular the cost of continuing to develop the ELIAS Electronic Information and Application System.

The Foundation's 2019 annual financial statements show income in the amount of €1,368,514.71 (states allocations, revenue from fees and revenue from third parties) and total expenditure of €1,368,449.91. This leaves a remainder in the amount of €64.80.

5.2 Human, spatial and material resources

In line with the official staffing plan, the human resources at the Foundation's Head Office comprise a managing director (full-time), nine programme managers (8.0 full-time equivalents), two administrative assistants (1.75 full-time-equivalents) and a secretary (full-time). The Foundation also employs a student assistant and from December 2019 an academic assistant, in each case for 20 hours per month. Employees are remunerated in accordance with framework collective wage agreement for civil service employees in the states (Tarifvertrag für den Öffentlichen Dienst der Länder (TV-L)). The programme managers recruited at the end of 2018, the administrative assistant and the secretary commenced their employment on 1 February and 1 April 2019 respectively.

At its Head Office located at Adenauerallee 73, Bonn, the Accreditation Council has rented office space comprising 12 separate offices, since January 2019 on three storeys, with a total of 17 work spaces and a meeting room, and total floor space measuring approximately 360 sqm.

Annexes

Annex 1: Members of Foundation bodies and committees

Annex 2: Dates of meetings

Members of Foundation bodies and committees

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chairperson (from 20 February 2018)

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Deputy Chairperson (from 20 February 2018)

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Professors

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Braunschweig University of Technology

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Jena University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music

German Rectors' Conference representatives

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

states representatives

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art (to 19 September 2019)

Daniel **Köfer**, *Leitender Ministerialrat*, Hesse Ministry of Science and Art

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitalisation

Ralf **Thönnissen**, *Ministerialdirigent*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Markus **Wiedemann**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art (from 19 September 2019)

Representatives of professional practice

Dr. h.c. Josef **Beutelmann**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Barmenia Versicherungen

Rolf **Fischer**, *Senatsdirigent*, Berlin Senate Department for the Interior and Sports (from 16 May 2019)

Dr. Christina **Gommlich**, Senior Manager Economic, Trade & Social Policy Corporate Communications & Government Relations, BASF SE

Dr. Andreas **Keller**, Vice-President, German Trade Union for Education and Research (GEW)

Dr. Hans Jürgen **Urban**, Executive Board, Metal Workers' Trade Union (IG Metall)

Jörg **Wollny**, Brandenburg Ministry of the Interior and for Municipal Affairs (to 16 May 2019)

Students

Daniel **Irmer**, Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (from 18 October 2019)

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern (to 18 October 2019)

Tillman **Schade**, CAU Kiel (to 1 February 2019)

Jasmin **Usainov**, Technische Universität Dresden (from 1 February 2019)

International representatives

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Prof. Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Agency representatives (in advisory capacity)

Professor Dr. Reinhard **Zintl**, Otto-Friedrich University Bamberg (emer.)

► Substitute members of the Accreditation Council***Substitute members: professors (from 7 February 2019)***

Prof. Dr. Christine **Bescherer**, Ludwigsburg University of Education

Prof. Dr. Peter **Buttner**, Munich University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joaquin **Díaz**, University of Applied Sciences Mittelhessen

Prof. Dr. Birgit **Friedl**, Christian Albrecht University Kiel

Prof. Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten**, RWTH Aachen University

Prof. Dr. Oscar **Loureda Lamas**, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Oliver **Müller**, University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern

Prof. Dr. Rolf **Sachsse**, Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar

Substitute members: states representatives (from 13 December 2019)

Dr. Jana **Blasius**, *Regierungsdirektorin*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Natascha **Lohöfer**, *Regierungsoberrätin*, Hesse Ministry of Science and Art

Dr. Michael **Ficker**, *Regierungsrat*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Substitute members: representatives of professional practice (from 11 July 2019)

Stefani **Sonntag**, German Trade Union for Education and Research (GEW)

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

► **Accreditation Council permanent guests (from 7 February 2019)**

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Musil**, University of Potsdam

University Professor Dr. Uwe **Schmidt**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Prof. Dr. Marcelo **da Veiga**, Alanus University of Applied Sciences

► **Members of the Foundation Council**

Chairperson

Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, *Staatsrätin*, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

Deputy Chairperson

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary-General, German Rectors' Conference

states representatives

Susanne **Bowen**, State Secretary, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (from 10 October 2019)

Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, State Counsellor, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

Professor Dr. Ulrike **Gutheil**, State Secretary, Brandenburg Ministry of Science, Research and Culture

Dr. Oliver **Grundeis**, State Secretary, Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Dr. Rolf-Dieter **Jungk**, *Amtschef Ministerialdirektor*, Bavarian State Ministry for Education, Culture, Science and Arts (from 25 March 2019)

Dr. Peter **Müller**, *Ministerialdirektor*, Bavarian Ministry of Science, Research and Art (to 25 March 2019)

Sebastian **Schröder**, State Secretary, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (to 10 October 2019)

Annette **Storsberg**, State Secretary, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Higher education institution representatives

Prof. Dr. Peter-André **Alt**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (from 11 October 2018)

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary-General of the German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Horst **Hippler**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (to 11 October 2018)

Professor Dr. Karim **Khakzar**, President of Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Professor Dr. Ulrich **Radtko**, Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen

Prof. Dr. Johanna Eleonore **Weber**, Rector of the University Greifswald

► Members of the Board

Chairperson

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Members

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Managing Director of the Foundation Accreditation Council

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

► Appeals Commission

The Accreditation Council appointed the members of the Appeals Commission in 2019:

Prof. Dr. Ute von Lojewski, Münster University of Applied Sciences (professorial member)

Liv Teresa Muth, University of Gent (student member)

Dr. Anke Rigbers, evalag (agency representative) (stand-in in the event of conflict of interest: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Fink, FIBAA)

► Report Structure Working Group

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Kerstin **Fink**, FIBAA

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art (to 19 September 2019)

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern (to 18 October 2019)

Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Barbara **Michalk**, German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEvA

► Rules of Procedure Working Group

Michael **Ficker**, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Dr. Stefan **Handke**, ACQUIN

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern

Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Stefani **Sunday**, GEW

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Jena University of Applied Sciences

Ralf **Thönnissen**, *Ministerialdirigent*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

► Supporting Committee

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Accreditation Council

Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Dr. Michael **Ficker**, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Carola **Jungwirth**, University of Passau

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Barbara **Michalk**, German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEvA

Nina **Ulbrich**, GEW

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN

Dates of Meetings

► Accreditation Council Meetings

99th meeting, Berlin, 25-26 February 2019

100th meeting, Bonn, 4 June 2019

101st meeting, Frankfurt, 17 September 2019

102nd meeting, Berlin, 21-22 November 2019

► Meeting of the Foundation Council

23rd meeting, Hamburg, 11 November 2019

► Meetings of the Rules of Procedure Working Group

Meeting in Bonn on 18 March 2019

► Meeting of the Supporting Committee

1st meeting, Hannover, 21 September 2019

The Report Structure Working Group did not meet in 2019