

## Annex 05 Results of the thematic analyses

In 2017/2018, GAC conducted a retrospective thematic analysis concerning the conditions imposed in accreditations based on the “old” accreditation system.<sup>1</sup> This was updated and compared to new findings in the Interim Review 2020.<sup>2</sup>

The 2017/18 survey found, that 84% of accredited study programmes had been accredited subject to conditions. Under the current accreditation system, this was reduced to 31%, thereby reversing the ratio between accreditations with and without conditions. These findings can be explained, e.g. by a system-wide learning effect, since most study programmes have now been accredited and re-accredited several times, albeit for the most part within the “old” accreditation system.

With respect to the type of condition, the raw data (i.e. the free text description of the conditions in question) was coded to find similar subsets, of which each defines a category. The 2017/18 survey had 42 categories. Thereof, the most frequent with 14% was ‘Modulbeschreibung\_redaktionell’ (editorial change of the module description). For the 2020 report the categorisation was adapted to the Specimen Decree, increasing the number of categories to 63. Under the current accreditation system, 38% of conditions related to formal criteria and 62% to academic criteria under the Specimen Decree. Of the formal conditions, half related to § 7 of the Specimen Decree (Modularisation). Of the conditions relating to academic criteria, 77% concerned § 12 (Coherent study programme concept and adequate implementation).

From these findings, the GAC has drawn a number of conclusions: Firstly, the frequency of types of conditions is related to the transition phase into the new system (e.g. the Länder have tightened criteria for ‘dual’ study programmes, thereby increasing the number of conditions concerning § 12 for study programmes still operating with unaltered systems). Secondly, while various parties expected an overall decrease in conditions related to formal criteria, this has happened only in parts: Some implementations of formal criteria are dynamic, e.g. module descriptions (§ 7), which are subject to frequent changes. So, these still form a significant portion of the applied conditions.

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2019/Bericht\\_Auflagenstichprobe\\_final.pdf](https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2019/Bericht_Auflagenstichprobe_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2021/interim\\_review\\_2020.pdf](https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2021/interim_review_2020.pdf)