

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**German Accreditation Council,
Germany**

and

**National Institution for Academic Degrees
and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education,
Japan**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between German Accreditation Council, Adenauerallee 73, 53113 Bonn, Germany, hereafter referred to as GAC

and

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, 1-29-1 Gakuen-nishimachi, Kodaira-shi, Tokyo 187-8587, Japan, hereafter referred to as NIAD-QE.

Whereas:

GAC is a joint institution of the German states for quality assurance in teaching and learning at German universities. Its tasks are laid down in the Interstate Treaty on the Organization of a Joint Accreditation System of 2017. As a major innovation, since 2018 GAC has the task of deciding on the accreditation of study programs (program accreditation) and the accreditation of quality management systems (system accreditation) on the basis of accreditation reports organized by registered agencies;

NIAD-QE is an incorporated administrative agency created in 2016 by the Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies and the NIAD-QE Act. The National Institution for Academic Degrees (NIAD) was established as an academic degree-awarding institution in 1991, and was renamed and reorganized in 2000 as the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), an entity charged with evaluating universities in addition to its existing functions. On April 1, 2016, NIAD-UE and the Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM) merged to form NIAD-QE. On September 1, 2019, the National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan (NIC-Japan) was established within NIAD-QE as Japan's official national information center;

GAC and NIAD-QE have comparable missions and institutional objectives towards the advancement of quality assurance in higher education. Both parties now wish to maintain

a closer relationship as equal partners that was established with the initial Memorandum of Understanding in 2015 and was agreed upon with the latest renewed Memorandum in 2020 for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties, and now agree to the following:

Article I

Aims of Memorandum of Understanding

GAC and NIAD-QE hereby agree with this renewed Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate further for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing amicable collaborative fellowship to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in Germany and Japan.

Article II

Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration

GAC and NIAD-QE will continue to work together:

- a) To exchange information and expertise as appropriate. This will include:
 - Key policy documents and operational information where appropriate and in particular provided by higher education institutions from Germany and Japan jointly
 - Information on programmes of study and institutions in which each party has an interest, subject to any overriding requirements of confidentiality to which either agency may be subject
 - Information on review or other activity that relates to programmes provided by higher education institutions from both countries jointly
- b) To provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for the staff of both parties
- c) To collaborate on quality assurance projects
- d) To collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit
- e) To cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties thereto.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five consecutive years unless either party terminates it with a notice period of three months. It may be extended by mutual agreement of both parties upon its termination.

Article IV

Alteration of Memorandum of Understanding

The parties sign this Memorandum of Understanding in a spirit of amicable cooperation.

The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Article V

Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum of Understanding

The Chairman of GAC, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim Bargstädt, and the President of NIAD-QE, HATTORI Yasunao, D.Sc., shall have overall responsibility for the implementation of the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. This responsibility will be delegated to the relevant staff members in both organizations.

Article VI

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed upon to meet particular project requirements, the two organizations will cover their own costs for implementing the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding. For particular areas of project cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources and applied to that activity.

Article VII

Schedule of projects and activities

Specific details on any projects or other activities that are undertaken under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be negotiated and agreed to by both parties in writing and will be described in administrative schedules as annexes to this Memorandum of Understanding.

German Accreditation Council
Germany



Chairman, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim
Bargstädt

Date: December 5th, 2025

National Institution for Academic Degrees
and Quality Enhancement of
Higher Education
Japan



President, HATTORI Yasunao, D.Sc.

Date: December 12th,
2025