

Mission Statement



I. Mission Statement of the Accreditation Council

The Accreditation Council Foundation is a joint institution of the federal states for the external quality assurance of study programs and teaching in Germany. It fulfills the tasks assigned to it under the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and actively contributes to the design and further development of the goals and requirements of the accreditation system in Germany.

1. The Foundation is committed to academic freedom and university autonomy and views the primary responsibility for the quality of teaching and study as lying with the universities.
 2. The Foundation views accreditation as a regular, external quality assurance process, which is carried out as a science-led procedure involving peer review by subject-matter experts and the participation of relevant stakeholders.
 3. The Accreditation Council Foundation ensures that accreditation procedures—from the submission of an application to the decision-making by the Accreditation Council—are carried out promptly, reliably, on time, and transparently. In doing so, particular attention is paid to keeping the administrative burden associated with the application process as low as possible for universities and agencies.
 4. The Foundation operates in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) and the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as its implementation through relevant state regulations.
1. It ensures that accreditation decisions are made independently of third parties and that potential conflicts of interest are prevented through appropriate measures.
 2. It promotes dialogue among all stakeholders involved in the accreditation process and works toward a trusting collaboration.
 3. The Accreditation Council Foundation reflects on the performance of its tasks and regularly evaluates feedback from higher education institutions and agencies in order to use the results, in accordance with its statutory mandate, for the experience-based further development of the quality assurance system and the application procedures.



II. Vision of the Accreditation Council

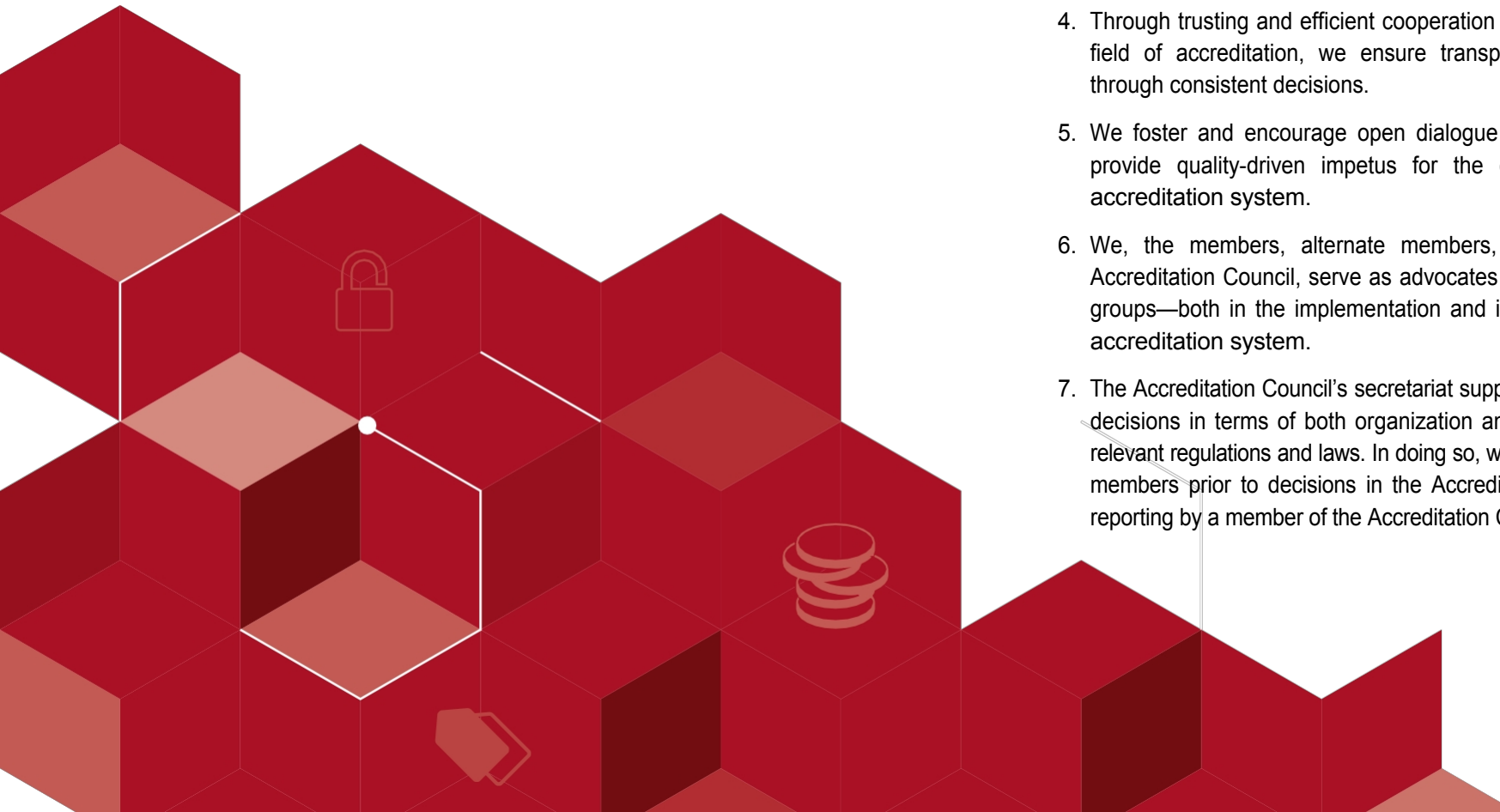
We make quality-assured decisions regarding the accreditation of degree programs, higher education quality management systems, and alternative procedures. On behalf of the federal states, we thus generate visible added value for society by ensuring that students acquire qualified competencies.

We award our accreditation seal as a mark of quality and distinction for study and teaching—recognized throughout Germany and internationally.



III. Mission of the Accreditation Council

1. We are the decision-making body established by the federal states to accredit degree programs, higher education quality management systems, and alternative procedures.
2. We carry out our legally mandated role by reviewing criteria-based quality standards. We define accreditation as a combination of design and dialogue for quality development and of monitoring for quality assurance.
3. We ensure that the perspectives and expertise of university faculty, students, the German Rectors' Conference, the federal states, professional practice, accreditation agencies, and international experts are taken into account in accreditation decisions. In implementing and further developing the accreditation system, we also ensure the participation of stakeholder groups not directly represented on the Accreditation Council, as well as taking into account international developments, particularly within the European Higher Education Area.
4. Through trusting and efficient cooperation with all stakeholder groups in the field of accreditation, we ensure transparency, guidance, and certainty through consistent decisions.
5. We foster and encourage open dialogue with all stakeholder groups and provide quality-driven impetus for the continuous development of the accreditation system.
6. We, the members, alternate members, and permanent guests of the Accreditation Council, serve as advocates within our respective stakeholder groups—both in the implementation and in the further development of the accreditation system.
7. The Accreditation Council's secretariat supports us as a body by preparing all decisions in terms of both organization and content, taking into account the relevant regulations and laws. In doing so, we ensure the active participation of members prior to decisions in the Accreditation Council through the role of reporting by a member of the Accreditation Council.



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