

Memorandum of Understanding between

the Accreditation Council, Germany, and

NIAD-UE (National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation), Japan

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by

the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, located at 1-29-1, Gakuen-nishi-machi, Kodaira-shi, Tokyo 187-8587, Japan, hereinafter referred to as NIAD-UE

and

Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programs in Germany, Adenauerallee 73, 53113 Bonn, hereinafter: Accreditation Council

Preliminary Remarks

NIAD-UE is a public administrative agency established in accordance with the Japanese Act on Public Administrative Agencies and the NIAD-UE Act. NIAD-UE considers itself the successor to its predecessor institution, NIAD, which was established in 1991 as an academic institution granting degrees. In 2000, it was renamed and reorganized; in addition to its previous tasks, NIAD-UE was entrusted with the evaluation of universities to contribute to the further development of higher education in Japan.

The Accreditation Council regulates and organizes the German accreditation system. Through its activities, it contributes significantly to ensuring and developing the quality of study and teaching in Germany and thus to the realization of a common European Higher Education Area.

NIAD-UE and the Accreditation Council

NIAD-UE and the Accreditation Council have comparable tasks and goals in quality assurance in higher education. They hereby wish to establish a closer relationship as equal

to develop cooperation mechanisms for mutual benefit.

Article I: Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding

NIAD-UE and the Accreditation Council agree to enter into a memorandum of understanding to cooperate for mutual benefit and to pursue a strategic alliance aimed at further developing external quality assurance in both countries and improving the quality of higher education in Japan and Germany.

Article II: Areas of Cooperation

NIAD-UE and the Accreditation Council intend to cooperate

- a) to exchange information and expertise, as appropriate. This shall include:
 - Key documents and other information, as appropriate, and in particular, where jointly prepared by higher education institutions from Japan and Germany
 - Information on study programs and institutions in which both contracting parties have an interest, subject to any overriding confidentiality provisions to which the contracting parties are subject
 - information regarding evaluations or other activities related to joint study programs of higher education institutions in both countries
- b) to provide opportunities for the professional development of the staff of both contracting parties, as appropriate
- c) to cooperate on quality assurance projects
- d) to cooperate on joint research of mutual benefit
- e) to cooperate in other mutually agreed-upon areas for the mutual benefit of both parties.

Article III: Term of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall remain in effect for five years. Each contracting party has the right to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding with three months' notice. This Memorandum of Understanding may be extended by mutual agreement.

Article IV: Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in the spirit of friendly cooperation. Its provisions may be amended by mutual consent of the parties.

Article V: Responsibility for Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding

The President of NIAD-UE (at the time of signing, Tomoyuki Nogami, Ph.D.) and the Chair of the Accreditation Council (at the time of signing, Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm) are responsible for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. This responsibility may be delegated to designated employees of the contracting parties for specific areas.

Article VI: Resources

Both contracting parties shall bear their own costs incurred in the implementation, unless otherwise agreed for specific projects. For certain areas of cooperation, efforts may be made to secure third-party funding.

Article VII: Timeline for Projects and Activities

Details regarding projects or other activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be discussed and agreed upon by mutual consent between the contracting parties and shall be attached to the Memorandum of Understanding as project plans.

Signed on October 7, 2015

President of NIAD-UE

Chair of the Accreditation Council