

MEMORANDUM OF AFFILIATION

GERMAN ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

AND

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL QUALITY GROUP

Background

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is the largest institutional higher education membership organization in the United States, with approximately 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities. As a national advocate and institutional voice for promoting academic quality through accreditation, CHEA serves as a major voice for accreditation and quality assurance to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Education, as well as the general public, opinion leaders, students, and families.

CHEA also maintains an international division, the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG), established in 2012, with a focus on international quality assurance. In addition to CHEA institutional members, CIQG membership includes organizations and individuals from 45 countries. Guided by an Advisory Council composed of individuals from 11 countries—including leading thinkers in international quality assurance—CIQG serves as a thought leader on international quality assurance issues and policy, a convener of academics and others engaged in international quality assurance, and a forum for dialogue and deliberation on vital quality issues.

CIQG International Quality Principles

In 2015, CIQG released its International Quality Principles, identifying seven areas that are or ought to be common to all quality assurance, irrespective of country, culture, or region. The Principles are the work of the CIQG Advisory Council and reflect perspectives from a number of countries. Since their release, the Principles have been a topic of discussion at meetings of quality assurance and higher education leaders around the world.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Affiliation (MOA) is to establish and promote partnerships with quality assurance/accreditation bodies, higher education providers, higher education associations, and governments worldwide, with a view to encouraging the use of the Principles as a foundation for a shared understanding of quality at the international level.

Eligibility for Affiliation

Quality assurance/accreditation organizations, higher education providers, higher education associations, and governments that are recognized as competent authorities and are members of CIQG are eligible to enter into the MOA.

Activities

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany (German Accreditation Council) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation/International Quality Group (CIQG), USA;

Recognizing the urgency of a shared understanding of quality internationally;

Believing that the following 2015 CIQG seven international quality principles (hereinafter referred to as Principles) can provide a framework for quality to inspire and improve national, regional, and international developments:

1. Quality and higher education providers: Ensuring and achieving quality in higher education is the primary responsibility of higher education providers and their staff.
2. Quality and students: The education provided to students must always be of high quality, regardless of the learning outcomes pursued.
3. Quality and society: The quality of higher education provision is judged by how well it meets the needs of society, fosters public confidence, and sustains public trust.
4. Quality and government: Governments have a role in encouraging and supporting quality higher education.
5. Quality and accountability: It is the responsibility of higher education providers and quality assurance and accreditation bodies to maintain a strong commitment to accountability and provide regular evidence of quality.
6. Quality and the role of quality assurance and accreditation bodies: Quality assurance and accreditation bodies, working with higher education providers and their leadership, staff, and students, are responsible for implementing processes, tools, benchmarks, and measures of learning outcomes that help create a shared understanding of quality.
7. Quality and change: Quality higher education must be flexible, creative, and innovative, developing and evolving to meet students' needs, to justify society's trust, and to maintain diversity.

[\(See the CHEA International Quality Group's International Quality Principles on the CHEA website.\)](#)

Agree to pursue, through this Memorandum, the following commitments:

- Posting and promoting the Principles, which, at an organization's or provider's discretion, will be reflected in its standards, reviews, and processes;

- Working with other higher education stakeholders to promote a shared understanding of quality based on the seven Principles;
- Sharing information regularly on the promotion and implementation of the Principles (e.g., examples of good practice, case studies, newsletters, or in other appropriate ways) and
- Engaging, when feasible, in joint activities (workshops, seminars, and meetings) with a view to sharing effective policies and practices in areas of common interest, based on the Principles.

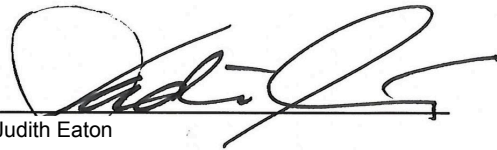
These commitments are intended solely as a collegial agreement, an informal set of guidelines to serve and bring together academic professionals. They represent the signatories' desire to promote cooperation and partnerships in the pursuit and strengthening of academic quality in higher education worldwide.

CIQG will make public the signatories of the Memorandum of Affiliation.

Signed in duplicate in the English language, all texts being equally authentic:

Reed for

Prof. Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm
Chairman
German Accreditation Council



Judith Eaton
President
CHEA/CIQG

Date: **Jan. 1, 2014**

Date: 2/2/17

Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programs in Germany
Accreditation Council ■

CH Council for
Higher Education
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CHEA International Quality Group
Quality Group CIQG