

IIQ-IAC

International Institute for Quality
Instituto Internacional para el
Aseguramiento de la Calidad



CENTRO INTERUNIVERSITARIO DE DESARROLLO

QAI QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERNATIONAL



WHAT IS IIQ

The International Institute for Quality (IIQ) is an organization established in response to a growing demand for quality in higher education. It offers a wide range of services to higher education institutions, governments and other organizations through its international web of experts and professionals in the field of quality assurance. Its founding membership is CINDA and QAI, but this does not exclude the possibility of incorporating new members.

CINDA is an international academic network of 25 universities in Latin America and Europe, whose main purpose is to provide links between its member institutions in order to enhance their contribution to national and institutional development processes.

Quality Assurance International (QAI) is an association of professionals with experience in the organization, development and management of quality assurance processes in different parts of the world.

IIQ has an Academic Board that brings together world leaders in the field of quality assurance and is in charge of accreditation decisions, determining strategic orientations for the institute and assessing its performance. It appoints the Executive Director, who is responsible for the actual operation of the organization.



PURPOSES

IIQ is devoted to the assurance and improvement of quality in higher education through reviewing and accrediting institutions in relation to widely accepted international standards. It offers a wide range of services, from institutional or programme accreditation to specific consultancies.

The organization's services will be of particular interest to:

- Institutions that wish to ensure that their quality assurance processes meet international standards and that their quality and standards meet international criteria.
- Institutions that are offering or plan to offer programmes outside their own countries.
- Institutions who wish to evaluate particular programmes against international standards.
- Governments and other agencies wishing to develop national or regional systems of quality assurance which are consistent with international practice.

IIQ provides technical services, including the following:

- Evaluation and accreditation of higher education institutions and programmes
- Drafting of regulations and procedures
- Production of information, using both print and digital media, to account for and promote quality in higher education
- Training of reviewers
- Professional oversight of institutional activities in quality related areas
- Design and implementation of other processes linked to quality assurance (opinion surveys, graduate follow up, etc.)

More information about the Institute or the services it can provide may be obtained from the Executive Director or from the Coordinator for Latin America.



PROCESS

Institutions have different options in their relationship with IIQ: They can enter the IIQ accreditation process, or they can make arrangements for a commissioned consultancy. In some instances, a commissioned consultancy may be more appropriate than entering the accrediting process. Or, institutions may choose to participate in a consultancy first as a means for preparing for IIQ accreditation at a later date. A discussion will need to take place between IIQ staff and the institution to determine the best course of action to take.

Accreditation

IIQ follows the accepted methodology of most of the accrediting agencies that are members of the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE), which is characterized by three stages:

- A self-evaluation exercise: an internal self study aimed at measuring the institution's effectiveness and to identify its strengths and weaknesses. The nature and scope of the evaluation depends on its aims, and are defined together with the institution. IIQ's Secretariat may advise or support the self evaluation stage.
- An external review by an international review team: this is carried out by a team appointed by IIQ's Academic Board from an international register of suitably qualified reviewers with expertise in quality assurance and from a broad range of backgrounds.
- A final decision by the IIQ Academic Board: the international review team reports to the IIQ Academic Board, which determines whether or not accreditation is granted.

IIQ Accreditation label

The accredited institution may state that it is accredited by IIQ and in what areas.

IIQ accreditation should not be viewed as the end result. It is the beginning of a continuous quality enhancement strategy for the institution to be used in a range of short and long range planning, including but not limited to quality management development and curriculum reform.

Timeline for IIQ accreditation: It is dependent on the specific nature of the institution and what evaluation it wishes to undergo. Generally speaking, from the time IIQ receives the self evaluation document, the process should take approximately six months.



QUALITY STANDARDS

All quality assurance processes should be carried out with reference to a set of pre-determined standards. The IIQ standards are set to evaluate the quality of an institution at an international level and the self-study report should be responsive to the standards of IIQ. This will make it possible for the institution to appraise itself of its standing and will help the reviewers to make a proper assessment. Before considering the standards in detail, however, it should be noted that the major emphasis of an institution should be its own mission. The following standards should therefore be linked to that mission, and be used for achieving the mission as well as possible.

Some of the standards refer to essential features of higher education institutions and therefore, are requirements for accreditation. Institutions, when asking for accreditation, must provide evidence that they meet with these requirements, which are listed below. Then, during the self evaluation process, they must address the full set of standards in relation to their own specific mission and context.

The full set of standards, as well as other materials, can be obtained from the IIQ Secretariat.

I. Mission, goals & objectives

- The institution has a properly adopted and public mission statement.
- This mission statement is appropriate to a higher education institution.
- The institution has the legal authorization to operate as a higher education institution and award post secondary degrees.

II. Governance & administration

- Governance. The institution has a governing body that has the necessary powers to ensure that the institution's mission is carried out with integrity and quality.
- Administration. The institution has a president or rector or its equivalent to provide leadership for the institution.
- Planning. The institution provides evidence of basic planning, integrating plans for academic, personnel and resources development.
- Information. The institution has an internal system of information that supports its activities.



III. Institutional scope

- Educational Programs. The institution's educational programs are congruent with its mission and appropriate to higher education.

IV. Institutional resources & services

- Human Resources. The institution has a substantial core of qualified academic staff (faculty) and support staff (staff) to support its educational programs and assure their continuity and coherence. The institution provides a clear statement of faculty and staff responsibilities including curriculum development and student assessment
- Student Services. The institution has clearly stated admissions and other student policies appropriate to its mission and goals. The institution has student services appropriate to the educational, personal and career needs of its students
- Educational Resources. The institution holds or otherwise provides access to sufficient information and learning resources to support its purposes and educational programs.
- Physical Resources. The institution maintains physical facilities that are appropriate for its mission and educational programs.
- Financial Resources. The institution has sufficient financial resources to support its purposes and educational programs, as shown by its records and reports.
- Communications. The institution publishes accurate information describing its purposes and objectives, admission requirements, rules and regulations directly affecting students, programs and courses, degree requirements, grievance procedures, costs and refund policies.

V. Institutional development

The institution monitors its performance against its objectives, and, as necessary, it adjusts its objectives to maintain their currency, and adjusts its procedures to improve its activities.





Marjorie Peace-Lenn, Executive Director, Center for Quality Assurance in International Education and former Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, National Center for Higher Education, Washington, D.C. (USA)

Jacques L'Ecuyer, Executive Director, Commission on Vocational Occupational Education, Province of Quebec, and Past President, International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (Canada)

David Woodhouse, Executive Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency and Past President, International Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (New Zealand)

Leo West, Professor and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Central Queensland University (Australia)

Richard Lewis, Co-Director, Centre for Higher Education Research and Information and former Deputy Director, Council for National Academic Awards (UK)

Maria Jose Lemaitre, Executive Director, National Council for Program Accreditation and President, International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (Chile).

RETIRO



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Academic Board

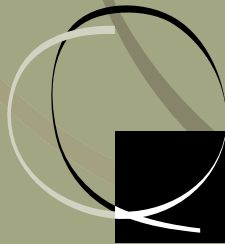
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For further information, please contact IIQ/IAC

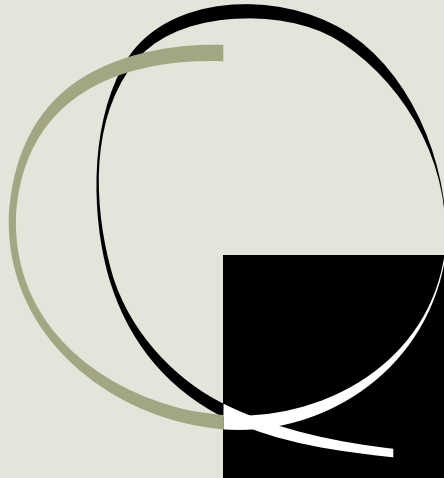
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