

Mission Statement of the Accreditation Council Foundation

(Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated June 4, 2019)

5 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 by the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation and actively participates in shaping and further developing the goals and requirements of the accreditation system in Germany.

10 The Foundation is committed to academic freedom and university autonomy and views the primary responsibility for the quality of teaching and study programs as lying with the universities. 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 with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

15 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 particular, the administrative burden associated with the application process for universities and agencies should be kept to a minimum.

20 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.

It ensures that accreditation decisions are made independently of third parties and that potential conflicts of interest are prevented through appropriate measures.

25 It promotes dialogue among all stakeholders involved in the accreditation system and works toward a cooperative relationship based on trust.

The Accreditation Council Foundation reflects on the performance of its tasks and regularly evaluates feedback from higher education institutions and agencies in order to utilize the results, in accordance with its statutory mandate, for the experience-based further development of the quality