

Mission Statement

5 (Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated June 27, 2024)

I. Mission Statement of the Accreditation Council Foundation

The Accreditation Council Foundation is a joint institution of the federal states for external quality assurance of studies and teaching in Germany. It fulfills the its in
10 State Treaty on Study Accreditation and actively participates in shaping and further developing 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 studies as lying with the
15 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 with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
3. The Accreditation Council Foundation ensures that the accreditation procedures
20 are conducted efficiently, reliably, on time, and transparently, from the submission of the application to the decision by the Accreditation Council. In particular, the administrative burden associated with the application process for universities and agencies should be kept to a minimum.
4. The Foundation acts in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
25 and the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, as well as its implementation through corresponding state ordinances.
5. It ensures that accreditation decisions are made independently of third parties and that potential conflicts of interest are prevented through appropriate measures.
- 30 6. It promotes dialogue among all stakeholders involved in the accreditation system and works toward a cooperative relationship based on trust.

7. 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

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

II. Vision of the Accreditation Council

We decide quality-assured on on accreditation of degree programs, institutional quality management systems, and alternative procedures. On behalf of the

10 states, we thus create tangible 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.

15 III. Mission of the Accreditation Council

1. We are the decision-making body established by the federal states for the accreditation of degree programs, higher education quality management systems, and alternative procedures.

20 2. We fulfill our statutory mandate by conducting audits based on criteria quality standards. We define accreditation as the interplay of design and dialogue for quality development and of monitoring for quality assurance.

25 3. We ensure that accreditation decisions take into account the perspectives and expertise of university faculty, students, the German Rectors' Conference, the federal states, the professional sector, accreditation agencies, and international experts are taken into account. In the implementation and further development of the accreditation system, we also ensure the participation of stakeholder groups not directly represented on the Accreditation Council, as well as consideration of international developments, particularly within the European Higher Education Area.

30 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, act as multipliers within our stakeholder groups –
5 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 organization and content, taking into account the relevant regulations and laws. In doing so, we ensure, with the
10 role of reporting by a member of the Accreditation Council, we ensure intensive member participation prior to the decision-making process in the Accreditation Council.