

Code of Conduct for Members, Alternate Members, and Permanent 5 guests of the Accreditation Council

(Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated February 26, 2019)

The Accreditation Council Foundation has the primary task of accrediting degree programs and internal higher education quality assurance systems.

10 In fulfilling their duties, the members of the Accreditation Council¹ shall observe the following principles:

Members of the Accreditation Council act and make decisions as experts in the field of quality assurance at higher education institutions exclusively on the basis of quality criteria and are not bound by instructions from third parties.

15 Members of the Accreditation Council act and make decisions in good faith and to the best of their knowledge and belief in the interest of the Foundation.

Members of the Accreditation Council maintain confidentiality toward third parties.

Members of the Accreditation Council shall not use their membership to advance their own interests or those of third parties and shall refrain from any misuse of the authority granted to them in the course of their duties.

20 information obtained in the course of their duties.

Members of the Accreditation Council and alternate members shall declare any conflict of interest or bias regarding an agenda item to be discussed to the chairperson without delay, but no later than upon the opening of the meeting. In such a case, they shall not participate in decisions of the Accreditation Council on this

25 matter. Members representing the federal states shall not vote on decisions concerning higher education institutions in their own federal state.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, this refers to members, alternate members, and permanent guests.

Membership in the Accreditation Council with voting rights is incompatible with concurrent employment

- in an accreditation agency approved by the Accreditation Council, or for an organization that is legally, institutionally,
5 organizationally, financially, or personally linked to any of the aforementioned agencies, insofar as it concerns quality assessments at higher education institutions within the German accreditation system, or
- in or for organizations that conduct quality assessments at higher education institutions within the German accreditation system, such as within the framework of alternative
10 procedures.

10 Participation in internal evaluations at system-accredited higher education institutions is compatible with membership in the Accreditation Council.

Since permanent guests participate in meetings in an advisory capacity only, i.e., without voting rights, concurrent employment at an accreditation agency is not precluded for this group of individuals.

15 Members of the Accreditation Council may accept gifts or hospitality from third parties only if they are appropriate in nature, type, and scope to the occasion and do not create the impression of influence or an expectation of consideration, either among those involved or among third parties. The relevant regulations of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where the foundation is headquartered, apply mutatis mutandis.²

² See in particular the administrative regulations regarding § 42 of the Civil Service Status Act (BeamtStG)/§ 59 of the State Civil Service Act (LBG NRW). See https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_text_anzei-gen?v_id=75820170731112240978