

Chair of the
Accreditation Council

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■ Stiftung Akkreditierungsrat | Adenauerallee 73 | 53113 Bonn

To the directors of the agencies

To the system-accredited universities

-- - by email only -

Application of Existing and New Laws in Accreditation

Dear Sir or Madam,

-- In response to inquiries, I would like to inform you, on behalf of the Accreditation Council, of some principles regarding the continued application of existing and new laws in the accreditation system:

1. Accreditation procedures¹ for which contracts are concluded on or after January 1, 2018 (the date the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation enters into force) will be conducted in accordance with the new law, as specified in the rationale for Section 37 of the Model Statute. In this context, the contracts will be concluded on the basis of the Model Statutory Ordinance, provided that no other regulations of the respective state in which the institution is located are known at the time the contract is concluded.

2. Accreditation procedures ongoing as of January 1, 2018—i.e., for contracts concluded prior to January 1, 2018—shall be completed in accordance with Article 16(1) of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation under the previous law. For these, as for all accreditation decisions made prior to January 1, 2018, the previous law continues to apply for the entire accreditation period. This includes, among other things:

- the notification of significant changes to accredited degree programs to the agencies and the agencies' handling of such matters,

¹ This refers to both procedures for the accreditation or reaccreditation of degree programs and of internal institutional quality assurance systems (institutional accreditation).

- the addition of further sub-programs to the accreditation of a combined degree program.

However, since under the new legal framework, proof of an interim evaluation during the previous accreditation period is no longer required for applying for system reaccreditation, this requirement also no longer applies to system accreditations under previous law. This is also clarified in the explanatory memorandum to Section 37 of the Model Statute.

It is not possible to agree to apply all or individual new provisions to a contractual relationship governed by the previous law.

The procedures are also subject to ad hoc review by the Accreditation Council.

3. According to information from the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, due to the entry into force of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation on January 1, 2018, the transitional provision in Section 84(5) 5 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia no longer applies, with the result that accreditation agreements concluded before January 1, 2018, must be terminated in accordance with the previous procedure, whereby the Agency reviews and accredits.

Best regards,



Prof. Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm