

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

Annual Report 2023

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Activity Report 2023

Reporting Period: January through December 2023

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Foreword

In 2023, the numbers for both program and system accreditation declined for the first time. This gave us the opportunity to largely clear the backlog of applications in program accreditation—not least thanks to new staff members at the office.

In 2023, the members of the Accreditation Council held two closed-door meetings to intensively discuss questions of self-image, their “vision,” and their “mission” as part of their strategic orientation. The goal of this process is, on the one hand, to jointly develop a “mission statement” and, on the other hand, to define the thematic areas to which the Accreditation Council intends to dedicate itself in the coming years.

The Accreditation Council also continued to monitor the evaluation process for the Model Statutes (MRVO). At the end of 2023, we received the draft of the new MRVO from the KMK and were able to provide our comments.

Also regarding the new MRVO, a meeting was held with the network of university vice presidents, as well as one with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and representatives of the Quality Management Office at the Technical University of Munich. In addition to myself, another faculty member of the Accreditation Council, the Executive Director of the AR, and the staff member responsible for the topic at the office participated in the latter meeting. Discussing different perspectives and seeking to understand the other side led to a very fruitful exchange.

We are happy to welcome outside perspectives on the quality development of degree programs and quality management systems and to engage in discussions with the state rectors’ conferences.

We also maintain this dialogue—with all stakeholders, but especially with the universities—through

regular events, in which typically 250 to 300 people participate online.

We discussed the significance of diversity for the quality development of degree programs and accreditation in Germany at the quality dialogue “Diversity at Universities,” which drew about 240 participants. The Accreditation Council had established a special internal working group to prepare for the event. We are pleased and grateful for the very positive response and willingness to engage in dialogue on the part of the universities.

Our staff at the office are highly motivated, consistently dedicated, and prudent in their work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers working for the Accreditation Council for their tremendous and personal commitment.

My gratitude extends to the open and trusting collaboration not only during the quarterly Council meetings, but also in the work for the various committees, in the intensive communication between the office and Accreditation Council members, and in representing the Accreditation Council at external events.

Our experiences in 2023 have suggested that we will transition to an alternating meeting schedule of online and in-person sessions in the future, in order to appropriately nurture personal relationships alongside prudent and goal-oriented substantive work. The Accreditation Council, which is composed of volunteers and expert delegates and supported by full-time staff at the secretariat, thrives not only on its mandate and work obligations but also, and significantly, on self-motivation and a shared joy in shaping the future. I thank the entire team.

Bonn, July 2024



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim Bargstädt

Overview

1. Quarter 2023

116. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on March 30–31, 2023, in Berlin

AR Resolutions:

- Possibilities and Limitations of Online Site Visits (Doc. AR 25/2023)
- 212 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 550 degree programs due to bundling)
- 16 applications for system accreditation
- 1 application for an alternative procedure

229 applications; four applications were deferred and one was rejected

2. Quarter 2023

117. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on June 27, 2023, online

AR decisions:

- 234 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 550 degree programs due to bundling)
- 24 applications for system accreditation

258 applications, of which 1 degree program was rejected

3. Quarter 2023

118. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on September 21–22, 2023, online

AR Resolutions:

- 274 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 636 degree programs due to bundling)
- 12 applications for system accreditation

286 applications; one application for institutional accreditation was deferred

- FAQ on Sampling in System Accreditation

4. Quarter 2023

119th meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 5–6, 2023, online

AR Resolutions:

- 227 applications for program accreditation (these covered 503 degree programs due to bundling)
- 6 applications for system accreditation

233 applications; one application was rejected, one application was deferred

- Decision of the Accreditation Council on how to handle significant changes resulting from the Nursing Education Strengthening Act (Drs. AR 117/2023)
- Approval of the implementation of an alternative procedure at the Technical University of Nuremberg (UTN)
- Establishment of a Working Group on Accessibility, Dropout Rates, and Academic Success

1. Current developments at the Accreditation Foundation

1.1 Strategy process of the Akkreditierungsrat Foundation

As part of the start of its 2022–2025 legislative term, the Accreditation Council decided at its 112th meeting to use a strategic process to identify the priorities it wishes to focus on in the coming years.

First, a preparatory working group drafted a concept, which was adopted at the 115th meeting of the Accreditation Council. At that meeting, the Accreditation Council established the internal “Strategy Working Group” (members, see [Appendix 1](#)) and tasked it with preparing the strategy process and the closed-door meetings.

The strategy meetings took place in September and November with the support of external facilitators.

The goal is to develop a mission statement as well as a medium-term and a long-term strategy.

1.2 Evaluation of the Model Statute

Following a survey of the federal states conducted in the second half of 2021 to evaluate the Model Legal Regulation, stakeholders—including the Accreditation Council—were consulted in early 2022 in order to subsequently reach an agreement on the amendment to the MRVO (“revisions”). At its 112th and 113th meetings (March and June 2022)—following prior discussions in the accompanying committee (see [Chapter 2.7](#))—held deliberations on the evaluation of the Model Regulation and, at the 113th meeting in June 2022, adopted the requested statement to the federal states. In doing so, areas for improvements

and additional points for discussion were summarized. These suggestions were made by the Accreditation Council with extensive knowledge of the intended statements from other stakeholders as well as its own assessment from the perspective of dynamic quality development.

Throughout 2023, the KMK working group held discussions with individual members of the secretariat on specific topics and addressed questions regarding the content. At the end of the year, the KMK sent the draft amendment to the MRVO to the Accreditation Council with a request for comments. At its 119th meeting in December 2023, the Accreditation Council deliberated on the draft and decided that the Executive Board should submit a statement to the KMK working group the following year based on the current state of the discussion.

1.3 , QM, and Data Analysis Unit:

The Office has developed a new tool for analyzing data on accredited degree programs in ELIAS under the label AR-DatenAnalyse (ARDA). The analysis is based primarily on information that is already freely accessible via the public view. It is semi-automated, meaning it can be easily expanded to include additional degree programs or sufficiently definable groups of degree programs as needed with minimal effort. A large number of such analyses have already been published on the website of the Accreditation Council Foundation and are thus available to the general public.

(<https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/de/aktuelles-und-veroeffentlichungen/ar-datenanalyse/ar-datenanalyse>)

1.4 Thematic Analysis of “ ”

A member of the Secretariat has prepared the analysis “Conditions in Program Accreditation under the New Law – Thematic Analysis,” which can be found at the following external link: https://rpubs.com/MNE/aufl_ta

1.5 Number of Applications

For 2023, a decline in the high number of applications can be observed in both program and institutional accreditation. While the number of degree programs for which a program accreditation application was submitted remained above the 1,000 mark for the third consecutive year, at 1,240 it was significantly lower than in the previous year (2022: 1,491). In system accreditation, the number of applications fell by 25% compared to the previous year, to 21.

The collaboration between the volunteer members of the Accreditation Council and the full-time staff at the secretariat who support them continued to be very well-coordinated and can be seen as a prerequisite for successfully handling the wave of applications over the past two years.

1.6 Applications for accreditation in ELIAS ()

The Electronic Information and Application Processing System (ELIAS), which has been in operation since January 2019, continues to serve as a digital application platform, ensuring that the application and review process is efficient and reliable. ELIAS is available to the public at <https://antrag.akkreditierungsrat.de/>.

ELIAS supports the entire application process: from submission by universities and other institutions, through processing by the Accreditation Council’s secretariat and preparation of the Accreditation Council members’ meetings, to the accreditation decision and its announcement.

As of January 2024, 537 applicant organizations (including ten ^{agencies}¹) were registered with an account in ELIAS. This number has remained virtually unchanged since the end of 2022.

To also record accreditations under the old law in ELIAS, the agencies (for program accreditations) and system-accredited institutions of higher education (for internal accreditations) have the option to use corresponding application types. This ensures that these are also published in the new database. (See [Chapter 4.1](#))

The activities to complete and correct existing accreditation information, which serve to improve data quality, are carried out in constructive collaboration with higher education institutions and agencies.

In 2019, the groundwork was laid for the “Database 2021” were laid, whereby information on teacher training and combined degree programs will first be added to the new database, followed later by all degree programs, and corrected as necessary. Due to the high overall workload involved in data cleansing at individual universities and due to staffing shortages at the office, the project completion date was extended to June 2023 and the project was renamed “Data-

¹ An agency licensed to operate in Germany does not yet have an account.

“bank 2023.” The project was completed in July 2023. A total of 443 Excel spreadsheets were created and distributed, along with a guide for correcting program data. 289 corrected Excel spreadsheets were returned to the office by the universities.

1.7 Finalization of the interface between Hochschulkompass and ELIAS

Programming of the HSK interface was completed: Accreditation information for degree programs can now also be accessed from Hochschulkompass. The link to the ELIAS page can be found on the Hochschulkompass page for the respective degree program under the heading “Further Basic Information.”

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2023: Tasks and Results

2.1 (Re-)accreditation of degree programs and quality assurance systems, as well as applications for alternative procedures

In 2023, 514 applications for (re)accreditation of degree programs were submitted. This represents a decrease compared to 2022 (585 applications). In 2023, the Accreditation Council reviewed a total of 947 program accreditation applications at its meetings, 663 of which were first-time applications. Due to bundling, these 947 applications encompass 2,233 (2022: 1,949) degree programs. This represents an increase compared to 2022.

Fewer applications were also submitted for system accreditation than in the previous year: 21 system accreditation applications reached the Secretariat in 2023 (in 2022: 28). The Accreditation Council reviewed 58 applications for system accreditation, 32 of which were first-time applications.

In a few cases (program and system accreditation), the Accreditation Council deviated from the recommendation of the Agency or the review panel. In these cases, the institutions were given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

In the alternative procedure—the third category of procedures alongside program and system accreditation—the Accreditation Council granted accreditation, approved the initiation of an alternative procedure, and deliberated on two reports from the monitoring of an alternative procedure.

In addition to the technical support provided by ELIAS, a standardized reporting structure is essential for the efficient processing of applications. To ensure that the accreditation reports from (currently) ten accreditation agencies can be efficiently processed by the Accreditation Council, the reports should be structurally comparable and follow a common template across all agencies. The comparability and readability of the accreditation reports are ensured by the standardized structure of the report templates, which follows the MRVO. Currently, four **report templates** and, in program accreditation, an additional **Excel spreadsheet** (with **explanations**) for data entry serve as the basis for the accreditation reports and are also used for the self-reports.

The Accreditation Council and the agencies are in constant communication regarding the requirements for accreditation reports, including at the joint meeting at the beginning of 2023 and in exchange sessions between the Secretariat and the agencies.

2.2 Requests for Deadline Extensions and Bundled Approvals

In 2023, the Accreditation Council received numerous requests for deadline extensions and bundled approvals, which—in the latter case—were generally decided upon with the consultation of relevant Accreditation Council members.

In addition to regular requests for deadline extensions, the Accreditation Council also received a few requests for extraordinary deadline extensions in 2023, e.g., due to unexpected delays in the accreditation process that were beyond the university's control.

Since 2020, regular requests for deadline extensions and batch approvals have been fully processed in ELIAS; these decisions are also generated and sent within the system. The applications for extraordinary deadline extensions, which were temporarily established until September 30, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could be created in the system; however, the decisions were sent outside the system.

2.3 Accreditation of “ ” Agencies

Under a new legal framework, the Accreditation Council authorizes accreditation agencies operating in Germany to carry out their activities, namely the conduct of accreditation procedures. The basis for the formal authorization procedure is an agency's listing in the EQAR (*European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education*). According to the State Treaty, the prerequisite for the agency's authorization is proof that it is reliably capable of performing the tasks of evaluation and preparing the evaluation report; for agencies listed in the EQAR, this is presumed to be the case unless proven otherwise. In 2018, the Accreditation

had approved all ten agencies registered in the EQAR as of December 31, 2017, to conduct procedures under the new law. In the meantime, the MusiQuE agency has been added as the eleventh.

2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council

During the reporting period, the Accreditation Council made the following fundamental decisions:

► Possibilities and Limitations of Online Inspections

At its 116th meeting, the Accreditation Council decided that, with the removal of conflicting legal provisions, the requirements for inspections under Section 24(5) MRVO once again apply without restriction, and that an “inspection” under Section 24(5) MRVO is understood to mean an on-site visit in person.

It notes that the option under Section 24(5), second sentence, of the MRVO to waive in-person on-site inspections should not be interpreted as a blanket authorization for online inspections, and that in system accreditation procedures, one of the two inspections may be conducted online. (► [Decision of March 30, 2023](#))

► FAQ on Significant Changes

At its 117th meeting, the Accreditation Council agreed to keep the reporting requirements for “significant changes” to degree programs as minimal as possible. A *Frequently Asked Question* (FAQ) uses examples to explain the difference between a significant and a non-significant change. (► [FAQ 18 Significant Changes](#))

► FAQ on Sampling in System Accreditation

The sample audit in system accreditation aims to assess the functioning of the QM system using the example of a specific procedure for accrediting a specific degree program and subsequently draw conclusions about the system's functionality. Essentially, the following questions are at the heart of this process: Are the processes applied in practice (across the entire institution)? Do the processes achieve the intended results? Are there any unintended negative effects?

At its 118th meeting, the Accreditation Council, in close cooperation with the agencies, discussed an FAQ on this topic, which was published by the Executive Board after incorporating the suggestions and comments of the Accreditation Council members. (► [FAQ 19: Sampling in System Accreditation](#))

► Resolution on the PflStudStG

As of January 1, 2024, federal legal changes regarding nursing education will take effect. At that time, universities must convert their primary nursing degree programs into dual programs. Furthermore, starting January 1, 2025, expanded medical competencies must be incorporated into the curricula.

At its 119th meeting, the Accreditation Council decided that significant changes resulting from the Nursing Education Strengthening Act may be reported to the Accreditation Council in a consolidated manner in 2025, in accordance with § 28 MRVO. The resolution is intended to help universities reduce administrative burdens. (► [Decision of December 6, 2023](#))

2.5 Review of accreditation processes

Since 2018, the review of accreditation procedures ("monitoring") has no longer been part of the Accreditation Council's responsibilities. However, until decisions on accreditation procedures under the new law are available, the Accreditation Council may continue to initiate ad hoc reviews of procedures under the old law if there are indications of improper conduct of a procedure or an erroneous accreditation decision.

During the reporting period, there was one ongoing procedure and no new procedures.

2.6 Events

ELIAS Training Courses

In 2023, the ELIAS database team conducted 16 training sessions for more than 20 higher education institutions, during which the functionalities and process flows were explained and specific situations at higher education institutions (such as cooperative degree programs with other institutions) were addressed. These training sessions for external users are an essential component in ensuring the transparency and reliability of data on higher education institutions and their degree programs within the system.

Quality Dialogue 2023

On June 26, 2023, the 2023 Quality Dialogue took place on the topic of "Diversity at Universities." With approximately 240 participants, the response to the virtual event was once again very strong.

The Accreditation Council in Dialogue

On October 19, 2023, an Accreditation Council in Dialogue event took place on the "Topic of the Day: Diversity of

QM Systems – What Leeway Do Universities Have,” in which around 300 people participated.

Further information can [be found here](#).

2.7 Working Groups

► Diversity Working Group

The Diversity Working Group (see Appendix 1), led by associate member Prof. Dr. Leicht-Scholten and tasked with preparing the Diversity Quality Dialogue, met virtually twice in 2022 and once in 2023 (October 11, 2022, Dec. 7, 2022, and March 15, 2023). At a fourth virtual meeting on Dec. 12, 2023, it also drafted a “Position Paper of the Working Group on the Preparation of the 2023 Quality Dialogue on Diversity Regarding the Planned Amendment to Section 15 of the MRVO.”

► Advisory Committee

No meeting of the Monitoring Committee took place in 2023.

► Working Group for the Preparation of the Strategy Process / Strategy WG

On April 20, 2023, an online workshop was held by the preparatory group with the moderators of the strategy meetings, Ms. Carola Feller and Ms. Katrin Kemm. This served to prepare a structured approach and agenda for the strategy meetings.

At the first strategy meeting on September 26–27, 2023, in Frankfurt am Main, participants explored the strategic scope within which the legally mandated tasks are carried out and defined a common framework for interpreting the Accreditation Council’s mandate and implementing it efficiently.

The second strategy meeting took place on November 9–10, 2023, also in Frankfurt am Main. At the core of this event was the Accreditation Council’s self-image and its tasks within the tension between dialogue, quality development, and oversight. The results were delegated to the preparatory group in a summarized form for follow-up.

Due to varying availability among the members of the Accreditation Council, the focus shifted considerably over the two days. For instance, on the first day, the range of objectives from the states’ perspective took up more space, while on the second day, the focus was on the students’ perspective.

3. International cooperation in quality

assurance and quality development is a key prerequisite for the realization of the European Higher Education Area. Therefore, the promotion of international cooperation remains one of the central tasks assigned to the Accreditation Council by the federal states

. At its core, international cooperation must aim to promote mutual understanding of quality assurance systems, identify and jointly develop comparable criteria, methods, and standards for quality assurance, and improve the transparency of degree programs, thereby facilitating the mutual recognition of qualifications and, consequently, student mobility.

In this context, the relevant European and international quality assurance networks play a prominent role.

► Networks, Conferences, and Discussions

Networks, Conferences, and Discussions

The Accreditation Council was a member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) from 2000 to 2018 and has been a member again since 2022. Between 2018 and 2022, it was an *Affiliate Member*. It is also a member of the *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (IN-QAAHE) and the *CHEA International Quality Group* (CIQG).

It is represented in *Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance of the Bologna Follow-Up Group* (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, meetings, and conferences. In 2023, these included, among others:

- the *ENQA Members' Forum* on April 20 and 21, 2023, in Tbilisi,
- the *ENQA General Assembly* on October 26 and 27, 2023, in Dublin

The Accreditation Council also participates in a working group on microcredentials as part of *Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance*.

The Accreditation Council was unable to participate in the annual meeting of the *Quality Audit Network* in 2023. The network meetings serve as a forum for regular exchange among European quality assurance agencies whose procedures focus on various aspects of internal quality management at higher education institutions.

International cooperation enables the Accreditation Council to share its expertise while also benefiting from the experiences of its international partners.

► European Database Project DEQAR

In order to consolidate all quality assurance results from agencies listed in the European Register (EQAR) on a single platform, EQAR has established the European database DEQAR (*Database of External Quality Assurance Results*). The goal is to provide the general public with open access to the quality assurance results of degree programs and institutions that are evaluated according to the ESG within the European Higher Education Area.

Since 2019, the accreditation results for degree programs displayed in ELIAS have been manually exported to DEQAR as CSV files; at the end of 2021, an export process via nightly updates to DEQAR was implemented, so that data on program and system accreditation is now transmitted automatically. The results can be found in [DEQAR's public database](#).

4. Information and Communication

The communication strategy developed in 2019 continues to be implemented. Since 2021, it has been supplemented by information and dialogue events; see [Chapter 2.6](#) for details.

4.1 Publication of Accreditation and Data

Since 2018, the Accreditation Council has ^{been} responsible for the publication of accreditation data in accordance with the Model Statutory Ordinance and the State Treaty². The Accreditation Council's own database has been online since January 8, 2019. (See [Chapter 1.5](#))

► **Degree programs**: Degree programs bearing the Accreditation Council's seal are listed with

² See Art. 3(6) of the State Agreement on the Protection of Personal Data (StAkkrStV) and § 18(4), sentence 2 and § 29 MRVO.

Published in ELIAS at the beginning of 2019. This includes information on accreditation deadlines, the conditions associated with accreditation, the participating reviewers and their evaluations, as well as the decision of the Accreditation Council.

► **System-accredited institutions of higher education**: Accredited degree programs from system-accredited institutions of higher education can also be found in ELIAS. System-accredited institutions of higher education may make entries in the database themselves, which are then (following a formal review) activated by the Accreditation Council's office.

In June 2022, the Accreditation Council adopted "Requirements for the Publication Practices of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions," which summarize the guidelines from the 2018 and 2019 resolutions on quality reports. The goal is and remains the uniform and clear organization of entries for system-accredited universities in the database. The diversity of quality assurance systems is to continue to be taken into account; key elements for the reports remain evidence, plausibility, and transparency. The requirement that reports from system-accredited universities must be published is governed by Section 29 of the MRVO.

Since March 31, 2021, internally accredited degree programs can only be entered into the Accreditation Council's database in conjunction with a quality report.

In December 2023, the Accreditation Council adopted **FAQ 19 on Random Sampling in System Accreditation**, which examines the topic from all angles.

► **Agencies**: All agencies that are authorized following successful approval by the Accreditation Council are Accreditation Procedures

The requirements for conducting these procedures are listed on the [Accreditation Council's website](#).

4.2 Communication with the agencies

Under the new legal framework, constructive and cooperative collaboration between the Accreditation Council and the agencies is more than ever a prerequisite for an effective accreditation system in Germany.

The participation of the agencies in the Accreditation Council's working groups and the advisory membership of agency representatives on the Accreditation Council have proven to be effective tools for reliable mutual information exchange among stakeholders.

The annual (and regular) exchange with agency representatives took place at the 116th meeting of the Accreditation Council. It was preceded by a meeting of the agency representatives with the Chair and the Executive Director of the Accreditation Council on February 1, 2023.

A working group consisting of two representatives from the agencies and two members of the secretariat was established to develop a proposal for thematic analyses to be conducted jointly.

Furthermore, the importance of the experts was discussed, as well as the (in some cases lacking) public perception of the Accreditation Council regarding its significance for quality assurance

The agencies will no longer be informed of new or amended resolutions of the Accreditation Council via letters from the Chair, but rather through press releases, the news service provider Twitter or X, and the Accreditation Council's newsletter.

For communication throughout the rest of the year, it has become standard practice for the Chair or individual staff members of the Secretariat to be invited to working meetings of individual agencies to discuss specific issues related to the new legal framework. On several occasions, these discussions served to gather feedback from the agencies—including regarding the Accreditation Council's new database—or to exchange views on the structure of the accreditation reports and how the agencies handle them.

In addition, in July 2023, the Accreditation Council established the position of a representative for agency affairs. This role is intended to coordinate and monitor relevant issues between the Accreditation Council and the agencies, contribute to a positive relationship between the agencies and the Accreditation Council at all levels, and promote understanding of the agencies' working methods and needs. To this end, the representative also reviews the implementation of collaboration formats: Together with the ACQUIN agency, the current representative prepared a continuing education event on system accreditation. In addition, the representative assisted in planning the annual exchange between the Accreditation Council's Executive Board and the agencies' management teams.

The new exchange between agencies and the Accreditation Council at the executive office level, introduced in 2022, also promotes understanding of various topics and provides insights into the challenges faced by both sides. In 2023, in the area of program accreditation,

March and September, while in system accreditation, such a meeting took place in February.

4.3 Statistical Data

In January 2024, 8,089 bachelor's and 7,931 master's degree programs offered by state or state-recognized higher education institutions in Germany bore the Accreditation Council's seal of quality.

These figures are based on the data in the Accreditation Council's database.

In accordance with the requirements of the new legal framework, the accreditation results

- in program and system accreditation by the Accreditation Council be published in the database after a decision has been made,
- for degree programs to which a (partially) system-accredited institution has awarded the Accreditation Council's seal, entered into the database by the (partially) system-accredited institutions,
- for degree programs whose accreditation procedures were conducted under the old law, entered into the database by the agencies.

As of the survey date, a total of 131 public or state-recognized institutions of higher education had successfully completed a (partial) system accreditation process or an alternative process; this represents approximately 25% of all institutions of higher education.³ Some institutions are in the process of obtaining system accreditation; the exact number is unknown to the Accreditation Council, as there is no prior reporting requirement. 21 institutions

³ Among the 530 institutions documented in ELIAS. These include vocational academies, universities of applied sciences/HAWs, art and music colleges,

including military academies, police academies, universities, administrative colleges, and institutions of a unique type.

submitted an application for system (re)accreditation under the new law to the Accreditation Council in 2023 (see [Chapter 2.1](#)).

5. Resources

5.1 Finances

The Accreditation Council is jointly funded by the 16 federal states in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Act on the Accreditation Council Foundation (Accreditation Act). Pursuant to Section 4(4), the Foundation may impose fees to cover its administrative expenses in accordance with the provisions of the fee schedule; which it has done in the [Schedule of Fees](#) issued on July 11, 2018, and amended in 2020 and 2022. It provides for an annual base fee (base flat rate) for higher education institutions, scaled according to institution size, and procedure-related fees (case-based flat rates) for each accreditation decision. The basic fee is payable by every institution of higher education that offers at least one currently accredited degree program (including bachelor's programs at vocational academies). The amount of the basic flat rate and all other fees can be found in the Fee Schedule appendix in the ► [Fee Schedule](#).

For the 2023 fiscal year, the Conference of Finance Ministers (FMK) set the annual contributions from the states to the Accreditation Council at 1,370,770.00 euros. Fee revenue amounted to 1,130,750.00 euros.

The Foundation's annual financial statements for 2023 show revenues totaling 2,501,519.99 euros (allocations from the federal states, fee revenues, and revenues from third parties) and total expenditures of 2,500,054.43 euros. This leaves a balance of 1,465.56 euros.

5.2 Staffing, facilities, and equipment of the administrative office

Over the course of the first four months, two new program officers, one program officer, and two administrative staff members were hired; all positions are marked as "kw." As of April 1, 2023, the Foundation's office staff consisted of an Executive Director and a Deputy Executive Director (1.65 full-time equivalents/FTE), advisors (13.6 FTE) and administrative staff (5.65 FTE), as well as a secretary (1.0 FTE). In addition, the Foundation employed a student assistant for 15 hours per week in 2023.

Since mid-2021—and continuing into 2023—external staff have been engaged on a fee basis to handle the persistently high volume of applications for program accreditation.

Employees are compensated in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Public Service of the Federal States (TV-L).

With its office at Adenauerallee 73 in Bonn, the Accreditation Council has 15 rented office spaces, spread across four floors since January 2022, with a total of 18 workstations and two meeting rooms covering a total area of approximately 520 square meters. In 2023, meeting rooms, workstations for remote work, and a permanent office workstation were set up.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Members of the Governing Bodies
and Committees Appendix 2 Meeting Dates

Members of the governing bodies and committees

The bodies and committees are always supported and assisted by staff members from the administrative office, with the number of staff varying as needed.

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chair

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

Vice Chair

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

University Faculty Members

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar Prof.

Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Technical University of Braunschweig

Prof. Dr. Óscar **Loureda Lamas**, University of Heidelberg

Prof. Dr. Ulrike **Oehmen**, Protestant University of Applied Sciences

Nuremberg Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Ernst Abbe University of Applied

Sciences, Jena Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of

Music

Representative of the German Rectors' Conference

Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

State Representatives

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection, and the Environment of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

Senior Ministerial Director Silke **Tannapfel**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

Markus **Wiedemann**, Senior Ministerial Officer, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg

Deputy Ministerial Director Dr. Hans-Peter **Zils**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia

Representatives from the professional sector

Dr. h.c. Josef **Beutelmann**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Barmenia Versicherungen

Dr. Katharina **Höhn**, Member of the Executive Board of the German Insurance Industry Education Association (BWV e.V.) and Managing Director of the German Insurance Academy (DVA) GmbH

Senate Director Rolf **Fischer**, Senate Administration for the Interior and Sport of the State of Berlin

Dr. Andreas **Keller**, Vice Chair of the Union for Education and Science (GEW)

PD Dr. Hans Jürgen **Urban**, Member of the Executive Board of IG Metall

Students

Milan N. **Grammerstorf**, Bielefeld University

Jeanette **Gehlert**, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel (starting April 6, 2023)

Lina **Irscheid**, University of Freiburg (until April 6, 2023)

International Representatives

Prof. Dr. em. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Prof. Dr. em. Martine **Rahier**, University of Neuchâtel

Representatives of the agencies (in an advisory capacity)

Dr. Verena Kloeters, Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs (AQAS e.V.)

► Alternate members of the Accreditation Council***Alternate members of the group of university faculty***

Prof. Dr. Christine **Bescherer**, Ludwigsburg University of Education

Prof. Dr. Peter **Buttner**, Munich University of Applied Sciences Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joaquin

Díaz, Technical University of Central Hesse

Prof. Dr. Birgit **Friedl**, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel Prof.

Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten**, RWTH Aachen

Prof. Dr. Oliver **Müller**, Kaiserslautern University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Rolf **Sachsse**, Saar College of Fine Arts Prof. em. Dr.

Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Deputy for the Group of States

Dr. Gisa **Austermühle**, Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection, and Environment of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

Dr. Imke **Buß**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg Annette **Münch**,
Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

State Councilor Katharina **Schrader**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia

Representative of the Professional Practice Group

Stefani **Sonntag**, Union for Education and Science (GEW) Timo **Gayer**, IG

Metall

Student Group Representative

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University of Freiberg

Alternate Representative of the Agencies (in an advisory capacity)

Georg **Reschauer**, Accreditation Agency for Health and Social Services (AHPGS)

► Permanent guests on the Accreditation Council

Prof. Dr. Monika **Bessenrodt-Weberpals**, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (since March 24, 2023)

Prof. Dr. Uwe **Schmidt †**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Prof. Dr.

Marcelo **da Veiga**, Alanus University

► Members of the Foundation Board

Chair

State Councilor Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

Vice Chair

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference

State Representatives

State Secretary Susanne **Bowen**, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

State Secretary Tobias **Dünow**, Ministry of Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Brandenburg

State Secretary Guido **Wendt**, Ministry of General and Vocational Education, Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Schleswig-Holstein

State Councilor Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, Hamburg Authority for Science, Research, Gender Equality, and Districts

Head of Office, Ministerial Director Dr. Rolf-Dieter **Jungk**, Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts

State Secretary Gonca **Türkeli-Dehnert**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

University representatives

Prof. Dr. Walter **Rosenthal**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (President of Friedrich Schiller University Jena until October 2023)

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference

Prof. Dr. Jörg **Bagdahn**, President of Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Dorit **Schumann**, President of Trier University of Applied

Sciences Prof. Dr. Anja **Steinbeck**, Rector of the University of

Düsseldorf

► Members of the Executive Board

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Executive Director of the Accreditation Council

Foundation Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

► Appeals Commission**Members**

Prof. Emerita Dr. Ute von **Lojewski**, Münster University of Applied Sciences (faculty member)

Dr. Alexander **Rudolph**, ACQUIN (agency representative)

Julian **Wiedermann**, University of Freiburg (student member)

Alternate Members

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans **Gruber**, University of Regensburg (faculty member) Luft

Kettenbeil, University of Göttingen (student member)

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN (agency representative)

► **Advisory Committee**

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Accreditation Council

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans Joachim **Bargstädt**

Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University of Freiberg Prof. Dr. Tilmann

Märk, University of Innsbruck

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, former Rector of the University of Neuchâtel;

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEvA

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN

Dr. Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

► **Diversity Working Group**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Dr. Aletta **Hinsken**, evalag

Loreen **Kaiser** (student member) Fabian

Körner (student member)

Prof. Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten** (Chair of the Diversity Working Group)

Harriet **Leischko**, AQ Austria

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Bernadette **Maul**, AQ Austria

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Uwe **Schmidt**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Nina
Steinweg, GESIS

Fay **Uhlmann** (student member)

Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music Dr.

Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

► Preparatory Group and Working Group for the Strategy Process

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt** (Chair) Dr.

Olaf **Bartz** (preparatory group only)

Prof. Dr. Christine **Bescherer**, Ludwigsburg University of Education Prof.

Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Technical University of Braunschweig Milan

Grammerstorf (student)

Dr. Andreas **Keller** (GEW)

Dr. Verena **Kloeters** (representative of the agencies)

Prof. Dr. Óscar **Loureda Lamas** (university professor)

Annette **Münch** (Deputy Representative of the Federal States)

Georg **Reschauer** (Alternate for the representative of the agencies)

Prof. em. Dr. Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Stefani **Sonntag** (Professional Practice)

Meeting dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council

- 116. Meeting on March 30–31, 2023, in Berlin
- 117. Meeting on June 27, 2023, via Zoom video conference
- 118. Meeting on September 21–22, 2023, via Zoom video conference
- 119. Meeting on December 5–6, 2023, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Foundation Board

- 27. Meeting on October 18, 2023, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

No meeting of the Monitoring Committee took place in 2023.

► Meeting of the Diversity Working Group

- 1. Meeting on March 15, 2023, via Zoom video conference
- 2. Meeting on December 12, 2023, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Working Group on Preparing the Strategy Process

Online workshop on April 20, 2023, via Zoom video conference

- 1. Strategy meeting on September 26–27, 2023, in Frankfurt am Main
- 2. Strategy Conference on November 9–10, 2023, in Frankfurt am Main