



Memorandum of Understanding  
between

**Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany,  
Germany**

and

**National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation,  
Japan**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany, Adenauerallee 73, 53113 Bonn, Germany, hereinafter referred to as the German Accreditation Council (GAC)

and

the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, located at 1-29-1, Gakuen-nishi-machi, Kodaira-shi, Tokyo 187-8587, Japan, hereinafter referred to as NIAD-UE

**Recitals**

**Whereas:**

GAC has the statutory task of organizing the system of quality assurance in learning and teaching through accreditation. Its main purpose is to contribute to the development of the quality of teaching and learning in Germany and, with this in mind, to cooperate in the realization of the European Higher Education Area; NIAD-UE is an incorporated administrative agency established under the Japanese Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies and the NIAD-UE Law. NIAD-UE traces its origins to 1991, when its predecessor, NIAD, was established as an academic degree-granting institution; in 2000, it was renamed and reorganized as a new entity tasked with evaluating universities in addition to its existing functions, with the aim of contributing to the further development of higher education in Japan.

**GAC and NIAD-UE**

Sharing similar missions and institutional objectives in advancing quality assurance in higher education, GAC and NIAD-UE now wish to establish a closer relationship as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties.

**Article I**  
**Aims of the Memorandum of Understanding**

GAC and NIAD-UE hereby agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work toward establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in Germany and Japan.

**Article II**  
**Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration**

GAC and NIAD-UE will work together:

- a) To exchange information and expertise as appropriate. This will include:
  - Key policy documents and operational information, where appropriate, and in particular those provided jointly by higher education institutions from Germany and Japan
  - Information on study programs and institutions in which each party has an interest, subject to any overriding confidentiality requirements to which either agency may be subject
  - Information on reviews or other activities related to programs offered by higher education institutions from both countries
- b) To provide professional development opportunities, as appropriate, for the staff of both parties:
- c) To collaborate on quality assurance projects
- d) To collaborate on joint research of mutual benefit
- e) To cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties thereto.

**Article III**  
**Term of the Memorandum**

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall remain in effect for five years unless terminated by either party upon three months' notice. It may be extended by mutual agreement of both parties.

**Article IV**

**Amendment of the Memorandum**

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be amended with the consent of both parties.

**Article V**

**Officers Responsible for Administering the Memorandum**

The Chairman of GAC (at the time of signing, Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm) and the President of NIAD-UE (at the time of signing, Tomoyuki Nogami, Ph.D.) shall be responsible for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to specific areas of cooperation.

**Article VI**

**Resources**

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed upon to meet particular project requirements, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For specific areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

**Article VII**

**Schedule of Projects and Activities**

Specific details regarding any projects or other activities undertaken under the terms of this Memorandum shall be negotiated and agreed upon by both parties and will be described in administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Signed on October 7, 2015

Paul from Soyato Hof with  
Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm

Chairman

GAC

Germany

Tomoyuki Nogami, Ph.D.  
President  
NIAD-UE

Japan