



FIBAA Accreditation Regulations for Dual Degree Programs

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Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)



1. Established in 1994 as a swiss not-for-profit quality assurance agency from the main german, austrian and swiss Universities and Business Associations, operative headquarters in Bonn (Germany) and Zurich (Switzerland)
2. FIBAA is acknowledged by the German Accreditation Council since 2002 to provide national program accreditations with the national accreditation seal; this goes as well for the Dutch accreditation council (NVAO), and for the respective national educational bodies of Switzerland and Austria as the program accrediting agency for study programmes in economics, business, social sciences and law
3. From 2007: System Accreditation and Corporate Learning Accreditation
4. Full member of ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and ECA (European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education) and accrediting transnationally
5. The FIBAA accreditation framework for programs is defined by the output-oriented goals of the programme and the curricular valid standards and guidelines (European Standards and Guidelines, Guidelines of the respective national accreditation councils e.g. the german accreditation council) reflecting both, the scientific and academic foundation as well as business defined competencies

Thesis for Discussion

1. Transnational quality assurance for Joint Programs, including national recognition on all sides, is possible within the EHEA **but not yet** for Transatlantic Degree Programs
2. Prerequisite for the recognition of quality assurance of TDPs is the **cooperation** of accreditation bodies

International agreements on the recognition of JD concerning quality*1



1. A joint degree should be understood as referring to a higher education qualification issued jointly by two or more higher education institutions on the basis of a joint study programme
2. Joint programs can be certificated with a
 - dual degree or
 - a joint degree (single degree)
3. A joint degree may be issued as
 - a joint diploma ***in addition*** to one or more national diplomas
 - a joint diploma issued by the institutions offering the study programme in question without being accompanied by any national diploma providing the program being subject ***to transparent quality assessment***
 - one or more national diplomas issued officially as the only attestation of the joint qualification in question being subject ***to transparent quality assessment***, even if only some of the participating institutions provide courses for any given degree
4. A dual degree may be issued as
 - Two or more (national) diplomas issued by one of the institutions who have jointly developed a program with a ***joint diploma supplement, ECTS, a written agreement, linguistic diversity and a fair contribution of all partners***

*1 (Recognition Convention of Joint Degrees by ENIC/ NARIC Lisbon 2004 & UNESCO / OECD Guidelines on "Quality provision in cross-border higher education")

The national German Perspective

Accreditation with the seal of the German Accreditation Council:

as a rule, a degree program culminating in one (!) degree from a German HEI may only receive national accreditation with the seal of the Accreditation Council if effective additional skills are acquired and expressed in the Diploma Supplement:

- The program is accomplished in cooperation of a German and one or more foreign HEI
- The HEI have agreed on a fixed study program
- Each of the HEI accomplishes a substantial part of the program
- The HEI have agreed on common examination procedures
- The study program guarantees the level of the German certification

Decision of the German Accreditation Council, Dec. 9th 2004

Quality Assurance in the Bologna Process (I)

- Establishment of **ENQA** (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) in 1998 as a Network of QA Agencies in order to promote the exchange of expertise and enhance co-operation between national agencies
- EU Ministers mandated ENQA in 2003 to develop and later to adopt the ESG (Standards & Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA) applicable to all institutions, procedures and actors (Bergen 2005)
- EU ministers welcomed the principle of a European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies (upon decision in May 2007)

Quality Assurance in the Bologna Process (II)

- **ENQA** initiated and coordinated TEEP (Transnational European Evaluation Project) to develop a methodology for external evaluation of Joint Masters Degrees
- **ECA** (European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education) initiated the development of activities and processes towards mutual recognition of accreditation decisions regarding joint programs before the end of 2007
- **ECA members** have committed themselves to a Code of Good Practice:
 - ECA members have agreed upon a set of principles for the selection of experts
 - ECA members are involved in cooperative projects meant to facilitate mutual recognition by increasing mutual understanding and trust
 - ECA members and ENIC/NARICs in six countries have signed a joint declaration on the automatic recognition of accredited qualifications.
 - ECA has also signed a cooperation agreement with the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEEN)
 - Compliance to the 17 standards of the Code will be externally evaluated in 2007

FIBAA: Approach to quality assurance & accreditation (1)

- Joint Program accreditation based primarily on learning outcomes
- Three procedural options how German HEI can obtain the seal of the German Accreditation Council for a TNP (TDP):
 - Option 1: in case, the corresponding foreign programme has been accredited by an acknowledged domestic accreditation agency (in the future, the ENQA or ECA register of agencies, which adhere to a code of good practice, will constitute such a data base), the results are accepted and there is no further check
 - Option 2: in the adverse case, the program coordinators and staff of the foreign HEI are asked to participate in the on-site review in Germany or the peer group (subgroup) will travel abroad to visit the institution and check into the quality of the programme. In both instances the information with regard to the corresponding foreign programme must be provided with regard to the FIBAA guidelines
 - Option 3: On request of both HEIs a joint accreditation procedure by FIBAA and a recognized foreign accreditation agency will be done jointly.

FIBAA: Approach to quality assurance & accreditation (2)

- For obtaining the seal of the international quality label of FIBAA:
 - institutional or program accreditation based on the EUAs Guidelines for Quality Enhancement in European Joint Master Programmes **and** the ENQA project;
 - clear set of questions and issues focusing both on the specificities of a joint master curricular design while also taking its institutional and inter-institutional implications into account
 - Focus on internal **and** external quality enhancement

Example I: FIBAA seal for U Cantabria (Spain) and UAS Kiel (Germany) of a Dual Degree Program



01- 07 / 2006	Application for the FIBAA-accreditation for the bi-national MBA International Management program offered by the U Cantabria and the UAS Kiel. Documentation of a written self report by the person in charge of the program describing the national parts of the study program and the responsible institutions.
09 / 2006	On-site-visit of the peergroup: 2 professors from German HEI 1 non-german representative with substantial professional and managing experience with companies in Europe 1 student representative from an international HEI
04 / 2007	Assessment of the report of the auditors within the accreditation commission of FIBAA. Final decision by the accreditation commission to grant the accreditation for the dual degree program under conditions be fulfilled within 18 months. U Cantabria will receive the FIBAA Q-Label, while UAS will receive both – the seal of the german Accreditation council and the FIBAA Q-Label

Example II: National seal for WHU Vallendar (Germany) of a DD program with Kellogg School of Management (USA)



08 / 2003	Application for the FIBAA-accreditation for the bi-national EMBA offered by WHU Vallendar and Kellogg School of Management. Documentation of a written self report on the study program. Contract only with WHU Vallendar
09 / 2005	On-site-visit of the peer group: 3 professors from German HEI (with international experience) 1 labor market representative (with international experience in services) 1 student representative
09 / 2005	Assessment of the report of the auditors within the accreditation commission of FIBAA. Final decision by the accreditation commission to grant the accreditation for the EMBA program. WHU Vallendar receives the seal of the german accreditation council and the FIBAA Q-Label