



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT)

and the

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya (AQU Catalunya)

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the **Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan** (hereinafter referred to as "HEEACT"), located at 7F., No.179, Sec. 1, Heping East Road, Da-an District, Taipei 106011, Taiwan,

and the

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya (hereinafter referred to as "AQU Catalunya"), located at C. d'Enric Granados, 33, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Whereas

HEEACT was established in 2005 jointly by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and 153 higher education institutions in Taiwan under the University Act. Since 2006, HEEACT has conducted higher education accreditations that help universities to contribute to the society through the pursuit of quality education and research. HEEACT's responsibilities include three major areas: (i) to conduct institutional and program accreditation for Taiwan's higher education institutions; (ii) to carry out quality assurance activities and research projects on higher education and (iii) to cultivate the professionals and experts in quality assurance.

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya is regulated by the Act 15/2015 on the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (Published in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia, DOGC, dated 23 July 2015). AQU Catalunya, is the main instrument for the promotion and assurance of quality in the Catalan higher education system. AQU Catalunya is entrusted with the assessment, accreditation and certification of quality in the higher education institutions in Catalonia. AQU Catalunya is full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and it is included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher

Education (EQAR). AQU is hosting (2013 to 2021) the INQAAHE Secretariat (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Educations). Also is member of the Spanish Network of Spanish Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU). AQU Catalunya was the first European quality agency to be ISO certified.

HEEACT and AQU Catalunya

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the quality assurance in Higher Education, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

HEEACT and AQU Catalunya agree through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards enhancing external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in Taiwan and Catalunya, and the internationalization of both systems. This MOU is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party. However, HEEACT and AQU Catalunya agree to work together to implement this MOU in good faith.

The MOU covers the following areas:

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to assuring quality in higher education, the respective systems in place for quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, and the critical matters relating to quality and standards in higher education in Taiwan and Catalunya.

(b) Information exchange and transparency

Exchange information and offer professional advice about each other's activities and processes, higher education providers operating in each jurisdiction, and about developments in the higher education systems of Taiwan and Catalunya, having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation.

(c) Staff development

Where appropriate and possible, support the development of staff from the two agencies through activities such as staff exchange, observing each other's quality assurance review and provision of training.

(d) Use of each other's expertise

Where appropriate and possible, taking account of operational constraints, draw on each other's expertise and auditors, accreditors or other specialists to strengthen the international dimension of institutional reviews and/or accreditations, including reviews of cross-border education.

(e) Recognition

Where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgements of the other party.

(f) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to mutually agreed projects and activities for the benefits of both parties, including the quality assurance of transnational education, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in Taiwan and Catalunya, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

(g) Resources

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

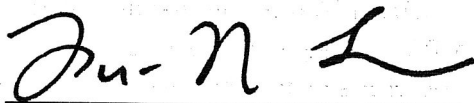
Duration of Memorandum and Alteration

The MOU will take effect for a period of five years (date set according to signing date below) and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party, and may be altered at any time with the consent of both parties. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Executive Director of HEEACT and the President of AQU Catalunya will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agency's staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

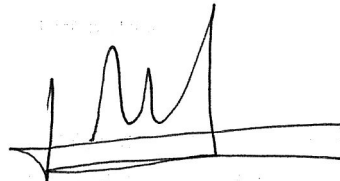
Signature as follows:



Prof. Dr. Fu-Hsing Lu
Executive Director

**Higher Education Evaluation and
Accreditation Council of Taiwan**

Date: April 13, 2021



Prof. Dr. Josep Joan Moreso Mateos,
President
**Catalan University Quality Assurance
Agency, AQU Catalunya**

Date: April 23, 2021

Higher Education Evaluation and
Accreditation Council of Taiwan