



AQU CATALUNYA QUALITY LABELS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE

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1. BACKGROUND

AQU Catalunya is a key instrument for university policy in Catalonia as its mission is to strengthen and assure the Catalan university model and its international recognition, as well as ensure and improve its quality.

At the same time, the European Union faces the strategic challenge of improving the quality of higher education and learning and aligning them with the needs of society and the labour market.¹ Among the instruments available to meet these challenges are external quality assurance agencies such as AQU Catalunya.

The fact that AQU Catalunya is included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) allows the programme reviews it carries out in Catalonia and other countries to be recognised by international authorities, thereby facilitating mobility and academic cooperation for Catalan universities, as set out in Europe's strategic objectives.

AQU Catalunya is committed to making society aware of the results of its institutional and programme reviews, as it does through the [EUC](#) and [EUC Reports](#) websites, and the quality labels offer an easy way to identify programmes and institutions that have successfully undergone external review by the Agency.

On 8 July 2014, AQU Catalunya's Executive Board approved the creation of the Agency's quality labels. Since then, these labels have been adapted to arising needs.

At the 20 April 2022 meeting of the AQU Catalunya Governing Board, a more relevant update was proposed: to bring the quality labels into line with AQU Catalunya's new corporate image.








2. AIM




The creation of the AQU Catalunya quality labels and the conditions for use is intended to provide a way to distinguish programmes and institutions that pass the corresponding review. AQU Catalunya publicises this across all the communication channels at its disposal.

¹ *Report on Progress in Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions), 28 January 2014).

3. QUALITY LABELS

The AQU Catalunya quality labels are as follows:

Certificates	Languages	Quality label
Programmes		
Programme ex-ante accreditation	CAT, ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Programme accreditation	CAT, ES, EN	  <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Additional dimensions in accreditation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional development and integration Interaction between research and teaching Internationalisation 	CAT, ES, EN	  <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Short learning programmes (micro-credentials)	CAT, ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Centres		
Certification of the centre's internal quality assurance system (IQAS)	CAT, ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>

Institutional accreditation	CAT, ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Quality assurance of research at department level	CAT, ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita a EQAR</p>
Accreditation of an International Educational Facility for Cooperation and Academic Mobility	ES, EN	 <p>AQU Catalunya està inscrita en EQAR</p>

The quality labels include a registration number and come with the corresponding certificate.²

Programmes and institutions that receive an unfavourable report following review by AQU Catalunya will not be associated with a quality label, even if they have been validated (ex-ante accreditation) or accredited by the Spanish Universities Council. In such cases, AQU Catalunya will post the unfavourable report on the [EUC Reports](#) website and display the following text on the [EUC](#) website: "Validation (ex-ante accreditation) issued by the Spanish Universities Council" or "Accreditation issued by the Spanish Universities Council", in order to set them apart from those that do receive a favourable report from AQU Catalunya.

4. SCOPE

Quality labels and certificates are non-transferable to any programme or institution other than the programme or institution that has successfully undergone review by AQU Catalunya, nor can they be extended or transferred to cover units or fields of study outside the scope of the review.

² Certificates are not issued for programme ex-ante accreditation.

Quality labels may not be used when:

- > The review process is in progress, unless it is an accreditation renewal process.³
- > The outcome of the review process is unfavourable.
- > For programmes, there has been a substantial modification that calls for a new ex-ante accreditation.
- > Accreditation and/or certification has/have been either temporarily or definitively withdrawn.
- > The validity period has expired.
- > The programme has been phased out.
- > It is used for something other than its intended purpose.

In no case shall having a quality label discharge a programme or institution that has successfully undergone review from the corresponding guarantees and responsibilities, as per current legislation, regardless of the type of label. AQU Catalunya shall not be responsible for non-compliance with legislation affecting quality labels.

5. VALIDITY

Use of quality labels and certificates is allowed during the validity period, as stipulated in the corresponding review guide. When a quality label has not been renewed or has been withdrawn on justified grounds, it may no longer be used. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the university or institution to remove the label immediately from wherever it may have been applied.

It is also the responsibility of the university or institution to take appropriate action to maintain the conditions for keeping a quality label or certificate valid.

6. USE

Quality labels are the property of AQU Catalunya and are registered at both national and European level. They are therefore legally protected by trademark legislation.

³ This is only applicable subsequent to a first renewal of accreditation.

General criteria

Those responsible for programmes and institutions having successfully undergone review may use a quality label awarded by AQU Catalunya for distinction or other purposes, such as promotion.

As regards usage, the quality label should appear on the programme's or institution's website with a link to the corresponding AQU Catalunya web page (estudis.aqu.cat/euc). If it is not yet available on the EUC website, a link must be added to the EUC Reports website (estudios.aqu.cat/informes), where the review report that shows eligibility to use the label is posted.

The application of a quality label must be clear and honest and should avoid the risk of any confusion.

Quality labels may be used in graphic or audiovisual materials that promote a favourably reviewed programme or institution.

The labels must be reproduced according to the specified size, colours, typography and shapes, and the content must be legible. Adaptations or versions of the labels are not permitted, nor may they be applied ambiguously. Where they are used alongside other distinctions, they must be positioned in such a way that they are clearly visible.

If a quality label is to be used together with the AQU Catalunya logo, the guidelines given in the [AQU Catalunya Visual Guide](#) must be followed.

Communication media and platforms

Provided they are applied in a way that is consistent with the scope of the corresponding review, quality labels may be used in:

- > Reports, brochures, business stationery, presentations, correspondence.
- > Corporate advertising, websites, emails, social media.
- > Signs, flags, corporate banners.
- > Exhibitions or other dissemination materials.

7. OVERSIGHT

It is the duty of AQU Catalunya to ensure that quality labels are used correctly. If it learns of any improper use,⁴ it will begin informative proceedings, which will be referred to the corresponding programme coordinator or institutional authority for any supporting arguments or representations to be submitted (either in person or in writing).

The outcome of the hearing process may lead to a written warning saying that the conditions for use of the quality label must be respected. In more serious cases or where a warning goes unheeded, AQU Catalunya will initiate the corresponding legal proceedings and, where applicable, inform other bodies, institutions and, where appropriate, the media of the facts.

8. REPLACEMENT PROCESS

The labels approved on 20 April 2022 will replace the previous designs.

As of 2 May 2022, AQU Catalunya will make the new labels available to the universities so that they can download them from the private area of the EUC website.

Universities will have a month and a half to prepare for the changeover on their digital media and platforms. On 15 June 2022, AQU Catalunya will switch out all the labels on the public part of the estudios.aqu.cat website.

⁴ Improper use refers to non-compliance with the terms and conditions laid down here, together with any other uses that may alter the meaning and value of the quality label or negatively affect the reputation of AQU Catalunya.

9. ANNEX. CERTIFICATES

Template 1. CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

Certificate number: EQF title-EQF centre-year two digits

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the official programme of study

**Programme type (bachelor's degree / master's degree / doctoral degree / arts higher education programme) and name
Centre · University**

has successfully undergone the review process set out in the corresponding review guide, approved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, with the following result:

Accredited progressing towards excellence / Accredited / Accredited with conditions

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the programme's organising centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.



Template 2. PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION OBTAINED VIA INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Certificate number: EQF title-EQF centre-year two digits

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the official programme of study

Programme type (bachelor's degree / master's degree) and name

has been awarded accreditation thanks to the favourable outcome of the institutional accreditation process, as resolved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, of the

Centre · University

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the programme's organising centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.



Template 3. CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION (WITH DIMENSION)

Certificate number: dimension code-EQF-title-EQF centre-year two digits

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the official programme of study

Programme type (bachelor's degree / master's degree / doctoral degree) and name
Centre · University

has obtained the additional dimension

Professional development and integration
Interaction between research and teaching
Internationalisation

as part of the review process set out in the Guide to the Review of Additional Dimensions in the Accreditation of Official University Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree Programmes, approved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, with the following result:

Achieved with quality / Achieved

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission



This certificate does not discharge the programme's organising centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.

Template 4. CERTIFICATE OF EX-ANTE ACCREDITATION FOR SHORT-TERM PROGRAMMES

Certificate number: SEPE code title-EQF university-call year two digits

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the short-term programme

Name of programme

University

has successfully undergone the pre-review process set out in the Guide to Ex-ante Accreditation of Short-term Programmes, with the following result:

FAVOURABLE

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the programme's organising centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.





Template 5. CERTIFICATE OF THE CENTRE'S INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Certificate number: IQAS-EQF centre full name-year two digits

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the internal quality assurance system of

Name of centre
University

has successfully undergone the certification process set out in the Guide to the Certification of Internal Quality Assurance Systems, approved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission.

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.



Template 6. CERTIFICATE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITED CENTRE

Certificate number: AINST-08071160-18

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the

Name of centre

University

has successfully undergone the institutional review process resolved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, in accordance with Royal Decree 640/2021 on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres.

This certificate is valid for six years.

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.

Template 7. CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RESEARCH AT DEPARTMENT LEVEL

CERTIFICATE NUMBER XX-XXXXX-201X

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the

Name of department / University

has successfully undergone the quality assurance of research at department level process set out in the Guide to the Assessment of Departmental Research Activity, approved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, with the following result:

Excellent review

Favourable review

This certificate is valid until [day month year].

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.



Template 8. CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITY FOR COOPERATION AND ACADEMIC MOBILITY

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: XX-XXXXX-201X

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency certifies that the

Name of centre / University / Country

has successfully undergone the process set out in the Guide to the Accreditation of International Educational Facilities for Cooperation and Academic Mobility (20XX), approved by the AQU Catalunya Institutional and Programme Review Commission, with the following result:

Accredited

Accredited with conditions

This certificate is valid until [day month year].

Barcelona, [day month year]

[signature]

Jaume Valls Pasola

President of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission

This certificate does not discharge the centre from the corresponding legal obligations and quality guarantees.