

a) THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM IN MY COUNTRY/JURISDICTION

The European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) is a quality assurance system for chiropractic education in Europe and South Africa and therefore operates across a diversity of jurisdictions and understands and is open to different higher education systems, rather than those of just one country. The ECCE is a founding member of the Councils on Chiropractic Education International (CCEI) together with the US, Canadian and Australasian Councils on Chiropractic Education (CCEs). It is the only external quality assurance agency for chiropractic education and training in Europe that is a member of CCEI and recognized by the chiropractic profession and other CCEs worldwide, and that adheres to the CCEI International Chiropractic Accreditation Standards.

When a chiropractic institution applies for accreditation/re-accreditation, they submit a self-study report (SSR) based on 37 Quality Assurance Standards. The SSR is reviewed by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee (QAAC) and if deemed acceptable, an evaluation visit will go ahead. The evaluation team consists of 4 team members including a student, with a mixture of chiropractic and non-chiropractic educationalists. The members of the team are trained by the QAAC chair and the Quality Assurance Consultant. Team members must have had a training review within the last 3 years and the Chair of the team will have prior experience of evaluation visits. The team assess the institution for their compliance to 37 Quality Assurance Standards, which are rated accordingly:

Fully Compliant	Substantially Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant
All applicable 'Standards' have been met in full.	Nearly all applicable 'Standards' have been met.	Most applicable 'Standards' have been met.	Several applicable 'Standards' have not been met or there are major deficiencies in one or more of the applicable 'Standards'.

Of the 37 accreditation Standards, 18 are deemed 'critical' requiring at least a substantially compliant rating in order to qualify for the maximum 8 year accreditation time period. These 'critical Standards' were identified through a rigorous thematic analysis study which is published in an international education journal for primary contact health-care professionals.

The critical standards are:

1. Educational Outcomes
2. The Scientific Method
3. Behavioural and Social Sciences, Ethics and Jurisprudence
4. Clinical Sciences and Skills
5. Clinical Training
6. Curriculum Structure, Composition and Duration
7. Assessment Methods
8. Relation Between Assessment and Learning
9. Admission Policies and Selection

10. Student Representation
11. Faculty (Staff) Recruitment
12. Physical Facilities
13. Clinical Training Resources
14. Educational Expertise
15. The Relationship Between Clinical or Basic Sciences Research
16. Mechanisms for Programme Evaluation
17. Academic Leadership
18. Educational Budget and Resource Allocation

Following the visit, the team submit a report to the QAAC, who will make the decision on whether to accredit/reaccredit the institution and for how long. There is a robust appeals and complaints protocol should the institution disagree with the decision.

Also, following the evaluation visit, the Quality Assurance Consultant (CQA) sends feedback questionnaires to all members of the evaluation team as well as to the head of the programme evaluated. The returned data is then analysed by the CQA and a report written. This report is then submitted to the ECCE Executive and the head of the programme evaluated for feedback, comment and if necessary, actions to address negative issues that may have arisen regarding the evaluation visit.

In the years between official evaluation visits, each programme must complete a written 'annual monitoring report' (AMOR) and submit this to the ECCE executive and QAAC. During the annual November meeting of the QAAC, the AMORs of all accredited programmes are presented verbally by the head of each programme for input and questions/comments from the QAAC as well as questions/comments from the representatives of the other accredited programmes. If serious issues arise based on these AMORs, an earlier evaluation visit may take place.

Additional feedback questionnaires are also used for each member of the Executive, General Council and the QAAC for all meetings conducted each year with the data analysed by the CQA and written reports submitted.

b) THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND STRUCTURE OF MY AGENCY

The European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) is an international autonomous organization established by the chiropractic profession in Europe to accredit and re-accredit institutions providing undergraduate chiropractic education and training. The principal goal of the ECCE is to assure the quality of chiropractic undergraduate education and training against a set of educational Standards. The Standards are intended for use by chiropractic institutions, both in the public university and private sectors, predominately (but not exclusively) in Europe, as part of institutional self-evaluation, by the ECCE for external review of institutions and by international committees and bodies involved in the recognition and accreditation of chiropractic institutions worldwide.

Once an institution has demonstrated that it is compliant with the Standards and has graduated its first cohort of students, the initial accreditation period is 3 years and subsequent re-accreditation periods are either 5 or 8 years, depending on the level of compliance to the Standards.

Currently 10 chiropractic programmes in 6 different countries are accredited by the ECCE.

1. Spain – Barcelona College of Chiropractic Barcelona and Real Centro Universitario Maria Christina Madrid
2. France - IFEC Paris/Toulouse
3. UK – AECC UC Bournemouth, University of South Wales Glamorgan and McTimoney Oxford/Manchester
4. Switzerland – Universitat Zurich, Zurich
5. South Africa – University of Johannesburg Johannesburg and Durban University of Technology Durban
6. Denmark - Syddansk Universitet Odense

STRUCTURE OF THE ECCE

The Registered Office of the ECCE is in Germany and the structure of the ECCE is as follows:

Executive Committee

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Chair of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee

Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee – QAAC

Chair

Vice Chair

7 committee members

Maria Browning, ECCE UK

Quality Assurance Consultant

ECCE Representative(s) to the Council on Chiropractic Education International

Executive Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

All of the above plus 7 individual members (including students and non-chiropractic educationalists) as well as representatives from all 10 accredited Institutions.

Meetings

Executive: 3 times a year (at a minimum)

QAAC: 2-3 times a year

Council: annually

Otherwise communication is via Skype or email due to the geographical locations of the members