



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Mag. Diane Freiberger
Managing Director
Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)
Berliner Freiheit 20-24, D-53111 Bonn
Germany

Gloucester, 2 November 2021

Subject: Reconfirmation of FIBAA membership in ENQA

Dear Mag. Diane Freiberger,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 20 October 2021, the ENQA Board agreed to reconfirm FIBAA's membership in ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that FIBAA is in compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015)* and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to article 6, paragraph 1 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure.

The Board would like to use this opportunity to provide an explanation regarding standard 2.3 Implementing processes, where its judgement differs from that of the panel. The Board notes that the follow-up on external QA activities that award the German Accreditation Council (GAC)'s seal is not solely the agency's responsibility, since this activity is implemented together with the GAC. Therefore, in the view of the Board, the panel's recommendation to consistently implement follow-up activities for accreditations under conditions and accreditations with recommendations should refer to GAC's role as well. Following this, in the opinion of the Board, the listed recommendation should be considered as a suggestion for further improvement, and the standard as fully compliant.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e., by October 2023.

The Board also encourages FIBAA to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – an enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two to three years' time from this decision. The ENQA Secretariat will be in touch with you in about a year's time to discuss this possibility. The cost of this visit has already been included as part of the review fee and are non-refundable except for the travel costs of the experts. More information about the progress visit can be found in the Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews.



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If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of FIBAA membership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Blackstock', is written in a cursive style.

Douglas Blackstock
President

Annex: Areas for development

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As outlined by the review panel, FIBAA is recommended to take appropriate action, in so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

The agency is recommended to further develop its strategic planning process to ensure that it considers the medium- to long-term future of the agency as well as the shorter term. The development of a formal strategy for managing risk is also encouraged as part of the development of the strategic planning process.

The agency is recommended to include a student member on the Foundation Council.

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

The agency is recommended to reconsider its interpretation of ESG 3.4 and continue, as recommended in the review of 2017, to increase the number of analytical publications, and cover fields of activity beyond programme and system accreditations.

ESG 3.5 Resources

In line with the recommendation on ESG 3.1, the agency is recommended to establish a clear alignment between the strategic vision of the agency and the planning of actions with the allocation of human and financial resources.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

The agency is recommended to require that all experts attend at least some core training which is face-to-face, if possible, before becoming a member of a review panel. This is to ensure that they at least understand the ESG on which FIBAA bases its own criteria, FIBAA's decision-making processes and the relationship between the criteria and FIBAA's review methods.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

The agency is recommended to ensure that the wording of the process for complaints and appeals is accurate and clear in both German and English. At the same, it should ensure that the process as described on the website is up to date, for example regarding the merger of the three accreditation committees into one.