

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)

Register Committee

Ref. RC/C146

Ver. 1.0
Date 2025-09-12
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Decision of:	2025-09-12
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2025-06-24
Agency registered since:	2008-03-04
Last external review report:	2022-02
Registration until:	2026-10-31
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2025-06-24

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2025-06-24.
2. The Register Committee took note of the following:
 - A) Programme accreditation outside the competence area of the Accreditation Council (i.e. FIBAA's quality seal for programmes) and FIBAA Quality Seal for Certified Continuing Education Courses/Micro-Credentials**
 3. In February 2025, FIBAA updated the Assessment Guides for the Quality Seal for accreditation of Bachelor, Master programmes and Doctoral programmes and for the Quality seal for the certification of continuing education courses/ micro-credentials.
 4. Changes include an integration of standards related to utilising artificial intelligence in teaching, a stronger alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and an enhanced focus on employability. Due to these modifications, the number of standards decreased.
 5. The Register Committee took note of the changes, and inquired that the next review looks into whether all of the standards of the Part 1 of the ESG are effectively covered (ESG 2.1), whether the stakeholders were consulted appropriately and whether the methodologies are fit for purpose (ESG 2.2) and whether the panel experts receive appropriate training (ESG 2.4) on the updated standards.

B) The European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

6. FIBAA has introduced the guidebook for European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in 2024 and has so far concluded one review.
7. The Register Committee welcomed the changes and expects that this activity will be analysed in full as part of FIBAA next renewal of registration.

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EQAR Substantive Change Report

Reference #	29570139
Status	Complete
Login Username	Leshchanskaya@fibaa.org
Login Email	Leshchanskaya@fibaa.org
Agency #1	FIBAA – Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation
Agency acronym	FIBAA
Expiry date #1	31/10/2026
Contact #1	Jubin Hadadi-Popp
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Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. One or several new external QA activities were introduced • 2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)
Description new/changed	In February 2025, FIBAA published three updated Assessment Guides FIBAA Quality Seal for accreditation of Bachelor and Master programmes, of Doctoral programmes and for the certification of continuing education courses/micro-credentials. Agreements concluded after 1 March 2025 will be assessed in accordance with the new assessment guide. The accreditation

and certification processes are the same.

Assessment Guides FIBAA Quality Seal for

accreditation of Bachelor and Master

programmes and of Doctoral programmes:

Changes include the integration of Artificial

Intelligence in teaching, research, and

administration; a stronger alignment with the UN

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Inclusive and

Equitable Education); and an enhanced focus on

employability including future and soft skills,

global career readiness of graduates and

internationalization. The number of possible

conditions for successful accreditation was

reduced from seven to five. FIBAA offers an

optional and voluntary follow-up procedure as

part of the current accreditation process.

Assessment Guide for the certification of

continuing education courses/micro-credentials:

FIBAA has updated its assessment criteria to

include AI use, digital learning platforms, and the

integration of SDG 4 principles. There's now a

stronger focus on skills-based, modular learning

and future-ready competencies. Henceforth

micro-credentials can be certified under the

FIBAA Guide as a coherent course in terms of

goals, target group, and content.

As a new external quality assurance activity,

FIBAA now offers accreditation for joint

programmes according to the standards as

defined in the European Approach for Quality

Assurance of Joint Programmes (henceforth: the

European Approach). The...

... European shared components consist of two

parts: the assessment criteria and the

assessment procedure. Besides the share

components, the FIBAA experts will consider

special requirements and standards of EHEA

members during the procedure. The Procedure

covers the self-evaluation by the joint programme (i.e. the self-evaluation report and the documentation required), the composition of the panel, the organisation of the site visit (online or offline) and the assessment report. Dependent on the national legal framework, the external quality assurance decision should come into force or be recognised in all countries where the programme is offered, as agreed in the Bucharest Communiqué.

Focus	joint programmes using the European Approach for the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
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ESG 2.6

1	https://www.fibaa.org/en/accreditation-certification/procedures-at-programme-level/programmkreditierung-gemaess-des-european-approach/
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2. Changed EQA activity

1	Programme accreditation according to FIBAA quality standards, Certification of continuing education courses, + Joint programme accreditation using the European Approach
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ESG 2.1	The updated Assessment Guides maintain the previous structure, which was closely aligned with ESG Part 1 and fully compliant with ESG 2.1, as confirmed by the most recent ENQA review. The key structural revision in the Programme Accreditation Guides according to FIBAA Quality Standards was a reduction in the number of criteria to better support higher education institutions in demonstrating compliance with ESG Part 1. Content-related updates reflect current trends in higher education and are outlined in Section C. For the Certification of Continuing Education
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Courses, the revised guide now includes “micro-credentials” in its title. The main content changes—also described in Section C—focus on technical infrastructure and the development of competencies and skills.

ESG 2.2

The previous FIBAA Assessment Guide did not fully address the rising significance of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education. As AI became more central in teaching, student assessment, and scientific work, higher education institutions (HEIs) adapted their policies and practices. To ensure programme quality remains future-oriented, FIBAA revised its criteria to reflect these developments.

FIBAA also responded to the growing global focus on equitable and inclusive education (SDG 4). The increasing importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion across European and international systems required a review of how these values are assessed.

An internal task force—comprising Division Managers for International Accreditation Procedures and experienced project managers—reviewed the guide’s relevance and alignment with current challenges. Following this review, the Division for International Accreditation Procedures engaged other divisions for feedback, notably from National Accreditation and Certification. External experts were consulted to ensure transparency and gather additional input.

This collaborative process ensured that the revised framework addresses emerging trends while remaining practical and broadly accepted. The FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Committee (F-ACC), an independent body of academic, professional, and student representatives, approved the revised guide on

November 27, 2024. The updated Assessment Guide for Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral Programmes was launched on March 1, 2025. A similar revision was applied to the Assessment Guide for Continuing Education, with particular attention to Micro-Credentials, clarifying that content assessment does not cover all aspects of methodology and skills teaching.

ESG 2.3

- 1 https://www.fibaa.org/fileadmin/redakteur/pdf/PROG/2025_FIBAA_PROG_BA_MA_Assessment_Guide_final.pdf
- 2 https://www.fibaa.org/fileadmin/redakteur/pdf/PROG/2025_FIBAA_PROG_PhD_Assessment_Guide_final.pdf
- 3 https://www.fibaa.org/fileadmin/redakteur/pdf/ZERT/2025_FIBAA_Assessment-Guide_Certification-Continuing_Education2025.pdf
- 4 https://www.fibaa.org/fileadmin/redakteur/pdf/PROG/Handreichungen_und_Vorlagen/240809_AG_Joint_Programme_according_to_European_Approach_HEI_en.pdf

ESG 2.4

Same as before

ESG 2.5

Programme accreditation according to FIBAA quality standards
Certification of continuing education courses
+ Joint programme accreditation using the European Approach
In a collaborative process, all FIBAA departments jointly supported the revision of the assessment guides to ensure that they are uniform, accepted, and practically applicable. The development of the Assessment Guide for the Joint programmes according to the European Approach followed the same joint approach

involving constant exchange between all FIBAA relevant departments and stakeholders. The assessment guides are publicly available and disseminated among FIBAA clients and FIBAA experts.

ESG 2.6

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<https://www.fibaa.org/en/akkreditierungssuche/>

D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG

Yes

Context

FIBAA Services for Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions in Germany
In Germany, higher education institutions with system accreditation are required to develop, implement, and maintain internal quality assurance (QA) processes for the accreditation and re-accreditation of their study programmes. These processes must comply with the current legal framework and meet the evolving expectations of the German Accreditation Council.

FIBAA offers a range of modular services specifically designed to support system-accredited higher education institutions in Germany. These services aim to strengthen internal quality assurance systems while ensuring that accreditation timelines and legal requirements are consistently met.

The service portfolio includes:

- Strategic consulting to support institutions in refining and updating their QA processes, aligning them with current legal standards and the latest recommendations from the Accreditation Council.
- Monitoring of deadlines, helping institutions to plan and coordinate the accreditation and re-accreditation procedures of their study programmes in a timely and reliable manner.

•Implementation support, including process evaluations, expert feedback, and quality checks to assist in the successful and efficient execution of QA activities.

All FIBAA services are tailored to the specific needs of the institution and can be combined flexibly depending on the scope and complexity of the institution's QA structure.

File #1	2025_Comparision_ESG_and_Activities_FIBAA_new_externalQA.pdf (33 KB)
Submit form?	I am ready to submit the change report form
Last Update	2025-06-24 10:07:50
Start Time	2025-06-24 09:46:53
Finish Time	2025-06-24 10:07:50
IP	84.190.221.166
Browser	Edge
Device	Desktop
Referrer	https://fs22.formsite.com/EQAR_forms/substantive-change/form_login.html
