

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Balearic Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (AQUIB)

Register Committee

Ref. RC/C156

Ver. 1.0

Date 2026-03-18

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Decision of:	2026-03-16
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2026-01-30
Agency registered since:	2024-09-01
Last external review report:	2024-09-26
Registration until:	2029-09-30
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantive Change Report, 2026-01-30 2. Minuted clarification of 2026-03-06

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-01-30.
2. The Register Committee noted that AQUIB introduced two new activities:
 - a) Ex ante accreditation of study programmes
 - b) Modification of study programmes
3. The Register Committee took note that the agency introduced these two activities following its registration on EQAR, while the same were previously coordinated by ANECA at higher education institutions in Balearic Islands. The Committee understood that the procedures developed by AQUIB are based on the current protocols of the Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU).
4. The Register Committee, based on the change report, noted that the Commission for Evaluation of Study Programmes (CET) is the responsible body for creating the evaluation report in case of both activities. However, for creating the evaluation report, CET relies on the judgement of an ad hoc group of experts. This panel carries out a preliminary assessment of the programme.
5. Based on AQUIB's clarification and the change report, the Register Committee found that the ad hoc expert panel composition does not include a student member; rather a student is only included in CET.

6. In their registration on EQAR, AQUIB was found partially compliant with ESG 2.4. Since the previous concerns remain unaddressed and student involvement is also lacking in the ad hoc expert panels for *Ex-ante accreditation of study programmes* and *Modification of study programmes*, the agency remains partially compliant.
7. The Committee expects that this activity will be analysed in full as part of AQUIB next renewal of registration.

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EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Balearic Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
Agency acronym	AQUIB
Expiry date #1	30/09/2029
Contact #1	Enrique Baron
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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	1. One or several new external QA activities were introduced
Description new/changed	<p>After AQUIB's inclusion in EQAR, and according to Spanish legislation (LOSU and 822), the agency can now assume two external quality assurance activities: ex-ante accreditation and modification of study programmes.</p> <p>Until now, these activities have been conducted in the Balearic Islands Higher Education System by ANECA, since AQUIB was not listed in EQAR, which is a legal requirement in Spain to perform these activities.</p> <p>By assuming these activities (if this substantial change report is accepted) AQUIB will be responsible for the whole accreditation cycle of the study programmes in the Balearic Islands Higher Education System: ex-ante accreditation, modification, follow-up and ex-post accreditation.</p>

1. New EQA activity:

1	Ex ante accreditation of study programmes
2	Modification of study programmes
Focus	study programmes or higher education institutions
ESG 2.1	<p>The ESG are the core of the evaluation criteria of both ex ante accreditation and modification of study programmes. A table providing a mapping of AQUIB's criteria and the ESG part 1 is included in the guidelines and also included in this application separately</p>
ESG 2.2	<p>Each activity has its own guideline explaining the process and the evaluation criteria. The first drafts of these guidelines were developed by AQUIB's technical staff, taking into consideration different stakeholder's contributions in working sessions and online consults. This draft was then revised by the Criteria Commission of AQUIB, which is the responsible of approving all AQUIB's guidelines. Both ex-ante accreditation and modification are activities that the other Spanish agencies conduct in their territories, and both have a common framework agreed in the National Network of Quality Agencies (REACU), which all agencies follow.</p>
ESG 2.3	<p>AQUIB will integrate these activities in a similar workflow used for follow-up and ex-post accreditation, which was evaluated in the last external review report which led to AQUIB's inclusion in EQAR.</p> <p>Ex-ante accreditation: the institution submits a study plan corresponding to the study programme they want to implement. The Commission of Study Programmes Evaluation of AQUIB will prepare an external review report, which is mandatory and binding according to royal decree 822, and send it to the Council of</p>

Universities, which is the body responsible of the decision. If a favourable decision, the institution can start to implement the study programme.

Modification: when an institution wants to change an existing study programme, they can use this process to do so. Depending on the nature and/or magnitude of the changes, the modifications are classified as non-substantial (minor changes) and substantial (changes which alter the structure, nature, objectives or learning outcomes). In both cases, the Commission of Study Programmes Evaluation of AQUIB will issue an external review report.

There will not be site visits conducted for these activities. However, if the experts have any enquiries, an interview will be held with the institution's responsible for further clarifications. After an ex-ante accreditation or modification process, AQUIB's next external evaluation (either a follow-up or an ex-post evaluation) will ensure the compromises made by the institution are accomplished.

All reports, regardless of their outcome, will be publicly available (<https://www.aquib.es/en/buscador-informes>).

ESG 2.4

AQUIB has strengthened the already existing Commission of Study Programmes Evaluation with more external experts, as the workload of this commission, currently in charge of follow up and ex-post accreditation, will increase with these two new activities. Before participating in their first evaluation, experts will receive a training from AQUIB's staff. Evaluation criteria are described in the guideline of each activity. External experts involved in AQUIB's activities are always from outside the Balearic Higher Education System, to avoid conflicts of interest. Expert selection criteria are described in the

	Internal Operating Rules of the CET and Panels of AQUIB, attached in this application and also publicly available at AQUIB's website
ESG 2.5	The criteria for outcomes are detailed in each activity's guideline. AQUIB staff gives training and supports the commission of study programme evaluation in the applicaiton of the criteria.
ESG 2.6	
1	https://www.aquib.es/en/buscador-informes
ESG 2.7	Institutions can submit complaints of appeals though AQUIB's webpage (https://www.aquib.es/en/actividades/quejas-sugerencias). The Guarantees Commission of AQUIB (https://www.aquib.es/en/actividades/quienes-somos#guarantees-commission) is the responsible in this matter. This is the structure evaluated in the last external review.
ESG 3.4/ESG 3.6	Assuming these new activities will provide AQUIB with more data from external evaluation activities. Therefore, its thematic analyses can benefit from that. AQUIB has an internal quality management system based on the UNE-EN ISO 9001, as was reviewed in the last external review. Ex ante accreditation and modification will be included as part of this system and its scope will be extended in the next external accreditation by the Spanish Association for Standardisation and Certification (AENOR).
D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG	No
File #1	ESG_mapping.pdf (99 KB)
File #2	Ex_ante_accreditation_guideline.pdf (767 KB)
File #3	Modification_guideline.pdf (543 KB)

File #4

[Reglamento_nombramiento_funciones_CET_y_Paneles_v0-EN.pdf \(336 KB\)](#)

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Substantive Change Report by Balearic Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (AQUIB)

Register Committee

Minutes of Zoom call

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Date of the conversation:	2026-02-25
Representative of AQUIB:	Enrique Barón, Paula Ramis de Ayreflor
Representative of EQAR:	Giorgi Munjishvili

1. AQUIB has made a Substantive Change Report on 2026-01-30. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on the report, EQAR contacted AQUIB via telephone to clarify the matter(s) below.
2. AQUIB agreed to clarify the matter(s) by means of a Zoom call.
3. For AQUIB's *Ex ante accreditation of study programmes*, the Commission for Evaluation of Study Programmes (CET) is the responsible body for the evaluation report; however, it relies on the judgement of an ad hoc group of experts. While *Guide and criteria for the Ex ante accreditation of study programmes* refers to the ad hoc group as the accreditation panel, their role is more supportive and is to provide expertise for CET.
4. The composition of the ad hoc group depends on the field of the academic programme and includes a CET academic member from the corresponding field of knowledge (chair), an external academic (based on the field of study of the degree programme), an external professional (where necessary), and a quality assurance officer (secretary). The ad hoc group does not include a student member, but only CET does.
5. While there is no detailed explanation of how the group is created in the case of *Modification to study programmes*, AQUIB applies exactly the same procedure for assigning an ad hoc group as it is done for the *Ex ante accreditation of study programmes*.
6. AQUIB highlighted their intention to explain this procedure in more detail in the guiding documentation.