



***Framework Collaboration Agreement between the
Union of Chinese Application-oriented Universities on International Cooperation (CUIC)
and the
German Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Engineering, Informatics, Natural
Sciences and Mathematics (ASIIN)
for the Improvement of the Chinese Higher Education Sector***

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Article 1 Aim

This agreement establishes a general framework for collaboration between the Union of Chinese Application-oriented Universities on International Cooperation (hereafter CUIC) and the German Accreditation Agency for Study Programs in Engineering, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Mathematics (hereafter ASIIN). It is based on the conviction that quality assurance (hereafter QA) in Higher Education (hereafter HE) is the foundation for the successful promotion of cooperation and exchange between HEIS across borders and regions. This is also the case with regard to the long-standing relationship between China and Germany, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Before this background and united in their quest to facilitate and promote academic and professional mobility between their countries, CUIC and ASIIN will join hands

- To strengthen the ties of the Chinese HE sector with its German and European counterparts.
- To design and implement an accreditation scheme for the Chinese HE sector with modern, internationally recognized procedures and criteria.
- To train a pool of experts from the ranks of the Chinese HE sector.
- To jointly host workshops and trainings with a focus on familiarizing representatives of the Chinese HE sector with these modernized and tailor-made procedures and criteria. Examples in case are trainings to develop and implement internal QA systems, to draft well written Self-Assessment Reports, to use the PDCA cycle in the process in line with international best practices and to train QA personnel, academic staff and other stakeholders in building QA expertise.
- To conduct a number of pilot evaluations to test the suitability of the new procedures and criteria; a shortened international accreditation procedure by ASIIN can be considered as a possible follow-up option.

Article 2 Purpose

The activities to be developed within this framework agreement and subsequent specific collaboration agreements have the following purposes:

- To improve the quality of HE offered by the Chinese HE sector and to provide better information on the quality of revised programmes and institutions to different national and international stakeholders.
- To promote the international dimension of QA activities.
- To optimise the work of self-assessment by the universities in obtaining multiple recognition.
- To foster the international network of the Chinese HE sector.

Article 3 Commitments

The signing parties formally undertake

- To provide sufficient funding to carry out any assignment or task requested of either party by the other party, which shall be specified in the corresponding specific collaboration agreement.
- To keep each other regularly informed of any changes and/or innovations associated with the respective QA procedures.
- To comply with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG) and the Global INQAAHE¹ Guidelines of Good Practice in the procedures they carry out within the scope of this framework agreement and any subsequent specific collaboration agreements.

Article 4 Specific Collaborative Agreements

Specific collaboration agreements may be established for either a project or area of activities summarized in article 1 of this agreement. The rights and obligations of both parties shall only come into effect with the signing of any specific collaboration agreement.

Article 5 Duration

This framework agreement shall have an initial duration of five years from the time of signature, it can be extended by mutual agreement for another five years.

After this time, the functioning of the Framework Agreement and specific collaborative agreements entered into is to be reviewed and the scope of the collaboration to be adapted, if necessary. If neither of the parties has any objections, this agreement may be renewed for further periods of five years.

Article 6 Termination

This Framework Agreement may be terminated:

- a) by mutual agreement of the parties.

¹ International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education



b) by any of the parties due to non-compliance with the commitments of this Framework Agreement.

As proof of mutual consent to the contents of this Framework Agreement, the parties hereby sign the agreement in duplicate

CUIC
Shanghai, *Tang Ming*
2023.12.17
Secretary General
of CUIC

ASIIN
Duesseldorf, *Qasim*
Maugay Director ASIIN
11.01.2024