

QA of Joint Programmes:

Questionnaire for QA agencies

Name agency: Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ACSUG)

I want to remark as an introduction that in Spain there is one national agency (ANECA), and some regional agencies, which in its Regional communities are totally responsible of the evaluation and certification of degrees.

This is the case of ACSUG in Galicia.

1. Does the QA agency receive information from the HEIs on the number of JPs offered?

ACSUG receives information of the JPs offered by the HEIs only when the coordinator university is one of the Galician University System (Santiago, A Coruña or Vigo Universities).

ACSUG is only responsible to assess the JPs if the coordinator university is from Galicia.

2. Does the QA agency have a database about the JPs delivered in their system?

ACSUG has a general database of the degrees in which the JPs delivered in Galicia are included, only when the coordinator university is from Galicia.

3. Does the QA agency have a list of possible joint programmes to be accredited?

ACSUG has a general database of the degrees in which the possible JPs to be accredited in Galicia are included only when the coordinator university is from Galicia.

4. Does the QA agency have specific methodologies to review joint programmes?

ACSUG doesn't have specific methodologies for the reviewing of the JPs. The same guidelines are used for all the Bachelor and Masters degrees.

Nevertheless, it is true that additional information is asked to all the universities which take part in the joint programme to carry out the evaluations.

5. Does the QA agency have experience in assessing JPs?

ACSUG has experience in assessing JPs, always coordinated by the Galician Universities and mainly JPs only between the Galician Universities or with other Spanish universities, but also some cases of JPs with the participation of foreign universities.

6. Who is covering the cost of assessing a JP when external QA is conducted by the QA agency?

The cost of assessing the Galician JPs (and all the other degrees) by ACSUG is included in the normal yearly budget (ACSUG has a fixed budget provided by the Galician Government). So, this procedure doesn't include a fee for the Galician universities.

7. Do national regulations allow JPs to choose a QA agency to get services on external QA?

In Spain (also in Galicia) is not allowed that the Universities can choose a foreign agency to be assessed. This situation is motivated for the national (and regional) legislation.

8. Is in your jurisdiction a mechanism to accept reports from foreign QA agencies when they conduct QA for JPs?

In ACSUG, the reports are accepted when their origin is another Spanish agency with the capacity of carrying out accredited evaluations (members of ENQA and EQAR). This is motivated because the methodology is the same and established by the Spanish Association of Agencies (REACU).

It is not the same situation with reports from foreign agencies (you can take this reports into account but they are not "officially" accepted).

9. Does the national QA agency receive reports from other QA agencies about the quality of JPs?

In the case of the Galician JPs assessed by ACSUG (as I said during all this document when the coordinator university is from Galicia), normally we ask additional information to the agencies of the regions/countries of the other participated universities when the information provided by the HEI's is not enough to make the evaluation with quality guaranties.