

Selection Procedure and Criteria for Selecting Experts for the Review Teams of the Austrian Accreditation Council (ÖAR)

Selection Procedure

The Austrian Accreditation Council selects and evaluates the members of the expert panel. The applicants may lodge any objections against the nomination of an expert if there are reasons to question an expert's impartiality. In such a case the Austrian Accreditation Council must examine the objections and if necessary make a new nomination.

The experts declare in writing (under oath) that they will carry out their tasks to the best of their knowledge according to the standards of their discipline and that there are no grounds for partiality. The experts are bound to professional confidentiality, i.e., they may not pass on any information from the procedure to a third party.

Composition of the Review Team

Depending on the size and disciplinary range of the institution, two to four experts as well as a member of the Accreditation Council and a member of the office belong to the review team. The review team must meet the criteria for the following fields of competence:

1. Adequately high scholarly qualification and knowledge of university teaching activities in a given discipline;
2. Discipline-related research and knowledge of university research activities;
3. Experience in quality management and quality assurance within the university;
4. Experience in working with university administrative and organizational structures and in knowledge management;
5. Teaching experience and experience with the development, implementation and evaluation of curricula;
6. Knowledge of the national university system and law.

Selection Criteria

Generally, the selection of external experts is based on the following criteria:

1. Professors holding a chair with proven high scholarly reputation in their area of expertise/discipline;
2. Management experience in larger academic institutions;
3. Professional experience abroad and proven international experience;
4. Independence and impartiality (no conflicts of interests).

If necessary, further experts from the professional field or with special teaching qualification (e.g., distance learning) may be consulted. Taking into account the above mentioned selection criteria, members of foreign private universities should be members of the review teams as far as possible. In reaccreditation procedures there are as well student members of the review teams.