

Organisational Regulations of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance

(OReg-AAQ)

of 12 March 2015 (Status as of 1 January 2023)

The Swiss Accreditation Council,

based on Article 21 paragraph 8 of the Higher Education Act of 30 September 2011¹ (HEdA)

and on Article 2 paragraph 2 letter d number 1 of the Federal-Cantonal Agreement of 26 February 2015² on Cooperation in Higher Education (ZSAV-HS),

issues the following Regulations:

Art. 1 Object

¹ These Regulations govern the details of the organisation of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Swiss Accreditation Agency).

² In addition, they list the organisational provisions and tasks that are already set forth in superordinate legislation.

Art. 2 Status of the Accreditation Agency

The Swiss Accreditation Agency is professionally independent from the Federal Administration, the cantons and the higher education institutions and other institutions within the higher education sector. The Swiss Accreditation Agency is a legally dependent institution and is subordinate to the independent Swiss Accreditation Council (Accreditation Council) under Article 22 paragraph 2 HEdA; it is accountable only to the latter.

Art. 3 Personnel legislation

¹ The employment relationships of the Swiss Accreditation Agency employees are subject to the Federal Personnel Act³ and the Personnel Regulations of 26 February 2015⁴ of the Higher Education Council (PReg-HSR).

² The employer is the Swiss Higher Education Council.

³ The details are regulated in the PReg-HSR.

¹ SR 414.20

² SR 414.205

³ SR 172.220.1

⁴ www.shk.ch > Dokumentation > Rechtliche Grundlagen

Art. 4 Tasks as accreditation agency under HEdA

The Swiss Accreditation Agency carries out accreditation procedures, further develops the accreditation and quality assurance methodology and ensures exchanges with interest groups and the public. In particular, it carries out the following tasks:

- a. Based on Article 32 HEdA, it carries out institutional and programme accreditation procedures and submits, under Article 33 HEdA, accreditation requests to the Accreditation Council.
- b. It continuously reflects on the methodology of its procedures and develops these further.
- c. Under Article 32 HEdA, it ensures that procedures meet international standards. To this end, it fosters exchange with national interest groups and networks with international accreditation and quality assurance organisations.

Art. 5 Tasks as secretariat of the Accreditation Council

¹ The Swiss Accreditation Agency shall ensure the office of the Accreditation Council.

² The tasks of the secretariat are regulated in Article 2^a of the Organisational Regulations of 12 March 2015⁵ of the Swiss Accreditation Council (OReg-SAC).

Art. 6 Third party mandates

¹ The Swiss Accreditation Agency may, based on Article 7 paragraph 2 ZSAV-HS, carry out mandates from third parties in the area of accreditation and quality assurance.

² The Swiss Accreditation Agency is authorised to sign for these mandates in accordance with Article 15 paragraph 2 OReg-SAC.

Art. 7 Responsibilities of the Director

¹ The Director of the Swiss Accreditation Agency shall manage the Swiss Accreditation Agency and direct its activities.

² In particular, he or she shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- a. compiling the quality assessment plan, taking into account the resources, and aligning the quality assessment plan;
- b. preparing the groundwork for the Accreditation Council's decisions within the framework of the accreditation procedures under HEdA and submitting accreditation requests to the Accreditation Council;
- c. preparing the groundwork within the framework of third-party mandates and preparing the decisions of the Swiss Accreditation Agency;

⁵ www.akkreditierungsrat.ch > Documents > Legal Documents

- d. submitting the strategic plan of the Swiss Accreditation Agency to the Accreditation Council;
- e. submitting the Swiss Accreditation Agency's budget proposal and annual accounts with auditor's report to the Accreditation Council for comment;
- f. establishing, changing or terminating the employment relationships of the Accreditation Agency's employees and making all related decisions.

Art. 8 Commencement

These Regulations⁶ come retroactively into force on 1 January 2015.

⁶ The Organisational Regulations of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance have been approved by the Higher Education Council on 28 May 2015.