

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AND

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL QUALITY GROUP

Background

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is the largest institutional higher education membership organization in the United States, with approximately 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities. A national advocate and institutional voice for promoting academic quality through accreditation, CHEA serves as a major voice for accreditation and quality assurance to the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education, as well as the general public, opinion leaders, students and families.

The CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG), is an assembly/body composed majoritively of international higher education experts committed to the promotion of quality higher education globally. There are two types of memberships: (1) international status, and (2) affiliate status. Eligibility criteria for CIQG membership is based solely on criteria published [here](#).

CIQG International Quality Principles

In 2015, CIQG released its [International Quality Principles \(IQP\)](#), identifying seven areas that are, or ought to be, common to all quality assurance organizations, irrespective of country, culture or region. The *IQP* is the work of the CIQG Advisory Council and reflect perspectives from a number of countries. Since its release, the *IQP* has been a topic of discussion at meetings of quality assurance and higher education leaders around the world. The *IQP*, which has been translated into seven different languages, may be viewed [here](#).

Memorandum of Understanding

The CIQG *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* is designed to establish and promote partnerships with quality assurance/accreditation bodies, higher education providers, higher education associations and governments world-wide. The MOU affirms the use of the *IQP* as a foundation of shared understanding about quality at an international level.

Quality assurance/accreditation organizations, higher education providers, higher education associations and governments that are acknowledged as competent authorities and are members of CIQG are eligible to enter into the MOU.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

_____ and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group (CIQG) believe that the established 2015 [CIQG International Quality Principles \(IQP\)](#) provides a framework for quality to inspire and improve national, regional and international developments. The seven principles outlined in the *IQP* document are as follows:

1. *Quality and higher education providers:* Assuring and achieving quality in higher education is the primary responsibility of higher education providers and their staff.
2. *Quality and students:* The education provided to students must always be of high quality whatever the learning outcomes pursued.
3. *Quality and society:* The quality of higher education provision is judged by how well it meets the needs of society, engenders public confidence and sustains public trust.
4. *Quality and government:* Governments have a role in encouraging and supporting quality higher education.
5. *Quality and accountability:* It is the responsibility of higher education providers and quality assurance and accreditation bodies to sustain a strong commitment to accountability and provide regular evidence of quality.
6. *Quality and the role of quality assurance and accreditation bodies:* Quality assurance and accreditation bodies, working with higher education providers and their leadership, staff and students, are responsible for the implementation of processes, tools, benchmarks and measures of learning outcomes that help to create a shared understanding of quality.
7. *Quality and change:* Quality higher education needs to be flexible, creative and innovative, developing and evolving to meet students' needs, to justify the confidence of society and to maintain diversity.

Agree to pursue, through this *Memorandum*, the following commitments:

- Posting and promoting the *IQP* which, at an organization's or provider's discretion, will be reflected in its standards, reviews and processes;
- Working with other higher education stakeholders to promote a shared understanding of quality based on the *IQP*;
- Sharing information regularly on the promotion and implementation of the *IQP* (e.g., examples of good practice, case studies, newsletters or in other appropriate ways); and
- Engaging, when feasible, in joint activities (workshops, seminars and meetings) with a view to sharing effective policies and practices in areas of common interest, based on the *IQP*.

These commitments are intended solely as a collegial agreement, an informal set of guidelines to serve and bring together academic professionals. They represent the desire of the signatories to promote cooperation and partnerships in the pursuit and strengthening of academic quality in higher education world-wide.

CIQG will make public the signatories of the *Memorandum of Understanding*.

Signed in duplicate in the English language, all texts being equally authentic:

Name

Cynthia Jackson Hammond

Title

President
CHEA/CIQG

Institution/Organization

Date: _____

Date: _____

**CIQG reserves the right to edit the contents of the MOU as deemed appropriate.*