



NVAO • FLANDERS

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM FLANDERS 2025-2031

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION
CUSTOMISED TO OWN CONDUCT

SEPTEMBER 2025



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This assessment framework applies to the universities and universities of applied sciences and arts in Flanders.

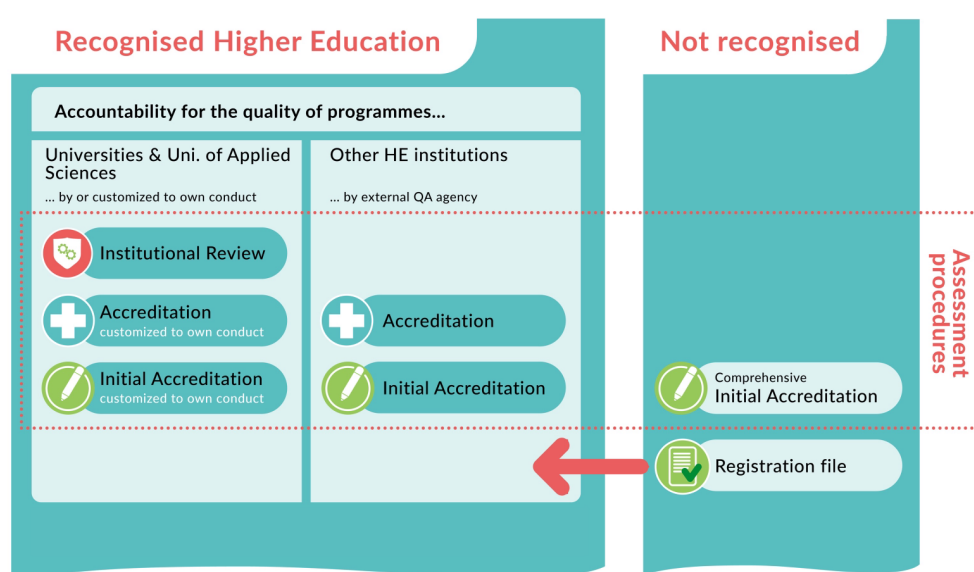
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Overview of the quality assurance system for 2019-2025

The Quality Assurance System – Flanders 2025-2031 focuses on the quality of individual programmes and its accountability. This is achieved either through the institutional review, which enables universities and universities of applied sciences to account for the quality of their programmes themselves, or through the involvement of an external evaluation body. An external evaluation body is a quality assurance agency registered on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR, www.eqar.eu) or recognised by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO, www.nvaio.org) on the basis of a collaboration agreement warranting that the external assessment is conducted in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015). The latter applies to external evaluation bodies that also perform quality assurance activities outside the European Higher Education Area.

External, independent experts (peers) are engaged in each assessment of educational quality, either by the institution itself or through a panel convened by NVAO or by an evaluation body.



Recognised higher education

Universities and universities of applied sciences and arts

Universities and universities of applied sciences are solely responsible for confirming the quality of their programmes. They give account to society by publishing information on the quality of each accredited programme on their website. The institutional review assesses the manner in which a university or university of applied sciences pursues its educational policy. Within its educational policy, each institution includes a conduct for confirming the quality of its programmes. This responsibility for confirming the quality of programmes applies to accredited programmes. For this reason, each new programme to be launched is first subjected to an initial accreditation, a procedure in which an external panel assesses the potential quality of the programme. Following recognition as a new programme, the programme is also subjected to a first programme accreditation: the official decision by NVAO that the programme meets pre-determined minimum quality and level requirements. Following the first programme accreditation (with a positive outcome), responsibility for confirming the quality of the programme is vested with the universities and universities of applied sciences themselves. Should an institutional review show a university's or university of applied sciences' inability to confirm the quality

of its accredited programmes, NVAO will regain this responsibility. The confirmation of quality will then be carried out by NVAO on a programme-by-programme basis.

The initial accreditation and programme accreditation procedures are designed to optimally complement the conduct that the institution has in place for confirming the quality of its other programmes. We here refer to conduct-tailored procedures.

Other institutions

All the other recognised higher education institutions give account of the quality of their programmes through the involvement of an external evaluation body. Each new programme to be launched is subjected to an initial accreditation coordinated by NVAO and subsequently to periodic programme accreditations.

Non-recognised higher education

Non-recognised education providers may be registered by the Flemish Government as providers of recognised higher education. This is based on a registration file, supplemented by a positive NVAO decision regarding the (potential) quality of the education they provide following an NVAO-coordinated comprehensive initial accreditation of at least one of their programmes.

1 Introduction

Programme accreditation is the official decision by NVAO that a programme meets the requirements regarding quality and level as set out in this assessment framework.

NVAO bases its accreditation decision on an assessment of the programme quality by a panel of external, independent experts.

The present assessment framework contains the assessment philosophy, the assessment principle and the assessment procedure to be followed, including the assessment procedure following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity.

I. Assessment philosophy

The assessment process that results in an accreditation decision is conducted in accordance with the assessment philosophy, which is founded on a specific operationalisation of the involvement of external, independent experts and on NVAO's Appreciative Approach.

II. Assessment principle

The assessment principle comprises two aspects: on the one hand, the assessment ground on the basis of which the quality of a programme is assessed, and on the other hand, the assessment scale and assessment rule applied by the panel for its substantiated judgement on the quality of the programme.

The quality of a programme is demonstrated by reference to eight quality features. These quality features are the characteristics of a high-quality higher education programme and tie in with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015). For every programme whose quality meets the requirements, the manifestation of the quality features is confirmed. In addition, the assessment examines how, on the one hand, internal and external stakeholders and, on the other, external and independent experts are involved with the programme.

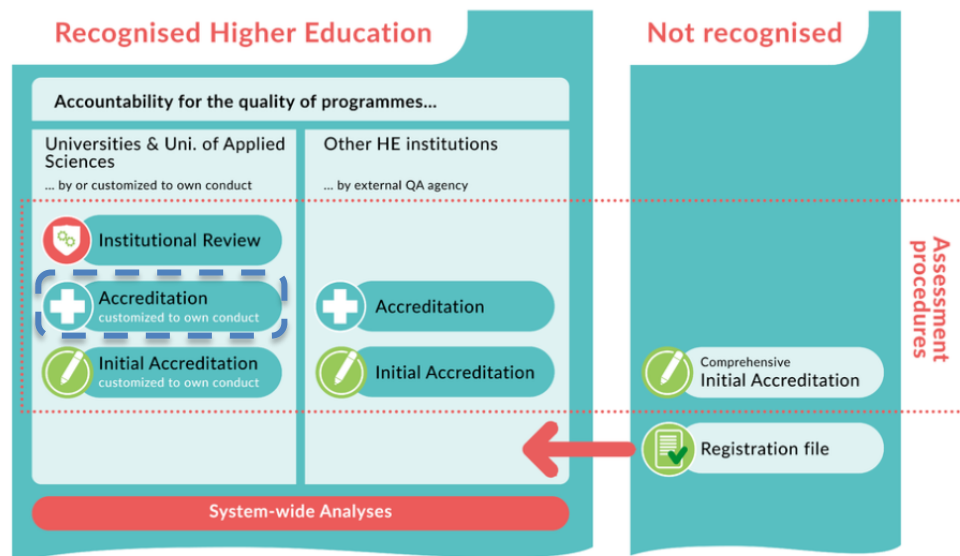
If applicable, the panel verifies whether the programme complies with the regulations governing access to corresponding offices or professions.

III. Accreditation procedure

The assessment procedure is coordinated by NVAO and is aligned with the conduct that the institution has developed for confirming the quality of its programmes. This approach implies considerable freedom of form in the documentation to be submitted. In its self-assessment, if it so wishes, an institution may demonstrate the quality of the programme on the basis of the results and outcomes of its own conduct. Subsequently, the panel will shape the dialogue with the programme (and institution) accordingly, in consultation with the programme (and institution). The panel will always speak with all stakeholders: staff responsible for the programme, teaching staff, students enrolled in the programme and representatives from the professional field. The duration of the interviews, the structure of the programme and the specific topics for discussion may vary depending on what the programme addresses in the Self-Assessment Report and the assessment that the panel wishes to conduct on that basis.

IV. Assessment procedure following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity

This assessment procedure allows for greater flexibility and is shaped according to what the programme (institution) must demonstrate in order to meet the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity



The position of the presented assessment procedure within the Flemish Quality Assurance System.

V. Accreditation

On the basis of the panel's endorsed assessment report, NVAO takes an accreditation decision in accordance with the assessment scale and assessment rules set out in this framework. The period for which accreditation is granted is listed in the Higher Education Register. Through accreditation, the programme qualifies for government funding and may award government-recognised diplomas with the corresponding degree.

The position of the assessment procedure described here within the Flemish Quality Assurance System.

2 Assessment philosophy

2.1 Operationalisation of the involvement of external, independent experts

Within the Flemish quality assurance system, peer review conducted in an internationally accepted manner is central. To this end, NVAO organises a dialogue between a panel of external, independent experts and the programme being assessed. In doing so, the panel combines a number of forms of expertise that NVAO considers necessary in order to conduct an authoritative assessment. In the case of a programme assessment, these comprise at least subject-specific expertise, international expertise, professional-field expertise, educational expertise, evaluation expertise and student-related expertise. In addition, the panel commands thorough knowledge of higher education in Flanders. These forms of expertise are specified in the present assessment framework.

The external experts must also be independent. This means, among other things, that they may not have any interest, either positive or negative, in the outcome and consequences of the assessment, and that over the five years prior to the appointment of the panel they must not have had any connections or ties with the institution. To this end, NVAO's panel members sign a code of deontology in which the incompatibilities for participation in a panel are clearly specified and listed. The code of deontology is published on the NVAO website.

In the assessments that institutions organise themselves within the framework of their own conduct, they also involve external, independent experts. During the institutional review, the review panel assesses the substantiation and operationalisation of this involvement.

2.2 NVAO's Appreciative Approach

The quality assurance system is based on trust in the existing quality of higher education and vests a large measure of responsibility with the institution. The panel takes the context and the choices made by the programme as its starting point in assessing the quality. The own conduct that the institution has developed for confirming the quality of its programmes enables programme accreditation to be aligned in part with the methodology that the institution itself applies. In this way, NVAO recognises the responsibility that institutions assume with regard to the development of their educational policy and their quality assurance at programme level.

In order to have the above basic philosophy reflected in the assessment process, the panel adopts NVAO's Appreciative Approach. Rather than a quality assurance model, this Appreciative Approach constitutes a philosophy, a mind-set, a style or an attitude that is leading throughout the entire assessment process and in the design of all its components. Through NVAO's Appreciative Approach, the focus is placed on "what" is and "what" is possible within the applicable context, without focusing on what should be or substantiating the "how". The latter always falls under the autonomy of the institution or programme. NVAO's Appreciative Approach always leaves room for in-depth, critical investigation. In the light of the philosophy of the Appreciative Approach, the programme itself further substantiates the assessment framework wherever possible and necessary.

An open dialogue is a key element of the assessment process. Within the assessment, special attention is paid to what is going well, with an emphasis on the embedding and fostering of successful processes. Nonetheless, the panel brings out and critically examines any lack of clarity or points for attention, with the aim of arriving at a balanced and well-supported judgement.

NVAO's Appreciative Approach therefore does not hinder critical investigation or critical judgement formation, but in doing so relies on dialogue and shared insights.

3 Assessment principle

3.1 Assessment ground

The assessment of programme quality is designed on the basis of three coherent questions:

- What does the programme intend?
- How does the programme realise its intentions?
- How is it established that what was intended has been realised?

These questions determine the scope of the assessment conducted for the purpose of the review. In the light of NVAO's Appreciative Approach, the programme has the space to respond to the context in which it operates. Substantive choices are not questioned, but must align with the way in which the programme presents itself. The programme involves internal and external stakeholders on the one hand and external and independent experts on the other. In addition, it complies with the relevant regulations governing access to certain offices or professions.

The quality of programmes is confirmed in an internationally accepted manner. This means that the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015) are followed. The quality features are a translation of the elements from the ESG that characterise high-quality higher education programmes. However, the quality features are not separate standards that must each lead to a separate judgement.

For every programme whose quality meets the requirements, the manifestation of all of the following quality features is confirmed:

1. The programme's learning outcomes constitute a clear and programme-specific interpretation of the international requirements regarding level, content and orientation;
2. The programme's curriculum ties in with the most recent developments in the discipline, takes account of developments in the professional field and is relevant to society;
3. The teaching staff allocated to the programme provide students with optimum opportunities for achieving the learning outcomes;
4. The programme offers students adequate and easily accessible facilities and counselling;
5. The teaching and learning environment encourages students to play an active role in the learning process and contributes to smooth study progress;
6. The assessment of students reflects the learning process and concretises the intended learning outcomes;
7. The programme provides complete and easily readable information on all phases of the study career;
8. Information on the quality of the programme is publicly accessible.

3.2 Assessment scale and assessment rule

Assessment scale

The assessment of the quality of the programme prompts one of the following three decisions:

- positive accreditation decision;
- positive accreditation decision with limited validity;
- negative accreditation decision.

Assessment rule for the accreditation decision

The quality of the programme is assessed on the basis of the assessment ground as a whole, whereby the coherent questions are not weighed separately. The decision follows from a holistic and substantiated judgement based on the findings from the assessment conducted.

Based on the underlying philosophy of the quality assurance system, the assessment assumes that the quality of the programme meets the assessment ground. The contrary must be substantiated in detail.

Positive accreditation decision

The quality of the programme can be demonstrated in a verifiable manner on the basis of the assessment ground. Recommendations are never at odds with a positive accreditation decision.

The positive accreditation decision is valid for six years and follows directly on the previous accreditation period.

Positive accreditation decision with limited validity

With respect to well-defined aspects of the assessment ground, the quality of the programme cannot be demonstrated in a verifiable manner. Any quality deficiency must be explicitly substantiated by reference to one or more conditions that must be met in order to remedy the deficiency. In addition to conditions, recommendations may also be formulated.

The period of limited validity is determined in consultation with the programme and takes account of the timeframe within which the programme can meet the conditions. The maximum duration is three years, follows directly on the previous accreditation period and results in a new accreditation decision no later than three months before that period expires.

Assessment rule for the accreditation decision after limited validity

The quality of the programme is assessed on the basis of the conditions imposed on it in the framework of a positive accreditation decision with limited validity. The decision follows from a holistic and substantiated judgement based on the findings.

Positive accreditation decision

The programme demonstrates that it has met the conditions imposed on it in the framework of a positive accreditation decision with limited validity. Recommendations are never at odds with a positive accreditation decision.

The positive accreditation decision is valid for six years, reduced by the duration of the period of limited validity, and follows directly on the previous accreditation period.

Negative accreditation decision

A new programme assessment following an earlier positive accreditation decision with limited validity shows that, with respect to well-defined aspects of the assessment ground, the quality of the programme cannot be demonstrated in a verifiable manner. The programme forfeits its accreditation and the board of the institution ends the programme. The institution guarantees that students are able to continue their programme through collaboration with another institution. The Flemish Government may take measures if the institution fails to provide such a guarantee. The board of the institution may not relaunch the programme within six years.

4 Assessment procedure

In line with NVAO's Appreciative Approach, all steps in the assessment process are designed appreciatively, from the training of panel members, through the panel's assessment, to the final reporting.

4.1 Preliminary consultations

In the run-up to the formal application, the programme (institution) may hold preliminary consultations with NVAO no later than three months before the possible submission date of the application file, in order to agree on the following aspects:

- Timing and steps in the procedure, including the planning of the dialogue between the panel and the programme (institution);
- The panel profile and the combination of expertise;
- The drafting of the Self-Assessment Report and the documentation to be submitted, customised to own conduct;
- A proposed design for the panel's assessment in accordance with the own conduct.

4.2 Self-Assessment Report

The programme draws up a Self-Assessment Report that serves a dual purpose:

- Reflecting on its own educational practice, while ensuring that this reflection is broadly supported within the programme;
- Providing the panel with insight into what the programme intends, how it realises its intentions and how it is established that what was intended has been realised.

The Self-Assessment Report pays attention to the context within which the programme is offered and to the way in which internal and external stakeholders and experts are involved with the programme. If applicable, reference is made to the relevant regulations governing access to certain offices or professions.

The Self-Assessment Report enables the panel to conduct an assessment of the answers to the three coherent questions. In substantiating the quality, the programme may use the results and outcomes of the own conduct for confirming the quality of programmes.

The Self-Assessment Report is a self-contained document that can be read independently. It comprises a maximum of 15,000 words, excluding the required documentation in the appendix, as set out in Chapter 6. The specific format and content of the Self-Assessment Report are not prescribed and fall within the autonomy of the programme. Information that is publicly available on the website may be provided via a web link.

4.3 Application

The assessment procedure starts from the moment NVAO receives an application for accreditation. Institutions that offer a jointly organised programme submit a joint application.

As a procedural requirement, the application must be submitted electronically via the procedural webpage, or in an emergency by email via aanvraag@nvaio.org, and must consist of an application letter signed by the board of the institution and the Self-Assessment Report, as described under 4.2. If a panel member so requests, the institution sends a paper version to that panel member.

Applications are submitted no later than eight months before the current accreditation or the recognition as a new programme expires.

4.4 Admissibility

NVAO checks the admissibility of the application in order to verify whether the procedural requirement has been met. If the application is inadmissible, the institution will be informed accordingly within a timeframe of 15 calendar days. Subsequently, the institution must complete the application in consultation with the process coordinator within a timeframe of 30 calendar days. If a complete file is not submitted in time, the application will be declared definitively inadmissible.

4.5 Payment for the procedure

Once the application has been found admissible, the institution will receive a request for full payment of the cost of programme accreditation. The rate applicable to this procedure is fixed by the Flemish Minister of Education. The costs entailed in the work performed by the panel, such as remuneration, travel expenses and overnight accommodation, are paid by NVAO from this amount.

4.6 Composition of the panel

NVAO appoints the panel that conducts the programme assessment. A panel consists of a number of experts who are in a position to make a judgement on the quality of the programme. In order to be able to take the context of the programme into account, NVAO always takes the initiative to involve the programme (institution) in the composition of the panel.

A panel comprises a minimum of four members, including a student, and is supported by an NVAO process coordinator and, where applicable, an external secretary. Neither sits on the panel.

In order to warrant an objective and fair assessment, the panel must be able to work independently from the programme. All panel members, the secretary and the process coordinator sign a code of deontology to this end.

The panel must be authoritative. To this end, it combines the following forms of expertise:

- In order to take maximum account of the specific context of a programme and to survey the broader framework within which a programme is offered, the panel commands thorough knowledge of higher education in Flanders;
- International expertise is represented on the panel in order to enable it to verify whether the programme meets what is common internationally in terms of content, orientation and level and, insofar as applicable, whether it meets the requirements that the international professional practice sets for graduates. International expertise is at least present in at least one panel member who is employed outside Flanders;
- Subject-specific expertise focuses on developments in the discipline. A subject-specific expert teaches or has taught within the same or a related programme with the same orientation and contributes to the development of the professional practice, the discipline or the field of study;
- Educational expertise refers to recent experience with teaching or developing education at the relevant programme level and to expertise regarding the teaching and learning formats applied by the programme;
- Evaluation expertise gives the panel the expertise required to assess whether the programme is capable of confirming the quality of its education;
- The professional-field expert commands a good overview of the requirements that the professional field sets for graduates;
- Student-related expertise enables the panel to verify whether a student-centred approach and students' interests are taken into account in such aspects as information provision for

students, student facilities, counselling and student participation. Student experts preferably have experience as a student representative within a programme or institution.

Panel members are still active in their field of expertise, not necessarily in employment, at the time at which the panel is appointed. This also applies to the student on the panel.

NVAO informs the institution of the panel composition. The institution has the right to submit substantiated objections to the composition of the panel within a timeframe of 15 calendar days. In addition, the institution is required to inform NVAO, within that same timeframe, of any information it has regarding the expertise and independence of panel members.

The process coordinator monitors the substantive philosophy of the quality assurance system and the methodology of the procedure and ensures that the panel conducts its assessment in that spirit and in accordance with NVAO's Appreciative Approach. To safeguard this, all panel members receive thorough training from NVAO prior to the procedure. This training prepares the panel members for their tasks and responsibilities and trains them in applying NVAO's Appreciative Approach. NVAO also provides the panel members with a manual on NVAO's Appreciative Approach. This manual can be consulted on the NVAO website.

4.7 Dialogue with the programme (institution)

The panel has at least six weeks to review the Self-Assessment Report and the accompanying documentation. As part of the panel's assessment, NVAO organises a dialogue between the panel and the programme (institution). The format of this dialogue is agreed upon in consultation with the programme (institution) and the panel. Usually, this includes a site visit. If the panel can rely on findings from a site visit carried out in the framework of another assessment procedure or if the panel is of the opinion that a physical site visit offers no added value for its assessment, it may decide not to conduct a (new) site visit. Instead, it may enter into dialogue with the programme (institution) via one or more online meetings. A combination of a site visit and online meetings is also possible, for example in order to speak with certain stakeholders for whom physical travel is difficult.

The panel prepares for the dialogue with the programme (institution) during one or more preliminary meetings.

For this dialogue, the programme is designed in such a way that it enables the panel to fulfil its assignment, taking maximum account of the Self-Assessment Report that the programme has prepared on the basis of the results and outcomes of the conduct for confirming programme quality. The programme starts from a programme proposal by the programme (institution), which is adjusted by the panel in co-creation with the programme (institution) according to the assessment that the panel wishes to conduct. The process coordinator acts as intermediary between the programme and the panel. Once the final programme is known, the programme may indicate the functions from which it proposes discussion partners.

The following discussion partners must definitely be involved across the interviews:

- Staff responsible for the programme;
- Teaching staff;
- Students enrolled in the programme;
- Representatives from the professional field.

At least one interview takes the form of a dialogue between the panel and students enrolled in the programme.

Considering that the panel may request additional information in the course of the dialogue, the programme features an open timeslot. This also enables the programme (institution) to submit additional documentation to the panel or to schedule additional interviews.

If, during the assessment process, matters arise that could affect the independence of the assessment, stakeholders such as panel members, process coordinators, secretaries, staff of the institution or students may report such matters to NVAO via the complaints procedure available on the website.

4.8 Assessment and assessment report

The assessment conducted by the panel is structured by reference to the three coherent questions from the assessment ground. It should be noted in this respect that the questions need not be addressed separately during the assessment; however, the assessment report that sets out the findings of the panel must allow the reader to answer the questions.

During the dialogue with the programme (institution) and the preceding meeting of the panel, the secretary collects all input from the panel members and draws up a report that constitutes the basis for the assessment report.

In its assessment report, the panel advises NVAO on the quality of the programme as a whole. The final judgement on the three-point scale “positive accreditation decision”, “positive accreditation decision with limited validity” or “negative accreditation decision” is substantiated by reference to the positive and critical elements from the assessment conducted into the quality of the programme.

The assessment report comprises 15 to 20 pages and is preceded by a concise summary of the findings and the advice of the panel. The assessment report includes the following data:

- The administrative data of the institution and the programme as set out under 6.1;
- The composition of the panel;
- The programme for the dialogue with the programme (institution);
- An overview of the material studied;
- A list of abbreviations.

The draft assessment report is shared with the panel members within four weeks after the site visit has been completed. The process coordinator assesses the internal consistency of the report and the traceability of the advice and, if necessary, proposes adjustments to the panel that clarify the findings or strengthen the substantiation of the advice. After all panel members have approved the contents of the assessment report, the chair of the panel endorses the report for the first time.

The report is then forwarded to the institution. The board of the institution is given 15 calendar days to point out factual inaccuracies and formulate technical remarks. Where necessary, the report is adjusted, after which the panel definitively endorses the assessment report. The panel is obliged to respond in writing to the board of the institution regarding any substantive factual inaccuracies that have been identified. The endorsed assessment report is submitted to NVAO.

4.9 Accreditation decision

Within an indicative period of six months following receipt of the application, NVAO takes an accreditation decision and, before expiry of the indicative period, forwards a draft accreditation decision and the underlying panel assessment report to the board of the institution. NVAO arrives at an accreditation decision on the basis of the panel’s assessment report, in accordance with the assessment scale and assessment rules as described under 3.2. When drawing up the draft decision, NVAO may ask the institution and/or the panel for additional information, explanations and clarifications. NVAO may deviate from the advice contained in the assessment report in its decision, stating its reasons for doing so. All of this takes place in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Regulations on

Administrative Principles applicable to decision-making by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders.

Before taking a positive accreditation decision with limited validity, NVAO organises a dialogue with the institution and, where applicable, the panel, in order to clarify what must be realised in order to meet the condition or conditions and within what timeframe this is achievable for the institution.

Before definitively endorsing the accreditation decision, NVAO affords the board of the institution the opportunity to formulate comments and/or objections to the draft accreditation decision and/or the underlying assessment report within a 15-calendar-day limitation period, which commences on the day after receipt.

Where necessary, the drafts are adjusted. NVAO forwards its definitive accreditation decision with the underlying panel assessment report to the institution and to the Flemish Minister responsible for Education.

4.10 Internal and external appeals

Any draft decision or decision taken by NVAO is open to an internal appeal to NVAO and an external appeal to the Council of State, in accordance with NVAO's Regulations on Administrative Principles. NVAO provides the necessary information for this purpose on its website.

4.11 Publication

After the decision-making procedure, NVAO publishes the decision and the underlying assessment report on its website, in the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR), and forwards both documents to the Flemish Minister of Education.

5 Assessment procedure following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity

Following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity, NVAO organises a new programme assessment. The new programme assessment assesses whether the programme meets the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity and, therefore, whether the programme has achieved what is required in order to retain a positive accreditation decision.

The assessment framework on the basis of which the accreditation decision with limited validity was taken applies to the new programme assessment.

The procedure for a new programme assessment allows for greater flexibility and is shaped according to what the programme (institution) must demonstrate in order to meet the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity. The new programme assessment focuses exclusively on those elements of the procedure, as described in Chapter 4 of this assessment framework, that are relevant in order to demonstrate that the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity have been met. The details of this are determined in consultation between NVAO, the institution and, where necessary, the panel.

In line with NVAO's Appreciative Approach, all steps in the assessment process are designed appreciatively, from the training of panel members, through the panel's assessment, to the final reporting.

5.1 Coordination of the condition(s)

No later than six months after the final positive accreditation decision with limited validity, NVAO organises a consultation with the programme (institution) and, where necessary, the panel in order to coordinate the following aspects:

- The conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity, and what the programme must achieve in order to retain a positive accreditation decision;
- Timing and steps in the assessment procedure following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity;
- Drafting and content of the Self-Assessment Report.

5.2 Preliminary consultations

In the run-up to the formal application, the programme may hold preliminary consultations with NVAO as formulated in Chapter 4.1 of this assessment framework.

5.3 Self-Assessment Report

For a new programme assessment following a positive accreditation decision with limited validity, the Self-Assessment Report may be limited to the elements to which the conditions relate. In essence, the Self-Assessment Report answers the question as to how the programme meets the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity.

The Self-Assessment Report further complies with the elements as formulated in Chapter 4.2 of this assessment framework.

5.4 Application

Applications are submitted no later than twelve months before the current accreditation expires. The application is otherwise submitted in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 4.3 of this assessment framework.

5.5 Admissibility

NVAO deals with the admissibility of the application in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 4.4 of this assessment framework.

5.6 Payment for the procedure

Payment of the cost of the assessment procedure is made in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 4.5 of this assessment framework.

5.7 Composition of the panel

For a new programme assessment, NVAO in principle reappoints the panel that issued the original advice that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity. The combination of expertise, the manner in which the panel is composed and its operation thereby meet the requirements as described in Chapter 4.6. Members who are no longer independent or who are no longer active in their field of expertise are replaced.

5.8 Dialogue with the programme (institution)

As part of the panel's assessment to answer the question as to how the programme meets the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity, NVAO organises a dialogue between the panel and the programme. The format and planning of this dialogue are determined in accordance with Chapter 4.7 of this assessment framework.

Depending on the format of the panel's assessment, the following discussion partners may be involved:

- Staff responsible for the programme;
- Teaching staff;
- Students enrolled in the programme;
- Representatives from the professional field.

5.9 Assessment and assessment report

The panel's assessment is shaped by reference to the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity. The assessment report that discusses the panel's findings allows the reader to answer the question as to whether the programme meets the conditions that gave rise to the positive accreditation decision with limited validity and, therefore, whether the programme has achieved what is required in order to retain a positive accreditation decision. The assessment report is endorsed and submitted to the institution in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 4.8. The assessment report comprises a maximum of 20 pages.

5.10 Accreditation decision

Decision-making takes place in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 4.9 of this assessment framework. The new accreditation decision is either positive or negative.

5.11 Internal and external appeals

Any draft decision or decision taken by NVAO is open to an internal appeal to NVAO and an external appeal to the Council of State, in accordance with NVAO's Regulations on Administrative Principles. NVAO provides the necessary information for this purpose on its website.

5.12 Publication

After the decision-making procedure, NVAO publishes the decision and the underlying assessment report on its website, in the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR), and forwards both documents to the Flemish Minister of Education.

6 Required documentation

6.1 Administrative data regarding the institution and the programme

The administrative data are included in the application.

Administrative data regarding the institution:

- name;
- address, website;
- name, position, telephone number and email address of the contact person.

Administrative data regarding the programme:

- the degree and the qualification of the degree and, where applicable, the specification of the degree;
- where applicable, the title that holders of the degree conferred by this programme may use;
- the field of study, part of a field of study or fields of study within which the programme is categorised;
- the majors/specialisations, if any;
- the listing of any programme routes for working students, full-time/part-time routes, day/evening education and different forms of certification;
- the location(s) at which the programme is offered;
- the language of instruction;
- the workload expressed in credits;
- the programme-specific learning outcomes;
- in the case of an associate-degree or bachelor's programme: the connecting options and potential further programmes; in the case of a master's programme: the required prior education and admission requirements.

6.2 Additional information at the request of the panel

During its assessment, the panel may request additional information at any time in order to arrive at a judgement. The panel must always substantiate such a request. The list of information studied is included in the assessment report.

7 Required documentation

7.1 Administrative data regarding the institution and the programme

The administrative data are included in the application.

Administrative data regarding the institution:

1. name;
2. address, website;
3. name, position, telephone number and email address of the liaison.

Administrative data regarding the programme:

1. the degree, the qualification of the degree, and if applicable, the specification of the degree;
2. if applicable, the title that holders of the degree conferred by this programme may use;
3. the field of study, part of a field of study or fields of study within which the programme is categorised;
4. the majors/specialisations, if any;
5. the listing of potential programme routes for working students, full-time/part-time education, day/evening trajectories, different formats of certification;
6. the location(s) at which the programme is taught;
7. the language of instruction;
8. the workload expressed in credits;
9. the programme-specific learning outcomes;
10. in the event of an associate's or bachelor's programme: the connecting options and potential further education; in the event of a master's programme: the required prior education and admission requirements.

7.2 Additional information at the request of the panel

Prior to, during or after the dialogue with the programme, the panel may request additional information from the programme in order to come to a judgement. The panel must justify such a request. The list of documents studied is included in the assessment report.

