

Summary report on the fulfilment of conditions

'Business in Contemporary Society' (BCS), first cycle study programme

At its 25th meeting on 03 February 2015, the Board of AQ Austria made the decision to accredit the programme 'Business in Contemporary Society' with conditions. The fulfilment of these conditions had to be documented in a written form until 02 November 2015 and is subject of the present decision by the board of AQ Austria.

1 Short information

Information about the institution	
Institution (applicant)	International School for Social and Business Studies (ISSBS)
Number of study programmes offered at the institution	6
Number of students at the institution	582
Information about the study programme	
Name of the study programme	'Business in Contemporary Society' (BCS)
Academic degree	Diplomirani ekonomist (VS) / Diplomirana ekonomistka (VS)
Place of delivery	Celje, Slovenia

2 Reviewer

Name	Institution	Role
Prof. Dr. habil. Elisabeth Fröhlich	Cologne Business School, Germany	Peer from academia

The assessment was done in co-operation with Prof. Grzegorz Mazurek, PhD (reviewer for the second cycle study programme 'Knowledge Management' (KM)).

3 Qualification objectives and profile of the study programme

The International School for Social and Business Studies (ISSBS) was founded in 2006. It has been established in Celje as an independent, private higher education institution. It develops and implements curricula in the fields of economics, business and administrative sciences at all three levels of studies (bachelor, masters and doctoral studies). All six study programmes were developed in accordance with the Bologna guidelines and accredited in Slovenia by the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

The professionally oriented study programme 'Business in Contemporary Society' (BCS) gives students the ability to cope with modern and global challenges. Graduates of the programme are qualified for demanding jobs which require economic as well as business knowledge and other skills important for understanding business environment and the management of business processes. Graduates are trained primarily to identify, define and analytically solve business problems and challenges. The study programme consists of 180 ECTS and belongs to ISCED: 34 - business and administration. It finishes with the title Diplomirani ekonomist (VS), equivalent to a bachelor degree.

4 Decision from the Accreditation Procedure

4.1 Bachelor programme "Business in Contemporary Society"

At its 25th meeting on 03 February 2015, the Board of AQ Austria **made the following decision:**

I. "Business in Contemporary Society" at the International School for Social and Business Studies in Celje, Slovenia

1) The programme "Business in Contemporary Society" at the International School for Social and Business Studies in Celje, Slovenia, meets the standards of the „Guideline for International Accreditation of Bachelor, Master and PhD Programmes" ("Guideline...") adopted by the Board of AQ Austria in July 2013.

2) Pursuant to 3.5 of the "Guideline..." the Board of AQ Austria grants accreditation to the programme for a period of six years, i.e. until 02 February 2021.

3) The Board of AQ Austria notes that the programme meets some of the standards only partially. Pursuant to 3.5 of the „Guideline..." accreditation is therefore granted subject to fulfilment of the following conditions. *The fulfilment of these conditions must be documented in writing within nine months (i.e. until 02 November 2015) and is subject to assessment by AQ Austria. In case of non-fulfilment, the accreditation will be withdrawn immediately.*

Condition 1 (standard 1)

The BCS study programme should be redesigned with a view to achieving a better alignment with the objective „understanding of the functioning of contemporary society and the global economic environment". This should include the use of more international literature.

Condition 2 (standard 1)

Learning outcomes must be revised and specified in terms of particular qualifications, skills and competences, which students acquire by the completion of a specific course. Relevant job profiles must be considered. Further information for prospective students must be added in a clear and specified way.

Condition 3 (standard 3)

A concept must be designed where it is shown how the different QA instruments which are in place are connected with each other. The closing of quality loops for the topic "study & teaching" must be documented.

Condition 4 (standard 3)

A long-term concept for the continuous improvement of the study programme must be designed. The focus should be on how to involve all groups of internal and, in particular, external stakeholders.

5 Fulfilment of Conditions

Assessment of Condition 1

ISSBS worked on this condition by editing the literature used in the single courses. The amount of international literature in English was increased, beside of that it was harmonized to the one used in e-classrooms. An additional elective course "Foreign Language in Business" was implemented to make a further step towards internationality. External stakeholders were involved in the revision of the development strategy and as well as in the development of a new profile for the BCS programme.

The reviewers come to the conclusion that ISSBS made first and appropriate attempts to drive its study programme "Business in Contemporary Society" in a more international direction.

Condition 1 is assessed as fulfilled.

Assessment of Condition 2

To improve the learning outcomes, ISSBS went through a very extensive process. 13 General Competencies and 20 Specific Competencies were defined and used for the revision of the course manuals. A new, elaborated job profile has been designed which is sufficient at this stage.

Condition 2 is assessed as fulfilled.

Assessment of Condition 3

ISSBS presented a revision of all strategic documents plus a convincing overview on their quality assurance system. The concept for the closing of the quality loops in the fields of study and teaching was presented in a clear and comprehensible way, the implementation is planned for the near future.

Condition 3 is assessed as fulfilled.

Assessment of Condition 4



The improvement on the quality management as presented in the report and several appendices, serves the mentioned targets well. It has been shown that ISSBS started an extensive revision process on their quality management system which is directly connected with the improvement of the study programme. A long-term plan for the continuous improvement was generated. Beside of this, a Quality Handbook is finalised in the near future which will serve as a clear guideline for quality assurance and improvement at ISSBS in daily life.

Condition 4 is assessed as fulfilled.

6 Decision by the Board

The Board of AQ Austria assessed the fulfilment of conditions given in the accreditation decision on 3rd February 2015 on the first cycle study programme *Business in Contemporary Society' (BCS)*. The Board of AQ Austria decides that the conditions are fulfilled and that the accreditation decision of 3rd February 2015 is upheld. The accreditation is valid until 2nd February 2021.