



## AGREEMENT

---

### EADI /IAC & NVAO (NL)

#### Introduction

This agreement between EADI/IAC and NVAO has been collaboratively developed by both organizations. The goal of this agreement is to increase the efficiency and reduce the administrative burden for institutions in the accreditation process. It only applies to the Dutch institutions and programs that opt for a joint EADI/IAC-NVAO process to receive accreditation from both organisations.

It is important to note that this agreement does not alter the formal responsibilities of the organizations involved (EADI/IAC, NVAO, institutions). Its purpose is to set out the conditions and required procedures for applying for double accreditation, in order to ensure an efficient assessment and accreditation process.

This agreement applies exclusively to the activities carried out by the Dutch department of NVAO.

An institution requesting a joint visit must inform both EADI/IAC and NVAO in due time, i.e. when making a request to the EADI/IAC Accreditation Council.

#### 1. Joint Site Visit Team & joint visit

The EADI/IAC Peer Review Team (PRT) consists of experts from EADI/IAC's according to the criteria set by the IAC/EADI Council. These experts will most likely meet the criteria that NVAO has set out for the committee members. A NVAO panel is composed of members with domain specific expertise, educational expertise, work field specific expertise, international expertise, audit expertise, and student-experience. Both EADI/IAC and NVAO require that a student is part of the PRT. Therefore, composing a joint PRT that meets the requirements of both EADI/IAC and NVAO should be possible.

The Chair of the PRT is appointed by the institution and must be acquainted with the NVAO standards. His/her role will be:

- to guide the PRT on performance according to NVAO standards;
- to ask questions in order to judge the programme's alignment with NVAO standards;
- to prepare answers to NVAO's questions after the visit. These answers will need to be endorsed by the PRT.

Both EADI/IAC and NVAO require that a trained secretary is appointed to assist the PRT. The NVAO requires that the secretary is registered by NVAO. The secretary is not a member of the panel. In the context of the joint accreditation, one secretary will represent NVAO and an additional secretary will represent IAC/EADI and guarantee that the

EADI/IAC standards are adequately covered in the review. To the extent possible, one secretary may also represent both organisations.

All PRT members will receive a briefing on EADI/IAC's and NVAO's assessment frameworks before the visit occurs.

The institution submits a proposal for the composition of a PRT and for the secretary to both EADI/IAC and NVAO. Both organisations assess the members and the secretary based on their procedures, looking at the different expertise as well as the independence of each member. The panel members and the secretary must comply with the requirements for independence as formulated in the NVAO framework. Any doubts or comments on the part of the organisations regarding the PRT must first be clarified. If need be, the composition will have to be modified. The NVAO and EADI/IAC will judge the PRT composition and the secretary within four weeks.

The joint visit will be planned according to the guidelines set by both EADI/IAC and NVAO. The institution, in consultation with EADI/IAC and NVAO, decides on the length of the visit. The accreditation process shall take place in English.

## 2. Self-evaluation report

The self-evaluation report is a concise document that provides information and addresses all standards from both assessment frameworks. The PRT should be able to easily identify the standards from both frameworks, for instance by means of a list that indicates where relevant information to judge (sub)standards can be found.

## 3. Assessment frameworks

Both EADI/IAC and NVAO accredit at programme level and the contents of the two frameworks are to a large extent overlapping. The main difference between the accreditation frameworks is the level of detail: the EADI/IAC framework is specifically focused on the inter- and multidisciplinary field of development studies.

The NVAO limited and extensive programme assessment frameworks cover the EADI/IAC criteria on intended learning outcomes, curriculum and assessment to a large extent. Therefore, programmes opting for a joint assessment may use NVAO framework (limited or extended) as a basis for the accreditation process.

The NVAO frameworks require programmes to justify their choice for the teaching language if a programme is taught in a language other than Dutch. This also applies if the programme uses a foreign language name. The programme should also demonstrate that teachers have a sufficient command of the language in which they are teaching. In addition, the extensive assessment framework of NVAO requires programmes to demonstrate that staff policy is conducive in this respect. These elements are not covered in the EADI/IAC-frameworks.

In addition, the following specifications should be addressed in order to comply with the EADI/IAC criteria (see annexed IAC/EADI Guide for Peer Review, 2018):

- Standard 1 intended learning outcomes: the international perspective of the requirements according to professional field and discipline will be specified according to criteria 2.2, substantiation items C 1 to 9 on development studies and the questions B 1-3 on inter- and multidisciplinary of the EADI/IAC criteria 2.1.
- Standard 2 Teaching-learning environment: with respect to content and design the reference points D1.1-3 of the EADI/IAC criteria 2.3 concerning development studies as a case-oriented, issue-oriented and policy-oriented field will serve as additional

specifications. With respect to criteria 2.6 on incoming students the same goes for items G3-6 of the prerequisites, admission criteria and background of students . Regarding staff items H 3-6 of the EADI/IAC criteria 2.7 concerning faculty will serve as additional specifications.

#### **4. Distinctive feature (optional)**

For the allotment of a distinctive feature, the relevant framework used by the NVAO needs to be applied for assessment. This means that the PRT must comply with the guidelines set for the procedure and must assess and judge the standards from the relevant framework.

#### **5. Peer Review Report**

The Peer Review Report is the outcome of the work of the PRT. The report should enable both accreditation organisations to make an accreditation decision substantiated with evidence from the review. Both organisations accept a joint report, as long as all standards from both frameworks are addressed and it is clearly indicated which sections address specific (EADI/IAC) standards.

The NVAO assessment framework prescribes the need for a judgment per standard (meets the standard, partially meets the standard, or does not meet the standard) and per programme (positive, conditionally positive, negative). For NVAO to decide on accreditation the PRT needs to state and motivate these judgments in the report. In addition, a substantive summary of the report needs to be added to the report. This is not the case for the EADI/IAC criteria. The PRT's task is to provide relevant information to the EADI/IAC Accreditation Council.

The draft report is sent to the institution. The institution is given a term of two weeks to respond to any factual inaccuracies in the report, whereupon the chair of the PRT endorses the report after all PRT members have approved its contents. Subsequently, the PRT submits its final report and recommendations to the EADI/IAC and NVAO.

The report will be published on the NVAO and the EADI/IAC websites for any stakeholder to access and read.

#### **6. Duration of accreditation**

The duration of the NVAO accreditation is six years for new programmes and for an indefinite period for existing programmes. All programs must be assessed by an NVAO approved panel of independent experts and apply for the continuation of their accreditation every six years. Accreditation by EADI/IAC emanating from a joint EADI/IAC-NVAO process is granted for six years.

#### **7. Separate decision processes**

The EADI/IAC and the NVAO board will both make their own decisions and decide on the possible follow-up, based on the Peer Review Report and the assessment frameworks applicable for their respective organisations. The EAD/IAC will conform to the NVAO time schedule.

This collaboration agreement between EADI/IAC and NVAO ensures institutions an efficient and effective procedure for acquiring double accreditation. NVAO strives for as much reduction of the administrative burden of accreditation processes as possible and therefore strives, when possible, to combine all accreditation processes an institution is involved in.

The Hague, 18 May 2021, (updated from the original agreement of October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

On behalf of EADI/IAC

On behalf of EADI

On behalf of NVAO

Prof. Laura Camfield  
Chair  
EADI/IAC

Mrs. Susanne von Itter  
Executive Secretary  
EADI

Dr. Anneke Luijten-Lub  
Member of the Board  
NVAO