

## **The HAC's Tasks**

### **Expert Activity for Public Administration Procedures**

#### ***Granting operating licenses for higher education institutions and reviewing operating licenses***

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions for granting operating licenses of higher education institutions and in procedures to review such operating licenses.

In the course of preparing its expert opinion, the HAC assesses education, scientific research and artistic activities against standards set down in legislation and the HAC's assessment criteria. In addition, it assesses for which field of study and/or discipline and educational level the institution the institutions meets the necessary requirements.

#### ***Changing information set down in a higher education institution's deed of foundation***

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues an expert opinion in procedures aiming to change any information with respect to scientific and related educational and research matters set down in a higher education institution's founding deed.

#### ***Granting operating licenses and reviewing education***

##### **Establishing bachelor and master programs**

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions on applications for establishing new bachelor or master programs.

In developing its expert opinion, the HAC examines whether the proposed education and outcome requirements for the new program developed by the applicant institution comply with the legal framework. Moreover, the HAC examines whether the education and outcome requirements provide a suitable basis for designing a study program that will ensure that students are able to attain the knowledge and competences appropriate for the given level that will allow them to advance to a higher qualification level or to obtain a scientific degree in the given field, and that meet the needs of the job market.

##### **Launching new bachelor and master programs**

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions in procedures for licensing or reviewing (or discontinuing) bachelor or master programs at higher education institutions.

In developing its expert opinion, the HAC examines whether the institution has worked out an educational plan for the proposed program in accordance with the legal framework and the appropriate education and outcome requirements. The HAC further examines whether the program or proposed program ensures that students are able to attain the knowledge and competences appropriate for the given level that will allow them to advance to a higher qualification level or obtain a scientific degree in the given field, and which meet the needs of the job market. Moreover the HAC examines whether the institution's staff and facilities ensure the quality of education and research.

##### **Hungarian higher education institutions launching off-site programs abroad**

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions in procedures for licensing or reviewing (or discontinuing) bachelor or master programs offered by higher

education institutions off site in a foreign country.

In developing its expert opinion, the HAC examines the program against its regular standards and criteria. In addition, it examines whether the site has the needed administration and facilities at the site.

#### ***Establishing and launching doctoral schools and doctoral education***

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions in procedures for establishing or discontinuing doctoral schools.

#### ***Operating licenses for foreign higher education institutions in Hungary***

On request of the Education Authority, the HAC issues expert opinions for licensing foreign higher education institutions in Hungary or in procedures reviewing such operating licenses.

### **Other activities**

#### ***Issuing opinions on university professor applications***

On request of a higher education institution, the HAC issues its opinion on applications for university professorships in procedures to grant professorial positions.

In developing its expert opinion on university professorial positions, the HAC examines on the basis of the application whether the applicant complies with the conditions for such positions set down in the Higher Education Act Section 28 (5) and assesses the applicant's teaching and scientific or artistic qualifications.

On request of the Minister to conduct an appeals procedure, the HAC Appeals Board issues an expert opinion on the application.

#### ***Accreditation and quality assessment supporting the enhancement of higher education programs and higher education institutions***

On request of the Education Authority or the Minister, the HAC carries out assessments and issues reports relating to the enhancement of higher education programs and higher education institutions.

On request of a higher education institution, the HAC assesses the higher education institution and its quality assurance system.

Following a timetable agreed on with the Education Authority and in conjunction with the review of operating licenses of higher education institutions, the HAC conducts institutional and program accreditation at operating higher education institutions.

### **Institutional accreditation**

Following a timetable agreed on with the Education Authority and in conjunction with the review of operating licenses of higher education institutions, the HAC assesses and accredits the conditions for education, scientific research and artistic activity and the organizational and operational arrangements at higher education institutions in five-year cycles, in accordance with its assessment criteria based on the ESG, and with special regard to the content of the institution's quality development scheme. It assesses whether the scheme is in compliance with the ESG, its organizational background, how it is executed and its outcomes evaluated, and how the outcome requirements are monitored.

## **Program accreditation**

Following a timetable agreed on with the Education Authority the HAC conducts program accreditation by conducting the analysis, evaluation and accreditation of bachelor and master programs in groups of study fields and branches<sup>1</sup> based on its evaluation standards and criteria, and focusing on the outcome requirements.

## **Accreditation of doctoral schools**

In conducting the accreditation of doctoral schools, the HAC evaluates the staff and facilities supporting doctoral schools as well as the education and research or artistic activity at the doctoral schools. Based on the results, it accredits them on the basis of its standards and criteria.

## **Monitoring/follow-up procedures**

Based on its evaluation standards and criteria, the HAC conducts follow-up procedures to monitor the development of education, scientific research or artistic activity at higher education institutions and monitors in how far they accomplish the measures set down in their quality development program and the observations and recommendations for quality enhancement after previous evaluation procedures.

### ***International quality enhancement***

The HAC keeps track of higher education quality development in the European Higher Education Area and participates actively in international activities related to higher education quality enhancement.

### ***Issuing opinions on draft laws***

If requested, the HAC issues its opinion on draft legislation.

### ***Initiating reviews of legal compliance***

If there are substantial reasons to initiate a review by the Education Authority, the HAC will initiate such a review.

If there are substantial reasons to initiate a review of sound legality, the HAC will initiate such a review by the Minister.

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<sup>1</sup> The branches of study within individual study fields are set down in Government Decree 289/2005. (XII. 22.)