



Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality
Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care

AppliedHE™

Skills and Job Ready. Future Proof

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality
Assurance in Education and Healthcare (ECAQA)**

Republic of Kazakhstan

and

AppliedHE Pte Ltd

Singapore

The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA) is a non-governmental, non-for-profit organization that is recognised by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and included in the National Register of Recognised Accrediting Agency (Register 1)

ECAQA as a specialized/professional accreditation agency in medicine, biomedicine and health sciences is included in the Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), USA; The Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group (CHEA/CIQG) International Directory, USA; the Asia-Pacific Quality Register in Higher Education (APQR)

ECAQA is a Full Member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA), the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Member of the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG).

ECAQA has signed the Memorandum of Affiliation: Promotion Partnership in Quality Assurance to implement CHEA's International Quality Principles (2015) at the higher education institutions in Kazakhstan.

ECAQA is an External Quality Assurance Agency that authorised to evaluate and accredit the higher education institutions and educational programmes including the medical and other healthcare professions education.

ECAQA contributes to the Higher Education Institutions in their capacity building process; introduction of the quality culture within institution; provision of the educational expertise in health professions education and public health; provision all stakeholders with the relevant information about the quality of the higher education institutions and the educational programmes (Bachelor, Master's Degree, PhD, Residency-Postgraduate Speciality Training, CPD), Vocational and Professional Programmes (Post-secondary non-tertiary education, Short-cycle tertiary education) undergoing accreditation.

AppliedHE™ is a unified brand for all employment-ready, future-focused higher education that prepares students for a clearly defined job or occupational pathway.

AppliedHE™ helps higher education institutions to:

- communicate with career-minded students, their future employers and other key higher education stakeholders;

- engage effectively with their international peers, industry and government actors with the aim of improving their overall institutional and education performance;
- brand themselves worldwide as leading institutions that make a positive contribution to economy and society, taking advantage of existing university ranking systems

Recognising the importance of

- Ratings, Rankings, and Quality Assurance and Accreditation in the development and improvement of higher education including medical and other healthcare professions education at the national and international levels;
- AppliedHE™ new initiatives and AppliedHE™ JOB-Ready, EMI-Ready, and ONLINE-Rating Systems is an independent and international higher education rating system that recognizes excellence in employability, industry collaboration and teaching & learning;
- ECAQA's external and internal quality assurance dimensions that support and enhance capacity-building of the higher education institutions in order to meet the predefined standards and guidelines such as: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG2015); WHO/WFME Guidelines on accreditation in basic medical education; the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Global Standards for Quality Improvement in Medical Education (Basic, Postgraduate Medical Education and CPD, Master Degree's Programmes); Standards for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in Europe of the Organisation for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System (ORPHEUS), Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) and WFME; WHO Global standards for the initial education of professional nurses and midwives that include the Higher Education Institutions and National Health Care System's needs and priorities.

Mindful of each party's achievements in the higher education field;

and

Desiring to strengthen and broaden cooperation and mutual assistance in the provision of higher education in their respective countries on the principle of equality and mutual benefit;

Have reached the following understanding *to interalia*:

Clause 1

The Parties agree to establish and develop cooperation in Ratings, Rankings and Accreditation in the development of higher education including medical and healthcare professions education.

The parties aim to work to enhance understanding of each other's approach to rating, ranking, assuring quality in higher education and the respective systems in place.

Clause 2

This Memorandum provides the areas of cooperation for developing and implementation of joint projects, events and other forms of cooperation in purpose of achieving effective results.

In order to reach common goals and results, Parties will consider the following ways (but not limited to):

- Introduction of AppliedHE™ developments and AppliedHE™ Rating Systems to recognize quality and drive improvement as well as to achieve excellence in skills-based employment-focused higher education;
- Introduction and promotion of AppliedHE™ JOB-Ready Rating System (Employment Clusters), EMI-Ready Rating, ONLINE-Ready Rating and international initiatives by AppliedHE™ and ECAQA jointly hosting an event in Kazakhstan and CIS countries (AppliedHE™ Xchange in CIS);
- Designing and conducting joint AppliedHE™ subject/discipline-centred events including professional/specialised seminars (on-line and off-line) with invitation of international experts, webinars, innovation or research projects, international conference for higher education leaders and faculty that showcases international best practices in the areas of improving graduate employability, entrepreneurship, branding & marketing and industry collaboration;
- Introduction and Pilot study of the AppliedHE™ JOB-Ready Rating System (22 Employment Clusters), EMI-Ready Rating and ONLINE-Ready Rating at Kazakhstan Universities to promote skills-based and employment-focused higher education and to be recognised as an international multi-dimensional rating system that includes the perspectives of students, faculty, employers and alumni, providing an all-round perspective of an institution;
- Incorporation of the AppliedHE™ Rating System Surveys (students, faculty, employers, alumni) into ECAQA accreditation process and the employment and labour market outcomes of graduate students (employment rate, graduate

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satisfaction, employer satisfaction) should be considered in the decision making process as well as to inform the community of the result of this analysis.

- Development and Implementation of the National Survey of Graduates Kazakhstan Higher Education Institutions in Healthcare professions, Education and the National Employment Study to enhance the quality of educational programme and quality of learning and teaching,
- Participation in international events, seminars or conferences organized by one of the Party;
- Introduction of the development of programmes for institutional and research capacity building, faculty development and national experts training in quality assurance in higher education.

Clause 3

Both Parties agree that all activities specified in Clause 2 of the present Memorandum are to be realized on the basis of specific contracts or terms of reference, to be concluded by Parties on each joint project and detailed work plans and programs which shall include specific information on planned joint activities, organizational forms, implementation requirements based on individual agreements and contracts.

Clause 4

Both Parties regard the present Memorandum as a declaration of intentions, which entails no legal and financial liabilities on joint activities of the Parties. The Parties agree that all practical questions related to organization of specific activities based on Clause 1 and Clause 2 of the present Memorandum will be separately negotiated and agreed between the authorized representatives of both Parties. The partners respect the principles of mutual interaction and equality

Clause 5

The Parties shall keep secret all confidential data and information which has become known in the process of the cooperative activities, except that data and information which has become public knowledge through no fault of the parties.

Clause 6.

The memorandum will take effect from date of signing for a period of **10 years**. The memorandum may be altered at any time with the consent of both parties. The Memorandum may be terminated by either party giving 6 (six) months prior notice.

Clause 7.

The Director General of ECAQA and the CEO of AppliedHE™ will have responsibility for managing the Memorandum of Understanding. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant member of their staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

**Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and
Quality Assurance in Higher Education
and Health care (ECAQA)**

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