

AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST



**EURASIAN CENTRE FOR ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE**

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ALMATY 2026

Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

To avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest, ECAQA Accreditation Council Members, Expert Board Members, and ECAQA staff who are involved in ECAQA accreditation activities (hereafter referred to as ECAQA Representatives) must agree in writing to abide by the following policies:

External Evaluations and Decisions on Accreditation. No ECAQA Representative will participate in accreditation process, or in discussions or voting at ECAQA meetings, if the organisation being evaluated or discussed is:

1. One in which the Representative or an immediate family member (defined as a spouse, life partner, child, parent, or sibling) has been connected as an administrative officer, staff member, employee, or contracted agent within the past three years.
2. One in which the Representative or an immediate family member has interviewed for or been in employment within the past two years.
3. Part of an organisation where the Representative is employed.
4. Engaged in substantial cooperative or contractual arrangements with the employer of the Representative or an immediate family member.
5. One that has engaged the Representative or an immediate family member as a paid consultant within the past five years on matters such as evaluation, organisational structure or design, management, or finances. Provision of short- term services (such as giving guest lectures) is not considered consulting that poses a conflict of interest.
6. One in which the Representative or an immediate family member has any financial, political, professional, or other interest that may conflict with the interests of the ECAQA.
7. One in which the Representative believes that there may be a conflict due to other circumstances, such as participation in review for other organisations, close personal relationships with individuals at the organisation under review, etc.
8. One in which the organisation under review has reason to believe, and can document to the satisfaction of the ECAQA, that the participation of the Representative could be unfairly prejudicial.

Consultations: No Representative will act as a paid or unpaid consultant on ECAQA accreditation matters during their service with ECAQA, and for a period of three years after completion of their service to ECAQA, to any accrediting agencies subject to ECAQA accreditation.

ECAQA Discretion: Whenever in these guidelines a term is not expressly defined, the definition of such term and its potential for creating a conflict of interest shall be at the sole discretion of the ECAQA or, upon the ECAQA determination, at the sole discretion of ECAQA.