



EXTENDED DEADLINE

Open Call for Quality Experts to Participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Evaluation Mission

Quality assurance in higher education institutions is one core basis for revitalizing higher education in Africa. The Commission of the African Union therefore spearheaded the development of the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) to establish an African system that will ensure that the performance of higher education institutions can be measured against a set of agreed criteria, and to help the institutions carry out self-evaluation exercises to support the development of institutional culture of quality.

The importance of harmonization and quality assurance in higher education is recognized as a key area of collaboration under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, to establish compatible structures and systems which would facilitate academic mobility and foster comparability among qualifications.

Adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union in 2007, the AQRM holds much prospect for improving the quality of higher education in Africa by fostering the development of internal quality assurance systems in institutions, providing a means for external validation of quality assessment, and a tool for strategic planning. The AQRM implementation supports the work of national, regional and continental quality assurance bodies. It also supports African higher education institutions to take ownership of their own quality assurance processes and use the quality rating mechanism as one means of supporting continuous quality improvements. A pilot self-rating exercise was conducted in 2010 in which 32 institutions participated. Based on the experience and feedback gained from the pilot survey, a revised version of the AQRM questionnaire and rating instrument has been developed.

In collaboration with the Association of African Universities, the Commission of the African Union has made an open call to African Universities to participate in the AQRM exercise. The revised AQRM Questionnaire and self-rating instrument can be downloaded (in English or French version) at www.au.int

For selected Universities, the self-rating of the institutions will be validated by international external reviewers through site visits to the respective universities. The

outcome of the AQRM exercise will be published and disseminated to various stakeholders of the academic community.

The Commission of the African Union is pleased to make this open call for higher education quality experts to serve as Quality Reviewers in the AQRM Review process.

Several Teams of three international quality experts (two Africans and one European) will be set up that will undertake AQRM Evaluation Missions. Each team of quality experts will carry out evaluation missions to two universities from two different African countries. Each evaluation mission is expected to last three days.

The review exercise is scheduled for May to July 2014.

A modest honorarium will be paid to each quality reviewer per evaluation mission. The travel costs and full board hotel accommodation will also be paid during the mission.

MAIN TASKS

The Quality Reviewers will undertake the following activities:

- i. Carefully read and analyse the AQRM Questionnaires and self-rating of two universities that have participated in the AQRM survey.
- ii. Make a tour of the university' campus to inspect buildings, facilities and look over the overall environment.
- iii. Visit classrooms, laboratories, libraries, computer centers to inspect facilities and evaluate the quality of infrastructure and material resources.
- iv. Evaluate the quality of students support services and the overall academic staff profile (qualifications and rank).
- v. Inspect relevant documents, as appropriate.
- vi. Hold meetings with senior management, academic staff and students to get more insight into the university situation.
- vii. Evaluate internal quality assurance processes of the university. The evaluation will take into account the AQRM survey questionnaires responses.
- viii. Based on findings, validate the self-rating of the university and assign an overall Quality Rating to the institution.

- ix. Provide recommendations on modalities and approaches for improving quality of the university's education provision.
- x. The Quality Experts will be required to produce and submit electronic copies of the Evaluation Report.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS OF QUALITY EXPERTS

The Quality Experts should have:

- a) A relevant postgraduate qualification.
- b) At least 10 years of experience in the area of higher education quality assurance or management.
- c) Relevant knowledge and experience in doing quality assessments and programme evaluation.
- d) Experience in quality audit and accreditation evaluations.
- e) Good communication skills in speaking and in writing (English or French). A good command of other AU languages is additional advantage.
- f) Excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in preparing evaluation reports

Interested and qualified quality experts are invited to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Evaluation Mission. To apply, please fill in the application form below, and send it back as scanned PDF copy by email to the following address **before 15th March 2014**.

aqrm@africa-union.org

Please contact aqrm@africa-union.org for more information.

Applicants are kindly requested to include a two-page CV with focus on their knowledge and experience in higher education Quality Assurance, programme assessment, institutional quality audit, and accreditation exercise.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the application deadline.



Application to participate in the AQRM Evaluation Mission

- Applicants Name _____
Current Address: _____
Email: _____ Tel. _____
- Country of Citizenship: _____
- Gender: Male Female
- Field of Specialization: _____
- Qualification: Master's PhD Other _____

A two-page CV is attached with focus on my knowledge and experience in quality assurance and assessment, quality audit and accreditation. Yes No

Herewith, I apply to participate in the AQRM Evaluation Mission.

Date of Application: _____

Signature: _____