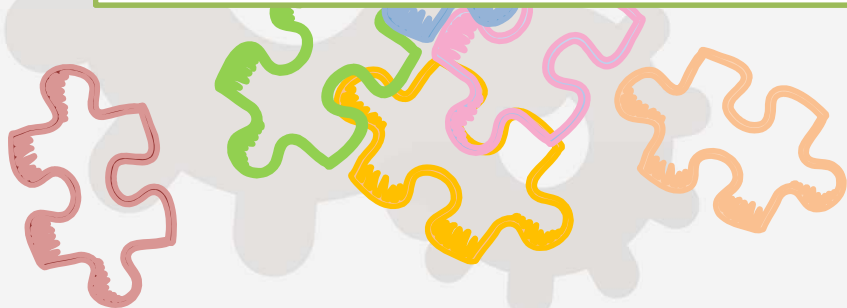


# Introduction on “Higher Education Quality Evaluation System”

The Higher Education Quality Evaluation System is established by Chapter VII (Higher Education Quality Assurance) of Law No. 10/2017 “Higher Education Regime”. Thus the implementation is regulated by Administrative Regulation No. 17/2018 (Higher Education Quality Evaluation System).



## Purposes of Establishing Higher Education Quality Evaluation System

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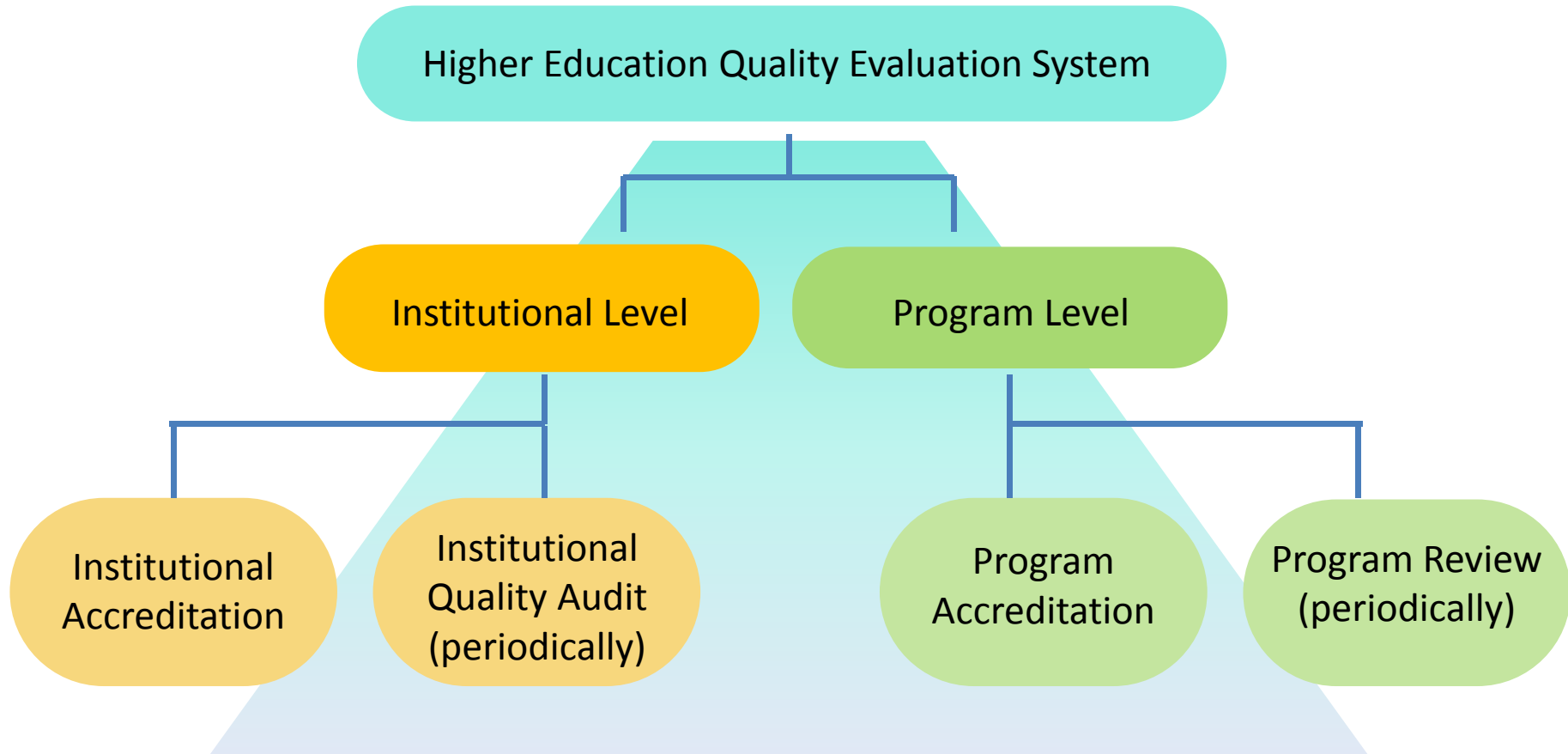
To continuously enhance and guarantee the quality of Macao's higher education.

To reinforce the autonomy and responsibility of higher education institutions.

To correspond to for the trend of global higher education development.



# Structure of the Higher Education Quality Evaluation System





# The Evaluation Guidelines

All evaluation exercises shall be carried out according to the following Guidelines, especially the evaluation areas, criteria and related procedures.



Guidelines on Institutional Accreditation

Guidelines on Institutional Quality Audit

Guidelines on Program Accreditation

Guidelines on Program Review

Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies

Guidelines can be downloaded at: <https://www.dses.gov.mo/institutions/qualityassurance>



## External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAAs)

All evaluation exercises shall be approved by the government department which oversees higher education issues (Higher Education Bureau, hereinafter DSES).

Higher education institutions (HEIs) have to select EQAAs based on the institutions' features and development and the requirements of the QA guidelines. For details, please refer to *Guidelines for EQAAs* Section A (1).

The service agreement signed between the HEI and the EQAA shall include scope of evaluation service, roles and responsibilities of both parties, evaluation expenses, terms of appeal or review mechanism, etc.



## What is Institutional Accreditation (IA)?

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Institutional Accreditation (IA) evaluates whether the operation of HEIs and the programs offered meet their stated goals and objectives, as well as the QA requirements of Macao, through various aspects of institutional operation.

HEIs can conduct IA either for the entire institution or for specific disciplines/ academic units and academic levels.

## Relationship between Institutional Accreditation (IA) and the Status to self-regulate and Offer New Programs

- HEIs that has achieved “meeting accreditation standards” or “meeting accreditation standards with condition(s) ” (fulfilling condition(s) successfully) in IA can apply for status to self-regulate and offer new programs.
- Scope as following:

Entire or part of HEIs	Disciplines/ academic units
	Academic levels

- The scope and validity of the Status shall be published in Official Gazette of the Macao SAR by the order of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, the validity period is normally the same as the duration of one Institutional Quality Audit cycle (i.e. 7 years).
- HEIs may extend and renew the Status by completing IA again before the expiry of validity period.

# What is Institutional Quality Audit (IQA)?

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Institutional Quality Audit (IQA) reviews the operation of an institution on a regular basis to identify its good practices and areas of improvement for the purpose of enhancing educational quality, and pursuit of excellence.

IQA is conducted once a cycle (7 years).





# What is Program Accreditation (PA)?



Program Accreditation (PA) evaluates whether a program meets its program objectives and enable students to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

## Scope:

HEIs without status to self-regulate and offer new programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To launch new programs</li><li>2. To make substantial changes to existing programs *</li><li>3. Other situations: In case of suspension of program operation, suspension of new students admission, and absence of enrolments for 7 consecutive years or more have to complete PA before operating again.</li></ol>
Outside the scope of the Status to self-regulate and offer new programs	

\* Substantial changes refer to changes in the approved terms of the program that lead to a major impact .

# What is Program Review (PR)?



Program Review (PR) is a periodic review to ensure the quality and continuous improvement of programs, and to evaluate whether the programs and its operation meets with the requirements.

Applicable to all approved higher education programs offered by local HEIs to be delivered in Macao.

PR is conducted once a cycle (7 years)

HEIs can negotiate with EQAAs to conduct PR on a single program or on more than one program as a cluster.

# Evaluation Outcomes

**Institutional Accreditation  
and Program Accreditation**

Meeting accreditation standards

Meeting accreditation standards  
with condition(s)

Not meeting accreditation standards

**Institutional Quality Audit  
and Program Review**

Commendations

Affirmations

Recommendations

Note:

DSES has the right to disclose in whole or in part of the evaluation report.

# Exemption Clause

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## Exemption

HEIs can apply for exemption from Program Review:

- Academic or teaching units that have obtained professional accreditation can apply for PR exemption (for programs under the same academic or teaching unit) in accordance to its scope and validity.
- Operating programs that have obtained professional accreditation can apply for PR exemption in accordance to the scope and validity of the professional accreditation.

## Exemption

HEIs which are granted “meeting accreditation standards” or “meeting accreditation standards with condition(s) (fulling condition(s) successfully) in Institutional Accreditation can apply for exemption from IQA in that particular cycle.

# Quality Review of non-local Higher Education Programs

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DSES may entrust academic experts, academic organizations or external quality assurance entities to evaluate the quality of non-local higher education programs.

If the operating conditions of programs remain unchanged, the validity of the evaluation outcomes is generally 7 years.

The local collaborating entities should bear the costs of the quality evaluation.



## The Quality Evaluation Panel

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The Quality Evaluation Panel is of advisory nature.

The Panel is responsible for discussing, analyzing and commenting on cases passed from DSES.

The Panel is composed of no more than 7 local and non-local experts and academics in the field of higher education or evaluation.

The Panel is appointed by the order of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture.



# Transitional Arrangement

## 1. New programs or programs with substantial changes

- Program Accreditation is not compulsory in the 1-year transitional period of the effective date of the administrative regulation.
- After 1 year of the effective date of the administrative regulation, all new programs or programs with substantial changes are subject to Program Accreditation.

## 2. Non-local higher education programs

- There is a 1-year transitional period for non-local programs after the effective date of this administrative regulation, it is not necessary for quality evaluation within the transitional period.
- All non-local higher education programs are subject to quality review after 1 year of the effective of the Administrative Regulation.



## Scheduling of 1st Evaluation Cycle and Respective Validity Period

### 1. Program Review

- Programs that are in operation at the effective date this Administrative regulation must complete PR according to the following schedule:

1st evaluation cycle	No. of programs to complete PR (cumulative percentage)
1st to 4th year (August 2018 to August 2022)	at least 50%
5th to 6th year (August 2022 to August 2024)	at least 80%
7th year (August 2024 to August 2025)	100%

- HEIs have to complete the next PR within seven years counting from the day DSES confirmed the evaluation outcome.





## Scheduling of 1st Evaluation Cycle and Respective Validity Period (cont.)

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### 2. Institutional Quality Audit

- 1<sup>st</sup> evaluation cycle: within 7 years.
- Subsequent cycles: to be completed within seven years counting from the day DSES confirmed the evaluation outcome.