

Memorandum of Understanding between China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education of the UK

The memorandum is jointly made by China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC) and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education of the UK (QAA).

CDGDC was established in 2003, evolving from National Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre founded in 1998. It is an administrative institution directly under the Ministry of Education (MOE), operating under the joint leadership of MOE and Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council (ADCSC). The main functions of CDGDC include undertaking the task of evaluating, appraising and research of academic degrees and graduate education; engaging in the researches into the degree equivalency between China and foreign countries, and providing services for degree and related materials accreditation, authentication and consulting, etc.

Established in 1997, QAA is an independent agency safeguarding quality and standards of higher education qualifications in UK higher education. QAA meets its responsibilities by conducting reviews of universities and colleges and publishing the reports; QAA also informs and encourages continuous improvement in the management of the quality of UK higher education through the Academic Infrastructure, a set of reference points for quality and standards developed with higher education institutions in the UK.

1. The Aim of the Memorandum

CDGDC and QAA agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to support developing collaboration for mutual benefits and establish a constructive partnership, to strengthen external quality assurance within the two parties' extent of power and to enhance the quality of higher education in both countries.

2. The Scope of Collaboration

The two parties will develop collaboration in the following areas:

2.1 Jointly conduct research and publish comparative studies in higher education on:

2.1.1 the certificates and academic degrees at higher education levels, the quality assurance of degrees and the qualifications frameworks of the two countries.

2.1.2 a handbook on Sino-UK higher education including Sino-UK higher education system, quality assurance system and glossary. The details are to be discussed further by the two parties.

2.2 Jointly conduct research on evaluation standards for higher education quality assurance, standards for the specific disciplines, develop the standards for Sino-UK joint programmes, and implement the evaluation and accreditation of Sino-UK joint programmes.

2.3 Enhance information exchange including jointly convening conferences on degree and higher education quality assurance, and the verification and recognition of degrees and related academic certificates.

2.4 When both parties agree and conditions allow, both parties will send experts as observers to take part in each others' evaluation activities.

3. The Amendment

The Memorandum can be amended with the agreement of both parties.

4. Funding Resource

Generally each party needs to cover the costs for accomplishing its own programme. The two parties agree to discuss when exceptional cases happen.

5. Projects and Logistic Arrangement


All the projects and activities under the Memorandum will be discussed in details and confirmed by the two parties as the Appendix of the Memorandum.

6. Valid Period

The Memorandum will take effect on the day the two parties sign and for five years. The valid period will automatically extend for another five years if neither party notifies the other party three months before the end of the first 5-year valid period.

The Memorandum is written in both Chinese and English texts. Each party holds one copy of the Memorandum in its own language. Both texts are equally authentic.

China Academic Degrees and
Postgraduate Education
Development Centre



Date:

The Quality Assurance
Agency for Higher
Education of the UK



Date: 8. 11. 10