



Standard Memorandum of Understanding Package

Document 1: Memorandum of Understanding

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Approving Body: IAPUC Board of Directors

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (IAPUC)

AND

[PARTNER ORGANISATION NAME]

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on this [] day of [],
20[] (hereinafter referred to as the "Effective Date")

BETWEEN:

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (IAPUC), a non-profit organisation registered in the State of Colorado, United States of America (Registration No. 20251179157), with its principal office at [Address], represented for the purposes of this Memorandum by [Name and Title], (hereinafter referred to as "IAPUC")

AND

[PARTNER ORGANISATION NAME] , a [type of organisation] established under the laws of [Country], with its principal office at [Address], represented for the purposes of this Memorandum by [Name and Title], (hereinafter referred to as the "**Partner**")

(IAPUC and the Partner are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "**Parties**" and individually as a "**Party**".)

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS IAPUC is the world's only multi-disciplinary comprehensive quality assurance body exclusively dedicated to private higher education institutions, operating under a robust governance framework comprising a General Assembly, a Board of Directors, an independent Accreditation Decision Committee (ADC), and a dedicated Secretariat, with its Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) framework grounded in the three pillars of mission-driven purpose, outcomes-based assessment, and performance excellence;

WHEREAS IAPUC maintains operations across 37 countries and territories, with its Secretariat based at Fuyao University of Science and Technology, and is committed to promoting quality assurance excellence, transparency, and continuous improvement in private higher education worldwide;

WHEREAS [Partner Organisation Name] is [brief description of the Partner's mission, scope, and standing in the field of higher education or quality assurance];

WHEREAS both Parties share a common commitment to advancing the quality, integrity, and international recognition of higher education, and recognise the value of cooperation in achieving their respective missions;

WHEREAS the Parties acknowledge that mutual recognition agreements and collaborative frameworks between quality assurance organisations enhance transparency, facilitate the mobility of students and academics, and provide essential information on the quality of educational institutions and programmes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a formal framework for cooperation between IAPUC and the Partner, to declare the Partner as a recognised collaborating organisation of IAPUC, to recognise their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and tertiary education institutions, and to establish the objectives, parameters and resources for joint activities and mutual support.

1.2 Objectives

The specific objectives of this Memorandum are to:

- (a) **Establish Ties of Cooperation:** To establish and maintain ties of friendship and cooperation between the Parties, founded on mutual respect, shared values, and a common commitment to quality assurance in higher education;
- (b) **Build Mutual Understanding:** To build a common understanding that contributes to mutual trust and the strengthening of good practices in quality assurance of higher education, including through the exchange of information, expertise, and experience;
- (c) **Enhance International Dialogue:** To reinforce and broaden cooperation and the exchange of experience in quality assurance of higher education across their respective regions and globally;
- (d) **Promote Mutual Recognition:** To explore and facilitate, where appropriate, the mutual recognition of accreditation and quality assurance outcomes, including through criteria mapping and the recognition of evaluation processes;
- (e) **Develop Joint Initiatives:** To develop and implement joint projects, activities, events, and other forms of cooperation in areas of mutual interest;
- (f) **Strengthen Quality Assurance Capacity:** To contribute to the strengthening of quality assurance capacity in private higher education, particularly in regions where such capacity is developing.

ARTICLE 2: AREAS OF COOPERATION

2.1 General Areas

The Parties shall cooperate in the following general areas:

- (a) **Information Exchange:** The exchange of information, data, and expertise on quality assurance policies, practices, standards, and procedures, including but not limited to accreditation methodologies, assessment frameworks, and quality enhancement initiatives;
- (b) **Staff Development:** The development and implementation of professional development programmes, training workshops, and capacity-building activities for quality assurance professionals, peer reviewers, and institutional leaders;
- (c) **Joint Research:** Collaborative research activities related to quality assurance in higher education, including comparative studies, benchmarking exercises, and the development of good practice guidelines;
- (d) **Mutual Understanding:** Activities designed to enhance each Party's understanding of the other's approach to assuring quality in higher education, the respective systems in place for quality assurance and enhancement, and the critical matters related to quality and harmonisation of standards and good practices;

(e) **Dissemination and Outreach:** Joint dissemination of research findings, quality assurance standards, and good practice guidelines through publications, conferences, seminars, and other appropriate channels;

(f) **Membership Development:** Collaboration to increase respective membership and to promote the value of quality assurance to institutions and stakeholders.

2.2 Specific Cooperation Activities

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Parties may engage in the following specific cooperation activities:

(a) **Recognition of Reviews:** To recognise evaluation conducted by the Partner as parallel to IAPUC's relevant quality assurance pathways, through a criteria mapping mechanism or other mutually agreed framework;

(b) **Joint Events:** To organise joint conferences, seminars, workshops, and training programmes on topics of mutual interest;

(c) **Peer Review Collaboration:** To facilitate the exchange of peer reviewers and experts for quality assurance and accreditation activities;

(d) **Policy Development:** To collaborate on the development of policies, standards, and guidelines for quality assurance in private higher education;

(e) **International Representation:** To coordinate positions and represent shared interests in international forums, including but not limited to UNESCO, INQAAHE, and other relevant international bodies;

(f) **Capacity Building:** To develop and implement capacity-building activities, such as bespoke workshops and training programmes, particularly in regions where quality assurance capacity is developing.

ARTICLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

3.1 Liaison Officers

Each Party shall designate a liaison officer responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Memorandum. The liaison officers shall:

(a) Serve as the primary point of contact between the Parties;

(b) Facilitate communication and the exchange of information;

(c) Coordinate the planning and implementation of joint activities;

(d) Report on progress and identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation.

3.2 Joint Committee

3.2.1 The Parties shall establish a Joint Committee to oversee the implementation of

this Memorandum. The Joint Committee shall be composed of representatives designated by each Party.

3.2.2 The Joint Committee shall:

- (a) Review the progress of cooperation under this Memorandum;
- (b) Identify priorities for joint activities;
- (c) Approve specific cooperation programmes and projects;
- (d) Resolve any issues or disputes arising from the implementation of this Memorandum;
- (e) Report to the respective governing bodies of each Party on the implementation of this Memorandum.

3.2.3 The Joint Committee shall meet at least once annually, alternatively at the premises of each Party, or by videoconference as mutually agreed.

3.3 Working Groups

The Parties may establish ad hoc working groups to address specific areas of cooperation or to implement particular projects. Each working group shall be composed of experts designated by each Party and shall operate under terms of reference approved by the Joint Committee.

3.4 Specific Agreements

3.4.1 This Memorandum provides the general framework for cooperation between the Parties. Specific cooperation activities may be implemented through separate agreements, project plans, or terms of reference, which shall be consistent with the provisions of this Memorandum.

3.4.2 Such specific agreements shall be subject to the approval of the Joint Committee and, where required, the respective governing bodies of each Party.

ARTICLE 4: MUTUAL RECOGNITION

4.1 Recognition of Quality Assurance Outcomes

4.1.1 The Parties shall work towards the mutual recognition of their respective quality assurance and accreditation outcomes, in accordance with applicable national and international standards and guidelines.

4.1.2 Such recognition shall be based on the principle of substantial equivalence, whereby the Parties acknowledge that their respective quality assurance frameworks, while possibly differing in detail, are comparable in terms of rigour, reliability, and effectiveness.

4.1.3 The Parties shall engage in a process of criteria mapping to identify areas of

convergence and divergence in their respective quality assurance frameworks.

4.2 Recognition of Evaluation Processes

4.2.1 The Parties shall recognise, where appropriate, the evaluation processes conducted by each other for the purposes of quality assurance and accreditation.

4.2.2 Such recognition shall be subject to the Parties' confirmation that the evaluation processes in question meet standards of rigour, transparency, and independence comparable to their own.

4.3 Facilitation of Qualification Recognition

4.3.1 The Parties shall, to the extent permitted by their respective mandates and applicable legal frameworks, facilitate the recognition of qualifications issued by institutions accredited or quality-assured by each other.

4.3.2 The Parties shall cooperate in the dissemination of information about their respective accreditation and quality assurance outcomes to relevant stakeholders, including higher education institutions, employers, and credential evaluation services.

ARTICLE 5: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

5.1 General Principles

5.1.1 The Parties shall maintain regular and open communication regarding matters falling within the scope of this Memorandum.

5.1.2 The Parties shall share information, data, and expertise relevant to their cooperation, subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements regarding confidentiality and data protection.

5.2 Confidentiality

5.2.1 Each Party shall treat as confidential any information designated as confidential by the other Party, including but not limited to proprietary information, personal data, and sensitive institutional information.

5.2.2 Confidential information shall not be disclosed to third parties without the prior written consent of the disclosing Party, except as required by law.

5.2.3 The obligation of confidentiality shall survive the termination of this Memorandum.

5.3 Publicity

5.3.1 The Parties shall cooperate in the preparation and dissemination of public

information about their cooperation under this Memorandum.

5.3.2 Any public statement, press release, or publication referring to the cooperation between the Parties shall be jointly approved by both Parties before release.

5.3.3 Each Party shall be entitled to reference the existence of this Memorandum in its public communications, subject to prior notification to the other Party.

ARTICLE 6: RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

6.1 General Principle

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each Party shall bear its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the implementation of this Memorandum and any joint activities conducted under its auspices.

6.2 Joint Activities

6.2.1 The financing of joint activities shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be the subject of separate agreements or project plans.

6.2.2 Where joint activities require financial contributions from one or both Parties, such contributions shall be documented in writing and approved by the respective authorising bodies.

6.3 In-Kind Contributions

The Parties may provide in-kind contributions to joint activities, including the provision of personnel, facilities, equipment, and administrative support, as mutually agreed.

ARTICLE 7: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

7.1 General Principle

7.1.1 Each Party retains ownership of its own intellectual property, including but not limited to copyrights, trademarks, patents, and proprietary information.

7.1.2 The Parties shall mutually determine the ownership and use of intellectual property arising from joint activities, through separate agreements or project plans.

7.2 Publications

7.2.1 Publications resulting from joint activities shall acknowledge the contributions of

both Parties.

7.2.2 The Parties shall agree on authorship, copyright, and publication arrangements for each joint publication.

ARTICLE 8: DURATION, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION

8.1 Duration

8.1.1 This Memorandum shall come into effect on the Effective Date and shall remain in force for an initial period of **five (5) years**.

8.1.2 This Memorandum shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of **five (5) years** unless either Party provides written notice of its intention not to renew at least **six (6) months** before the expiry of the then-current term.

8.2 Amendment

8.2.1 This Memorandum may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

8.2.2 Any amendment shall be documented in writing and signed by the authorised representatives of both Parties.

8.3 Termination

8.3.1 Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by providing written notice to the other Party, to take effect **six (6) months** after the date of such notice.

8.3.2 Termination shall not affect the validity of any specific agreements or projects already initiated under this Memorandum, unless otherwise agreed.

8.3.3 Upon termination, the Parties shall take all reasonable measures to conclude any ongoing activities in an orderly manner.

ARTICLE 9: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 Consultation

The Parties shall endeavour to resolve any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum through consultation and negotiation in good faith.

9.2 Referral

If a dispute cannot be resolved through consultation within **thirty (30) days** of a Party's request for such consultation, the dispute shall be referred to the Joint Committee for resolution.

9.3 Further Measures

If the Joint Committee fails to resolve the dispute within a further **thirty (30) days**, the Parties may agree to submit the dispute to mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL PROVISIONS

10.1 Status of the Memorandum

10.1.1 This Memorandum is not intended to create legally binding obligations between the Parties under international law, except as expressly provided herein.

10.1.2 This Memorandum expresses the Parties' intention to cooperate and does not create any rights or obligations that would be enforceable in a court of law.

10.2 Relationship to Other Agreements

10.2.1 This Memorandum does not supersede or replace any existing agreements between the Parties.

10.2.2 In the event of any inconsistency between this Memorandum and any specific agreement concluded pursuant to it, the specific agreement shall prevail.

10.3 Non-Derogation

Nothing in this Memorandum shall be construed as derogating from the rights, obligations, or responsibilities of either Party under any applicable laws, regulations, or international agreements.

10.4 Independent Status

Nothing in this Memorandum shall be construed as creating a partnership, joint venture, or agency relationship between the Parties. Each Party shall act independently and shall not represent itself as having authority to bind the other Party.

10.5 Entire Agreement

This Memorandum constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, whether written or oral.

ARTICLE 11: NOTICES

Any notice, communication, or request required or permitted under this Memorandum shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered personally, sent by registered mail, or transmitted by email to the following addresses:

For IAPUC:

International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC)

Secretariat

[Address]

Email: secretariat@iapuc.org

Attention: [Title]

For [Partner Organisation Name]:

[Partner Organisation Name]

[Address]

Email: [Email Address]

Attention: [Title]

SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective organisations, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date first written above.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (IAPUC):

Name: [Name]

Title: [Title]

Date: [Date]

Name: [Name]

Title: [Title]

Date: [Date]

FOR [PARTNER ORGANISATION NAME]:

Name: [Name]

Title: [Title]

Date: [Date]

Name: [Name]

Title: [Title]

Date: [Date]

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed in duplicate in the English language. In the event of any inconsistency between the English version and any translation, the English version shall prevail.

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Document 2: Joint Press Release (Template)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPUC AND [PARTNER ORGANISATION NAME] SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL QUALITY ASSURANCE IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION

[City, Country] – [Date] – The International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) and [Partner Organisation Name] today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise their collaboration in advancing quality assurance in higher education.

The MOU establishes a framework for cooperation between the two organisations, recognising their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and tertiary education institutions, and setting out the objectives, parameters and resources for joint activities and mutual support.

"This Memorandum represents a significant step forward in our efforts to build a global community of quality assurance excellence," said [Name], [Title] of IAPUC. "By partnering with [Partner Organisation Name], we are strengthening our capacity to serve private higher education institutions worldwide and to promote the highest standards of quality, integrity, and transparency."

[Partner Organisation Name] representatives echoed this sentiment, noting that the collaboration would enhance mutual understanding and contribute to the

strengthening of good practices in quality assurance across their respective regions.

Areas of cooperation under the MOU include information exchange, staff development, joint research, mutual recognition of quality assurance outcomes, and the development of capacity-building activities.

The MOU builds on IAPUC's commitment to international collaboration and its active engagement with quality assurance networks worldwide, including INQAAHE, the International Association of Universities (IAU), ACBSP, and IACBE.

About IAPUC

The International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) is a non-profit organisation registered in the State of Colorado, United States (Registration No. 20251179157). It is the world's only multi-disciplinary comprehensive quality assurance body exclusively dedicated to private higher education institutions. IAPUC's Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) framework, built on the three pillars of mission-driven purpose, outcomes-based assessment, and performance excellence, provides a rigorous pathway for institutions to demonstrate their commitment to quality. With operations spanning 37 countries, IAPUC is at the forefront of quality assurance in private higher education globally.

About [Partner Organisation Name]

[Description of the Partner's mission, scope, and achievements.]

Media Contacts:

IAPUC Secretariat

Email: secretariat@iapuc.org

Website: www.iapuc.org

[Partner Organisation Media Contact]

Document 3: Implementation Guide

Document Number: IAPUC/GDL/MOU/2026-001

Version: 1.0

Effective Date: [Date of Signing]

Document Type: Guideline

Classification: Internal Use

Responsible Office: Office of International Relations Coordination Affairs

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN IAPUC AND [PARTNER ORGANISATION NAME]

1. Introduction

These Guidelines provide practical guidance for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IAPUC and [Partner Organisation Name]. They are intended to assist the Parties in planning, executing, and monitoring cooperation activities under the MOU.

2. Governance and Coordination

2.1 Liaison Officers

Within **thirty (30) days** of the Effective Date, each Party shall designate a liaison officer and notify the other Party in writing. The liaison officers shall:

- Serve as the primary points of contact;
- Coordinate communication and information exchange;
- Facilitate the planning of joint activities;
- Report to the Joint Committee on progress.

2.2 Joint Committee

The Joint Committee shall:

- Hold its inaugural meeting within **ninety (90) days** of the Effective Date;
- Meet at least once annually thereafter;
- Establish its own rules of procedure;
- Keep minutes of its meetings, which shall be shared with both Parties.

2.3 Working Groups

Working groups may be established for specific cooperation areas, such as:

- Mutual recognition of quality assurance outcomes;
- Joint research and publications;
- Capacity-building and training;
- Information exchange and dissemination.

3. Implementation Timeline

Phase	Activity	Timeline
Phase 1	Designation of liaison officers	Within 30 days of Effective Date
Phase 2	Inaugural Joint Committee meeting	Within 90 days of Effective Date
Phase 3	Identification of priority cooperation areas	Within 180 days of Effective Date
Phase 4	Development of specific work plans	Within 12 months of Effective Date
Phase 5	Implementation of joint activities	Ongoing
Phase 6	Annual review and reporting	Annually

4. Annual Reporting

4.1 Content of Reports

Each Party shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the MOU, covering:

- Joint activities undertaken during the reporting period;
- Progress against identified priorities;
- Challenges encountered and lessons learned;
- Recommendations for future cooperation.

4.2 Submission and Review

Annual reports shall be submitted to the Joint Committee for review and shall be shared with the respective governing bodies of each Party.

5. Communication Protocol

5.1 General Communication

All official communication between the Parties shall be conducted through the designated liaison officers, unless otherwise agreed.

5.2 Public Statements

Any public statement, press release, or publication referring to the cooperation between the Parties shall be jointly approved by both Parties before release.

5.3 Use of Logos and Branding

The use of each Party's logo, name, or branding in connection with joint activities shall be subject to prior approval by the respective Party.

6. Evaluation and Review

6.1 Mid-Term Review

A mid-term review of the implementation of the MOU shall be conducted **two (2) years** after the Effective Date.

6.2 Final Review

A final review shall be conducted **six (6) months** before the expiry of the initial term, to inform decisions regarding renewal.

6.3 Evaluation Criteria

The effectiveness of the cooperation shall be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Achievement of the objectives set out in the MOU;
- Quality and impact of joint activities;
- Level of stakeholder engagement and satisfaction;
- Contribution to the Parties' respective missions.

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