Cross-border Higher Education
The Spanish perspective

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Metholology for the report

CBHE offered - state of the art in Spain

National context & approaches to QA of CBHE

Criteria & Guidelines for QA of CBHE

Main obstacles & challenges of QA of CBHE
Methodology of the report
Methodology

- A working group (ANECA + an academic)
- Interviews to 5 Spanish Universities
- ANECA’s staff
- Interview to a regional high responsible for HE
- Web and archives

But, no centralized information
CBHE offered – State of the Art in Spain
CBHE: state of the art – Spain

Main provider of CBHE

UNIVERSITIES

Public Universities
50 in total

Private Universities
32 in total
Main types of delivery

Distance learning

Joint degrees

Double degrees

Offices

Official degrees / Own university degrees

CBHE: state of the art – Spain
Main receiving countries

Latin America

Asia (principally China, Japan, Corea and India)

MENA (degrees with Egypt, Morocco, office in Saoudi Arabia...)

Europe

Different requirements for the type of degree but same procedure
National context & approaches to QA of CBHE
Higher education in Spain is a **decentralized model**. The jurisdiction is distributed between:

1. The Central Government
2. The Regional Governments, and
3. The Universities (public or private)

**Quality Assurance Agencies**

- **At national level**
- **At regional level (10 of 17 have Agency)**
Spanish Universities Act 6/2001

Is the common legal framework for the Spanish higher education system and establishes the evaluation, certification and accreditation as the main functions of ANECA.

In order to promote and guarantee quality assurance of Spanish HEIs, in both national and international settings.

But no specific legislation on CBHE.
The legal framework - Specific legislation for QA of CBHE

9.2. The University, through agreements with other national or international universities, can organize joint degrees leading to the obtaining of a single official degree at Bachelor, Master or Doctoral levels. To that end, the study programme will have to include the corresponding agreement in which it will be specified, at least, that the University will be responsible for the safe-keeping of the student's record and of the awarding and registration of the degree as well as for the procedure of modification or extinction of the study programme.

In the event that the agreement is with an international University, in any case, the Spanish University will keep the records of the degrees it awards...
A new strategy is being defined at that time for the internationalization of the Spanish Universities (2015-2020)

- Low level of internationalization
- European Strategy 2020

Grupo de Trabajo de Internacionalización de Universidades
Julio 2014
To define this new strategy, a working group including all the involved stakeholders have been created.

Members from the Ministries (HE, External Affairs, Economics, Industry, Employment...), Universities, Business organizations, Universidad.es, OAPEE, ANECA...
It is still not approved, but the main objectives of this strategy have been defined.

Some of the objectives linked to CBHE

- Improvement of the legal framework for internationalization
- Improvement in the recognition of degrees (modernization, flexibility)
- Transnational Quality Assurance
- To increase transnational joint and multiple degrees
- Better position in international rankings...
Criteria & Guidelines for QA of CBHE
Role of the Agencies: accreditation of programmes
Performed in a three steps process for Bachelor, Master and PhD for national or double/joint degrees in the same way:

EX ANTE

FOLLOW UP

EX POST
Joint degrees – Guideline:

In the event that several universities jointly organize a single official Bachelor or Master’s Degree, a joint accreditation ex ante application will be submitted and the proposal shall be accompanied by the corresponding agreement that must still be in force. It must clearly specify the university(ies) responsible for the custody of student files and for issuing the Degree. It must also indicate the procedure for changing or cancelling the study programme and the responsibilities of each of the universities participating in the consortium.

Information shall also be provided on the coordination mechanisms available for teaching, mobility (where applicable), and the quality assurance system adopted for the Degree, which may be the system used by one of the participating universities or one designed specifically for the Degree...

In the case of agreements with foreign universities, the Spanish university will the custodian of the records of the Degrees issued.

In addition to the above, if a joint Master's Degree is arranged with a foreign University, it would be convenient to apply the recommendations of the European University Association y of the European Consortium for Accreditation on the organisation of joint Mater's Programmes.

Joint degrees – Criterion:

“Agreements aimed at arranging the incorporation of academic staff from the various participating universities must be ensured, provided that they have not been explicitly stated in the agreement”.

Guidelines and criteria: ex-ante evaluation
Virtual Interviews

In the event of a joint degree, during the site-visit organized for the ex-post evaluation of degrees, a virtual interview is organized with the receiving Institution (groups are defined by the panel).

Internal Quality Assurance System

In the event of a degree offering stays abroad, the IQAS has (by regulation) to have mechanisms to guarantee the quality of the mobility programmes.

Bachelor/Master thesis

Deep look at the Bachelor or Master thesis of students who had a stay abroad and comparison with those of the students who did not have a stay abroad during the course.

Learning outcomes

Both the interviews and to look at the thesis allows checking the level of Learning Outcomes reached.
Role of international guidelines
Main obstacles & challenges of QA of CBHE
For Agencies

• To reach a better **centralization and compilation of data** regarding QA of CBHE (HEIs are the owners / decentralized system).

• To have a better knowledge of the rankings and support the Universities in improving their results through a higher and better visibility (HEIs asked for the identification, in a list, of the most internationalized HEIs).

• To disseminate the **OECD/UNESCO** guidelines.

• To drive actions to promote the **MULTRAS** and/or bilateral agreements with Agencies abroad (joint accreditation, common frameworks...).

For Institutions

• To find a **balance** between internationalization at home (less developed but actual trend) and internationalization abroad.

• To improve the level of **languages**.

• To face the increasing number of international HEIs the national Universities are collaborating with keeping the control of their reputation.

• To provide **better information** to the students going abroad (on the type of degree, recognition, ECTS...).
Thank you!

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