



## Audits of higher education institutions 2019–2024

### Procedure for awarding the Quality Label for Excellence

Confirmed by the Higher Education Evaluation Committee  
on 20 May November 2019



## Procedure for awarding the Quality Label for Excellence

### Short description

FINEEC audits of higher education institutions 2018-2024 include the opportunity of being awarded the Quality Label for Excellence. On the basis of the Higher Education Evaluation Committee's decision, the Quality Label for Excellence can be awarded to higher education institutions that have been granted the level *excellent* by the audit team in at least one evaluation area (I–III).

This document describes FINEEC's principles, criteria and process for awarding the Quality Label for Excellence to a higher education institution.

### Definition

The Quality Label for Excellence is awarded to higher education institutions that have distinguished themselves with their commitment to development and enhancement activities of exceptionally high quality. By being awarded the Quality Label for Excellence, a higher education institution has demonstrated that it possesses an innovative and pioneering spirit, an approach that focuses on long-term development, and a participatory operating culture.

Confirmed by the Higher Education Evaluation Committee

Date: 20 May 2019

Period of validity

Ends at the end of 2024

Publicity of the procedure

The procedure and all updates to it are published on FINEEC's website ([www.karvi.fi](http://www.karvi.fi)).

Further information on the procedure

Mirella Nordblad, Finnish Education Evaluation Centre

## Principles, criteria and process

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) wishes to reward the higher education institutions that have participated in FINEEC audits and distinguished themselves with their commitment to development and enhancement activities of exceptionally high quality with the Quality Label for Excellence. The Quality Label for Excellence is linked to FINEEC audits of higher education institutions in which the *Audit manual for higher education institutions 2019–2024*<sup>1</sup> is applied.

A higher education institution can be nominated as a candidate for receiving the Quality Label for Excellence if the audit team grants the level *excellent* in at least one of the following evaluation areas:

- I HEI creates competence
- II HEI promotes impact and renewal
- III HEI enhances quality and well-being.

The process for awarding the Quality Label for Excellence begins with the annual selection of a 3-4-member evaluation panel by the Higher Education Evaluation Committee from amongst themselves. The evaluation panel is responsible for scoring the candidates. The evaluation panel will always include a student representative. Any conflicts of interest will be taken into account in the composition of the panel. All questions related to conflicts of interest will be subject to the provisions on disqualification that are laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003, chapter 5, sections 27–29).

The members of the evaluation panel will first grade the candidates and formulate their independent written arguments on the basis of the evidence presented in the audit report. FINEEC officials will then collate the results, after which the panel will convene, review the grades and arguments. The evaluation panel will present its proposal on the recipients of the Quality Label for Excellence to the Higher Education Evaluation Committee. The Higher Education Evaluation Committee will review the proposal and award the Quality Labels for Excellence once per year.

The grading of the Quality Label for Excellence candidates for evaluation areas I–III is done on a scale of 1–5, where 5 represents the best grade. The following criteria of excellence are applied in the grading process:

1. The higher education institution is an innovative forerunner and develops its operations in a bold and open-minded manner.

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<sup>1</sup> Audit manual for higher education institutions 2019-2024 (2019). The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre. Publications 21.

2. The higher education institution has top level expertise in long-term development, and it can provide strong evidence of the impact of its development and enhancement activities.
3. The higher education institution has a positive impact on its surroundings. The higher education institution is known for engaging a wide range of actors in its development and enhancement activities and for crossing borders in an open-minded manner.

In order to qualify for the Quality Label for Excellence, the higher education institution must provide evidence of its exceptionally high-quality development and enhancement activities in connection with the evaluation area in question and the aforementioned criteria of excellence. The Quality Label for Excellence cannot be awarded in a re-audit. It is not possible to appeal on the Quality Label for Excellence decisions.

The Quality Label for Excellence is valid for the duration of FINEEC's Quality Label for audits. The higher education institution will receive a specific Quality Label for Excellence certificate that specifies the excellence-level evaluation area(s). In addition, the higher education institution will be granted a digital Quality Label for Excellence, and it will also be highlighted in FINEEC's excellence gallery. FINEEC will invite representatives from every higher education institution that has received the Quality Label for Excellence as speakers to its enhancement seminars to share outstanding practices with a wider audience.