



Engineering programme accreditations Principles of online implementation

Addendum to the document *Standards and procedures for engineering accreditation* (FINEEC 22:2015)

Adopted by the Committee on engineering education
on 23 September 2020

Process and online implementation of engineering programme accreditations

FINEEC's engineering programme accreditations, which may lead to the award of a EUR-ACE quality label, can be implemented either fully or partly online. The implementation method of the accreditation will not affect the accreditation team's assessment, the price of the accreditation or the award of the EUR-ACE quality label.

Online implementation is possible at all stages of the accreditation process:

- agreement negotiations between FINEEC and the HEI
- the HEI's self-assessment
- meetings of the Expert group on higher education in engineering
- training and meetings of the accreditation team
- the accreditation visit
- the accreditation team's and the HEI's feedback on the accreditation process.

In the accreditation agreement between FINEEC and the HEI, both parties undertake to implement the accreditation visit partly or fully online, should the situation so require. A similar undertaking is also included in the agreements made with the accreditation team members. If organising the accreditation visit on the HEI's premises is not possible, FINEEC's project manager for the accreditation will agree with the HEI on an online visit. The initiative for implementing the accreditation visit online may be made by FINEEC or the HEI.

The principles and criteria described in FINEEC'S manual Standards and Procedures for Engineering Programme Accreditation¹ will be applied to engineering programme accreditations regardless of the method of implementation. The accreditation process described on page 18 of the manual will also be followed in accreditations implemented online.

In an online implementation, the sections on the duration of the accreditation visit, requests for additional materials, evidence and the facilities tour will differ from the procedures described in the manual.

- Online implementation may affect the length of the accreditation visit, which may be longer than the two or three days referred to in the manual. The visit may also take place on the initially agreed schedule.
- The HEI must organise for the accreditation team an electronic workspace that gives the team access to the evidence described in the manual. During an on-site visit, these materials should be made available to the accreditation team in an evidence room arranged by the HEI.
- The HEI should produce the facilities tour included in the accreditation visit programme as a video implementation. The video should be recorded for the accreditation team's use either in advance or during the visit. The accreditation team should have the opportunity to ask the HEI representatives questions about the facilities tour.
- FINEEC reserves for the evaluation team the possibility to request additional material or organise additional hearings after the accreditation visit if the evidence obtained during

¹ Standards and Procedures for Engineering Programme Accreditations. FINEEC 2015:22.

an online implementation of the visit was insufficient due to such reasons as technical problems.

The programme of the accreditation visit will be planned by FINEEC's accreditation team. Different hybrid models (partial online implementation) are possible. Some of the interviewees or accreditation team members may participate in the interviews and other parts of the visit via remote connections. A hybrid model can be applied in situations where individual accreditation team members, FINEEC's employees or representatives of the HEI are prevented from participating in the on-site visit.

FINEEC's project manager will relay information between the accreditation team and the HEI. The contact person for the accreditation and FINEEC's project manager will agree on practical arrangements related to the visit, such as possible special arrangements in connection with the online implementation (schedule, technical support, instructions for the participants, etc.). FINEEC's project manager will be responsible for informing the HEI and providing it with instructions regarding the accreditation visit.