

Annex 3 Code of ethics and rules of conduct for members of the panel

- 1 A panel member respects the mission of the institution and the programme. A panel member is aware of their role and performs this role with a maximum respect for all parties involved.
- 2 A panel member may **not be guided** or influenced in their judgment by persons or parties involved with the programme or institution, or by other concerned parties. A panel member **speaks based on their own expertise**, in their own name and **does not express the opinion of any organisation** of which the panel member may be a member.
- 3 When reviewing the quality, a panel member must be able to **distance themselves sufficiently from personal ideas, convictions or preferences** regarding the domain or discipline that is the subject of the review.
- 4 A panel member forms their judgment **based on the review principles** from the established accreditation framework.
- 5 A panel member **bases their judgment** on the following information:
 - a. the self-evaluation report drawn up by the programme, with the appendices and documentation data;
 - b. any additional data provided at the request of the panel;
 - c. the interviews conducted as part of the site visit;
 - d. the observations made during the site visit;
 - e. the panel's own examination of other public information (e.g. websites).
- 6 The **review** by a panel member must **meet the following requirements**:
 - f. expertise and professionalism;
 - g. independence and objectivity;
 - h. care and consistency;
 - i. transparency and unbiasedness.
- 7 A panel member **shall not use information** gathered in the context of the review for personal or professional purposes. All information will be treated **confidentially**.
- 8 A panel member **does not accept any gifts or rewards** from the programme or institution.
- 9 A panel member **has no financial or commercial interest** in the programme to be reviewed at the institution or association to which the institution belongs.
- 10 A panel member is aware of the complexity of the planning of the review process and the visit, as well as of the various parties involved, and will therefore, except in cases of force majeure, **make every effort to comply with all agreements** regarding timing, attendance, tasks as panel members, and so on.

Grounds for incompatibility of panel members

Cannot be appointed as chair or member of the panel:

- 1 Persons who, at the time of the composition of the panel or for a period of five years previously, are or have been staff of the institution.
- 2 Staff member of an institution is understood to mean:
 - Persons employed in the institution on the basis of an appointment or contract;
 - Other scientific staff and fellows, employed within the institution, whatever the nature of their duties or the source of their remuneration.
- 3 Persons who, at the time of the composition of the panel or for a period of five years previously, were members of a central management body of the institution or the association to which the institution belongs;
- 4 Persons who, at the time of the composition of the panel or for a period of five years previously, regularly give or have given advice, carry or have carried out assignments for the benefit of the programme or institution.
- 5 Persons who, at the time of the composition of the panel or for a period of five years previously, are or were involved in organising or evaluation parts of the programme of the relevant programme and institution.
- 6 Persons who, at the time of the composition of the panel, are married or living with a person in one of the capacities mentioned under 1°, 2°, 3° and 4° or are blood relatives up to the second degree of the persons mentioned under 1°, 2°, 3° and 4°.