

Decision No. EI-2024-10 on the accreditation of the M.Sc. Analytical/Environmental Chemistry, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria

The President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education,

Considering the Research Code, in particular Articles L. 114-3-1 to L. 114-3-6;

Considering the Decree No. 2021-1536 of 29th November 2021 on the organisation and operation of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the Board's deliberation of 29th September 2022 on the accreditation criteria for international study programmes (except doctorates/PhDs);

Considering the Decision No. 2023-9 of 16th March 2023 on the international accreditation procedure of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the agreement No. DEL_2023_CONV17 – NUC, signed on 14th June 2023 for the evaluation/accreditation of study programmes delivered by Africa Centres of Excellence;

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on 29th February 2024;

Decides:

Article 1

Noting that the M.Sc. Analytical/Environmental Chemistry meets the four accreditation criteria, voted by the Board of the High Council on 29th September 2022, as follows:

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 1 – TEACHING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION

The policy and strategy of the M.Sc. programme in Analytical Chemistry is totally consistent with the CEFTER objectives, and complementary to other M.Sc. programmes at the CEFTER. The M.Sc. programme is well-structured, with basic and applicative courses and core courses on entrepreneurship. However, no course on integrity and ethics in research is proposed to the students. It is well recognized in the national teaching offer with a specific strong interaction for the students with the industrial partners in the food industry, considering the socio-economic needs. Indeed, their mandatory internship in industry and agriculture is a real strength of this programme.

Furthermore, equipment facilities and efficient interaction with the supervisors allow the students to conduct their research in good conditions. The programme is well known and appreciated by the national academic and industrial partners. They are involved in all stages of the programme, which could further integrate students into the job market. However, the internationalisation of the programme remains limited due to funding constraints and national safety concerns. Stronger links to innovation would benefit the programme.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2 – THE PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The M.Sc. programme of the CEFTER is well-focused and relevant in terms of topics regarding post-harvesting, a key question in this area of Nigeria. The courses are taught by experienced staff, some of them presenting a previous international experience that benefits to the programme. The students are followed during their whole training by one to two supervisors. The programme is linked to other universities (Nigerian, African and mostly European universities) and well-integrated into a network of industrial partners. This excellent environment provides students with high quality placements. However, due to external constraints (economic and security issues), incoming mobility is limited. The increase in the number of students would benefit this high-quality education.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 3 – ATTRACTIVENESS, PERFORMANCE AND RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Although the programme is attractive to students, its attractiveness, performance and relevance are only rudimentarily tracked, as only basic data on student success and integration are provided. The analysis

and impact of evaluations are not clearly defined for the programme's development and should be implemented.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 4 – MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The M.Sc. programme is supported by the institution's human resources policy and shares the same objectives and values in terms of pedagogy and student support. All students follow courses on management and entrepreneurship. They benefit from all the facilities of the CEFER campus (equipment, labs, rooms, scientific resources). The programme assessment is well-conducted by the Directorate of academic programme and quality assurance. However, the only feedback sent to the programme is when a difficulty is identified. The feedback of the entire assessment would benefit to the Programme Director.

Article 2

The M.Sc. Analytical/Environmental Chemistry, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria, is accredited for a period of 3 years, which may be extended for two years, subject to a follow-up that may include an on-site visit.

Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations and comments:

- make efforts to systematise and formalise internal quality assurance indicators, facilitating informed management and ensuring the long-term maintenance of programme quality;
- although other courses include elements of integrity and ethics in research, it would be advantageous to introduce a core course specifically addressing these issues;
- implement tools aimed at improving students' access to research grants by leveraging the robust collaboration with the national industrial network and existing partnership agreements.

Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, 15th March 2024.

The acting President
signed
Stéphane Le Boulter