

Decision n° EI-2024-17 on the accreditation of University of Danang - Danang University of Science and Technology - Vietnam.

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 November 29th 2021 on the organisation and operation of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the Board's deliberation of September 29th 2022 on the accreditation criteria for foreign higher education institutions;

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

Considering the agreement No. 2023/06/15 - for the evaluation/accreditation of University of Danang - Danang University of Science and Technology

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on March 27th 2024,

Decides:

Article 1

Noting that University of Danang - Danang University of Science and Technology meets the six accreditation criteria, voted by the Board of the High Council on September 29th 2022, as follows:

FIELD 1: STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 1 - DEFINING THE INSTITUTION'S STRATEGY

DUT positions itself as a distinctive local actor, a prominent national university and a partner with a clear international development agenda in terms of education and research. The vision and strategy are clear and widely shared, both in their development and deployment. DUT's vision has not changed much in the last few years, and the institution is now looking for greater proactivity.

Its strategy is divided into clear objectives relating to students and their support, partnerships, particularly with local communities and businesses, and international cooperation. Priorities include intensifying efforts in internationalization.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2 - GOVERNANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

The organisation and communication are adapted to DUT strategy, although the research organisation could be clearer.

The operation of the institution in silos limits its development in several areas and the management would benefit from more transversal management tools, such as an information and decision support system. An analysis of partnerships, especially inter-academic ones, is necessary to rationalise actions and optimise the use of resources.

The information system should offer more dashboards to construct steering indicators based on multiple data sources. This enhancement would bolster DUT's overall vision and management.

DUT has a comprehensive quality policy directly linked to the Board of Rectors, illustrating its importance in the strategy. Greater automation of the data it deals with (KPIs, surveys...) will reinforce its role in institutional management.

The human resources policy is clearly linked to the strategy and its first effects observed so far suggest that it can act as a significant lever in DUT development.

The new business model, without state funding, which marks the transition to autonomy, remains fragile and only partially reflects strategy. It is based mainly on tuition fees, which have risen from 79% of revenues to almost 100% today. This can be a real issue in the development of research and student attractiveness. The campus is spacious and pleasant, but resources remain inadequate in view of the state of certain facilities or delays in construction or demolition.

FIELD 2: POLICY ON RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND THE INCLUSION OF SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 3 - RESEARCH POLICY

DUT clearly supports research. To date, the effects of this support have mainly been achieved through a significant increase of publications in referenced international journals (PRIJ) and through Teaching Research Teams.

However, the institution has to find a balance between academic and applied research. In terms of publications, the PRIJ policy has led to a decline in national publications and therefore, in the longer term, a decline in visibility of applied research is to be feared. This balance seems only achievable by increasing the time dedicated to research.

DUT needs to reflect on its research strengths in order to raise its profile in certain areas that it considers to be priorities, taking into account strategic partnerships for the institution. The Science, Technology and International Cooperation Department also needs to be strengthened for providing guidance, carrying out awareness-raising and prevention initiatives on ethics and integrity, and generally assisting researchers in contracting with socio-economic partners.

The link between academic research and applied research remains to be built by promoting high-level applied research activities. Improving the quality of the applied research will enhance publications and will feed academic research with questions and financial resources.

In terms of companies and numbers of Bachelor's degree holders, the environment of DUT is not as favourable as that of metropolitan universities located in Ho Chi Min City or Hanoi. It is therefore important to give this institution a strong visibility either by identifying niches for research (and education), or by increasing its attractiveness through high-level international research.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 4 - INNOVATION POLICY AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

DUT has a strategy and assets in the field of research valorisation and technology transfer. Its network of partners is notably a strong asset, with research centres that have the capacity to meet industrial and local authorities' expectations. DUT can also rely on an incentive policy for its researchers that is well understood and effective. Moving forward, in its policy of innovation and opening up science to society, the institution must capitalize on the extensive collaboration it has with its partners. This entails further enhancing the value of collaborative activities and ensuring the continuous advancement of the research dimension within these partnerships. While this approach has been initiated with certain partners, it is recommended to intensify and expand these efforts.

DUT needs to pursue its efforts in intellectual property management and entrepreneurship in order to increase the volume of activity and its associated indicators. In this respect, it is recommended that consolidated indicators be set up for the whole institution, and that a more structured approach be adopted to monitoring relations with companies.

FIELD 3: EDUCATION, STUDENT AND CAMPUS LIFE POLICY

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 5 - TEACHING POLICY

DUT offers a variety of programmes covering a wide range of scientific and technical fields, well articulated from Bachelor's to Master's and even Doctoral programmes. The study programmes are closely linked to the region's needs for qualified human resources. This positions DUT as the leading technical university in the central region of Vietnam. The study offer is well monitored thanks to various surveys taking into account feedback from students and the socio-economic world, the latter playing an important role.

The policy on teacher recruitment needs clarification, specifically regarding training programmes. However, there is a strong focus on training newly recruited teachers, which benefits from international connections. DUT should consider hiring additional support staff for collective tasks to alleviate the burden on teachers.

It is important to prioritise the sustainability of education programmes. For example, the number of students is decreasing at Masters' level. In order to reverse this trend, DUT should propose some actions, for example with the contribution of its alumni to increase its attractiveness. Although there are many initiatives to help students, few graduate on time. Efforts to support students need to be expanded.

International attractiveness is rather low, as is the internationalisation of training programmes. A transversal vision at university level would certainly benefit the internationalisation of the academic offer. DUT must also maintain its efforts to promote students' English proficiency.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 6 - STUDENT AND CAMPUS LIFE

The participation of students in governance is open to only one undergraduate, which limits the representation of postgraduate students. The international mobility of students is still low, and the lack of international exposure is a hindrance to the development of students, particularly in terms of their English proficiency. Campus life is fuelled by a vibrant and active student association community, strongly supported by DUT, which helps students to develop their soft skills and better prepare for their professional integration. However, it lacks the necessary physical and numerical infrastructure to fully achieve its ambitions in terms of regional, national and international attractiveness.

Article 2

University of Danang - Danang University of Science and Technology is fully accredited for a period of five years.

Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations and comments:

- **Equip DUT with a management system** that supports decision-making, going beyond the use of simple dashboards and introducing a dynamic and integrated approach to data. This objective must be considered with the help of DUT's natural partners, in particular the University of Danang.
- **Continue international publication efforts**, without neglecting more technical national publications that are useful for raising the profile of DUT with companies.
- **Improve the attractiveness of Masters' courses** by providing financial support; provide better support for undergraduate students in order to limit the number of drop-outs; improve professional integration at Masters level through the use of the alumni network; provide all students with communication and soft skills trainings.
- Consider all the factors that hinder **incoming and outgoing mobility** (financial, administrative and regulatory) in order to alleviate them, if necessary by advocating greater flexibility with government authorities; provide the means to improve students' English language skills
- Assess DUT's inter-academic partnerships, measure the outputs actually produced against commitments formalised in MoUs in particular, and **streamline this portfolio of agreements**
- Design and **launch a revenue diversification strategy** to reduce dependence on tuition fees and find new resources;
- Increase the level of collaborations with industry and design consolidated indicators for the entire institution, to better monitor relations with companies
- **Develop infrastructure to fully achieve DUT's ambitions** in terms of regional, national and international attractiveness.

Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, April 10th 2024

The acting President
signed
Stéphane Le Bauler