

Decision No. EI-2024-34 on the accreditation of the M.Sc. Electronic and Electrical Engineering, delivered by Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, 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 Board's deliberation of 29th September 2022 on the accreditation criteria for courses abroad (excluding doctoral/PhD programmes);

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 DEI_2023_CONV17 of 14th June 2023 for the evaluation/accreditation of fourteen training courses, delivered by six Centres of Excellence in Nigeria;

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on 18th June 2024;

Decides:

Article 1

Noting that the M.Sc. Electronic and Electrical Engineering delivered by Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria 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 M.Sc. in Electronic and Electrical Engineering offers a multidisciplinary curiculum focused on four specialised areas: Electrical Power Engineering, Communications Systems Engineering, Control and Instrumentation and Material Science and Devices Technology. It is complementary to the M.Sc. in Computer science of the same Faculty and the M.Phil. in Electronics and Electrical Engineering in the same Department. Local, national and international Advisory Boards contribute significantly to addressing socio-economic needs within the curriculum. Research links are fostered primarily through the research dissertations completed by students during their second year. Partnership agreements are established with various universities and socio-economic institutions. However, the agreements with foreign universities are largely inadequate, which hinders the robust development of the programme's international dimension. The agreement with MIT, yet enables teaching methods and courses to be improved and updated. In addition, the international collaborations remain limited to teaching staff mobility. Regarding outgoing student mobility, the lack of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has hindered the encouragement of outgoing mobility. Furthermore, there have been no foreign students in the programme for the past four years, highlighting a significant weakness in the programme's international standing. As such, it is imperative to enhance the international positioning of the programme.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2: THE PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The Master's programme is characterised by a well-structured, coherent, and clearly defined curriculum. It adheres to the expected and documented skills for each specialisation, is based on and emphasises advanced theoretical teaching, practical laboratory work, and the use of simulation tools and software typical of industry practices. The programme introduced students to research within their specialisation laboratories. Significantly, the programme adopts progressive teaching methodologies, such as project work and flipped classrooms, enhancing the learning experience. Students receive personalised guidance, which can instrumental in navigating any shifts in their academic paths. The involvement of socio-economic partners in guest lectures and seminars enriches the learning process. However, a suggestion is made here to make the internship compulsory for all students, not just in the ACE programme. This would bridge the gap between the teaching methods and the expected skills and foster preparedness for the job-market.

The programme should systematically develop soft skills to facilitate students' outgoing mobility, equip them with additional skills relevant to job-market integration, and ensure proficiency in information and communication tools.



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

The M.Sc. EEE measures its attractiveness by assessing indicators like applicants' numbers and admission quality. However, the programme needs a more effective promotional strategy to attract future applicants. The decline in numbers, a trend party imputable to the Covid-19 pandemic and national industrial actions, has seen student intake plummet from 14 in 2016-2017 to just one in 2021 and 2022. These recruitment challenges hinder the Master programme's ability to prepare a capable workforce. Several measures are implemented to boost student success, including personalised advising, tutoring and counselling. The programme also closely monitors the success rate, which could be elevated by providing financial assistance. Presently, only 10% of the students admitted between 2017 and 2021 received funding, a figure deemed insufficient. To gauge graduates' career integration, data is collected from multiple sources, such as dedicated career monitoring, alumni surveys, employer feedback, and professional networks reviews. This approach has enabled the programme to track the post-graduation trajectory of over 65% of its alumni.

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

The curriculum is supported by sufficient human resources. A partnership agreement with the MIT (USA) has facilitated the modernisation of teaching methods and has made a significant contribution in terms of equipment. Nevertheless, equipment obsolescence remains a major concern that requires additional funding for renewal.

The postgraduate coordination staff is clearly identified, maintaining efficient coordination with the teaching staff. Quality policies are implemented at both the University and the Department level. The NUC periodically evaluates the M.Sc. programme, and though informal, students' assessments of teachings are regularly conducted. The programme also includes an improvement council and ethics committee at the Department level. Recruitment procedures, examination regulations, and the grading system are well-documented and thoroughly explained in the Faculty of Technology Handbook, ensuring transparency and clarity.

Article 2

The M.Sc. Electronic and Electrical Engineering delivered by Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, is not accredited.

Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations and comments:

- Increase opportunities for scholarships or research grants and leverage them to enhance the number of students, relying on formalised partnerships.
- Establish an information system tailored to future students and scrutinise applications to foster the long-term attractiveness of the M.Sc. programme.
- Utilise the international teaching team to create new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and facilitate both students' incoming and outgoing mobility.
- Mandate internships for all the students, leveraging close relationships with socio-economic partners.
- With support from the Advisory Boards, prioritise updating equipment to keep pace with rapid technological advancements in electronics and electrical engineering.



Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, 27th June 2024.

The acting President signed Stéphane Le Bouler