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# Double Degrees and Joint Programs in the Age of Accreditations

1. Definition of Double Degree and Joint Program
2. National and International Accreditation  
Constraints to these Programs
3. Non-accredited and Accredited Schools as Partners  
for these Programs – Risks
4. Ensuring Quality and Keeping Audit Teams Satisfied
5. Conclusion

# Double Degrees and Joint Programs

## **IESEG Definition for Accreditation Purposes**

a) Double Degree

b) Joint Program

# National/Local Constraints

- Depends!
- France as example
- Complying with Ministry Regulations

# EFMD/EQUIS Constraints

## Chapter 8 EQUIS Standards and Criteria – Internationalisation

- « . . . setting up ‘offshore’ operations. These may be satellite campuses . . . joint ventures with an international partner to offer its degrees . . . »
- « However, schools should be aware that there are risks . . . It is hard to maintain quality standards . . . »



# AACSB Constraints

## **Section 1: Eligibility Procedures – Defining the Scope of the Accreditation**

« If the business programs . . . provide 25 % or more of an undergraduate program or 50 % or more of a graduate program . . . it will be included in the review ».

MEANING: ?

# Real Risk

- PRT Members: the N.S. effect
- What can you do?
- What should you not do!



# To avoid this risk

## Constructing the Program for AACSB Standards

1. 'Traditional business courses'
2. The '25 % and 50 %' rules
3. Attempt an exclusion from the scope



# Programs with Non-Accredited and Accredited Schools

Minimize the risk

Audit the partner school in 4 areas:

1. General Information on the Partner
2. Program(s) of the Partner: General; Entrance into the Program; Program Content
3. Individual Candidates of the Partner
4. Award of the Partner

# IESEG Guidelines: Audit

## General Information of the Partner

- History of the school;
- History of the partnership;
- Mission of the school;
- International aspects included in the mission;
- Government accreditation;
- External accreditations, i.e. EQUIS, AMBA, AACSB, CEEMAN. (existing or in process);
- Internal and external governance systems;
- Any particularities of the country of the school which may impact the school's operations, and, if so, what particularities and what impact;
- Do the school's academic regulations permit double degrees;
- Number of full-time professors and percentage of Doctor or Ph. D.

# Audit

## **Program of the Partner**

- Length of program;
- Does the program result in a Bachelor or Master degree;
- Is the diploma accredited by relevant governmental authorities;
- Passage requirements from one year to the next;
- Credit system used;
- Number of credits given for a semester and/or year of the program.

# Audit

## **Entrance into the Program (how students gain access to the program)**

- High school degree required;
- Preparatory or other “intermediate” academic period required;
- Entrance examination required;
- Written and/or oral entrance procedures;
- Percentage of students accepted into program measured against total number of applicants;
- Entrance requiring approval by governmental authorities.

# Audit

## Program Content

- Syllabi for the courses, including learning objectives and outcomes;
- Obligatory vs. optional courses (core courses, electives);
- Majors and minors;
- Number of contact hours;
- Marking system;
- Internships as part of the program;
- Study abroad as part of the program;
- Thesis or final paper as part of the program;
- Extra-curricular activities as part of the program;
- Procedure for accepting individual students into the double degree program.

# Audit

## Individual Candidates for the Joint Program

- Candidates “history” at the partner (dossier/transcript), including all courses taken, marks, credits;
- Curriculum Vitae of Candidate; letters of reference;
- Oral interview of candidate.

# Audit

## **Award Given by the Partner**

- What diploma/degree will be delivered;
- When and how diploma/degree will be delivered;
- Any other conditions for deliverance of diploma/degree



# Potential Problems

- Students recruited for the Program but not coming from the partner school
- Visa issues (academic)
- Oral interviewing of candidates



# Conclusions

1. Sometimes not too consistent, i.e. Wuhan University: EQUIS vs. AACSB
2. Avoid the risk before it becomes a problem
3. Do not try to fool PRT auditor