



TWAEA Program-level International Accreditation Regulations

Revised on 25 June 2026

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose

These Regulations are established by the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) to promote international cooperation in higher education quality assurance and to provide a mechanism for the external quality assurance of academic programs through the TWAEA Program-level International Accreditation (T-PIA) framework.

Article 2. Scope of Accreditation

These Regulations apply to academic programs offered by higher education institutions that are duly established and recognized in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries.

Programs eligible for accreditation include undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and other degree-awarding programs.

Article 3. Accreditation Standards

Accreditation shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable T-PIA Accreditation Standards adopted by TWAEA, including standards for specific accreditation tracks where applicable.

Article 4. Accreditation Results

Accreditation results shall be classified as either “Accredited” or “Not Accredited” based on the applicable T-PIA Accreditation Standards.

Programs granted Accredited status shall be awarded one of the following accreditation levels and corresponding accreditation marks, according to their overall performance, demonstrated quality, and degree of achievement of the accreditation standards:

1. Gold Accreditation (Gold Mark): Valid for five or six years;
2. Silver Accreditation (Silver Mark): Valid for three or four years;
3. Bronze Accreditation (Bronze Mark): Valid for one or two years.

Programs that do not demonstrate sufficient achievement of the accreditation standards shall be classified as Not Accredited.

CHAPTER II PARTICIPATING QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES

Article 5. Participating Agencies

TWAEA may, as appropriate, invite quality assurance agencies, accreditation bodies, or other recognized organizations engaged in higher education quality assurance to participate in the T-PIA accreditation process as participating agencies.

Article 6. Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Agencies

Participating agencies shall collaborate with TWAEA in the planning, implementation, and continuous enhancement of the T-PIA framework. In fulfilling this role, participating agencies may:

1. Nominate members of the Review Team;
2. Nominate members of the International Accreditation Committee;
3. Contribute to the development and continuous enhancement of the T-PIA framework;
4. Support international cooperation, capacity building, and the sharing of good practices in higher education quality assurance;
5. Perform other functions related to T-PIA accreditation as mutually agreed upon by the participating agencies and TWAEA.

CHAPTER III INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Article 7. Establishment

An International Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Accreditation Committee”) shall be established under the T-PIA framework.

Where appropriate, a single Accreditation Committee may be constituted to consider multiple accreditation cases with similar review schedules. The term of appointment of Accreditation Committee members shall conclude upon the completion of the accreditation case(s) to which they have been assigned.

Article 8. Functions

The Accreditation Committee shall:

1. Deliberate upon the final accreditation report submitted by the Review Team;
2. Confirm and endorse the accreditation results;
3. Consider matters relating to accreditation policies when necessary;
4. Perform such other functions as may be required for the implementation of T-PIA accreditation.

Article 9. Composition

1. The Accreditation Committee shall consist of five to seven members.
2. TWAEA shall nominate three members.
3. Each participating agency involved in the accreditation case shall nominate one or two members.
4. Committee members shall possess substantial expertise and experience in higher education, quality assurance, accreditation, academic administration, or related fields.
5. No member of the Accreditation Committee shall simultaneously serve on the Review Team for the same accreditation case.

Article 10. Committee Chair

1. The Chair of the Accreditation Committee shall be appointed by TWAEA from among its nominated members.
2. The Committee Chair shall convene and preside over meetings of the Accreditation Committee.
3. Accreditation results shall be confirmed and endorsed by a majority vote of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Committee Chair shall have a casting vote.

Article 11. Quorum

Meetings of the Accreditation Committee shall require the presence of more than one-half of its members.

Article 12. Conflicts of Interest

1. Committee members shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest relating to an accreditation case.

2. Committee members with a conflict of interest shall not participate in the review, deliberation, or decision-making process concerning the relevant institution or program.
3. The Accreditation Committee may adopt appropriate measures to safeguard the independence, impartiality, and integrity of its deliberations and decisions.

CHAPTER IV REVIEW TEAM

Article 13. Establishment

A Review Team shall be established for each accreditation case to conduct the document review, site visit activities, and preparation of the accreditation report.

Article 14. Functions

The Review Team shall:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and supporting documentation submitted by the applicant institution, and identify issues requiring clarification or further verification;
2. Participate in all review-related activities and meetings, including reviewer orientation sessions, Review Team meetings, and other activities as required;
3. Participate in the site visit to verify, clarify, and supplement the information presented in the SAR through observations, document verification, and interviews with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;
4. Evaluate the program against the accreditation standards and supporting evidence;
5. Prepare and submit the accreditation report;
6. Recommend an accreditation result for consideration by the Accreditation Committee.

Article 15. Composition

1. The Review Team shall consist of three to four reviewers.
2. TWAEA shall nominate one or two reviewers.
3. Each participating agency shall nominate one reviewer.
4. Reviewers shall possess expertise relevant to the academic discipline under review and/or substantial experience in higher education quality assurance and accreditation.
5. At least one reviewer shall be from the country or higher education system in which the applicant institution is located.
6. No reviewer shall have any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest with the applicant institution or the program under review.

Article 16. Review Team Convenor

1. The Review Team shall be led by a reviewer appointed by TWAEA in consultation with the participating agencies.
2. The Review Team Convenor shall coordinate the review activities, convene and facilitate Review Team meetings, and oversee the preparation and consolidation of the accreditation report.

Article 17. Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflicts of Interest

1. Review Team members shall comply with TWAEA's Code of Ethics and all applicable confidentiality requirements.
2. Review Team members shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest prior to, and throughout, the accreditation process.
3. Review Team members shall maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained during the accreditation process and shall use such information solely for the purposes of accreditation review and evaluation.

CHAPTER V ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

Article 18. Application

Institutions seeking T-PIA accreditation shall submit a completed Application Form and enter into an accreditation agreement with TWAEA. Following acceptance of the application, the institution shall submit the following documents by the specified deadline for evaluation by the Review Team:

1. Self-Assessment Report;
2. Supporting evidence and relevant documentation;
3. Any additional information or materials requested by TWAEA or the Review Team.

Article 19. Reviewer Orientation

TWAEA shall provide orientation and briefing sessions for Review Team members prior to the commencement of the accreditation process to promote a common understanding of the accreditation standards, procedures, evaluation criteria, and reviewer responsibilities.

Article 20. Site Visit

Following the completion of the document review, the Review Team shall conduct a site visit with the participation of all Review Team members. The purpose of the site visit is to verify, clarify, and

supplement the information provided by the applicant institution through observations, document verification, and interviews with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

Article 21. Draft Accreditation Report

Upon completion of the site visit, the Review Team shall prepare and submit a draft accreditation report to TWAEA. The report shall include the Review Team's findings, commendations, recommendations, and proposed accreditation result.

Article 22. Institutional Response

TWAEA shall provide the draft accreditation report to the applicant institution for factual review. The applicant institution may submit written comments regarding factual errors, omissions, or misunderstandings within the specified period.

Article 23. Final Accreditation Report

After considering the institutional response, the Review Team shall determine whether revisions to the draft report are warranted and shall prepare the final accreditation report for submission to the Accreditation Committee for deliberation and confirmation of the accreditation result.

CHAPTER VI ACCREDITATION RESULTS AND RECOGNITION

Article 24. Confirmation and Endorsement of Accreditation Results

The Accreditation Committee shall deliberate upon the final accreditation report submitted by the Review Team and shall confirm and endorse the accreditation result in accordance with these Regulations and the applicable accreditation standards.

Where necessary, the Review Team Convenor may be invited to attend the meeting of the Accreditation Committee to provide clarification or respond to questions relating to the accreditation report. The Review Team Convenor shall not participate in the deliberation or endorsement of the accreditation result.

Article 25. Notification of Accreditation Results

Upon confirmation and endorsement of the accreditation result by the Accreditation Committee, TWAEA shall formally notify the applicant institution in writing of the accreditation result and the corresponding accreditation level, where applicable.

Article 26. Publication of Accreditation Results

TWAEA may publish accreditation results on its official website and through other appropriate communication channels. Participating agencies may also publish the accreditation results through their respective official communication channels.

Article 27. Use of the Accreditation Mark

Programs accredited under the T-PIA framework shall be entitled to use the official accreditation mark corresponding to their accreditation level.

Accredited programs and their institutions may display the applicable accreditation mark on their websites, publications, promotional materials, certificates, and other official communications relating to the accredited program throughout the validity period of accreditation.

The accreditation mark shall be used in accordance with the guidelines issued by TWAEA. Accredited institutions shall not:

1. Use the accreditation mark after the expiration, suspension, withdrawal, or termination of accreditation;
2. Use the accreditation mark in a false, misleading, deceptive, or unauthorized manner;
3. Imply accreditation of programs, departments, faculties, campuses, or institutional units not covered by the accreditation result;
4. Modify, alter, distort, or reproduce the accreditation mark in a manner inconsistent with the official design specifications or usage guidelines.

TWAEA reserves the right to require the correction, suspension, withdrawal, or discontinuation of the use of the accreditation mark where it determines that the mark has been used improperly or in violation of these Regulations.

Article 28. Post-Accreditation Responsibilities

Accredited programs and their institutions shall maintain the quality and standards demonstrated during the accreditation review and continue implementing internal quality assurance and improvement activities throughout the accreditation validity period.

Accredited institutions shall inform TWAEA of any significant changes that may affect the accredited program, including changes in program title, degree designation, governance, curriculum structure, delivery mode, faculty composition, resources, learning environment, suspension, discontinuation, or closure. TWAEA may request additional information where such changes may affect the accredited status of the program.

CHAPTER VII APPEALS

Article 29. Right of Appeal

An applicant institution may lodge an appeal against the accreditation result within thirty days of receiving formal notification of the accreditation result from TWAEA.

Article 30. Appeal Review

TWAEA shall establish an Appeal Panel to review appeals submitted by applicant institutions. Members of the Appeal Panel shall be independent of the original accreditation process and shall not have participated in the review, deliberation, confirmation, or endorsement of the accreditation result for the accreditation case concerned.

Article 31. Appeal Determination

The Appeal Panel shall review the appeal and any supporting documentation submitted by the applicant institution and shall determine whether the appeal should be rejected and the original accreditation result upheld, or whether factual issues require further consideration of the accreditation case in accordance with T-PIA accreditation procedures.

The Appeal Panel shall not conduct a new accreditation review and shall not independently assign or revise accreditation levels.

The determination of the Appeal Panel shall be final and binding upon all parties.

CHAPTER VIII ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE

Article 32. Certificate of Accreditation

A Certificate of Accreditation shall be issued by TWAEA to programs granted Accredited status under the T-PIA framework as formal recognition that the program has successfully undergone international external quality assurance review.

The Certificate shall be issued in English and in the official language of the country in which the applicant institution is located.

The Certificate shall specify:

1. The name of the applicant institution;
2. The name of the accredited program;
3. The accreditation validity period;

4. The participating quality assurance agencies, where applicable;
5. The accreditation scope or track, where applicable.

Programs granted Accredited status shall also be authorized to use the corresponding accreditation mark throughout the validity period of accreditation, subject to these Regulations and any applicable guidelines issued by TWAEA.

CHAPTER IX ACCREDITATION FEES

Article 33. Accreditation Fees

Accreditation fees shall be determined by TWAEA, taking into consideration the scope, scale, complexity, and administrative requirements of the accreditation activities.

Accreditation fees paid by the applicant institution shall not be refundable once the accreditation application has been formally accepted by TWAEA, including in cases where the applicant institution withdraws its application or the accreditation process is terminated prior to completion.

CHAPTER X SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Article 34. Revision of the Regulations

Any amendment, revision, or repeal of these Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Board of TWAEA.

Article 35. Implementation

TWAEA shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations. These Regulations shall take effect upon approval by the Board of TWAEA. Any subsequent amendment, revision, or repeal of these Regulations shall follow the same approval procedure.