

How are quality assurance agencies and accreditation bodies responding to different forms of corruption in higher education?

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Abstract:

The poster illustrates results from a global survey of Accreditation and Quality Assurance Bodies (AQABs) conducted in 2017-18. The study was funded by the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) and builds on an earlier advisory statement focusing on corruption in higher education, which defined the scope and focus of the survey:

- the regulation of higher education systems
- the teaching role of higher education
- student admission and recruitment
- student assessment
- credentials and qualifications
- research and publications (Daniel 2016)

The main aim of the survey is to explore what AQABs are currently doing either reactively or proactively, or planning to do in the near future, to address different types of corruption. The study was designed to raise awareness in AQABs of serious threats that exist to reputations, quality and standards across the higher education sector throughout the world and encourage more effective responses. The survey consisted of an on-line questionnaire sent to a target list of about 300 AQAB contacts, followed by interviews with selected participants, including representatives of AQABs, NGOs and anti-corruption agencies. The resulting report, combined with specific detailed cases studies, will be published by CIQG in Summer 2018. Results depicted on the poster highlight that the perceived threats from corrupt practices to higher education vary in different parts of the world, although some types of corruption such as Diploma Mills, Predatory Journals and Contract Cheating appear to be ubiquitous. Actions by AQABs and collaborating organisations, to address the threats identified, serve as exemplars from which other organisations can learn.

Keywords: Academic integrity, accreditation, corruption, higher education, quality assurance.