



EVALUATION CHARTER

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD ON
06 June 2016

Evaluations carried out by Hcéres are based on coordinated assessment of all missions entrusted to higher education and research institutions and research bodies. Hcéres takes account of the links between study programmes, research and governance, as they relate to the local, national and international environment. It carries out peer reviews.

Evaluations are accompanied by recommendations and are designed to serve the parties evaluated, with the objective of improving the quality of higher education and research and strengthening France's role and place in the worldwide increase in knowledge and in its transmission.

Hcéres exercises the powers entrusted to it by law with regard to national regulation of higher education and research. It applies the principles of quality assurance currently in force in the European Higher Education and Research Area.

In order to foster parity, Hcéres takes care to balance numbers of women and men serving on all its ruling bodies and committees, including panels of experts.

This charter lays down a set of general rules on how evaluations are to be carried out.

PRINCIPLES FOR AN EFFECTIVE PROCESS OF EVALUATION

1. THE NEED FOR COMPETENCE

Hcéres selects experts on the basis of their known competence in accordance with the evaluation missions entrusted to them.

The French and foreign experts selected by Hcéres are recognised for the quality of their work across diverse fields.

2. THE NEED FOR PROFESSIONALISM

Hcéres keeps a close watch on the consistency and reliability of evaluation procedures and results.

It has introduced permanent self-evaluation systems and a plan for continuous improvement of its practices that makes good use of feedback.

Every five years, it undergoes an external review of its work and operating methods.

3. THE NEED FOR PERIODIC EVALUATION

Periodic evaluation of institutions, research units and study programmes enables regular measurement of their progress.

THE PRINCIPLE OF IMPARTIAL EVALUATION

Hcéres is required to conduct impartial evaluations.

4. THE NEED FOR EQUAL TREATMENT

Hcéres guarantees equal treatment for all evaluated entities. It ensures that panels of experts carry out independent, collegial and impartial evaluations.

5. THE NEED FOR INDEPENDENCE

Hcéres carries out evaluations independently of any external influence. In this regard, it takes all necessary measures to prevent conflicts of interests arising at whatever stage of the evaluation process. If a conflict of interests does come to light despite the precautions taken, corrective measures are implemented.

6. THE NEED FOR INTEGRITY ON THE PART OF EXPERTS

Experts are required to demonstrate maximum rigour. Their assessments must be based on analysis of the information collected and factual arguments. They undertake to have no personal contact with the evaluated entity throughout the duration of the mission and not to communicate the results of the evaluation to anyone before they are published by Hcéres.

7. THE NEED FOR COLLEGIALITY

An evaluation is the result of cooperation between numbers of complementary experts meeting together as members of the panels set up by Hcéres. It is in no way the expression of an individual opinion.

Chairs of panels of experts are responsible for ensuring the collegiality of work carried out and that account is taken of the diversity of assessments made by the experts involved. They sign the evaluation reports on behalf of all the experts.

THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR INSTITUTIONS

8. THE NEED TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF DIVERSITY

Hcéres implements criteria and procedures adapted to the diversity of the bodies and study programmes it evaluates, with regard to their nature, missions, and disciplinary fields.

9. THE NEED FOR RESPECT OF AUTONOMY

In accordance with the autonomy of evaluated entities, Hcéres establishes dialogue with them prior to evaluation in order to take into account their expectations.

10. THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLICITY

Hcéres undertakes to advise evaluated entities fully on the objectives of evaluations, the conditions under which they are carried out, the composition of the panel of experts and the curricula vitae of its members. Prior to any evaluation, the experts approached declare any conflict of interest with the evaluated entity to Hcéres.

Evaluation reports are communicated to evaluated institutions and their supervising authorities for comment. Reports and comments are then published. In accordance with French Decree no.2014-1365 pertaining to the organisation and operation of Hcéres, "for research units, only a final summary of the evaluation presenting a synopsis of opinions and recommendations, shall be made public."

11. THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Hcéres collaborators are bound by professional secrecy and committed to strict discretion with regard to information they may have gathered and work carried out in the course of their missions.

They also undertake not to make any personal use of such data.