



Student involvement

How to cultivate a rewarding collaboration

THE FORMAL INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCES



The Accreditation Panel

- Student representation in each panel



Site visits

- "Organised" students are interviewed on the first site visit
- "Ordinary" students are interviewed during the second visit



The Accreditation Council

- Two members who are students



WHY DO EQA'S NEED FURTHER STUDENT INVOLVEMENT?

- **Key stakeholders**
- **Identifying blind spots**
- **Accreditation utilization by students**
- **Access to ordinary students**

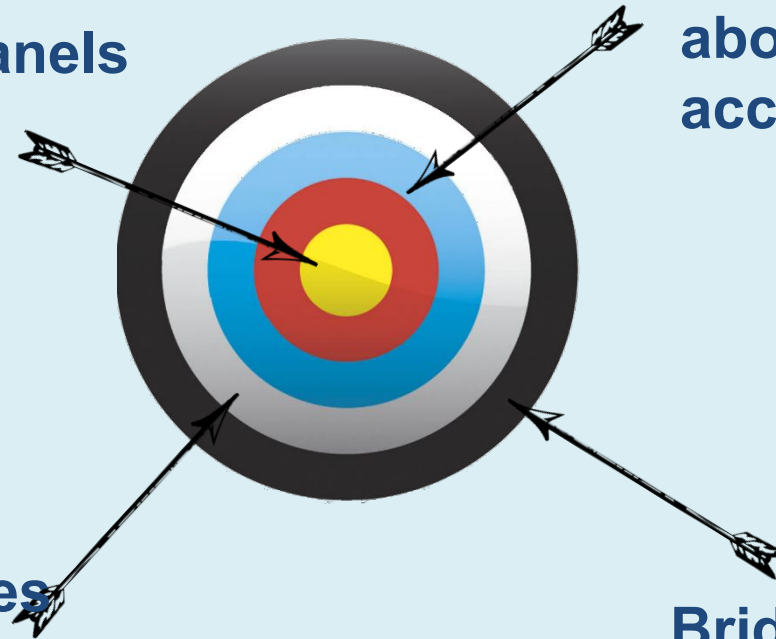
STAR – THE STUDENTS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

- **Established in 2014**
- **A discussion forum for students engaged in quality assurance and political activities at the HEIs**
- **17 national student organizations are represented in STAR**
- **2 meetings a year**
- **Discussions on issues of accreditation and quality in HE**

STAR CONTRIBUTES TO

Appoint potential students for accreditation panels

Inform local student bodies about accreditation



Provide input to thematic analyses

Bridge the gap between AI and ordinary students

”AMBITIONS FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT”

AMBITIONER FOR STUDENTERINVOLVERING I AKKREDITERING

Udvælgelse af studerende til interviews

Akkrediteringspanelerne får gennem interviews med akkrediteringspanelet viden om de studerendes oplevelser af og erfaringer med kvalitetsarbejdet og/eller uddannelsen. Ambitionerne i forbindelse med udvælgelse af studerende til interviews er, at:

- Alle involverede parter (uddannelsesinstitutionen, Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution, akkrediteringspanelet, lokale studentorganisationer m.fl.) bidrager til en gennemsigtig proces med hensyn til udvælgelse og rekruttering.
- Institutionerne så vidt muligt inddrager organiserede studerende eller studerende i kollegiale organer i forbindelse med udvælgelsen.
- Akkrediteringspanelet møder et bredt udsnit af studerende. De studerende, der udvælges til interview, skal så vidt muligt have tilknytning til forskellige campusser, uddannelser og semestre, hvor det er relevant.
- Institutionerne orienterer akkrediteringspanelet om eventuelle udfordringer i rekrutteringsprocessen.
- Alle parter bidrager til at tydeliggøre, hvorfor det er hensigtsmæssigt, at de studerende er involveret i akkrediteringsprocessen.

Information til studerende forud for interviews

Det er vigtigt, at de studerende forud for interviews og akkrediteringspanelet føler sig godt klædt på og er blevet informeret om rammerne for og formålet med interviewet. Ambitionerne for, hvordan og hvorfor de studerende informeres forud for et interview, er, at:

- De studerende oplever, at deres indblik i og erfaringer med kvalitetsarbejdet og/eller uddannelsen bidrager til og er værdifulde for akkrediteringsprocessen
- De studerende ikke oplever, at de er til eksamen i institutionens samlede kvalitets sikrings system
- Alle involverede parter bidrager til at skabe trygge rammer for en åben og tillidsfuld dialog under interviewene
- Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution aktivt informerer de studerende om akkreditering og ses som en ressource, der fx kan afholde orienteringsmøder i samarbejde med institutionen og/eller studentorganisationerne forud for en akkrediteringsproces
- Studerende, som tidligere har deltaget i akkrediteringsprocesser, af alle involverede parter inddrages som en ressource og informationskilde, der med fordel kan informere andre studerende om akkreditering.

Baggrunden for ambitionerne er et ønske hos de studerende, på uddannelsesinstitutionerne og i Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution om at fremme en dialog, der skal skabe øget gennemsigtighed i forbindelse med processerne for udvælgelse af studerende til interviews og for, hvordan de studerende informeres forud for interviews i forbindelse med uddannelses- og institutionsakkreditering. Arbejdsgruppen bag ambitionerne består af repræsentanter for Danske Universiteter, Danske Erhvervsakademier, Danske Professionshøjskoler, STAR – De Studerendes Akkrediteringsråd og Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution. Resultatet af dialogen er Ambitioner for studenterinvolvering i akkreditering, som er målrettet de lokale studentorganisationer, uddannelsesinstitutionerne og Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution. Ambitionerne er formuleret på et overordnet plan, og det har været et opmærksomhedspunkt for arbejdsgruppen, at der i enhver akkrediteringsproces bør tages hensyn til uddannelsesinstitutionernes forskellighed.



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AMBITIONER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN ACCREDITATION

Selecting students for interviews

Through interviews with relevant students, the accreditation panels gain knowledge about students' perception and experience of QA work and/or the study programme. The ambitions when selecting students for interviews are as follows:

- that all parties involved (the educational institution, AI, the accreditation panel, local student organisations, and more) contribute to a transparent process with regard to selection and recruitment;
- that the institutions involve organised students or students in collegiate bodies in connection with the selection as far as possible;
- that the accreditation panel meets with a broad range of students. Students who are selected for interviews should as far as possible represent different campuses, study programmes and semesters, where relevant;
- that the institutions brief the accreditation panel about any challenges in the recruitment process;
- all parties contribute to stressing why it is worthwhile to involve students in the accreditation process.

Information to students prior to interviews

It is important that, prior to an interview with the accreditation panel, students feel well prepared and well informed about the framework for, and purpose of, the interview. The ambitions for how and why students are informed prior to an interview are

- that the students feel that their insight into and experience of QA work and/or the study programme contribute to and are of value to the accreditation process;
- that the students do not feel that the interview is an examination in the institution's QA system;
- that all parties involved contribute to creating a safe environment for open and trustful dialogue during the interviews;
- that AI actively informs students about accreditation and is considered a resource that can host orientation meetings in collaboration with the institution and/or student organisations prior to the accreditation process, for example;
- that students who have previously participated in accreditation processes are involved by all parties as a resource and source of information who can also help inform other students about accreditation.

The background for these ambitions is a desire among students at educational institutions and in AI to promote a dialogue that can heighten transparency when selecting students for interviews and when informing students prior to interviews in connection with institutional and programme accreditations. The working group behind the ambitions comprises representatives from Universities Denmark, Danish Business Academies, University Colleges Denmark, STAR (the Students' Accreditation Council) and AI (the Danish Accreditation Institution). The outcome of the dialogue in the working group is the report, Ambitioner for studenterinvolvering i akkreditering (ambitions for student involvement in accreditation), which is aimed at local student organisations, educational institutions and AI. The ambitions have been worded as general ambitions and the working group has paid attention to the fact that any accreditation process should take account of institutional differences.



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DEVELOPING A NEW ACCREDITATION CONCEPT

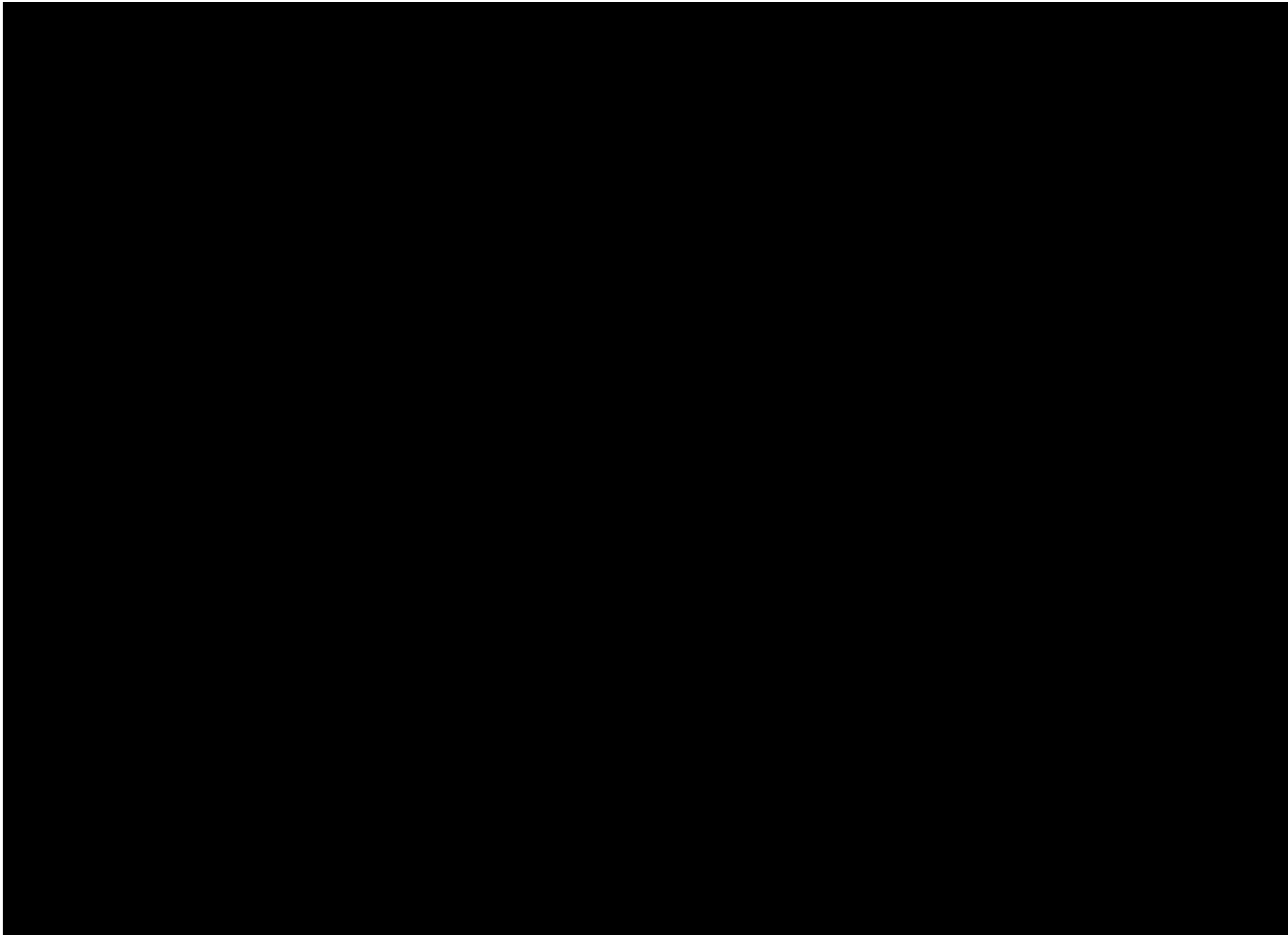
- **Workshop with members of STAR and representatives from former expert panels and from the Accreditation Council**
- **Discussing thoughts and ideas to an overall framework for the new concept from a student perspective**
- **Input on how student-centred learning can be included in the institutional accreditation concept**

INITIATIVES TO REACH ORDINARY STUDENTS



25 institutions

**More than af 2500 cups
of free coffee served**



THE BENEFITS SO FAR

- **A channel for communication with ordinary students**
- **The student bodies have come to appreciate The Danish Accreditation Institution as a partner with mutual interests**
- **Students see accreditation as a tool to push for quality improvement**



CHALLENGES

- **Representation: Differences in the degree of engagement Universities vs. Vocational institutions**
- **High replacement rate**
- **No formal power of decision making**

Questions

- **How have you experienced your participation in the network so far?**
- **How do you work with accreditation at The National Union of Students?**
- **What should institutions do to enhance student involvement/participation in quality assurance?**
- **What should external quality assurance agencies give attention to when assessing the involvement of students in quality assurance?**
- **How can agencies work on involving students in their processes to a greater extent? And what is crucial?**