

The Eligibility Criteria

1. Institutional Scope

The School must demonstrate that its activities fall within the scope of institutions covered by the scheme. It must produce evidence that it:

- a. is an EFMD member in good standing; it needs to maintain this status while going through the accreditation process as well as during the entire period of accreditation.
- b. is or is part of a degree awarding institution; institutions with the sole focus on non-degree education cannot be declared eligible, even if they are attached to a higher education institution.
- c. has a mission which is appropriate for a higher education institution.
- d. has a primary (and main) focus on management or business administration; all activities with this focus are considered core activities. To a limited extent, a School can engage in non-core activities, which need to complement and support its core activities; other non-core activities are not subject to EQUIS accreditation.
- e. has reasonable autonomy in formulating and implementing its strategy, in the management of its academic staff and budget and in the design and delivery of its programmes.
- f. has clear boundaries which make it possible to distinguish it from other units within the wider institutional structure; boundaries refer to management and academic control as well as external recognition by stakeholders and the market at large.
- g. has academic staff covering the principal management disciplines.
- h. has been in operation for at least 10 years, which can involve the transition from a previous to the current structure.
- i. can demonstrate sufficient institutional stability in cases where major structural changes have occurred.

2. Excellent National Standing

The School is recognised as an institution having excellent standing in its home market. The School should produce evidence that it enjoys significant recognition for excellence in at least two clearly defined areas of activity.

3. International Reputation

The School is recognised outside its own country.

4. Breadth of Activities

The School has reasonable breadth in its programme portfolio as demonstrated by presence in at least two of the principal segments (Bachelor, Master, MBA, PhD, Executive Education). The School must also demonstrate substantial engagement in knowledge generation and dissemination.

5. Core Faculty

The School has a core faculty of at least 25 FTE qualified academics. In all cases, the School must demonstrate that the size of its core faculty is sufficient to support its portfolio of activities and the number of students enrolled in its programmes, and the faculty must constitute a viable academic community.

6. EQUIS Standards and Criteria

The School has a reasonable prospect of satisfying the EQUIS criteria within two years of being declared eligible. The perceived ability to meet the EQUIS Standards & Criteria is the key factor for the Committee in making the decision for eligibility.

In this process, the onus is upon the School to present a convincing case that it does demonstrably satisfy the above Eligibility criteria.