



IAU WHED

The world of higher education at your fingertips

*The unique database providing **authoritative information** on higher education systems, credentials and institutions worldwide*



in collaboration with



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



WHAT IS THE IAU WHED?

- IAU in collaboration with UNESCO since 1950
- IAU World Higher Education Database (WHED) is an online reference portal
- Information on some **19,400 HEIs, and higher education systems and credentials of 196 countries and territories**
- HEIs listed are **accredited or recognized** by their respective national authorities
- WHED is a **vast source for HE information provided and used** by national higher education authorities, governmental agencies, national academic bodies

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION IS ON WHED?

Education system and credentials

Fact sheet: structure of national HE system and credentials including:

- **types of HEIs** available in the country
- **structure** of the higher education system
- **national bodies** responsible for higher education (including associations and organisations located within the country)
- **admission requirements**
- the **quality assurance** and **recognition systems**
- the **main credentials**

Higher education institutions (HEIs)

1. Fact sheet divided into 5 sections:

- General information
- Divisions
- Degrees
- Student and Staff numbers

2. The profile of IAU Members are highlighted with the IAU flag and their logo and photos if available

WHO PROVIDES INFORMATION?

National competent bodies:

- National higher education authorities and governmental agencies
- **For each degree-granting institutions offering at least a 4-year degree**
- questionnaire is sent out to the HEIs to check and update institutional data
- 1. National competent bodies, 2. troubleshooting: Permanent delegations at UNESCO



WHAT ARE THE INCLUSION CRITERIA FOR COUNTRIES AND HEIs TO BE LISTED IN THE WHED?

➤ Inclusion criteria for a country

Be a Member State or an Associate Member of the UN

➤ Inclusion criteria as Higher Education Institution

- ✓ Be recognized and referenced by the national competent body
- ✓ Be a degree-conferring institution offering at least a four-year degree or a four-year professional diploma
- ✓ Have had at least three cohorts



Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

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- Common good: local to global?
- *“Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”* (UN’s Declaration of Human Rights, 1948)
- **Global Convention: legal right** to have qualifications assessed for admission to further study or employment in another country
- Adoption: UNESCO’s General Conference
- IAU contributes through WHED: facilitator for the freedom of movement as a go-to tool for the recognition of foreign qualifications



WHED and the Global Convention: a database for the common good

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- As only database that lists all accredited/recognised HEIs in the world, the WHED is a hugely important facilitator!
- HE Recognition requires trust: enhanced if information easily obtainable from open, quality controlled websites and standardised databases
- WHED part of the process in order to provide: verified, trustworthy information about the degree conferring institutions and the education system to make a fair assessment of the qualification.
- **gate-opener** for academic and professional mobility
- **gate keeper** safeguarding the integrity of HE qualifications and HE institutions



NEW FEATURE: IAU GLOBAL WHED IDENTIFIER

Simplified access to identify accredited institutions

In collaboration with UNESCO and other partners, including the AUF, the ACU, and ENIC-NARIC Network:

- **Foster transparency** of higher education on a global scale;
- **Help Higher Education stakeholders** to identify accredited/recognised HE institutions
- **Increase** access, speed and **the reliability** of information;
- Provide better overall **administrative certainty**;
- **Combat fraud in higher education**



NEW: IAU GLOBAL WHED IDENTIFIER

The Global Whed ID`s potential:

- Facilitator for the recognition of HEIs and HE qualifications
- A key digital component in blockchain and other technology
- Facilitator for Human Resource Recruitment
- Integral part of digital services in HE and beyond

BUAP: IAU-001586

IAU-001586



Benemérita Autonomous University of Puebla

Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP)



IAU
Member Mexico



HOW IS THE INFORMATION UPDATED?

Regional updates

The IAU/UNESCO Information Centre updates the database in collaboration with UNESCO and the ENIC NARIC Networks **on an ongoing basis according to a 4-year cycle focusing each year on one specific region or geographic area.**

For year 2019-2020 Europe, Canada and North America are being update.

Following regions will be update according to this cycle:

- Latin America and the Caribbean (2020-2021)
- Africa (2021-2022)
- Asia, Oceania and Middle East (2022-2023)

Monthly updates

The IAU/UNESCO Information Centre also provides monthly updates on IAU Members, ad hoc updates received from institutions, and regular updates on national higher education systems and bodies.