

PROCEDURE FOR RECUSAL OF MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EXPERT PANELS

In accordance with the provisions outlined in the *Framework Document for the Evaluation of Official University Education*, the Balearic Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (AQUIB) is the responsible for selecting and appointing the expert individuals who constitute each panel. The Agency is also responsible for notifying the university the panel's composition based on the submitted study programmes.

AQUIB will ensure that individuals with functional or contractual ties to the university, where they primarily carry out their activities, are not designated as members of a site visit expert panel. Furthermore, compliance with reasons for abstention regulated by Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector, will be ensured through the endorsement of a Code of Ethics. Thus, accepting and signing AQUIB's Code of Ethics will be prerequisites for the appointment as a member of a site visit expert panel.

In the event that the grounds for abstention referred to in Article 23.2 of Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector, are present, interested individuals must communicate the concurrent reason, preventing their appointment as experts on that panel.

Simultaneously, upon signing the Code of Ethics, the expert individual commits to immediately inform AQUIB, through the technical direction, of any conflicts of interest, direct or indirect, arising from their appointment as an evaluator by the Agency.

Notwithstanding the above, once the university is notified of the composition of the site visit expert panel responsible for visiting the institution regarding one or more official university study programmes, the university may challenge this designation, excluding the secretary, if it deems it contrary to its interests and if grounds for recusal under Article 24 of Law 40/2015, of October 1, are present.

The recused individual must declare, the day after being informed of their recusal, whether or not the alleged reason exists. If so, AQUIB will remove the recused individual from the corresponding panel, proceeding with their replacement as soon as possible. If the individual denies the reason for recusal, AQUIB will resolve within a period of five business days, following the relevant reports and checks.

The decision will be communicated to the university, with no possibility of filing any complaint. However, objections can be raised when filing the corresponding appeals within the framework of the procedure for accreditation renewal, as established in Royal Decree 822/2021, of September 28, which establishes the organization of university education and the procedure for ensuring its quality.

Members appointed to an site visit external panel may resign at any time by communicating this decision to AQUIB. In cases of resignation, abstention, or recusal that hinder the participation of external experts, AQUIB will proceed with their replacement.

Procedure for Submitting a Recusal by the University

The recusal of members of the abovementioned panels will be carried out through a signed letter by the university addressed to the technical direction of AQUIB. This letter should include the university's information, the affected study programme(s), the name of the recused individual, the panel to which they belong, and the reasons for the recusal. The letter should be sent to:

Agència de Qualitat Universitària de les Illes Balears

ParcBit, C/ Isaac Newton, building Naorte A, ground floor, units 3-4-5
07121 Palma (Illes Balears)