



European Association for  
Public Administration  
Accreditation

## **EAPAA: The European Association for Public Administration Accreditation**

### **Why should EAPAA evaluate your programme?**

**EAPAA is the only quality assurance authority in Public Administration which is active throughout Europe.** It has, until now, accredited more than 50 programmes across the continent, including most leading institutes in the field.

**For EAPAA, evaluation is more than a simple check of procedures and formalities.** Its work is based on peer review: programmes under review are assessed by experienced and internationally recognised senior academics from the public administration field, who know what it is to run a public administration programme. As a result, the feedback is based on a thorough knowledge of the content and on first-hand experience. **The aim is to give high-quality feedback that helps programmes reach higher levels of teaching excellence.**

EAPAA's evaluation is mission-based. The backgrounds of programmes and conditions in which they work differ vastly across and within countries. **While maintaining general quality standards, evaluators always take the programme's unique position and choices into account.** There is no single model for a good public administration programme and EAPAA leaves room for programmes to develop their own specific profile.

**Receiving the EAPAA seal is recognized as an international mark of distinction.** It sets programmes apart in the increasingly competitive market for international students.

**EAPAA is dedicated to keeping its services accessible and affordable to the majority of programmes.** It is a non-profit organisation that delivers professional services while maintaining a lean and flexible organisation. In 2014, the high quality of its services was recognized by inclusion in the European Quality Assurance Registry.

### **Who is eligible?**

EAPAA accredits bachelor and master programmes (including post-initial master programmes) in public administration. Applicants must be a member either of EGPA or NISPAcee.

### **What types of evaluation are available?**

In line with the Bologna Treaty of 1999, EAPAA recognizes different categories of programmes:

- First cycle bachelor level public administration programmes;
- Second cycle graduate/master level public administration programmes;
- Combined/comprehensive public administration programmes;
- Executive/mid-career public administration master programmes.



Since programmes are different in nature, EAPAA awards different types of quality evaluation:

- (a) **Accreditation**
- (b) **Certification**

Although the evaluation processes are in many ways similar, there are some differences.

**The accreditation process** places more emphasis on academic multi-disciplinarity, internationalisation and the research-based element of programmes. This is suited to academic programmes at a mature stage of development and with an international orientation.

**The certification process** puts more emphasis on training for the national public service and is a lighter procedure at lower costs. Certification can be pursued independently or, for programmes that aim to become more internationally oriented, as a first step towards accreditation.

If programmes are uncertain which type of evaluation is best suited to them, they are welcome to contact the EAPAA secretariat for advice.

## What is the procedure?

The evaluation of a study programme is organized along the following four steps:

- (1) An institution (e.g. faculty or department) interested in the accreditation or certification of one or more of its programmes in public administration applies to EAPAA through the application form available at the website [www.eapaa.org](http://www.eapaa.org). After eligibility is confirmed, the process can go ahead.
- (2) The programme then has to submit a Self-Evaluation Report which follows a pre-set format and gives all relevant information.
- (3) EAPAA sends a Site Visit Team to inspect the programme on-site and to have interviews with all relevant stakeholders. The team is composed of senior academics from different countries, supplemented with a practitioner and a student representative.
- (4) The team prepares a detailed site visit report, which will be the basis for the decision of the independent Accreditation Committee of EAPAA. If it is decided to award full accreditation or certification, the status is valid for seven years.

## Further information

For more information, please consult our website [www.eapaa.org](http://www.eapaa.org) or contact our secretariat at: [secretariat@eapaa.org](mailto:secretariat@eapaa.org).

**EAPAA is jointly supported by EGPA and NISPAcee.**

