

Chapter 4: Eligibility Guidelines

4.1. EFMD Programme Accreditation Eligibility Criteria

EFMD Programme Accreditation is designed to accredit high quality programmes which aim to develop graduates for careers in international business and management. Institutions offering such programmes are likely to have a strong national or international reputation and a clear international perspective. The Eligibility criteria for EFMD Programme Accreditation therefore consider both institutional and programme dimensions.

Item 1. | Institutional status and reputation

The Institution must a) be an EFMD full member in good standing; b) be of higher education status or level; c) have been in operation for at least 5 years; d) have a strong national and preferably international reputation, and e) be financially viable such that it is able to offer its programmes on a sustainable basis.

Item 2. | Faculty

The faculty (core, adjunct and visiting faculty) must be of a size and be qualified appropriately for the level of the Programme(s) under consideration. A significant number are likely to hold doctorates and the faculty mix should have appropriate international expertise and experience. There should be evidence (e.g., publications) of high-quality intellectual activity or scholarship (e.g., case development, consulting projects, applied research, academic research) at a level of academic depth appropriate of the level of the Programme(s) under review.

Item 3. | Programme nature

The applicant Programme must aim to produce graduates qualified within the broad field of business and management. The Programme may have other components as well, but the core content (normally at least 50%) must be related to business and/or management. It must have a sound academic but also an appropriate practical approach and include an international perspective. The Programme should enjoy a good national reputation and be accredited at the national level (where available and appropriate).

Item 4. | Programme level

The Programme must be at the Bachelor (or equivalent) level or above.

Item 5. | Programme quality

The Programme length must be appropriate to the level of programme, (e.g., minimum length equivalent to 3 years full-time for Bachelor and 1 year full-time for Master programmes). The Programme content must have appropriate academic depth and rigour matching the level of degree.

Item 6. | Credibility and sustainability

The Programme should have been producing graduates for at least **2 cohorts** (over at least 2 years). There must have been a minimum aggregate of **30 graduates** from the Programme in the 2 years prior to the date of EFMD Programme Accreditation application.

Item 7. | Minimum size of each intake for mutual learning

There should be a minimum cohort size of **20 students** for all Programmes and for each intake. This minimum must be maintained throughout the accreditation process and accreditation period.

Item 8. | International perspective

The Programme must provide students with an international learning experience. This is likely to require an international/multicultural mix of students (including incoming exchange students), an international/multicultural mix of faculty (including visiting faculty), a diverse academic content, a mix of delivery methods, the opportunity for study/work abroad, a range of international partnerships, and the delivery of some course elements in English or another major foreign language.

Item 9. | Business/practitioner perspective

The Programme must develop an understanding of the world of business and management practice, which is likely to require appropriate practitioner input to the Programme (i.e., depending on the nature of the Programme) and the opportunity for work-based learning (e.g., projects, internships). Students are expected to be able to develop practical transferable skills.

Item 10. | Ethics, responsibility and sustainability (ERS) perspective

The Programme must develop an understanding of the role of ethics, responsibility and sustainability in order to prepare students for the challenges and expectations of managing a modern organisation.

The perceived ability to meet the EFMD Programme Accreditation Standards & Criteria is the key factor for the Committee in making its decision on eligibility. Therefore, the Programme must have a reasonable prospect of satisfying the EFMD Programme Accreditation Standards within 2 years (in exceptional cases 4 years) of being declared Eligible.

(Additional Eligibility criteria apply to **Doctoral** and **Joint/Collaborative programmes** – see [Annexes 13](#) and [14](#).)

Institutions must continue to meet the Eligibility criteria during the eligibility period and the period of accreditation. They must inform the EFMD Programme Accreditation Office about any development that may affect their eligibility status and whether they no longer meet the Eligibility criteria. Their case will then be considered by the EFMD Programme Accreditation Committee or the Accreditation Board as appropriate.

Clarification of any of the above Eligibility criteria with respect to its application to a specific Programme may be sought from the EFMD Programme Accreditation Office.