



BLANTYRE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

HARMONIZATION OF QUALIFICATIONS
WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES

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Private Bag 98, Blantyre, Malawi
Tel: +265 1 831516 | Fax: +265 1 831514
Email: info@biu.ac.mw
Website: www.biu.ac.mw



INTRODUCTION

While the Bologna Process in Europe is the leading example, regional efforts towards harmonization of higher education are taking place in every corner of the world. In the past couple of decades, one of the major developments in the global higher education landscape is the growing role of supranational organizations. As a result, phrases such as regionalization, harmonization, tuning, credit transfer, and mutual recognition of qualifications have become common in the vocabulary of higher education policy discussions in different parts of the world. In Africa, there are a number of regional and sub-regional initiatives geared toward harmonization of higher education systems in the continent. Closer home, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Education and Training (1997) aims at achieving equivalence, harmonization and, in the long term, standardization of higher education in the sub-continent. Ratified by all member states except three (Angola, DR Congo and Seychelles), it came into force in 2000. Two articles (7&8) of the Protocol specifically refer to higher education and training cooperation, and identifies key areas of harmonization. BIU fully supports these efforts, as their overarching developmental objective is the production of human resources that have the competencies required for driving countries' economic and social development.

POLICY

The basic objective of the BIU Policy on harmonization of its degree qualifications is to increase the national and international competitiveness of BIU graduates for employment, further studies, and research. Therefore, the Board of Directors of BIU adopted the following policies:

- 1) Aligning BIU's qualifications framework to the qualifications frameworks of other universities in Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and America, and to the national qualifications framework when produced.
- 2) Benchmarking BIU's degree curricular with other universities in Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and America.
- 3) Establishing partnerships with other universities across the world for cooperation in curricular development and for student and staff exchanges.
- 4) Supporting the inter-university mobility of students, academic staff, researchers and administrative staff through the provision of some of the associated costs.
- 5) Subscribing to the Association of African Universities and the association of Commonwealth Universities.



- 6) Collaborating with other universities in curricular development and in the development of new knowledge.
- 7) Undertaking regular self-assessment using the African High Education Quality Rating Mechanism.
- 8) Accepting academic credit transfers from other universities and seeking mutual recognition from such universities.
- 9) Recruiting some academic staff from other universities from other countries and continents.
- 10) Lend support to regional and continental initiatives on harmonization of university qualifications.
- 11) Seek accreditation of BIU programmes with other agencies in the world such as the Association of Advance Collegiate of Business Schools (AACSB).
- 12) These policies may be amended any time by the Board of Directors.