

## **EVALUATION OF THE ACCREDITATION**

### **STUDY PROGRAM**

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)**

### **UNIVERSITY**

Middlesex University (London/Great Britain) in cooperation with the KMU Akademie & Management AG (Linz/Austria)

Based on the evaluation of the reaccreditation report and the deliberations of the Accreditation Commission of AQAS during the accreditation procedures on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Accreditation Commission of AAC issues the following:

1. To accept AQAS decision to accredit the study program.
2. The study program “Master of Business Administration” with the degree “Master of Business Administration (MBA)” at the Middlesex University (London, Great Britain) in cooperation with the KMU Akademie and Management AG (Linz, Austria) is accredited without conditions, in accordance with the AAC criteria for program accreditation, based on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).
3. The accreditation will be valid until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **STANDARD 1: INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW**

The Middlesex University (MU) is a public British university that has been authorized to award university degrees to foreign institutions since 1973. In collaboration with the KMU Akademie & Management AG in Linz, Austria, it offers the “Master of Business Administration” (M.BA), among others. With a main campus in London and additional locations in Dubai, Mauritius, and Malta, it is one of the largest universities in the UK. The KMU Akademie was founded in 2006 to provide further education programs for small and medium-sized businesses. Through a partnership with Middlesex University, it can now also grant academic degrees. The program is located in the MU Business School and is offered in German, with quality assurance provided by Middlesex University. Information about the KMU Academy, Middlesex University, and the programs offered can be found on the KMU Academy's website or in the KMUnity platform.

### **STANDARD 2: ETHICS AND DIVERSITY**

The university offers all the necessary resources for teaching. For tests there are exam centers located in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. For help, students can turn to the "Student Secretary," where around 15 staff members are assisting students. Important information such as regulations, guidelines, and module handbooks are accessible in the internal online portal for students. A virtual

orientation event is offered for new students. After graduation, students can register in an alumni club. Most teaching is online, so there is a great focus on IT and staff support. Students have access to an E-library where they can find the required study materials online and download them.

The diversity policy of the KMU Academy and its mission statement emphasize equal opportunities and anti-discrimination regarding gender, origin, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, various life situations and forms, and physical or mental disabilities. Measures for compensation of disadvantages are incorporated into the study and examination regulations reviewed by Middlesex University

### **STANDARD 3: STRATEGIC DESIGN OF PROGRAMS**

- Qualification and Learning Outcomes:

The "Master of Business Administration" program provides further education in the field of business and is designed for those looking to advance their knowledge in general business or specific specializations. Students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills required for leadership roles in both present and future business landscapes.

The "Master of Business Administration" program is divided into core and specialization modules, each worth ten ECTS credits, summing up to 120 ECTS in total. These modules provide a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of business management and strategy. The program concludes with the submission of a master's thesis.

### **STANDARD 4: QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT**

The KMU Akademie has established a multi-level quality assurance system in its "2016 Strategy Planning" and further developed in the "2021 Strategy Planning", based on the following components:

- Internal quality assurance involves program evaluations, student surveys, faculty assessments, and monitoring student progress. KMU Akademie integrates current research into programs and engages students in quality assurance through committees and evaluations.
- External quality assurance is overseen by Middlesex University, including validation, assessment boards, and external examiners, ensuring compliance with academic standards.
- Third-party certifications and accreditations, such as evaluations by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, also contribute to quality assurance.

The programs offered by KMU Akademie are aligned with the quality standards set by the British QAA (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education), European Qualifications Framework, and Bologna Process.

#### **STANDARD 5: ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF**

With an average of 64 students per teacher, a good balance and enough support is ensured. There is also a plan in place to help our staff grow and improve. A concept for staff development and qualification is established at the university.

#### **STANDARD 6: STUDENT AND STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT**

The institution's quality assurance processes are well-documented and involve stakeholders at multiple levels, ensuring transparency and continuous improvement. An updated handbook containing the study plans for both programs is provided to students in the KMUnity at the beginning of April each year. Before that, teachers give suggestions for changes to the education management during the summer in the previous year. The manuals are then sent to the Academic Quality Service (AQS) in November each year for approval of significant changes.

Student statistics on study duration, retention rates, graduate surveys, and workload assessments will be collected.

#### **STANDARD 7: LEARNING AND TEACHING**

- Teaching and learning:

The program is offered as part-time, distance learning course suitable for working professionals. It includes lectures, textbooks, course materials, reflection tasks, and live online sessions as primary teaching and learning methods. Each module is overseen by a responsible individual and coordinated by the educational management to ensure completeness.

- Examination:

The university assesses students through exams, written assignments, presentations, and master's theses, with evaluation details provided in KMUnity. The student handbook, exam dates and locations are also available in KMUnity. All assessments are reviewed and approved by external examiners, and grading criteria are outlined in the Student Handbook.

#### **STANDARD 8: PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

- Access and Admission:

To enroll in the Master's program, there is following needed, either an academic degree plus two years of work experience, or a high school diploma plus four years of work experience, or a completed vocational training plus six years of work experience. People with a similar degree and at least six years of work experience might also be accepted into the program after careful assessment.

- **Accreditation and Recognition:**

Accreditation is determined by workload calculations. The university collects data through module evaluations, student statistics, program voice groups, and graduate surveys. According to university guidelines, 25 ECTS equals 250 hours, including about 235 hours of self-study and 15 hours of teaching.

- **Degree:**

Students receive a British university degree certificate and a Diploma Supplement from Middlesex University.

**SUMMARY:**

The **KMU Academy & Management AG** was founded in 2006. KMU Academy demonstrates its professionalism through notable accreditations such as ACBSP, memberships such as AACSB, and listed at EQAR, cementing its commitment to excellence in education.

- <https://www.kmuakademie.ac.at/ueber-uns/partner-referenzen>
- <https://acbsp.org/members/?id=68127676>
- <https://www.aacsb.edu/members?countries=austria>
- <https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=2676>

Since 2011, it has partnered with **Middlesex University** to offer part-time, flexible, and location-independent academic programs in German. Middlesex University, established in 1973, is one of England's largest universities. Based in London, it holds system accreditation from QAA (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education) and enjoys high academic recognition internationally. In addition to London, Middlesex University has campuses in Dubai, Mauritius, and Malta. Many programs are available for distance learning through academic partners in multiple countries. Students are enrolled directly at Middlesex University, with organizational support provided by the KMU Academy & Management AG. Degrees are conferred by Middlesex University.

- <https://www.kmuakademie.ac.at/ueber-uns/partner-referenzen>
- <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/business-and-partnerships/academic-partnerships/our-partners>

The QAA is an independent charity dedicated to advancing the interests of students and higher education. It is globally recognized as a leading authority in quality assurance. Higher education institutions and regulatory bodies rely on the QAA to uphold and improve quality and standards.

- <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/business-and-partnerships/academic-partnerships>
- <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/membership/about-qaa-membership/our-members>

In addition to Middlesex University's system accreditation, the programs offered in collaboration with KMU Academy & Management AG have been successfully accredited by the accreditation agency AQAS, in accordance with international standards and the ESGs (European Standards and Guidelines).

The Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs (AQAS) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated for the accreditation of higher education institutions in Germany. AQAS is an active member in various international associations (Listed in EQAR, Full Member of ENQA, Full member of ECA, Full Member of INQAAHE)

- <https://www.kmuakademie.ac.at/ueber-uns>
- <https://www.aqas.eu/about-our-agency/>
- <https://www.enqa.eu/esg-standards-and-guidelines-for-quality-assurance-in-the-european-higher-education-area/>

#### **CONCLUSIO:**

The AAC (Accreditation Agency Curacao) evaluated and accepts AQAS's decision of the reaccreditation of the "Master of Business Administration" program offered by Middlesex University (London, Great Britain) in partnership with KMU Academy and Management AG (Linz, Austria). This accreditation is granted without conditions as it meets AAC criteria, which are based on the ESG (European Standards and Guidelines).

- <https://www.aqas.eu/references/>

**The "Master of Business Administration" (MBA) program of KMU Academy & Management AG is accredited by AAC until September 30, 2026.**