

Hobéon Certification Ltd. (HC)

Recently Hobéon has been involved in the implementation of the bachelor-master structure and in the new accreditation system in higher education in The Netherlands. As of 2004, study programmes have to be accredited in order to be eligible for government funding. Accreditation must take place every six years. HC operates as one of the independent organisations that assesses study programmes on the basis of the Accreditation Framework for Higher Education designed by the Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). In that context, NVAO has officially recognised HC as an Assessing Agency (Visiterende en Beoordelende Instantie - VBI). The HC report has the formal status of a recommendation. The NVAO has the final say in whether or not to accredit a study programme.

HC has extensive experience in developing quality assurance systems and quality recognition schemes and in certification of companies and institutes.

For example, HC is responsible for the organisation of a number of quality recognition schemes such as the one in historic building conservation. HC also acts as the executive body for the Dualisation Hallmark Foundation (Stichting Keurmerk Dualisering) that awards hallmarks for dual study programmes in vocational and higher professional education.

HC is one of the initiators of the Arts & Culture Quality Management Scheme, which recently started with a number of pilots.

HC is currently working with the sectoral organisation for institutions in Arts Education to develop a quality recognition scheme.

All these recognition schemes have one shared objective: a clear quality analysis resulting in continuous quality improvement to strengthen the market position of the participating institutes.