

## Creation and functions of ACSUG

La *Axencia para a Calidade do Sistema Universitario de Galicia* (The Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System) (ACSUG) was created in 2001 as a joint project of the Autonomous Community Government and the three Galician universities.

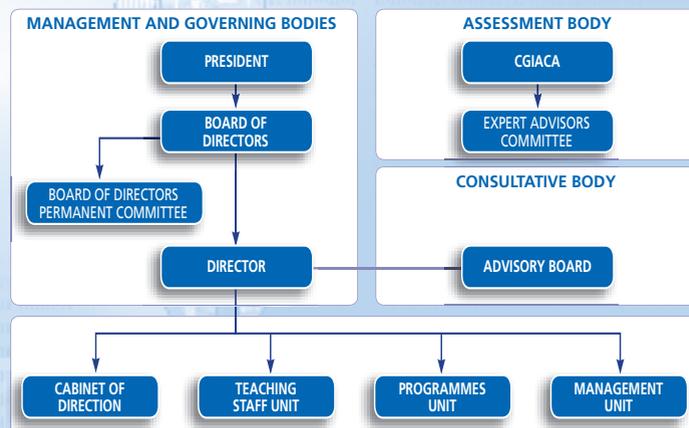
ACSUG's fundamental mission is to contribute to improving the quality of the Galician University System (SUG), for which it carries out various actions:

- Verification, follow-up, and accreditation of university degrees.
- Implementation and certification of Internal Quality Assurance Systems in the university centers of Galicia.
- Support for teaching performance assessment.
- Studies and analysis of labor market insertion of the university graduates.
- Assessment of university teaching staff prior to contracting.
- Assessment for the allocation of independent salary bonuses: teaching and research work, curricular excellence and management posts.

ACSUG provides constant support for collecting and channeling information between the Galician universities, other institutions, and social agents, contributing to the SUG being permanently updated and adapted to changing social needs.

ACSUG, recognized in Galicia, Spain and at the international level (ENQA, EQAR) for its independence, transparency, and credibility, intends to become a reference in the guarantee of quality in the SUG Higher Education institutions.

## ACSUG organizational chart



# AGENCY for QUALITY ASSURANCE in the GALICIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Contact information

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## Office hours

The office hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday through Friday.



# ACSUG



## # Quality management at ACSUG

ACSUG is also subject to quality criteria and has established and externally certified a Quality Management and Environment System, according to the ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 regulations and the EMAS Regulation. This system is based on continuous improvement to obtain efficient and effective performance of its activities.



ACSUG has also implemented the regulation in effect regarding prevention of workplace risks and protection of personal data.

ACSUG has always considered it vitally important to establish relationships and exchange of information with other quality agencies and entities related to the university environment, at both the national and international level.

Based on the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area", ACSUG performed a self-assessment and successfully passed the external assessment carried out by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). As a result, ACSUG **became a full member of ENQA** (an organization composed of Higher Education quality agencies of 25 European countries) in 2009. Since 2010, **ACSUG has also accepted in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).**



## # Verification, follow-up and accreditation of degrees

ACSUG participates in assessment prior to implementing the official curricula for undergraduate and master's degrees presented by the Galician University System (SUG). On verification of the curriculum and authorization by the Autonomous Community, the official degrees are registered in the "Registry of Universities, Centers and Degrees" (RUCT), having the effect of initial consideration of accredited degrees.

This begins the annual monitoring period for the degrees registered, based on public information available.

This period culminates in accreditation after six years for the undergraduate degrees and four for the postgraduate degree, as long as it is verified that the corresponding curriculum is being carried out according to its initial plan.

## # Internal Quality Assurance Systems (FIDES-AUDIT Program)

The universities have fundamental responsibility for the quality of their studies, as established in the criteria and directives of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and Spanish legislation, assuming the commitment to inform society of their activities. The design and implementation of Internal Quality Assurance Systems (SGIC) in university centers allows improving the quality of teaching and meeting the requirements of the students and of society in general.

In this context, ACSUG developed the Program FIDES-AUDIT with the goal of helping Galician university centers design and implement procedures associated with quality guarantees, and providing formal mechanisms for the approval, control, periodic review and improvement of degrees, facilitating the transition of university education and its adaptation to the EHEA.

## # Assessment and accreditation of the teaching staff

ACSUG evaluates research and teaching activities and administration of university teaching staff in different phases of professional careers.

First, assessments are performed prior to contracting the teaching staff, an essential requirement for access to the university in different types of contracts. Currently, ACSUG carries out the assessments for contracting teaching staff under lecturer doctor, teaching assistant doctor, and private university contracts. Furthermore, it is also in charge of the assessments and reports prior to contracting and promoting the employed teaching staff.

With regard to professors who have attained a stable work situation, ACSUG performs the assessment prior to allocation of four salary incentives: the bonus for teaching work, the bonus for research work, the bonus for curricular excellence in teaching and research and the bonus for university management posts..

## # Support for assessment of the educational activities of the teaching staff (DOCENTIA Program)

ACSUG developed the DOCENTIA program in the area of SUG through a cooperative agreement with ANECA.

DOCENTIA provides a model of reference and some basic orientations for the universities to develop procedures for assessing the educational activities of their teaching staff, adapted to their own needs. The three universities of the SUG participate in the program, demonstrating, once again, our institutions' commitment to quality improvement.

## # Studies and analysis of labor market insertion

The principal goal of these studies is to provide information of reference to the universities and to society in general regarding graduates' perception of their current labor situation and to offer a retrospective view of their progress through the university. The opinions offered by the graduates and employers allow the universities, institutions, and entities involved to design strategies that minimize the gap between the professional profiles required and those provided by the current curricula.

This information is of great interest for the students at the time of choosing a career, for the employers, and also for the administration, which must plan and finance the university system.