



October 10, 2024

Dr. Michael Amiridis
President
University of South Carolina - Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Amiridis:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Dual Academic Award

Master of International Business (MIB) and the Master of Science (MS) in Digital Business or Master of Science (MS) in International Management

Submission date:

5/13/2024

Intended Implementation date:

8/1/2024

Case ID:

SC026772

The University of South Carolina-Columbia requests acceptance of a dual academic award with ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain. The request was deferred for the following additional information on June 8, 2024.

- The institution did not provide documentation that meets the provisions of Standard 10.9 (Cooperative academic arrangements), including the analysis of credits accepted in transfer.
- They did not provide prototypes of official academic documents (e.g., student transcript, degree, diploma, certificate) involved in the agreement.
- The institution did not provide documentation that faculty involved in the collaboration are qualified to teach assigned components or courses and a description of how the SACSCOC-accredited institution will monitor these qualifications (Submit a completed SACSCOC Faculty Roster Form.)
- The institution did not provide documentation describing the physical and learning resources that will support collaboration.

The response to the deferral was received on October 9, 2024.

The University of South Carolina-Columbia has entered an agreement to offer a dual academic award with the ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain to earn a Master of International Business (MIB) from the University of South Carolina-Columbia (USC), and a Master of Science (MS) in Digital Business or a Master of Science (MS) in International Management at ESADE Business School.



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A copy of the signed Cooperation Agreement was provided and included each institution's required disclaimer statement, terms, scope, and responsibilities. Eligibility criteria to participate in the program and a schedule of courses and locations for students participating in the arrangement were noted, including coursework at the University of South Carolina-Columbia (USC), and ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain. Each participating student is subject to tuition and fees published annually by the University of South Carolina-Columbia (USC) and the ESADE Business School students are provided assistance and guidance through the appropriate offices of the University of South Carolina-Columbia and the ESADE Business School regarding their applications.

The main objective of this Agreement is to enable ESADE Business School and the University of South Carolina-Columbia students to receive both a Master of International Business (MIB) from the University of South Carolina-Columbia (USC) and a Master of Science (MS) in Digital Business or a Master of Science (MS) in International Management at ESADE Business School.

Each degree-granting Institution will issue its applicable degree to students when the established learning curriculum is completed, which will include students conducting periods of learning at the Host Institution.

Courses taken at the University of South Carolina-Columbia may be applied to the Master of International Business (MIB) degree as academic credit. The academic awards granted by the University of South Carolina-Columbia comply with Standard 9.5 of the *Principles of Accreditation*. To receive a graduate academic award students must earn one-third or more of the credits through direct instruction at the SACSCOC member's institution. The institution included documentation that meets the provisions of Standard 9.5 and 10.9 (Cooperative academic arrangements) of the *Principles of Accreditation*, including the analysis of credits accepted in transfer to the Master of International Business.

The following contact information for the principal party at each institution was provided:

Institution: University of South Carolina
Michael Amiridis, President
University of South Carolina – Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Building
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone: 33 38 720 3947

Institution: University in Barcelona, Spain
Joan Rodon, Dean
ESADE Business School
Av. De Pedralbes, 60, 62
Distrito de Les Corts, 08034 Barcelona



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The institution is reminded that if additional programs are added to the dual degree agreement, it must provide an updated agreement with appropriate notification. The institution is obligated to notify SACSCOC and provide an agreement for each additional dual degree program, even if the institution has already notified SACSCOC about an earlier agreement with the same institution/entity.

Note: The institution submitted an additional Dual Academic Award notification for an agreement with Vlerick Business School. Only the dual academic award agreement with ESADE Business School is reviewed here. The additional Dual Academic Award must be submitted separately.

We accept notification of the dual academic award agreement between the institution and ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain to offer the Master of International Business (MIB) and the Master of Science (MS) in Digital Business or Master of Science (MS) in International Management.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Kelli V. Randall at 404-994-6545 or via email at krandall@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Sightler".

Kevin W. Sightler, Ph.D.
Director of Substantive Change

KWS:DDG/mdm

cc: Mr. Donald Miles, Executive Director Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics,
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Dr. Kelli V. Randall, Vice President, SACSCOC