



Quality in Higher Education >

Volume 10, 2004 - [Issue 3](#)

435 | 9 | 0  
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Original Articles

# Licence to kill: about accreditation issues and James Bond [1]

Ko Scheele

Pages 285-293 | Published online: 23 Jan 2007

🗨️ Cite this article   🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1080/1353832042000299934>

Sample our  
Education  
Journals  
>> **Sign in here** to start your access  
to the latest two volumes for 14 days



📄 Full Article

🖼️ Figures & data

📖 References

🗨️ Citations

📊 Metrics

📄 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

🔗 Share

## Abstract

Accreditation has become something of a hot topic in higher education. In Europe it has been described as a 'Licence to Kill'. The James Bond metaphor is particularly illustrative when reflecting on quality assurance challenges in higher education. Publications on this subject in recent years reveal that the array of issues associated with accreditation are eminently explainable using titles of Bond films. This article addresses various accreditation topics, beginning with the origin, the necessity of a world standard and comparability of systems. Although the Bologna Declaration aims at quality assurance convergence, it seems that, from a system point of view, divergence is the main trend. The present evaluation scene is dominated by the concept of 'peer-evaluation'. This lays an emphasis on the working methods as will be illustrated using a Dutch trial accreditation report. Last but not least, the article pays attention to the accreditation results, in particular, the follow-up procedures. In theory, there are

consequences in the event of critical reports and serious shortcomings but in practice the systems aim at improvement. Perhaps stimulatory supervisions will become the new evaluation hype.


## Notes

This is a minor adaptation of the Dutch article in the retirement bundle presented to former Chief Education Inspector, Frans Leeuw.

Related Research Data

The End of Quality?

Source: Quality in Higher Education

Linking provided by 

### Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by 9

## Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

## Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

## Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

## Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2025 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#)

[Accessibility](#)



Taylor & Francis Group  
an informa business

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG