

Press release**FIBAA - Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation
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<http://idw-online.de/en/news847247>Advanced scientific education, Studies and teaching
Information technology
transregional, national**Quality Assurance for Micro-Credentials: IBM courses on Coursera receive FIBAA quality seal**

The FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Commission has awarded seven courses by IBM with the FIBAA Quality Seal for certified continuing education courses. The courses „IBM DevOps and Software Engineering“, „IBM IT Support“, „IBM and ISC2 Cybersecurity Specialist“, „IBM Business Intelligence (BI) Analyst“, „IBM IT Project Manager“, „IBM Product Manager“, and „IBM Project Manager“ are exclusively accessible on the online platform Coursera. Being dubbed as “Professional certificates”, these courses prepare participants for defined professional fields in the IT sector.

The FIBAA Quality Seal for certified continuing education courses is a certification for learning opportunities that do not conclude with an academic degree. FIBAA has developed this quality seal in analogy to the internationally recognized FIBAA accreditation of academic study programmes. Like FIBAA accreditation, the certification is based on the quality requirements of the European Study Guidelines (ESG). Within this framework, FIBAA examines the principles of student-centred learning and teaching, transparent regulations for admissions, course participation and examinations, the qualifications of the teaching staff, the organizational and technical infrastructure including documentation and information about the courses offered, as well as quality management for the continuous further development of the courses offered. In addition, there is the examination of the teaching and learning content and examination procedures with regard to the qualification objectives and the didactic methods used. Finally, FIBAA's assessment also includes compliance with the provisions of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in order to facilitate the recognition of courses within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) with a total of 49 countries. FIBAA thus creates transparency with regard to the level of quality and supports the global trend towards lifelong learning.

With a workload of between approximately 100 and 200 hours, each of the certified courses corresponds to an ECTS credit point equivalent of four up to eight ECTS credit points. They are micro-credentials as defined by the EU Commission. According to this definition, a "micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards".

„Industry Micro-Credentials offer individuals of varied backgrounds a clear path to future career readiness, and FIBAA certification provides certainty to stakeholders that each professional certificate is a quality-assured education and training programme“, said Diane Freiburger, FIBAA Managing Director. „This certification simplifies credit recognition for higher education institutions, increases employer trust in the skills of applicants, and reassures learners that their educational investment can be recognised.“

Coursera's declared aim is to give everyone access to qualified learning opportunities. Today, Coursera is one of the largest online learning platforms in the world with 118 million registered learners. Coursera works with over 300 universities and companies to offer a wide range of content and qualifications, including training and courses, specializations, professional certificates, guided projects, and bachelor's and master's degree programs.

FIBAA (Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation) is a European quality assurance agency for higher education and continuing education programmes. Founded in 1994, FIBAA is registered as an accreditation agency in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Vietnam and Ukraine. FIBAA is also a member of the European quality network ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and registered with EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). Further memberships with CEENQA (Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance), INQAAHE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) and AQAN (ASEAN Quality Assurance Network) round off the international profile. With the FIBAA Quality Seal for certified continuing education courses, FIBAA has created a nationally and internationally applicable instrument for quality assurance in education and continuing education. It thus defines quality standards for courses without an academic degree, makes them comparable nationally and internationally and contributes to the permeability of educational biographies by also checking the requirements for an ECTS accreditation recommendation.

URL for press release:

<https://www.fibaa.org/en/accreditation-certification/certification-of-continuing-education-courses/> - find out more on certification