What were the main reason(s) for your institution to conduct a reaudit with QS Stars?

The main reasons that we had for participating in the QS Stars process, are first, our interest and engagement with the self-assessment exercise, as an important element to improve ourselves as an institution of higher education, since it allows us to review the best practices implemented in different areas, as well as the opportunities that we must develop better methods to be recognized as an institution of excellence.

Second, QS STARS is an important platform for institutions worldwide to improve their visibility in the international context, which at the same time, allows busting the engagement with other universities that recognise QS Stars as a measure of quality and excellence.

What objectives have QS Stars helped you to achieve over the years?

QS Stars has helped us improve in different areas of importance not only for the students but also for the academic community in general and the civil society. Since the first self-assessment process, there has been an improvement in the administrative areas, consolidating the research institutional policy and the internationalisation institutional policy, which helped focus on those strategies with the greatest impact on the institution. Also, QS Stars has become a presentation card at the time of engaging with international institutions, which helps the institution to broaden the possibilities of collaboration for students, professors, and researchers.

As for the research indicators, the QS process helped to focus on the importance of collaboration on research products, and on giving more importance to the efforts of publishing in international journals and joint writing for papers and books. Also, it helped increase the engagement of our researchers with their peers.
Please share how your institution have been using QS Stars

As an Institution of higher education, Areandina has used the QS Stars as a way of highlighting the strengths of our institution, especially those where we have achieved five stars such as education online and inclusion (two continuous times gaining the highest qualification). Also, since QS is an internationally recognised audit, it has helped the institution to show its education standards, which has contributed to the accreditation of high-quality education by the Colombian Ministry of Education.

How has the institution benefited QS Stars in terms of brand reputation?

As mentioned before, the QS Stars has helped the institution to gain more recognition and visibility in the international context, especially in the Latin America Region, allowing us to engage with recognised institutions around the globe. Also, the students and future students find in QS Stars a guarantee of excellence that they can trust when they have to choose where to study an academic program.

How does QS Stars help to improve the institutional long-term strategy?

The QS Stars process has helped us to focus on the opportunities for improvement for our institution that has been identified during the self-assessment process among all the areas of the university. From that, Areandina is going to implement an improvement plan to work on the lowest-rated indicators to ensure the best quality for the academic community of Areandina.

Describe the challenges that you were facing and how did QS Stars helped to overcome them?

One of the main challenges at the beginning of the first QS Stars process was the decentralisation of the information in some of the indicators. Areandina always has had a very structured system for collecting data on some of the indicators that as an institution we have to report to the Ministry of Education. However, there were indicators that weren’t evaluated before this exercise, and QS Stars helped us to start implementing a methodology for recollecting that information, a tool that was beyond helpful in the reaudit process last year.

“Being able to be in both processes of QS Stars in Areandina, allowed me to confirm the importance of self-assessment for every institution, in order to improve the work of the universities to give students, professors, and civil society relevant services, not only on an academic aspect but also initiatives with a financial, social and cultural impact. At the same time, it helps to see how we are contributing to the global challenges, which are the best practices and the opportunities to improve. Finally, it helps us compare with the best universities at a national, regional, and international level.”

Melissa Mendoza Morales, Directora Relaciones Internacionales
QS Stars explained

QS Stars is a globally recognised rating system for higher education institutions. Ratings are achieved through an in-depth assessment across at least eight categories, resulting in an overall rating of 1 to 5+ Stars and a rating of 1 to 5 Stars for each category.

Following the assessment, QS provides a detailed report summarising the results in each category. This allows institutions to recognise their strengths, as well as weaker areas which may require attention and improvement.

The QS Stars package also includes a set of badges with the ratings achieved overall and in each category. Institutions may use these in their own marketing materials to show prospective students their strengths in areas that matter most, such as Teaching and Employability.

For more information please contact
qsstars@qs.com | qsiusales@qs.com | raluca.grigorescu@qs.com

www.topuniversities.com/qS-stars
www.qS.com/qS-stars