

Pledge of Confidentiality for Benchmarking Data

Preamble:

A group of UAE-based academic institutions, assisted by Explorance, have come together to initiate a benchmarking project. All institutions participating in this project (thereafter called member institutions) have willingly agreed to provide a set of data that will be gathered by Explorance and shared among the member institutions. The academic institutions that have committed to join and continue with this project have agreed upon a set of indicators, after numerous meetings, that shall be used for the purpose of benchmarking. The benchmarking data shall be gathered by Explorance on an annual basis.

In order to ensure that the benchmarking data will be only used for the intended purpose and shall not be shared or published except for the purposes mentioned in this document, the authorized representative of each member institution shall sign and abide by the Pledge of Confidentiality, as stated below. Explorance shall also sign a similar Pledge of Confidentiality that it will not share the benchmarking data gathered from member institutions with anyone other than the authorized representatives of these institutions except with prior written approval of the representative(s) of the concerned institution(s).

Pledge of Confidentiality:

I, _____, as an authorized representative of member institution

_____, solemnly affirm that:

1. The benchmarking data provided by all member institutions will be strictly treated as confidential data and it will be used for only two purposes; a) Utilizing this data internally within the institution to compare its performance with other institutions and take appropriate actions with the intent of making continuous improvement, b) share with relevant national and international accreditation agencies, if so required by them.
2. The benchmarking data shall not be published in a research paper or any other document without prior written approval of the representative(s) of the concerned member institution(s).
3. The benchmarking data shall not be used for marketing or any other similar purpose.
4. Consent is granted to authorized representatives of the member institutions to use the benchmarking data in only two cases as mentioned in clause 1 above, that is, either for internal utilization for the sake of continuous improvement or for submission to relevant accreditation agencies. This consent is not for any form of publication or sharing with other persons or organizations.
5. The member institution shall indemnify, defend, and hold Explorance harmless for any damage or penalties arising from its failure to abide by the undertakings stipulated herein.

Signature: _____

Date: _____