Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Partnerships: Standards and Criteria

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a formal agreement that provides a structured framework for collaboration between two universities. Before entering into an MoU, each potential partner conducts a thorough evaluation of a collaborating institution to ensure the agreement is mutually beneficial, sustainable, and corresponds to academic excellence.

Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

1. Institutional Alignment and Credentials

- **Accreditation and Recognition:** The partner university must be recognized and accredited by its national ministry of education. Official recognition by YÖK (Turkish **Council of Higher Education**) is mandatory.
- **Rankings:** Prospective partners should be listed in respected ranking systems such as QS, Times Higher Education, or Shanghai, ensuring compatibility in academic reputation.
- **Academic Profiles:** Both institutions should offer matching or complementary academic programs, Schools / Departments, or research fields that support fruitful collaboration and research excellence.

2. Academic Standards

- **Curriculum Compatibility:** To enable effective student exchanges, credit systems must be understandable and transferable between the institutions.
- **Language Proficiency:** Clearly defined language requirements are essential for both students and academic staff involved in the partnership.
- **Research Infrastructure:** For research-oriented MoUs, partners must provide adequate laboratories and library resources.
- **Faculty Qualifications:** Academic staff should possess suitable qualifications and expertise to engage in joint teaching or research activities.

3. Operational and Legal Standards

- **International Office Support:** Partner institutions should have dedicated international relations coordinators to facilitate the administrative aspects of the partnership.
- **Student Support Services:** Comprehensive facilities and support must be available for incoming exchange students.
- **Legal Compliance:** Agreements must adhere to all applicable local and international legal requirements.
- **Mutual Benefits:** The partnership should create balanced and equitable opportunities for MoU participating institutions.