



Board of Trustees of the “National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance” Foundation

DECREE

N 35-L, December 24, 2020

ANQA-2020/35

APPROVAL OF DECISION-MAKING POLICY ON AWARDING INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION BY THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE OF THE “NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE” FOUNDATION

Guided by sub point 1 of point 24 of the formation and operation of the Accreditation Committee the “National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance” Foundation, the Accreditation Committee of the “National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance” Foundation has decided:

1. To approve the decision-making policy on awarding of institutional accreditation by the Accreditation Committee of the “National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance” in accordance with Appendix 1.
2. This decision shall enter into force on December 24, 2020.

“National Centre for Professional Education  
Quality Assurance”  
President of Accreditation Committee

Ashot Saghyan

December 24, 2020

Yerevan

POLICY  
ON DECISION-MAKING OF AWARDING INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION BY  
ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE OF THE “NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE” FOUNDATION

### 1. The Aim of the Policy

The accreditation decision-making policy sets out the key principles of the work and overall scope of assessment of the Accreditation committee (hereinafter referred to as the “committee”).

### 2. The Main Principles of Decision-making

- 1) **Independence of decision-making and development of the system:** to carry out an independent assessment of the institutional capacity of all TLIs by providing approaches that promote the stability of the educational system of the Republic of Armenia.
- 2) **Equity:** to assure equal assessment approaches towards stakeholders in the field of tertiary education regardless of the organisational-legal form.
- 3) **Transparency and trust:** to assure the transparency of the processes and results, mutual trust of stakeholders aimed at developing the institutional capacity of the system and international recognition.
- 4) **Compliance:** when making decisions, take into account the assurance of tertiary education (credible awarding of qualifications relevant to the NQF) and the context of the TLI development.

### 3. Expectations of the Committee

The Accreditation Committee expects the following from the institutions implementing professional academic programmes:

- 1) **Strategy for continuous enhancement of the quality of all implemented academic programmes that assure the result of credible awarding of qualifications.**
  - a) Do the academic programmes, teaching staff, material-technical resources provide up-to-date practical skills, and preparation of graduates in accordance with the requirements of the NQF and employers?
- 2) **Outcome-oriented management, which ensures stability, enhancement and development.**
  - a) To what extent is strategic management based on the key performance indicators and effectiveness indicators?
  - b) Are there stable mechanisms for data collection and systems for planning as well as monitoring?

- c) Are the heads of the TLIs guided by the approved strategic programmes and are they accountable to the stakeholders for the implementation of the strategy?
  - d) Does the management system support the quality assurance system and its development?
- 3) Trust of the institutional management in the internal quality assurance system: continuous independent implementation of assessment, assurance of monitoring for enhancement.**
- a) Do the research, creative environment, internationalization, external relations and feedback with stakeholders in the TLI create an opportunity for development and progress for the TLI?

#### 4. Assessment Guidelines

The 10 main criteria of institutional capacities are grouped in the following 3 directions and areas:

- 1) The following 3 criteria are observed in terms of ensuring the credible award of qualifications:
  - a) academic programmes,
  - b) faculty and staff,
  - c) infrastructure and resources.
- 2) The following 3 criteria are considered in terms of the TLIs opportunities for risk management, enhancement and development:
  - a) mission and purposes,
  - b) governance and administration,
  - c) internal quality assurance system.
- 3) The following 4 criteria are considered in terms of long-term development:
  - a) students,
  - b) research and development,
  - c) societal responsibility,
  - d) external relations and internationalisation.

The credible award of qualifications is crucial in the process of assessment and the draft decision of the Committee is made upon that. As a result of the assessment, the Committee can conclude that the TLI fully, generally or partially meets the expectations defined by this Policy of the Committee, especially in terms of credible qualifications according to Table 1.

Accreditation is awarded for 6 years	Accreditation is awarded for 4 years	Accreditation is awarded for 2 years	Accreditation is rejected
1.Meets the expectations defined by this Policy.	2.Substantially corresponds to the expectations defined by this Policy.	2. Partially corresponds to the expectations defined by this Policy.	3. The expectations defined by the policy are not justified.
1.1 Provides the credible award of qualifications.	2.1 Generally provides the credible award of qualifications	3.1 There are fundamental problems and risks in terms of the credible award of qualifications, but there are tendencies and examples for progress.	4.1 Qualifications are not credibly awarded.
1.2 Management and quality assurance systems provide sustainability and development.	2.2 Management and quality systems generally help to improve the credible award of qualifications.	3.2 Management and quality assurance systems are in the stage of development, but there is a tendency for development and management is aimed at quality enhancement, credible award of qualifications.	4.2 Management and quality assurance systems do not create opportunities for progress.
1.3 Internationalization and research /creative activities support the credible award of qualifications.	2.3 Internationalization, research /creative activities have a tendency for development and support the credible award of qualifications.	3.3 Internationalization and research /creative activities do not support the credible award of qualifications yet.	4.3 Internationalization and research /creative activities do not support the credible award of qualifications, there are no prerequisites for development.

<p>1.4 There are only partial drawbacks that do not have a key impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications; there are examples of progress and management system supports changes.</p>	<p>2.4 There are only partial drawbacks that do not have a key impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications; there are grounds for enhancement.</p>	<p>3.3 There are essential drawbacks in terms of the credible award of qualifications, but there is also a tendency for enhancement</p>	<p>4.3 There are essential drawbacks in terms of the credible award of qualifications</p>
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#### 4. The Basis for Decision-making on Accreditation

- 1) When making a decision on accreditation, the Committee gets acquainted with the package of documents of the accreditation process of the educational institution, which includes:
- a) the self-evaluation of the institution;
  - b) the expert report, which presents the analysis of the strengths of the TLI and the points that need enhancement;
  - c) institution’s remarks and recommendations on the expert report;
  - d) the follow-up plan and schedule submitted by the institution which is mentioned in the expert report;
  - e) expert group’s conclusion about follow-up plan;
  - f) the scrutiny report prepared by three members of the Accreditation Committee (“Monitoring Committee), who thoroughly examine the documents, meet with the coordinator of the accreditation process, the representatives of the expert group and the educational institution and finalize their standpoints and objections.
- The scrutiny report of the Expert Committee includes the substantiations for the standpoint and reassessment of the criteria assessments, as well as a substantiated proposal for the conclusion of the accreditation and decision. During the meeting of the Committee, each member of the Expert Committee submits its final conclusion, which is discussed, and a final decision is made through open voting.

#### List of Other Related Documents

1. Approved by the RA Government on June 30, 2011 N 959-N Decree " RA Tertiary Education Accreditation Criteria."
2. Approved by the RA Government on June 30, 2011 N 978-N Decree “Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and Academic Programmes in the Republic of Armenia.”
3. Approved by the “Board of Trustees of the “National Center For Professional Education Quality Assurance” Foundation, May 8, 2020 Decree N 1-L, on “Procedure for Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the “National Center For Professional Education Quality Assurance” Foundation.

**President of the Accreditation Committee of the  
“National Centre for Professional Education”  
Foundation  
Ashot Saghyan**

December 24, 2020

Yerevan