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ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2023/92

DECREE N 92
December 26, 2023

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Brusov State University Foundation
Official Address:	42 Tumanyan str., Yerevan, RA, 0002
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	Institutional accreditation for 4 years 18.12.2019-19.12.2023

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on approval of Establishing Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance foundation (hereinafter referred to as ANQA)” as well as by the Regulation on the Formation of ANQA Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of Brusov State University Foundation (hereinafter “BSU, TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on December 26, 2023.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

- Submission of application: November 29, 2022
- Submission of the self-evaluation: March 30, 2023
- Site visit by the expert panel: June 6-9, 2023
- Submission of expert panel report: October 9, 2023
- Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan: November 10, 2023

The external review of the Brusov State University Foundation’s institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the ANQA’s Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree

N 959 as of 30 June 2011. Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, “**Management and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**”, were evaluated as unsatisfactory. Having examined the BSU’s self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the three members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the BSU’s representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The BSU generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The academic programs of BSU are in line with the institution's mission and meet the requirements of levels 6-8 of the RA NQF.

As a result of the comparative analysis carried out after the previous accreditation, the institution's APs were revised and improved. The final outcomes contributing to the development of practical abilities were clarified, the in-depth learning of languages in various educational programs was emphasized, which gives university graduates a certain competitive advantage in the labor market. Various methods of teaching, learning, and evaluation are used, which contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes.

The university is provided with the necessary qualified administrative, professorial and educational support staff for the implementation of the APs.

BSU has a clear policy and procedures for the selection of Teaching and Support staff members. The composition of the teaching staff is diverse, representatives of the practical field are involved, as well as candidates and doctors of science, there are professors of foreign languages. Evaluation mechanisms for the teaching staff have been introduced to a certain extent, there is an environment for the development and improvement of the teaching staff.

During the last 5 years, actions have been taken to improve the learning environment, there is some progress in terms of financial stability and financial management.

The Academic programs, teaching staff and material equipment at BSU mainly ensure the preparation of graduates in accordance with the requirements of the NQF and employers.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems generally support the enhancement of the credible award of qualifications.

Currently, the University is in the phase of transitional crisis management. The BSU has some experience in strategic planning. However, the lack of medium-term planning, the uncertainty of the implementation dates and the unclear planning of financial resources can hinder the consistent implementation of the tasks. There are no clear mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of long-term and short-term plans.

In the last 4 years, structural changes have been taking place, which are mostly not deeply analyzed and justified, internal stakeholders are not fully aware of the implemented changes. The PDCA cycle is not fully implemented in various management processes, decisions are not made on the basis of objective data analysis.

The university's QA center was launched in 2009. The BSU policy in the area of quality assurance is included in the "Quality Assurance Manual", which is still in the finalization stage and has not been approved.

Data collection is not periodic and results are not analyzed in a timely manner. Collected data is not always the basis for decision-making. The institute of "quality responsables" has not yet been established. The impact of the quality assurance system on the improvement of university processes has not been assessed.

The management of the university attaches importance to the development of the quality assurance system, but the full independence of the system and the center is still not ensured, which hinders the identification of problems more critically.

Management and quality assurance systems are still in the formation stage, but there are trends for development.

3. Internationalization and research activities have development trends and support the credible award of qualifications.

BSU has a stable system of internal and external accountability, various feedback mechanisms are in place. In order to ensure the transparency of the processes, various platforms are operating, various courses are organized in order to transfer knowledge and values to the society.

In the mission and strategic plan of the university, research activity is one of the priorities of the university. However, no significant results have been recorded yet. There are no medium-term and short-term programs, no measurable indicators for the evaluation of results in the field of research have been defined, and mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of internal grant programs have not been implemented. The faculty and students are not motivated to carry out research work. The mechanisms to encourage and involve the teaching staff in research works do not work effectively. The connection between research and learning is weakly expressed in APs.

The university still does not fully use the scientific potential of the teaching staff to internationalize the research, as well as to attract international students.

In terms of internationalization of research, the problems are on the agenda of the university management, positive trends are noticeable.

The achievements of the University in the direction of internationalization are tangible and have their impact on educational programs. BSU has many contracts and agreements with various prestigious international institutions, which promotes the mobility of students and professors, exchange of experience of teaching staff and professional growth. Students, teaching staff and administrative employees know at least one foreign language, which makes communication with international partners easier.

BSU also conducts international exams for various levels of foreign languages, as a result of which international certificates are awarded.

BSU conducts an active policy in the direction of student recruitment and admission, which ensures an increase in the number of students admitted in recent years: the admission in the form of distance learning has increased, while the number of those applying for the master's degree and part-time education is decreasing.

BSU has a high graduate employment rate, which proves that the education provided by the university provides the necessary knowledge and skills in accordance with the demands of the labor market.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.
5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and its implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Brusov State University Foundation for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of “**Management and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**”.
3. **To pay special attention to:**
 - the development and implementation of clear criteria for evaluation of students' expected final outcomes and practices as a result of internships,
 - the application of unified mechanisms for ensuring academic integrity at all stages of student evaluation,
 - the introduction of incentive mechanisms to involve students in research works,
 - increasing the impact of the quality assurance system on the university management,
 - the need to further strengthen the link between research and study,
 - the regulation and control of counseling provided to students, primarily to those studying in the part-time department,
 - the introduction of measurable quantitative indicators for ensuring the results of external relations and internationalization processes, as well as systematic mechanisms for monitoring efficiency.
4. To organize an internal audit of the BSU's APs with the involvement of external experts.
5. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the BSU's activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the BSU in accordance with the KPIs.
7. The decision enters into force from the moment of registration in the State Accreditation Register.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee: A. Saghyan

December 26, 2023

Yerevan