



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2024/112

DECREE N 112

July 4, 2024

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
FRENCH UNIVERSITY IN ARMENIA FOUNDATION**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: French University in Armenia Foundation
Official Address: 1st Building, 10 Davit Anhaght St., Kanaker-Zeytun
adm. district, Yerevan, RA
Previous Accreditation Not available
decision and date:

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 June 30, 2011 on the Approval of 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’s Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the French University in Armenia Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “UFAR”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on July 4, 2024.

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

Submission of application: March 30, 2023
Submission of the self-evaluation: September 4, 2023
Site visit by the expert panel: October 2–4, 2023

Submission of the expert panel report: March 5, 2024

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan May 8, 2024

The external review of the UFAR's institutional capacities was carried out by ANQA and French High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres). The joint evaluation was conducted by a binational expert panel. ANQA and Hcéres agreed to use the Hcéres standards for foreign higher education institutions and to supplement them with ANQA criteria as guidelines. Indeed, it was recognised that the frameworks used by ANQA and Hcéres are similar in content and that both comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). One evaluation report was produced.

Based on the evaluation outcomes, the competent bodies of ANQA and Hcéres made separate accreditation decisions in accordance with their respective procedures.

Following the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011, “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**” and “**Internal Quality Assurance**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the UFAR'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 two 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 UFAR's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

The UFAR's academic programmes (APs) are developed in line with the Armenian and French parties' requirements, involving local employers and researcher teachers from French HEIs, which ensures quality education and sought-after alumni in the labour market. International teachers provide theoretical education aligned with European standards. Employer methods, such as case-based learning and problem solving, are more commonly used in professional subjects. However, the research component constitutes a small part of the APs, which makes the UFAR's master's programme less attractive. It is important to highlight the need for greater involvement of French party's teachers in the master's programme to strengthen the research component, thereby enhancing its attractiveness.

The UFAR's academic programmes generally do not require special material-technical resources, with the exception of the AP "Informatics", which is implemented in a suitable environment.

Meanwhile, the UFAR has adopted a strategy to significantly increase the student number, which calls for both the involvement of human resources through the development of a special strategy and the enhancement of building conditions. In this regard, importance is attached to the investment programmes of the French and Armenian parties' stakeholders.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation. However, there are development trends, with governance geared towards quality enhancement and credible award of qualifications.

The UFAR achieves its goals and equips the country with qualified and marketable staff. To ensure the sustainability of such system, it is necessary to strengthen long-term strategic management and establish relevant policies and procedures. It is also important to introduce mechanisms for data collection, which will support effective decision-making and solutions to strategic issues.

The UFAR's quality assurance system is in the stage of formation. Capacity building in quality assurance is still essential. There is a need to integrate the KPIs into the governance system, which will contribute to the strengthening of the monitoring system for the strategic plan implementation.

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

The UFAR's internationalisation processes are active. The award of double diplomas, the French party's participation in the UFAR's educational processes, the support in student exchange ensure the TLI's development and foster career opportunities for students.

The UFAR still faces an issue with research capacity building. From this perspective, it is important to increase the proportion of researcher teachers, thereby contributing to the development of field-relevant research skills.

4. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is realistic and does not contain any. 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 the French University in Armenia 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 **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Research and Development”** and **“Internal Quality Assurance”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the review of the strategy, considering the stakeholder needs;
 - b) the enhancement of the governance system, developing institutional management ties and increasing the Board of Trustees’ involvement in the strategic management;
 - c) the embedment of the quality assurance system, emphasising capacity development and increasing the engagement of the TLI’s various subdivisions;
 - d) the development of academic research in the master's programme;
 - e) present how the research component will be integrated at the programme and course levels;
 - f) the establishment of realistic timelines for the implementation of the follow-up plan.
4. To carry out the specified actions within two years.
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 TLI’s activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the TLI’s activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

V. Gabrielyan

July 4, 2024

Yerevan