



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/62

DECREE N 62

April 22, 2022

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF

Yerevan State University Foundation

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Yerevan State University Foundation
Official Address:	1 Alex Manoogian Str. Yerevan, RA
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	Institutional accreditation, for a period of 6 years: 21.02.2015 - 21.02.2021

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 the 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 “ANQA”) as well as by ANQA’s Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of Yerevan State University Foundation (hereinafter “YSU, TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on April 22, 2022.

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

Submission of application:	February 20, 2020
Submission of the self-evaluation:	September 15, 2020
Site visit by the expert panel:	June 14-18, 2021
Submission of expert panel report:	October 18, 2021
Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan:	January 4, 2021

The external review of YSU's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by 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- N as of 30 June 2011.

All 10 institutional accreditation criteria were evaluated as satisfactory.

The expert panel highlighted the following field in need of enhancement: **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Faculty and Staff”**, **“Research and Development”**, **“Infrastructure and Resources”**, **“Societal Responsibility”**, **“Internal Quality Assurance”**.

Having examined YSU's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on 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 YSU's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

In 2015, YSU was awarded institutional accreditation for a period of 6 years. Taking into consideration the recommendations within the scope of the accreditation process, the YSU made a follow-up plan. The TLI carried out enhancement-led changes in all fields.

1. The YSU ensures the credible award of qualifications.

YSU's academic programmes generally align with the RA's NQF, the TLI's mission, have a well-defined structure and express learning outcomes, in the meantime ensuring compliance with the TLI's research ambitions.

YSU has a regulated system for the review of academic programmes (Aps), which prioritizes students' opinions as well. YSU has started the Aps' monitoring since 2019. The APs are reviewed every two years. YSU's policies and procedures ensure the conduct of academic programmes in accordance with the NQF. However, there are no modern technological tools for the struggle against plagiarism.

Attaching importance to the role of academic staff in providing quality education, YSU pays due attention to the recruitment of qualified academic staff. The TLI has initiated a pilot reform

programme on teaching enhancement, which includes defining both professional and pedagogical requirements for the academic staff of each AP.

YSU carries out teachers' enhancement-led measures. However, this is not yet based on the results of internal and external in-depth evaluations. There is a policy to ensure the academic staff's professional progress.

YSU is generally provided with the necessary resources — infrastructures, library's printed and electronic resources — for the creation of its academic environment and the effective implementation of the mission and goals defined by the strategic plan (SP). Meanwhile, technical and technological replenishment and enrichment efforts are continuously carried out. YSU has budgeting experience interrelated with its SP's priorities. Digitization of documentation is also carried out.

YSU has infrastructures for maintenance of health and safety services. However, these are not sufficient to ensure a safe environment and inclusive education for students with visual, auditory, locomotor and other problems.

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

There is a developed mission, strategic directions and objectives, which reflect the needs of mainly internal and partially external stakeholders. There are established mechanisms and procedures for the evaluation and enhancement of the results of the mission and goals. However, they need to be revised, especially in terms of a more coherent link between mission and goals.

Though YSU has operated for too long without a functioning Board of Trustees, it has shown great flexibility in governance during the changes taking place in the country. There is still no clear distinction between YSU's short-term, mid-term and long-term goals.

YSU has the necessary human, material and financial resources for the realization of academic and other goals. The governance system enables teachers and students to participate in decision-making processes related to them.

Though YSU has now internal quality assurance regulations at the institutional level, it prefers a decentralized approach. For this reason, various bodies at the institutional and faculty levels have been established.

The Quality Assurance Center is provided with relevant human, material and financial resources. The stakeholders are involved in quality assurance processes. The system is reviewed regularly. The internal quality assurance system provides sufficient grounds for the external review of quality assurance. The quality assurance /PDCA/ cycle is in different stages for different educational processes.

3. Internationalization and research/creative activities generally support the credible award of qualifications.

YSU has a well-formed research tradition, certain infrastructures, rich scientific and experienced staff, which is expected to carry out rich research activities.

Though YSU has defined its vision as a research TLI, it does not have a strategy "set" at the institutional or faculty levels. However, the chairs, faculties, and institutes conduct research. Many funded research programmes are still in the stage of formation. Generally, there is an accumulated practice in the research field and there are expectations for research activities that are fulfilled.

Steps are also taken in the direction of research internationalization, particularly, publication of scientific papers in high-ranking professional journals, participation in conferences, business trips, signing contracts (with 264 HEIs in 20 countries). However, their effectiveness has not been evaluated.

YSU has many ways of accountability provided by the law and the charter, which operate in all bodies. The TLI a clear system of external accountability. Meanwhile there is a lack of active engagement with external stakeholders and a non-proactive nature of communication.

4. The shortcomings do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications.

5. The follow-up plan included in the expert panel report is generally realistic.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Yerevan State University Foundation for 6 /six/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the revised follow-up plan and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need to have a clear strategic model of development, through which it will be possible to make a budget forecast necessary for the financing of education and research works in the coming years, based on the income diversification scenario;
 - b) the need to distinguish between short-term, mid-term and long-term plans;
 - c) the clarification of the KPIs and decision-making according to the KPI's organization;
 - d) the need to set a longer period for the review of academic programme to ensure a more strategic and comprehensive review process;
 - e) the research internationalization, encouraging the TLI's laboratories to cooperate not only with foreign universities, but also with research institutes abroad;
 - f) the implementation of internal quality assurance mechanisms at the academic programmes and course levels, which track the students' progress in that area;
 - g) the enhancement of result-based management system, involvement of external stakeholders in the enhancement-led processes;
 - h) the increase in the impact of quality assurance processes on the TLI's activities.
4. To organize an internal audit of the TLI'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 YSU'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.

7. The decision enters into force from the moment of registration in the State Accreditation Register.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

April 22, 2022

Yerevan