



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/36

DECREE N 36

24 December 2020

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF YEREVAN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AFTER MKHITAR HERATSI

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi
Official Address:	2 Koryun St., Yerevan 0025 Republic of Armenia
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	Institutional accreditation for 4 years (27.02.2015-27.02.2019)

Guided by the regulation 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; by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the “Approval of RA Standards for Professional Education Accreditation”; by the procedure on the “Formation and Functioning 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 the Expert Panel of ANQA”, the ANQA Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi (hereinafter referred to as YSMU) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 24 December 2020.

Having examined the YSMU's self-evaluation, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the HEI's action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of Yerevan State Medical University which were made by the three members selected by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the University's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

Submission of application: 19 April 2018
Submission of the HEI's self-evaluation: 1 March 2019
Site-visit by the expert panel: 20 May 2019
Submission of expert panel report: 4 October 2019
Submission of action plan on the elimination of shortcomings: 18 November 2019

The expertise Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the regulation on the "Formation of the Expert Panel of the ANQA". 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.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Internal Quality Assurance System**" was evaluated as unsatisfactory.

While carrying out the evaluation, the expert panel took into consideration that "Yerevan State Medical University after M. Heratsi is an educational, scientific and clinical higher education institution, which considers its mission to prepare highly professional healthcare specialists aimed at preserving, strengthening and improving public health".

YSMU underwent an institutional accreditation process in 2015, as a result of which the University was granted accreditation for a period of 4 years. YSMU developed an action plan on the elimination of shortcomings based on the recommendations mentioned in the expert report. In 2017, YSMU submitted to ANQA a mid-term performance analysis of the action plan to address the identified issues and improve processes. In 2017-2019, ANQA conducted mid-term monitoring of action plan on the elimination of shortcomings.

1. YSMU's academic programmes are in compliance with the mission of the University in a sense that the University trains specialists meeting the requirements of the healthcare labor market. A comparative analysis has been carried out on the basis of recommendations. The best practices as well as the WFME and EU Directive standards of more than 25 countries have been compared, and changes have been made in the curricula. The academic programmes have been revised. YSMU has conducted assessment of various types, including assessment of practical skills.

After the previous accreditation, the clinic, excellence and simulation centers owned by YSMU provide students with practical/research environment. In general, YSMU has the necessary educational environment for the implementation of professional academic programmes. Human resources and learning base ensure the effective implementation of the academic programmes, through which students gain practical skills. YSMU has highly qualified permanent lecturers with research skills, who pursue the mission of the University and strategic goals. The everyday professional progress of the students is ensured by the sustainable staff of lecturers in practical field who are well aware of the advanced requirements and problems of the healthcare sector and work

in different clinics of the Republic of Armenia. A mechanism for relative threshold analysis's compliance with international requirements has been introduced.

YSMU mainly ensures the quality of credible award of qualifications.

2. After the previous accreditation, YSMU has reformed the Strategic Program (SP). Reforms in the governance system have led to outcome-based and need-based decision-making, which have led to the improvement of the learning process, replenishment of the resource base, and the increase of the practical-research component in the academic programmes.

According to the provisions of the SP, a process of creating a culture of quality assurance has been established. The necessary quality assurance processes are carried out by YSMU. For continuous improvement, the internal quality assurance processes are mainly at the stages of planning-implementation, and in some cases at the stages of improvement. Quality culture does not provide sufficient broad involvement for ensurance of quality promotion. Quality assurance processes do not yet serve the consistent and effective development of all sectors.

YSMU generally carries out result-based management, which creates bases for the sustainable development of the HEI.

3. After the previous accreditation, some progress has been made in the research-internationalization processes, which ensure the development of the University and are aimed at raising recognition of YSMU in the international field. YSMU has indicated a strategy to express its interests and aspirations in the field of research in some directions, but the research is not yet progressive. Some steps have been taken to involve students and lecturers in research work, new research laboratories have been opened, but the link between teaching and research still needs to be strengthened, which should be considered in the context of YSMU long-term strategy.

Internationalization and research activities at YSMU mainly contribute to the credible award of qualifications the development of the HEI.

4. The existing partial shortcomings do not have significant impact on the credible award of qualification. There are examples of progress, the governance system supports changes. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert report as well as the risks are manageable and require further long-term development.

5. The action plan for the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report is mainly realistic and reflects the correct perception of the problems. In case of some corrections, the plan on elimination of shortcomings can lead to qualitative changes.

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 Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi for 6 /six/ years.
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the reviewed action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account:
 - a) the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the field of "**Internal Quality Assurance System**".
 - b) the requirement to have qualitative and quantitative indicators for the evaluation of progress and efficiency of the HEI's ongoing processes;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the timeframe set and amount of financial resources for the evaluation and implementation of the processes carried out by the HEI;
 - d) the international expert's peer-review results regarding the CMSA's ambitions to be integrated into the European Higher Education Area.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the reinforcement of the link between learning and research;
 - b) the final attestation of graduates, envisaging the defense of master's thesis especially in case of specialties that are carried out at two-level (Bachelor's/Master's) education system;
 - c) study of international professional field/labour market's criteria and their involvement in the academic programmes;
 - d) the reinforcement and full implementation of plan-do-check-act cycle;
 - e) the conduct of progressive and practical research.
4. Apply for YSMU's programme accreditation of academic programmes.
5. In accordance with the requirements set by the Clause 12 of the regulation on the "State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs", every 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the University's activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of efficiency of the CMSA's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

24 December 2020

Yerevan

