



National Center For Professional  
Education Quality Assurance  
Foundation

## ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/64

### DECISION

14 June 2022 N 64

#### ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF “GAVAR STATE UNIVERSITY” FOUNDATION

##### **General Information about the Institution**

Full name of the Institution: “Gavar State University” Foundation /GSU/  
Official Address: Hrant Hakobyan 1, Gavar city, 1201, Gegharkunik marz, RA  
Previous Accreditation Decision and Date: **Institutional accreditation for 4 years,  
15.06.2017- 15.06.2021**

Guided by the "Regulation on State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and Their Academic Programmes" approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011, by the RA Government Decree N 959-N on “Approval of Criteria for Accreditation of Professional Education of the Republic of Armenia” as of 30 June 2011; by the "Procedure on Formation and Functioning of the Accreditation Committee of "National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance” foundation (ANQA)", by the ANQA "Regulation on Formation of the Expert Panel", the ANQA Accreditation Committee (hereinafter as Committee) discussed the issue of state institutional accreditation of “Gavar State University” Foundation (hereinafter GSU, University, TLI) in the session held on October 22, 2021.

##### **The main phases of the accreditation process were fulfilled in the following deadlines:**

Submission of application: January 11, 2021  
Submission of the revised self-evaluation report: July 12, 2021  
Site-visit: November 20-23, 2021  
Submission of the expert panel report: March 3, 2022  
Submission of the follow-up plan: April 11, 2022

The expertise of GSU was carried out by the independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the ANQA "Regulation on 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.

Among the 10-accreditation criteria, the "**Research and Development**" was evaluated as unsatisfactory.

While examining the self-evaluation report of GSU, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan, as well as hearing the conclusions on the expertise which were made by three members selected by the Chairman of the Committee, based on the results of meetings with the expert panel members and GSU representatives, as well as taking into consideration the observations and proposals of the Committee members, the Committee stipulated the following:

In 2017, GSU was granted institutional accreditation for 4 years, and taking into consideration the recommendations provided within the framework of the accreditation process, the TLI compiled an improvement plan. GSU has made changes towards improvement in a number of fields.

### **1. *The TLI mainly ensures the awarding of reliable qualifications***

Since the previous accreditation, GSU has revised its APs, reformed the policy for development and approval of APs, revised the procedure for the preparation and defense of theses in order to develop students' research abilities and skills, developed and implemented procedures for elective and optional courses. In the AP specifications, an attempt has been made to align assessment methods with outcomes. However, the specifications of the existing APs, the subject programmes still need clarification and separation of the outcomes corresponding to the qualifications and educational degrees. The methods of learning, teaching and assessment used are largely oriented towards theoretical knowledge rather than skills and abilities.

In order to monitor the APs, GSU conducts chair discussions and surveys among the stakeholders.

GSU has TS and AS with appropriate professional qualifications. APs are mainly taught by teachers with appropriate qualifications and academic degrees. The TS also includes employers, invited teachers from other universities, as well as alumni of the university.

At GSU, the TS recruitment is carried out by the competitive procedure.

Based on the previous accreditation recommendations, the requirements for the personal, pedagogical and professional qualities of the TS were revised and fixed in the specifications of all APs of the university.

Material and technical equipment has been improved due to the grants from international programmes. A number of university classrooms were renovated and furnished, laboratories were equipped with new technologies.

### **2. *The management and quality assurance systems mainly support the improvement of awarding of reliable qualifications***

There are mid-term and short-term plans for the TLI SP, but planning at the individual department level is not linked to the SP.

There are monitoring mechanisms with indicators, but they are not always measurable. Basically, situational assessments work, through which it becomes possible to neutralise certain risks.

Surveys are the main mechanism for data collection, but systematic study and evaluation of the impact of external factors are not carried out.

An improved system of accountability has been implemented in the university, involving all departments. Reports are mainly aimed at presenting achievements.

Management and quality assurance systems are in the formative stage, but there are trends for development. The managerial staff of the university emphasises the quality assurance system and

its development by providing appropriate resources, but the quality assurance system is still not perceived as a mechanism for raising problems and needs.

**3. *The internationalisation and research activity have development tendencies and support the awarding of reliable qualifications.***

The steps towards the internationalisation of the university, external relations and feedback with stakeholders create an opportunity for the TLI development and promotion, contributing to the increase of the rating. GSU wants to become an attractive environment for foreign students and teachers. However, specific steps and actions for the realisation of this goal are not described.

The SP of the university envisages the development of research directions and the integration of education and scientific research is defined as a priority direction. There are prerequisites for the creation of a research and creative environment, but tangible results are not yet available and urgent steps should be taken in terms of encouraging, highlighting and providing appropriate human and material resources for research works.

Students are not informed about the research topics of the chairs and some of them are not involved in research activities. At the same time, on the one hand, the SP has stressed the importance of the research activities at the TLI, yet there are no action plans regarding the development of research plans fixed by documents, short-term goals, directions for achieving key indicators, timetables, and tools for achieving goals.

The university has mechanisms for the selection and admission of students, based on the previous accreditation report, certain improvements have been made, students are satisfied with the education provided, some mechanisms for raising students' needs are in place, and the AS and TS are available, the university provides students with appropriate support in order to improve the educational environment.

GSU has a defined accountability system, but there are no indicators and mechanisms for assessing the accountability. Despite the fact that the TLI operates on the principle of transparency, the information provided is mostly descriptive, presenting positive events and achievements.

There are shortcomings that do not have a major impact on the reliable award of the qualification, and there are grounds for improvement.

The follow-up plan mentioned in the expert report is mostly realistic, and implementation will lead to qualitative improvements, but it is necessary to make the performance evaluation indicators clear and measurable.

Based on the above mentioned and the open voting results, the Committee:

**DECIDED**

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to the “Gavar State Univeristy” Foundation for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision to grant accreditation, within a two-month period, submit a revised follow-up plan mentioned in the expert report and a corresponding schedule to ANQA, taking into account the need to prioritise the existing problems in the fields of management, APs, research and internal quality assurance.

**3. Pay specific attention to:**

- matching the mission to the needs of the state and other stakeholders,
  - the implementation of mechanisms for evaluating the efficiency of the management system, its separate links and allocated resources, and responding to the evaluation results,
  - the need to have qualitative and quantitative indicators,
  - decision-making and reporting based on clear quantitative and qualitative data,
  - improving APs by clearly distinguishing the outcomes of the master's and bachelor's APs, ensuring their logical connection, as well as formulating and making them measurable as clearly as possible,
  - organising learning aimed at developing students' analytical, creative and critical abilities,
  - the application of the PDCA cycle in all processes,
  - applying a systematic approach to the planning and implementation of research activities, clarifying the process management system, research support and fundraising processes,
  - strengthening the link between learning and research,
  - increasing the impact of the quality assurance system on the university governance.
4. To organise the internal audit of the GSU APs by involving external experts.
  5. In accordance with the Clause 12 of the "Regulation on State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and Their Academic Programmes", to submit a written report on the results of carried out activities to ANQA once every 2 /two/ years by evaluating the progress of the university's activities, innovation and achievements.
  6. To assign ANQA to make a mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the GSU activity according to the KPIs.
  7. The decision enters into force upon registration in the state accreditation registrar.

**Chair of the Accreditation Committee**

June 14, 2022

Yerevan

**A. Saghyan**