



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2024/113

DECREE N 113

July, 4, 2023

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
"MY STEP" CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: "My Step" Charitable Foundation
Official Address: 1 Alek Manukyan St., 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 June 30, 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 educational activities of the "My Step" Charitable Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Foundation") 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 25, 2023
Submission of the self-evaluation: February 5, 2024
Site visit by the expert panel: April 3–5, 2024
Submission of the expert panel report: May 9, 2024

The external review of the "My Step" Charitable Foundation's institutional capacities 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. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Governance and Administration**" and "**Internal Quality Assurance**" were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

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

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

The "My Step" Charitable Foundation conducts its educational activities through International scientific-educational Institution "Pan-Armenian Center for Excellence". The implemented academic programme (AP) is special in its nature, encompassing areas that have not been thoroughly studied in the RA. The AP has been designed with the participation of specialists from the leading scientific-educational organisations, taking into consideration the development challenges in the field. The AP's outcomes align with the descriptors of the RA NQF Level 7. The AP includes theoretical and practical aspects, with a strong emphasis on the research component. One of the AP's peculiarities is students' involvement in international scientific groups through interactions with the top scientists worldwide, which creates opportunities for student mobility.

The implementation of the approaches to the teaching staff recruitment has enabled the attraction of the top local and foreign specialists in the field. There are requirements set for the teaching staff's professional qualities. An importance is attached to both professional skills and teaching experience, facilitating the achievement of the AP's main goals and the intended learning outcomes.

Education is carried out in special laboratories equipped with cutting-edge technologies from the country's leading organisations.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are in the stage of formation.

The International Scientific-Educational Institution "Pan-Armenia Center for Excellence" of the "My Step" Charitable Foundation, fulfilling its two-year ambitions, ensured the successful implementation of the "Quanta" Master's Degree Program in Quantum and Mesoscopic Physics, releasing the first generation of alumni. Meanwhile, to ensure the effective and sustainable realization of the set ambitions, special emphasis should be placed on the enhancement of the institution's governance system.

The continuous assurance of highly qualified teaching staff requires ongoing data collection and decision-making process. To address development challenges, strengthening governance resources will be crucial. This will facilitate the collection of data on the recruitment of new teachers and the acquisition of laboratory resources needed for relevant research activities.

The successful resolution of these issues primarily depends on financial sustainability and the involvement of relevant permanent administrative staff.

Effective governance requires transforming current processes into procedures and policies to ensure continuous enhancement. It is essential to have a relevant quality assurance infrastructure, which, in cooperation with the governance bodies, will ensure the realisation of the goals of excellence.

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

The high requirements for the internationalisation and research/creative activities are fulfilled. However, it would be beneficial for the services supporting student education to align with the stated ambitions through integration into the RA's current research environments, which might include joint implementation of services or shared use of resources (like laboratories, library, etc.). This will boost the effectiveness of student recruitment and the implementation of student-centered learning, making the education more compelling in terms of attracting new students.

The Foundation should place an emphasis on the ongoing publication of scientific articles and ensure student participation in exchange programmes and international conferences, providing relevant resources.

4. The follow-up plan 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 the "My Step" Charitable 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"** and **"Internal Quality Assurance"**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the integration of the implemented academic programme into the HEI environment, maintaining the Foundation's funding and complying with the requirements set for the AP, the alignment of the governance system with HEI requirements;
 - b) the review of the institution's organisational structure, the expansion and capacity building of the administrative staff before integrating the academic programme into the HEI environment;
 - c) the formation of a student-centered environment;
 - d) the diversification of financial sources and sustainability of financial resources;
 - e) the ensurance of communication between local and international teachers, thereby fostering the introduction of innovations in the professional field and the dissemination of best practices;
 - f) the sustainable development of the quality assurance system, including the implementation of mechanisms for the academic programme's quality assurance and monitoring mechanisms for the academic programme.

4. To carry out the specified actions within two years, creating a digital management environment, with an emphasis on the organisation of hybrid learning and the introduction of relevant mechanisms for quality assurance.
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 ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the Foundation's activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign 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