



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/78

DECREE N 78

November 29, 2022

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF "National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia" Foundation

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: "National University of Architecture and
Construction of Armenia" (NUACA) Foundation
Official Address: 105 Teryan Str., Yerevan, RA
Previous Accreditation Institutional accreditation, for a period of 5 years:
decision and date: 2015-2020

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 Establishing 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 Expert Panel, ANQA's Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the "National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia" Foundation (hereinafter "NUACA, TLI") in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on November 29, 2022.

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

Submission of application: October 16, 2019
Submission of the self-evaluation: October 24, 2021
Site visit by the expert panel: March 14-17, 2022

Submission of expert panel report: July 8, 2022

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan September 14, 2022

The external review of the NUACA'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 as of 30 June 2011.

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

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

In 2015, NUACA was granted institutional accreditation for a period of five years by National Quality Assessment and Accreditation Agency of Spain.

1. The NUACA ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The NUACA's academic programmes (APs) generally align with the TLI's mission and are developed and described in details in accordance with the expected learning outcomes of the awarded qualifications. Targeted steps are taken to enhance and reform academic programmes.

The NUACA has exemplary templates for bachelor's and master's specifications of Aps, based on which the specifications are developed. Meanwhile, the templates need approval.

The templates include tools for the alignment of the Aps' learning outcomes with teaching, learning and assessment methods.

The NUACA's mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the Aps' effectiveness are considered to be class observations and surveys.

The feedback is generally provided through the academic staff and alumni working in the field, which contributes to the presentation of recommendations aimed at the Aps' enhancement.

To implement the academic programmes and achieve the TLI's mission, there is an academic and supporting staff with necessary qualifications. There are policies and procedures for their selection as well.

Academic staff includes teachers, who are practically representatives of the field and bring their practice to the TLI, involve students in practical works, which is positive from the perspective of the formation of practical skills among students. Much attention is paid to generational change and the involvement of young specialists in both educational and scientific research activities. The process of staff replenishment with the TLI's own alumni is encouraged, which has a positive effect in terms of ensuring stability.

The TLI's supporting staff is involved in the research activities.

The measures directed towards the improvement of the infrastructures, building conditions and material-technical base are in the center of the NUACA's constant attention. During the last three years, the TLI's auditoriums, centers were thoroughly renovated and equipped with modern equipment, and the laboratories were equipped with modern testing equipment, which contributes to the realization of the goals set by the APs.

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

The NUACA has a defined and published mission, as well as strategic goals that generally reflect the stakeholders' needs. The TLI carries out long-term planning, but there are no mid-term and short-term plannings.

For the implementation of educational and other strategic goals, the NUACA has the necessary subdivisions and administrative, academic, supporting and service staff with relevant qualifications.

By involving internal stakeholders in all collegial management bodies, the TLI gives students and teachers an opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

The NUACA's Quality Assurance Center is also provided with the necessary human and material resources.

The TLI has defined quality, quality assurance policy and some procedures, but quality assurance activities are aimed only at the evaluation of the aspects of the TLI's educational activities. The PDCA cycle does not fully operate in all areas of the TLI's activities. The correlation between the information collected through the quality assurance system and the data defined by the strategic plan's (SP) KPIs is not visible.

Meanwhile, the TLI's few quality assurance activities are transparent and available to internal and external stakeholders on its official website.

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

The TLI's interests and ambitions in research are reflected in the SP, where the goals and issues of the field, as well as the actions are clearly described.

The NUACA has created favorable conditions for the involvement of teachers and students in research activities. Internal grants, incentive mechanisms contribute to the increase in the motivation of teachers and students, as well as to the development of research and creative skills among students.

The research results are internationally recognized by numerous publications in periodicals with an impact factor.

In the SP, the development of external relations and internationalization has been defined as a priority. A number of documents have been developed for the progress of the field.

The NUACA actively participates in international programmes, ensures various connections with external stakeholders. The TLI also cooperates with about 130 European, Russian and American HEIs.

Since 1994, the diploma granted to the graduates of the NUACA's Faculty of Architecture has been officially recognized by the French government as equivalent to the French diploma.

The TLI is an active participant in the review and development of the RA's normative documents on construction and often acts as an executor of external orders, in this sense also recognizing its scientific and educational activities from the position of the employer. As a result of the professional services provided in the fields of architecture and construction, the income of the TLI's budget has increased significantly.

The TLI has a system of bottom-up and top-down accountability. There is also a system of reporting to external stakeholders, which contributes to transparency. The TLI has four-language website that provides publicity of the available information.

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

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

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to "National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia" Foundation for 6 /six/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a follow-up plan and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) The improvement of short-term, mid-term planning, their monitoring and correlation with long-term planning;
 - b) the clarification of KPIs and decision-making according to the KPIs' organization;
 - c) the development of quality assurance system, contributing to the continuous enhancement of all fields;
 - d) the research internationalization by encouraging its laboratories cooperation not only with foreign HEIs, but also with research institutes abroad.
 - e) the improvement of the general requirements for graduation papers and master's theses;

- f) the improvement of result-based management system, involvement of external stakeholders in enhancement-led processes;
 - g) international cooperation in the TLI's other professional areas as well, for instance, tourism direction, design with its various fields, urban economy, management.
4. To organize an internal audit of the NUACA'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 NUACA's activity, innovations and achievements.
 6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the NUACA 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

December 19, 2022

Yerevan