



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/76

DECREE N 76

November 15, 2022

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF

State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: “State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia” Foundation

Official Address: 36 Isahakyan Str, Yerevan, RA

Previous Accreditation **Institutional accreditation for a period of 4 years:**

decision and date: **15.02.2018-15.02.2022**

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 Accreditation Criteria for the 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 the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia (hereinafter “SAFAA, TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on November 15, 2022.

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

Submission of application: June 24, 2021

Submission of the self-evaluation: January 25, 2022

Site visit by the expert panel: April 25-28, 2022

Submission of expert panel report: July 25, 2022

The external review of the SAFAA'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, "**Governance and Administration**", "**External Relations and Internationalization**", were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

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

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

The academic programmes (Aps) proposed have clearly defined objectives that align with the TLI's mission and meet the requirements of the stakeholders.

The bachelor's APs have been reviewed. Employers and other stakeholders have been involved in the process. The Aps have teaching, learning, and assessment methods. Their compliance with the Aps' learning outcomes is also presented. There are tables of alignment of the learning outcomes of the courses with Aps and the learning outcomes of the APs with the RA's NQF.

The modular system has been introduced, which makes it possible to link the teaching, learning and assessment of courses that deliver common outcomes. The new APs have been launched since the academic year 2021-2022. According to the new APs, only the first year courses of bachelor's eight programmes have been reviewed. Thus, the SAFAA has a lot to do in a short period of time to plan and carry out the courses of the other years in the same way as the courses of the APs that have been launched. The TLI implements mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and review of the APs.

The TLI has a teaching and supporting staff with the necessary professional qualities to achieve its mission and implement the Aps' goals. The APs are implemented by teachers with appropriate qualifications, scientific-pedagogical and creative experience.

In 2021, the TLI approved the Regulation on the Qualification Categories of Teachers, which defines the criteria for the formation of the academic staff. There is a policy for the selection of the academic staff and employees of various subdivisions. The SAFAA takes steps to ensure the academic staff's stability and generational change.

After the previous accreditation, some laboratories have been modernized. The resource base is updated as much as possible according to the identified needs. Generally, there is a necessary environment for the APs' implementation. The introduction of the electronic management system is ongoing, including systematic documentation of more processes. There is a safe and secure environment for the students and staff.

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

The SAFAA has a clearly formulated vision and mission, which reflect the TLI's peculiarity and are aimed at the preparation of high-quality specialists in the field of art.

In the field of governance, the TLI has to carry out activities in the direction of the KPIs' enhancement.

Though the TLI's governance system provides a regulated decision-making process and has the necessary human resources for the implementation of educational and other goals, there are problems in decision-making related to internal stakeholders. There is no mid-term planning.

Short-term planning is carried out in the form of annual plans of administrative subdivisions. The study of the factors affecting its activity and relying on reliable data during decision-making is also unclear. Certain works are carried out in separate directions, but they are not subjected to a systematic summary evaluation and are not the basis for the strategic plan (SP). The TLI's PDCA quality management principle for the administration of policies and procedures is introduced at the strategic management level. However, the processes are either still in the stage of implementation or evaluation. Transitions from evaluation to enhancement are not yet visible.

Though quality assurance has significantly enhanced compared to the previous cycle, quality assurance processes have increased and the number of tools has increased quantitatively. However, governance system still does not highlight the identification of data and raising of issues in terms of more realistic planning, which sometimes leads to problems when planning or evaluating the planning.

Thus, with the current tools and functions of quality assurance, as well as current governance culture, the SAFAA ensures the realization of its mission, particularly the achievement of the APs' outcomes. However, to evolve with current times, the SAFAA needs clear planning of enhancement processes through its resources.

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

The SAFAA has clear mechanisms for students' recruitment, selection and admission. The TLI also has a preparatory department, student council. A policy for the protection of students' rights, procedures on the presentation student problems to the administration and social support have been developed. Conditions for students with special needs are also improved.

The TLI takes steps to improve services that support students' careers.

In a free creative environment, students have the opportunity to communicate more openly and directly with renowned representatives of the art field.

The SAFAA attaches importance to research, which is one of the three directions of its strategy. As a strategic goal, the SAFAA has defined the conduct of research-creative activities. The TLI promotes the formation of new ideas and concepts in the APs: art studies, fine art, applied art and design. This approach contributes to the development of creative-scientific thought, as well as the dissemination of national culture.

Researches in the field of art have peculiarities that are reflected in creative activities and their results. Looking at the SAFAA's research field from this perspective, it is natural to state that research is carried out. However, the SAFAA should determine its activities in terms of implementing international academic and research programmes, attracting grants for capacity development, and moving benchmarking to the course level.

Researches are carried out in artistic and applied nature.

The SAFAA's interests and ambitions in the research field are documented. They are reflected in the research strategy. Grounds for the connection between research activities and the educational process have been laid.

The TLI has a strategy for the research field, represented by short-term, mid-term and long-term planning. Research outcomes are also included in the educational research process.

In the context of publicizing the research/creative activities of the teachers and students, the regularly organized exhibitions in the SAFAA's "Albert and Tove Boyajyan" exhibition hall are also important.

After the previous accreditation, the SAFAA has taken some steps towards the stimulation of external relations and internationalization. However, the planning and evaluation process of internationalization are problematic. International educational, research, foreign language programmes are not implemented. The level of English proficiency is low.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and its implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements. Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to "State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia" 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", "External Relations and Internationalization"**.
3. To pay special attention to:

- a) the need to develop a risk management plan with clear solutions for risk management in different situations;
 - b) the need to supplement the KPIs with indicators of a qualitative nature,
 - c) the decision-making and preparation of reports based on evaluations, clear quantitative and qualitative data;
 - d) the improvement of research planning and evaluation system ,by setting realistic KPIs;
 - e) the need to set up certain mechanisms to encourage the teaching staff's creative/research work for the correlation with the educational process;
 - f) the introduction of mechanisms that point out the deep problems and potential in the fields of quality assurance e.g. governance, research and internationalization;
 - g) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills;
 - h) the implementation of PDCA cycle in all the processes;
 - i) the strengthening of the link between learning and research;
 - j) the increase in the impact of the quality assurance system on the TLI's governance.
4. To organize an internal audit of the SAFAA'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 SAFAA's activity, innovations and achievements.
 6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the SAFAA 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

November 25, 2022

Yerevan