

APPROVED

by an order of the Ministry of Education and  
Science of Ukraine  
of 11.07.2019 No. 977

## **REGULATIONS**

### **on Accreditation of Study Programmes in Higher Education**

#### **I. General provisions**

1. These Regulations define the main principles and procedures for the accreditation of study programmes in higher education (henceforth “accreditation”) as a tool of external higher education quality assurance in Ukraine.
2. Accreditation is performed by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (henceforth “National Agency”).
3. Accreditation is voluntary and is performed on the initiative of the higher education institution.
4. Accreditation is performed in accordance with the Laws of Ukraine “On Education” and “On Higher Education”, the Statute of the National Agency, these Regulations and other legislation.
5. The aims of accreditation are:
  - 1) to identify quality compliance of the study programme, and of educational activities under such programme, with the Criteria established by these Regulations;
  - 2) to assist higher education institutions in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the study programme and of the educational activities under such programme;
  - 3) to provide stakeholders with objective information about the quality of the study programme and of the educational activities under such programme;
  - 4) to enhance trust in higher education in Ukraine;
  - 5) to promote the integration of Ukraine’s higher education institutions into the European Higher Education Area.

6. Accreditation of a study programme involves: evaluation of the quality of the study programme and educational activities of the higher education institution under that programme for compliance with the higher education standard; appraisal of the institution's ability to meet the requirements of this standard and achieve the learning outcomes declared in the programme in accordance with the Criteria established by these Regulations.

The Criteria are an integral part of these Regulations and are applied in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

7. The Criteria are applied by the higher education institution during the development of its Self-Assessment Report, and by the National Agency, its Sectoral Expert Councils and experts during accreditation.

A study programme, and educational activities under such programme, are to be evaluated for compliance to each criterion according to the following four-level scale:

Level F – the study programme and/or educational activities under such programme do not meet the defined criterion, and identified shortcomings are of a fundamental nature and/or cannot be eliminated within a one-year period;

Level E – the study programme and/or educational activities under such programme do not meet the defined criterion in general, but identified shortcomings can be eliminated within a one-year period;

Level B – the study programme and/or the educational activity under such programme meet the defined criterion in general, with possible shortcomings that are deemed minor;

Level A – the study programme and/or the educational activity under such programme fully meet the defined criterion and are of an innovative/exemplary character.

8. Accreditation of two or more study programmes within a single Program Subject Area (speciality) at the same level of higher education may be performed simultaneously.

9. These Regulations apply to both higher education institutions and to research institutions that perform educational activities in higher education (henceforth “higher education institutions”), regardless of their form of ownership and subordination.

Study programmes that are offered by affiliated stand-alone units of higher education institutions and/or structural units of higher education institutions that are located in a different settlement than that of the higher education institution, are

subject to individual accreditation according to the procedure established by these Regulations.

10. Higher education institutions are obliged to facilitate the performance of accreditation, to act in good faith in relations with the National Agency, its Sectoral Expert Councils and experts.

## **II. The accreditation procedure.**

1. Accreditation is first performed, as a rule, during the last year of study of the first student enrollment in a study programme.

2. During the period from June 1 to August 1 each year, higher education institutions that intend to accredit study programmes in the coming academic year inform the National Agency of their intent in electronic form. No later than September 1, the National Agency informs each higher education institution about the month when its application for accreditation of the respective study programme will be expected and opens access to an account (electronic cabinet) through which the higher education institution will submit respective materials for accreditation.

The timetable of the National Agency is compiled taking into account the number or programmes a higher education institution intends to accredit, the location of the higher education institution, the number of students, availability of experts etc.

3. Subsequent (repeat) accreditation is performed during the last year of validity of an accreditation certificate or during the term of conditional (postponed) accreditation. If subsequent accreditation has not been performed prior to the expiration date of the accreditation certificate or during the term of conditional (postponed) accreditation, accreditation is performed according to the same procedure as for first time accreditation.

A higher education institution has the right to initiate subsequent (repeat) accreditation early.

4. A higher education institution that wishes to accredit a study programme submits the following materials for accreditation to the National Agency:

- 1) an application for study programme accreditation;
- 2) the study programme document and programme curriculum (learning schedule) approved as appropriate;
- 3) a Self-Assessment Report of the study programme in accordance with the Criteria as well as documents that support the information provided in the report;
- 4) employers' reviews and testimonials (if available).

The Self-Assessment Report of the study programme is prepared by the academic staff representative who has been appointed by an order of the head of the higher education institution as supervisor of the study programme. If no such order has been issued, the head of the project team of the study programme appointed by the higher education institution to obtain a license from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is deemed to be the supervisor of the study programme.

5. Materials for accreditation are submitted in electronic format through the official portal of the National Agency. All documents regarding accreditation are compiled into an accreditation case-file that is maintained in electronic format.

If some documents in the accreditation case-file need to be confirmed by signature, such documents may be submitted on paper, but should then be scanned and added to the accreditation case-file. Responsibility for completeness of the accreditation case-file rests with the Secretariat of the National Agency.

If the accreditation case-file documents contain information which constitutes a state secret or confidential information, access to such information is granted exclusively according to procedures established by legislation.

6. Within five business days of the date of registration of the accreditation application, an expert panel tasked with performing the accreditation audit is established by an order of the Chairman of the National Agency in accordance with these Regulations; the timetable for the expert panel's work is scheduled, including dates for its visit to the respective higher education institution; and deadline for submission of the expert panel report. Simultaneously, an employee of the Secretariat of the National Agency responsible for supporting the accreditation audit and the development of guidelines for experts prior to their visit to the higher education institution is appointed.

Procedures for selection, training, certification of experts involved in performing accreditation audits, their rights, obligations and responsibilities, and procedures for the creation and maintenance of a register of experts are established by the National Agency.

7. An expert panel for the accreditation audit of a study programme consists of a head and two experts, including one expert from among students. The requirement to include an expert from among students is not applicable to cases of accreditation of study programmes under Field of Study 25 "Military sciences, national security, border security".

In cases of simultaneous accreditation of two or more study programmes within the same Program Subject Area (speciality), or of accreditation of interdisciplinary study programmes, the composition of an expert panel may be expanded, but not more than by one expert per programme.

Representatives of employers may be included in an expert panel if requested by an organization (association) of employers, professional association.

Experts who work (including part-time) in the relevant higher education institution, or are students in that institution, cannot be included the expert panel auditing a programme in that institution, nor can persons for whom conditions exist that could indicate a real or potential conflict of interest.

8. The order appointing the expert panel is sent to the head of the higher education institution whose programme is being accredited, as well as to the supervisor of the respective study programme. Based on a substantiated claim by the higher education institution, in case of the conflict of interests or circumstances that give grounds for a reasoned assumption about an expert's potential bias, such expert may be recalled by the Chairman of the National Agency with simultaneous replacement by another expert.

9. The accreditation audit includes:

1) assessment by the expert panel of the Self-Assessment Report, materials attached to it, and all other materials and information regarding the study programme and activities of the higher education institution under such programme;

2) a site visit of the expert panel to the higher education institution with the aim of verifying facts stated in the Self-Assessment Report, interviewing representatives of stakeholders regarding the study programme and activities of the higher education institution under such programme, developing recommendations aimed at improving the quality of the educational activities under such programme;

3) the development of a report on the results of the accreditation audit.

10. Materials of the accreditation case-file are sent to the head and members of the expert panel in electronic format for preliminary study. During such preliminary study of the materials of the accreditation case-file, each member of the expert panel has a right to receive, upon request, additional information from the higher education institution.

Individuals and legal entities have the right to submit information regarding the study programme that is being accredited to the National Agency. Such submissions are brought to the attention of members of the expert panel.

11. A site visit of the expert panel to the higher education institution is performed according to the agenda agreed by the head of the expert panel and the head of the higher education institution and/or the supervisor of the study programme not later than three business days before its start. The site visit of the expert panel to the higher education institution cannot exceed three days.

Compliance to the agenda set by the expert panel as part of the accreditation procedure is an obligation of the higher education institution. The higher education institution, in particular, ensures the presence, at the time specified by the agenda of the expert panel, of persons with whom individual communications, interviews, focus groups are planned (e.g. representatives of the administration of the institution, academic institutes (faculties), academic staff, researchers, representatives of the student governance bodies, students, graduates, employers, etc.).

Upon agreement with the Chairman of the National Agency, members of the National Agency and employees of the Secretariat may participate as observers during a site visit to a higher education institution.

12. For the period of a site visit to a higher education institution, members of the expert panel are relieved of their duties at their place of work or study. Heads of higher education institutions, enterprises, establishments and organizations whose employees or students participate in accreditation audits facilitate participation of such employees or students in these audits and other activities of the National Agency.

13. Based on the outcomes of the study of the Self-Assessment Report and information collected during the site visit to the higher education institution, the expert panel prepares a substantiated report about the outcomes of the accreditation audit (henceforth “Report”) according to the template established by the National Agency.

14. The Report is signed by all members of the expert panel. A member of the expert panel, who completely or partially disagrees with the Report has the right to sign it with a separate opinion which is attached to the Report and constitutes its integral part.

If a representative of employers participates in the accreditation audit, his/her advisory opinion is attached to the Report.

15. The Report is submitted by the head of the expert panel to the National Agency not later than five business days after completion of the site visit to the higher education institution, in electronic format, in accordance with the requirements of the National Agency. The Secretariat of the National Agency sends the Report in electronic format to the head of the higher education institution within two business days.

16. The head of the higher education institution has the right to submit substantiated objections to the Report within three business days after receipt of the Report to the National Agency that may contain, inter alia, information about

violations of accreditation procedures established by these Regulations by the expert panel.

17. On the day of submission of the objections to the Report or on the next day after expiration of the term for submission of such objections, the Secretariat of the National Agency provides access to materials of the accreditation case-file to the members of the relevant Sectoral Expert Council (herewith “SEC”). The Head of the SEC appoints a rapporteur from among the members of the relevant SEC to prepare an evaluation of the expert report for consideration.

18. The rapporteur, based on the materials of the accreditation case-file, within three business days of his/her appointment, ensures preparation of the SEC evaluation, which should contain a substantiated position regarding adoption by the National Agency of one of the decisions envisioned by Section 3 of these Regulations.

The SEC evaluation is prepared according to the template established by the National Agency.

19. The accreditation case-file and the draft evaluation are considered at the meeting of the SEC which adopts one of the following decisions:

- 1) to adopt the SEC evaluation and submit the accreditation case-file for consideration to the National Agency;
- 2) to submit a reasoned proposal to appoint a repeat accreditation audit to the National Agency.

The SEC meeting can be held by teleconference in line with established procedure.

### **III. The adoption of the decision about accreditation.**

1. The SEC evaluation, or the proposal to appoint a repeat accreditation audit, is considered at the National Agency meeting.

2. In case of agreement with the proposal contained in the SEC evaluation, the National Agency adopts one of the decisions envisaged by points 3-4 of this section.

In case of disagreement with the proposal contained in the SEC evaluation, the National Agency has the right to decide to appoint a repeat accreditation audit.

In case of disagreement with the SEC’s proposal to appoint a repeat accreditation audit, the National Agency has the right to adopt one of the decisions envisaged by points 3-4 of this section.

3. The decision to grant accreditation to a study programme is adopted on the condition that the study programme meets all criteria at levels A or B.

If compliance at level A is established for 5 or more criteria, accreditation of the study programme is granted with the grade “exemplary.”

If compliance at level E is established for one or two criteria, and compliance at level F is not established for any criterion, conditional (postponed) accreditation is granted.

If a decision is taken to grant accreditation of the study programme, including with the definition “exemplary”, or conditional (postponed) accreditation, the National Agency issues a certificate of accreditation or a copy of the notice of conditional (postponed) accreditation respectively, to the higher education institution and enters the relevant information into the Unified State Electronic Database on Education.

A certificate of accreditation is issued initially for a period of five years, and for second and subsequent accreditations – for a period of 10 years. Conditional (postponed) accreditation is granted for a period of 1 year.

4. A decision to refuse accreditation is taken if compliance at level F is established at least for one criterion, or the compliance at level E is established for three or more criteria.

If a decision is adopted to refuse accreditation, the higher education institution may submit documents for accreditation of the same study programme in accordance with the procedure described in these Regulations, during the next academic year. In such cases the expert panel should confirm that shortcomings revealed during the initial accreditation audit that led to the decision to refuse accreditation of the relevant programme have been eliminated.

Regardless of the established level of compliance to the criteria, the National Agency must refuse accreditation if:

1) deliberately false information was detected in the documents submitted in the accreditation case-file;

2) the higher education institution refused to admit the expert panel to the higher education institution during the site visit, the higher education institution created obstacles for activities of the expert panel, other unlawful or unethical actions of the higher education institution that made the accreditation audit impossible;

3) sufficient grounds are established based on the documents submitted in the case-file and/or during the site visit to the higher education institution to conclude that no educational process is actually conducted under the given programme.



5. The decision about appointing a repeat accreditation expertise is adopted:

- 1) in case of disagreement between the National Agency and the SEC evaluation;
- 2) if the accreditation audit was performed in violation of the procedures established by these Regulations;
- 3) if there are grounds to believe that the expert panel came to a manifestly unfounded conclusion.

In case a decision is taken to conduct a repeat accreditation audit, the accreditation procedure is performed without additional payment from the higher education institution.

The repeat accreditation audit begins at the stage of establishing an expert panel by order of the Chairman of the National Agency. For repeat accreditation audits the expert panel is formed with the head appointed from among the members of the National Agency and four experts, including one expert from among students. Members of the expert panel that performed the previous accreditation audit cannot be included into such an expert panel.

A repeat accreditation audit is conducted in accordance with the procedure established in these Regulations in points 8-19 of section II, including, in particular, the preparation and review of the SEC evaluation and the adoption by the National Agency of a decision in accordance with points 3-4 of this section.

6. In cases of simultaneous accreditation of a group of study programmes offered within one Program Subject Area (speciality), the National Agency may adopt the same or different decisions regarding each of the study programmes regarding which accreditation audits were performed.

7. The head of the higher education institution and/or the study programme's supervisor, as well as the head and members of the expert panel are invited to the SEC meeting (except if conducted by teleconference) and to the National Agency meeting during which the relevant accreditation case-file is considered.

8. To ensure the openness and transparency of the accreditation process:

1) the higher education institution posts the following on its official website:

the Self-Assessment Report of the study programme – to be published no later than 5 business days after the day of the submission of the materials for accreditation to the National Agency;

the decision as to accreditation or refusal of accreditation of the study programme, the evaluation of the respective SEC, the expert panel Report – to be posted within 10 business days of the National Agency decision;

2) the National Agency posts the following on its official website:

the order appointing the expert panel that is to perform the accreditation audit – to be posted no later than the next business day following the date of signature;

the decision as to accreditation or refusal of accreditation of the study programme, the evaluation of the respective SEC, the expert panel Report – to be posted within 10 business days of the National Agency decision.

This provision is applied taking into consideration requirements and restrictions regarding publication of restricted information established by legislation.

#### **IV. The legal status of the experts conducting accreditation**

1. An expert is a professional, who performs an accreditation audit of a study programme at a higher education institution.

An expert is a person who possesses the necessary knowledge and skills to allow him/her to evaluate the quality of study programmes and educational activities of higher education institutions under such programmes effectively, to develop recommendations regarding improvement of higher education quality under the respective Program Subject Areas (specialities).

Experts are selected from among academics, researchers, and students. For purposes of accreditation of study programmes under Fields of Study 21 “Veterinary Medicine” and 22 “Health” interns and resident-physicians are considered equivalent to students. Experts from among students can perform expert functions during one year after they have graduated.

Experts are trained by the National Agency.

SEC members cannot perform expert functions with respect to study programmes belonging to Program Subject Areas (specialities) in the Field of Study of the relevant SEC.

National Agency members may perform expert functions only in cases of repeat accreditation audits conducted according to point 5 of Section III of this Regulation.

2. During the accreditation audit, experts are required to perform their functions in good faith, impartially, and with integrity.

3. Experts carry out their functions based on civil agreements concluded with them.

4. Experts undergo certification, testing to establish that they possess the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the accreditation audit.

5. The expert must know:

- 1) the provisions of these Regulations,
- 2) the Criteria described in the Annex to these Regulations,
- 3) the legal principles according to which higher education institutions operate,
- 4) The Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG-2015).

6. An expert must possess knowledge of methods of external evaluation of the quality of a study programmes and educational activities of the higher education institution under such programme; in particular he/she must know how to:

- 1) establish conformity/non-conformity of the study programme content to the higher education standard;
- 2) analyze, systematize and summarise information regarding the study programme and educational activity of the institution under such programme,
- 3) analyze the internal documentation of a higher education institution related to the development and implementation of a study programme, as well as internship (practices) programmes, methodological guidelines developed for study programme implementation, other materials that ensure education quality, etc.;
- 4) collect information through inquiry, questionnaire survey, interview and other methods, as well as process and summarize that information;
- 5) evaluate various resources of the higher education institution;
- 6) interact during the accreditation audit with other experts, the National Agency, the higher education institution;
- 7) prepare a report about the accreditation audit outcomes;
- 8) provide reasonable judgments based on the accreditation audit outcomes.

7. During the accreditation audit, an expert has the right to:

- 1) unhindered access to the campus (territory) and premises during the site visit to the higher education institution;
- 2) inspect documentation of the higher education institution as required to perform the audit;
- 3) receive, as appropriate, information necessary to perform the accreditation audit from the higher education institution, other institutions and organizations;
- 4) perform interviews, focus-groups, surveys of participants of the educational process, obtain from them information regarding the activity of the higher education institution in other ways.

8. During the site visit to the higher education institution to perform the accreditation audit the expert has may not:

- 1) eat or be lodged at the expense of the higher education institution and/or its staff;
- 2) demand and/or receive improper benefits in any form, including gifts, from the employees of the higher education institution or third persons;
- 3) communicate with the staff of the higher education institution in an authoritarian manner, fail to maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- 4) disclose information prematurely about the audit judgment and outcomes.

9. Experts must act in accordance with the procedure established by legislation with respect to working with restricted information during the accreditation audit.

10. The National Agency provides regular training, briefings and coaching for experts to enhance their qualifications in higher education quality assurance.

11. Experts are provided with opportunities to:

- 1) present proposals to the National Agency regarding improvements to the provisions of higher education quality assurance, educational activities of higher education institutions, Criteria, requirements, indicators and procedures for their implementation, amendments to the legislative framework in the area of higher education quality assurance;
- 2) participate in the meetings of SEC and the National Agency during the discussion of accreditation audit outcomes as required by these Regulations;
- 3) participate in events organized by the National Agency.

12. Experts, who violate the provisions of these Regulations are excluded from the register of experts by a decision of the National Agency.

## **V. Accreditation of study programmes by foreign accreditation agencies and independent institutions of higher education quality evaluation and assurance**

1. Accreditation certificates issued to study programmes by foreign accreditation or quality assurance agencies that are included on the list of such agencies approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (herewith “recognized foreign accreditation agencies”), are recognized in Ukraine.

2. The National Agency may initiate changes in the list of recognized foreign accreditation agencies.

3. In case of accreditation of a study programme by a recognized foreign accreditation agency, information about the accreditation of such programme is entered, as appropriate, into the Unified State Electronic Database on Education.
4. Prior to inclusion of information in the Unified State Electronic Database on Education about the study programme's accreditation by a recognized foreign accreditation agency, the higher education institution sends to the National Agency a copy of the relevant certificate of the respective foreign agency and its notarized Ukrainian translation (including the report or other document detailing the results of the accreditation). The original and translation are made publicly available on the official website of the National Agency.
5. Accreditation of study programmes by recognized foreign accreditation agencies is deemed equivalent to accreditation by the National Agency.
6. Accreditation of study programmes by a recognized foreign accreditation agency does not require confirmation by the National Agency. The higher education institution may issue a state-recognized diploma (degree) under this programme for the period of validity of the certificate of accreditation.
7. Study programmes accredited by recognized foreign accreditation agencies may be accredited by the National Agency in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations on the initiative of the higher education institution.
8. The National Agency may involve independent institutions of higher education quality evaluation and assurance that it has accredited into the procedure of accreditation of study programmes.
9. The procedure of accreditation of independent institutions of higher education quality evaluation and assurance is established by legislation.
10. The accreditation by independent institutions of higher education quality evaluation and assurance is performed in accordance with the Criteria established by these Regulations.
11. Accreditation certificates issued to study programmes by independent institutions of higher education quality evaluation and assurance accredited by the National Agency as appropriate are deemed equal to accreditation certificates of the National Agency. Information about such certificates is included into the Unified State Electronic Database on Education as appropriate.

## **VI. Financing of the accreditation procedure**

1. Financing of the accreditation procedure is performed at the expense of the higher education institution that submits its documents for accreditation. Payment

for services required by the accreditation procedure is transferred to the account of the National Agency in accordance with its cost calculation.

In case of a decision to perform a repeat accreditation audit, no additional payment for performing the accreditation procedure is made.

2. In calculating the payment for accreditation audit services the National Agency takes into account:

1) payment to the head and members of the expert panel for the preliminary study of the accreditation case-file and preparation of the final report - in the amount of 60% and 55% respectively of the official salary of a professor as determined by the 22<sup>nd</sup> tariff rank of the Unified Tariff Framework of Ranks and Coefficients for Remuneration of Employees of Establishments, Institutions and Organizations of Certain Branches of the Public Sector approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 30 August 2002 No. 1298, increased by maximum amounts in accordance with the rank of professor and the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences;

2) payment to the head and members of the expert panel for the actual number of hours worked at the higher education institution based on a maximum of 16 hours and 12 hours respectively as calculated according to the hourly rate for professors, who teach classes to students of higher education institutions;

3) payment for services of the SEC member, who prepares the SEC expert judgment – in the amount of 30% of the minimum wage;

4) payment of per diem expenses related to the visit of the expert panel members to the higher education institution in the amount specified by Annex 1 to the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 02 February 2011 No. 98 “On amounts and composition of expenditures for business trips of public servants and other persons, who are sent on missions by enterprises, establishments and organizations that are fully or partially maintained (funded) through public funds”, and travel expenses of such experts to the higher education institution and back in the amount confirmed by respective payment documents;

5) payment for organizational services related to the performance of the accreditation procedure by the National Agency, its Secretariat, in the amount of 200% of the minimal wage;

6) payment for issuance of the certificate of accreditation / conditional (postponed) accreditation of the study programme and/or reissuance, issuance of a copy, a duplicate of the certificate of accreditation / conditional (postponed) accreditation of the study programme in the amount of 10% of the minimal wage.

3. The payment for performance of the accreditation procedure is credited to the special fund of the State Budget as own revenues of a state-funded institution according to the procedures of the Budgetary Code of Ukraine via a transfer to the account of the National Agency opened in the territorial office of the State Treasury, and is used for reimbursement of National Agency expenses accrued while performing accreditation, namely: remuneration of the expert panel members; payment for expenses related to the work of the expert panel at the higher education institution; payment of bonuses and other forms of material inducements to National Agency members, Secretariat staff, SEC members; indirect labour charges; reimbursement of travel expenses for participation in meetings of the National Agency and SEC; training and professional development of National Agency and SEC members, Secretariat staff, heads and members of expert panels; the National Agency's cooperation with national and international institutions in the area of higher education, in particular with those, whose main area of activity is higher education quality assurance and accreditation; creation and maintenance of the official website; payment for utilities, power, supplies, office equipment, stationary, banking services, communication services, minor and capital repairs, purchase of equipment and other expenses.

4. The National Agency has the right to use during the current fiscal year, remainders of state funds accrued as payment for services related to performing accreditation procedures left over from the previous year, to cover expenses planned for the current year.

## **VII. Challenging a decision of the National Agency**

1. Decisions of the National Agency may be challenged by higher education institutions according to procedures established and published by the National Agency. Following consideration of the grievance, the National Agency adopts a reasonable decision about the full or partial redress of the grievance, or about dismissal of the submitted grievance.

3. Decisions of the National Agency may be challenged in court in accordance with legislation.

**Annex to the Regulations  
on accreditation of study programmes  
in higher education  
(point 6, Section I)**

**Criteria for the Study Programme Quality Evaluation**

Compliance of the study programme and educational activity of the higher education institution under that study programme with the following criteria are obligatory conditions for accreditation:

**Criterion 1.** The design and objectives of the study programme.

1. The study programme has clearly formulated objectives that meet the mission and strategy of the higher education institution.
2. The study programme objectives and programme learning outcomes are defined based on the positions and needs of interested parties (stakeholders).
3. The study programme objectives and programme learning outcomes are defined based on the trends of development of the Program Subject Area (speciality), labor market, sectoral and regional context, as well as the experience of similar Ukrainian and international study programmes.
4. The study programme fosters the achievement of the learning outcomes stated by the higher education standard for the respective Program Subject Area (speciality) and higher education level (if available).

If no approved higher education standard is available for the respective Program Subject Area (speciality) and higher education level, programme learning outcomes should meet requirements of the National Qualification Framework for the respective qualification level.

**Criterion 2.** The structure and content of the study programme.

1. The scope of the study programme and its separate educational components (in ECTS credits) are in line with the requirements of legislation concerning the learning workload for the relevant higher education level and meet the relevant higher education standard (if available).
2. The content of the study programme has a clear structure; educational components included into the study programme constitute a logical consistent



system and, taken together, allow the achievement of the stated objectives and programme learning outcomes.

3. The content of the study programme is in line with the Program Subject Area (speciality) (or specialities in cases of interdisciplinary programmes).
4. The structure of the study programme envisages the possibility of forming an individual educational trajectory, in particular, through the individual choice of modules by students in the amount stipulated by legislation.
5. The study programme and curriculum envisage practical training of students that allows them to gain the competencies necessary for further professional activity.
6. The study programme envisages the development of soft skills in students that meet stated objectives.
7. The content of the study programme takes into account requirements of the respective professional standard (if available).
8. The scope of the study programme and its separate educational components (in ECTS credits) realistically reflects the actual workload of students, is relevant for achieving objectives and programme learning outcomes.
9. If students are trained under a dual form of education, the structure of the study programme and its curriculum are harmonized with the tasks and specific features of this form of education.

**Criterion 3.** Access to the study programme and learning outcomes recognition.

1. The admission rules for the study programme are clear and easy-to-understand, do not contain any discriminatory provisions and are published on the official website of the higher education institution.
2. The admission rules for the study programme take into account any peculiarities of the study programme itself.
3. Clear and easy-to-understand rules are established for recognition of learning outcomes received at other education institutions, in particular during academic mobility, which are in line with the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon, 1997), are available to all participants of the educational process and are consistently observed during realization of the study programme.
4. Clear and easy-to-understand rules are established for recognition of learning outcomes received in the frame of non-formal education, are available to all participants of the educational process, and are consistently observed during realization of the study programme.

**Criterion 4.** Teaching and learning under the study programme.

1. The forms and methods of teaching and learning contribute to achieving objectives and programme learning outcomes stated in the study programme; meet requirements of student-centered approaches and the principles of academic freedom.
2. All participants of the educational process are provided, in a timely manner, with available and clear information regarding the objectives, content, programme learning outcomes, and the evaluation procedure and criteria employed in individual educational components (in the form of a syllabus or in another similar way).
3. The higher education institution provides a combination of learning and research during realization of the study programme appropriate to the higher education level, Program Subject Area (speciality) and objectives of the study programme.
4. Academic staff, researchers (herewith “academics”) update their educational content based on the latest scientific achievements and modern practices in the respective sector.
5. Learning, teaching and scientific research are related to the internationalization activities of the higher education institution.

**Criterion 5.** Control measures, evaluation of students and academic integrity.

1. Forms of control measures and evaluation criteria for students are clear, easy-to-understand, allow for the assessment of achievement of learning outcomes by the student in each individual educational component and/or in the study programme as a whole, and are published in advance.
2. Forms of attestation of students are in line with the requirements of the higher education standard (if available).
3. Clear and easy-to-understand rules for conducting control measures are established, these rules are available to all participants of the educational process, provide for the impartiality of examiners, in particular include procedures to prevent and solve conflicts of interest, define procedures for challenging the results of control measures and re-assessment, and are consistently observed during realization of the study programme.
4. Clear and easy-to-understand policies, standards and procedures are established at the higher education institution to observe academic integrity, and are consistently observed by all participants of the educational process during

realization of the study programme. The higher education institution promotes academic integrity (firstly, through the implementation of such policies for the development of an internal quality culture) and uses relevant technological solutions as instruments to counteract violations of academic integrity.

#### **Criterion 6.** Human resources

1. The academic and/or professional qualification of academics involved in the realization of the study programme ensure achievement of the objectives and programme learning outcomes stated by the respective programme.
2. Procedures of competitive selection of academics are transparent and allow for the ensurance of a necessary level of professionalism for successful realization of the study programme.
3. The higher education institution engages employers into organization and realization of the educational process.
4. The higher education institution involves professional practitioners, sector experts, representatives of employers into classroom activities.
5. The higher education institution supports the professional development of academics through its own professional development programmes or by working together with other organizations.
6. The higher education institution promotes development of teaching excellence.

#### **Criterion 7.** Educational environment and material resources.

1. The financial, material and technical resources (the library, other infrastructure, equipment, etc.), and other learning and teaching materials of the study programme ensure achievement of the objectives and programme learning outcomes stated by the study programme.
2. The higher education institution ensures free access to relevant infrastructure and information resources necessary for learning, teaching and/or scientific activities of academics and students of the study programme.
3. The educational environment is safe for the life and health of students of the study programme, and allows them to meet their needs and interests.
4. The higher education institution provides educational, organizational, informational, consultative and social support to students of the study programme.

5. The higher education institution creates sufficient conditions for the realization of the right to education by persons with special educational needs, who study in the programme.

6. A clear and easy-to-understand policy and procedures exist for mitigation of conflict situations (in particular, related to sexual harassment, discrimination and/or corruption, etc.), which are available to all participants of the educational process and are consistently observed during realization of the study programme.

**Criterion 8.** Internal quality assurance of the study programme.

1. The higher education institution consistently observes its established procedures for development, approval, monitoring and periodic review of the study programme.

2. Students, directly and through student governance bodies, are engaged as partners in the process of periodic review of the study programme and in procedures related to its quality assurance. The position of students is taken into consideration in reviewing the study programme.

3. Employers, directly and/or through their associations, are engaged as partners in the process of periodic review of the study programme and other procedures related to its quality assurance.

4. A practice exists to collect, analyze and take into consideration information about the career path of graduates of the study programme.

5. The quality assurance system of the higher education institution ensures reaction to shortcomings identified in the study programme and/or educational activities related to the realization of the study programme.

6. The results of external higher education quality assurance (in particular, comments and suggestions formulated during previous accreditations) are taken into account during reviews of the study programme.

7. A culture of quality is formed in the academic community of the higher education institution that contributes to the constant development of the study programme and educational activity related to this programme.

**Criterion 9.** Transparency and publicity.

*Note.* Criterion 9 is applied taking into account the requirements and restrictions regarding disclosure of restricted information established by legislation.

1. Clear and easy-to-understand rules and procedures are established that regulate the rights and responsibilities of all participants of the educational process, and are accessible to them and consistently observed during realization of the study programme.
2. At least a month prior to approval of the study programme or changes to it, the higher education institution publishes the respective draft study programme on its official website with the aim of receiving comments and suggestions from interested parties (stakeholders).
3. The higher education institution publishes, in a timely manner, on its official website, correct and reliable information about the study programme (including its objectives, expected learning outcomes and components, in an amount sufficient to inform respective interested parties (stakeholders) and society.

**Criterion 10.** Study through research.

*Note.* Criterion 10 is applied during accreditation of study programmes of the third cycle of higher education.

1. The content of the study programme is consistent with the research interests of doctoral students (adjuncts) and ensures their full-fledged preparation for research and teaching activities in higher education institutions within their Program Subject Area (speciality) and/or sector.
2. The research activity of doctoral students (adjuncts) is in line with the research topics of their supervisors.
3. The higher education institution organizationally and materially provides, under the study program, opportunities to conduct research and to test research results in accordance with the research topics of the doctoral students (adjuncts) (i.e. regular conferences, seminars, colloquia, access to the use of laboratories, equipment, etc.).
4. The higher education institution arranges opportunities for doctoral students (adjuncts) to join their international academic community by Program Subject Area (speciality), in particular through conference presentations, publications, participation in joint research projects, etc.
5. A practice exists whereby supervisors participate in research projects, the results of which are regularly published and/or practically implemented.
6. The higher education institution ensures observance of academic integrity in the research activities of supervisors and doctoral students (adjuncts), in particular by

taking measures to preclude the possibility of student supervision by persons who have committed violations of academic integrity.