განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Accreditation Expert Group Final Report
on Higher Education Programme

Doctoral Programme in International Relations
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Date of Evaluation: 11 September 2018

Report Submission Date: 5 November 2018

Tbilisi
2018-11-05

HEI's Information Profile

Name of Institution Indicating its Organizational Legal Form	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Legal Entity of Public Law
HEI's Identification Code	204864548
Type of Institution	University

Higher Education Programme Information Profile

Name of the Programme	International Relations
Level of Education	Doctoral Studies
Qualification Granted Indicating Qualification Code	0705
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Number of Credits	180
Programme Status (Authorized/ Accredited/New)	Accredited

Expert Panel Members

Chair (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Gediminas Vitkus Vilnius University, Lithuania
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	David Gegetchkori Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Nana Pirtskhelani, Caucasus University, Georgia

Accreditation Report Executive Summary

- **General information on the education programme**

The Doctoral Programme in International Relations aims to train a high level researcher and practitioner of international relations, who is familiar with the theoretical approaches of international policy, as well as theoretical scopes in politics, economics, law, sociology, and modern international political processes. The main part of the Programme is dedicated to research. Also it contains an teaching component.

- **Brief overview of the accreditation site-visit**

The accreditation site-visit to the Tbilisi State University took place on 11 September 2018. The Expert Panel hold meetings and interviews with the University administration, the Self-evaluation team, with faculty full time and invited members and PhD supervisors, programme students, representatives of employers, University and faculty quality assurance unit heads. At the end of working day the Expert Panel made preliminary presentation of the main findings.

- **Summary of education programme's compliance with the standards**

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that in general the Programme meets all accreditation standards. More specifically the Programme substantially complies with requirements related with educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and teaching methodology and organization. Full compliance with requirements can be seen against standards related with student achievements and individual work with them, teaching resources and teaching quality enhancement.

- **Summary of Recommendations**

The Expert Panel formulated the following recommendations:

- to elaborate new version of learning outcomes description and to deliver it in more detailed and specific manner with direct application to the content of the International Relations discipline';
- to update the list literature provided in the Syllabus of the elective academic course "Modern Debates in International Relations" in order to meet standard requirement of taking new research findings and modern scientific achievements into consideration.

- **Summary of Suggestions**

The Expert Panel formulated the following suggestions:

- to make Programme admission preconditions and procedures as well as content and course descriptions accessible also in English language with the perspective to give the Programme more international visibility and attract international students;
- to elaborate a strategy and foresee resources for gradual "returning" faculty members from other jobs and providing for them full time employment with adequate salary in order to achieve high level research and high quality international publications.

- to continue fund raising process and develop further international links with relevant foreign scholars to ensure the continuing international excellence.

■ **Summary of best practices (If Applicable)**

The Expert Panel formulated the following examples of best practices:

- the content of the Programme was developed in cooperation with the foreign university with high reputation (in this case the Oxford University);
- permanent involvement of international experts/established professors from the US and Europe into implementation of the Programme and its further improvement;
- an essential prerequisite for obtaining doctoral degree is the requirement for students to have published a minimum of two publications, one of which should be published in a "Scopus"-indexed journal.
- active participation of PhD students in program elaboration process and learning outcomes assessment procedures.

■ **In case of accredited programme, summary of significant accomplishments and/or progress (If Applicable)**

Not Applicable

Compliance of the Programme with Accreditation Standards

1. ## Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme

   A programme has clearly established objectives and learning outcomes, which are logically connected to each other. Programme objectives are consistent with the mission, objectives and strategic plan of the institution. Programme learning outcomes are assessed on a regular basis in order to improve the programme.

1.1 Programme Objectives
Programme objectives define the set of knowledge, skills and competences the programme aims to develop in graduate students. They also illustrate the contribution to the development of the field and the society.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements   o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable) After the analysis of the Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit the Expert Panel could confirm that the Programme objectives are clear, realistic and achievable. They reflect the skills and qualifications and competences the graduate of the Programme should have and how they contribute to the development of the discipline and society. The Programme is relevant and in accordance with the mission and development plan of the Social & Political Sciences Faculty and the Tbilisi State University in general. By aiming to train a high level researchers and practitioners of international relations the Programme takes into consideration local labour market demands and includes international component. The objectives are accessible for interested parties (public administration institutions and civil society) and shared by the Programme stakeholders.
Evidences/indicators o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results Self-evaluation report TSU Mission (https://www.tsu.ge/en/about/mission_statement); TSU Strategic Development Plan https://www.tsu.ge/data/file_db/PR/2017-2021.pdf Charter of LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University https://www.tsu.ge/data/file_db/sajaro/07matsne-2014505-6.pdf Description of Doctoral Programme; Syllabus of academic courses (annex 1); Interviews during the Site-Visit
Recommendations: o Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards
Suggestions for programme development: o Non-binding suggestions for programme development
Best Practices (if applicable): o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

- ✓   Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

1.2. Programme Learning Outcomes

- Programme learning outcomes describe knowledge, skills, and/or the sense of responsibility and autonomy, students gain upon completion of the programme;
- Programme learning outcomes assessment cycle consists of defining, collecting and analysing data;
- Programme learning outcomes assessment results are utilized for the improvement of the programme.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

- Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

After the analysis of the Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit the Expert Panel discovered that in general the Programme learning outcomes are consistent with the programme objectives. According to the Programme description graduates are able to independently conduct innovative research and analytical work for the implementation of international and foreign policy issues; to do professional work in the civil services, in public sector and international organizations, also to teach in HEI using modern methodologies.

The description of learning outcomes includes all needed components as (a) knowledge and understanding, (b) ability to apply knowledge; (c) ability to generate new knowledge; (d) necessary communication skills; (e) ability to share knowledge with others and (f) respect for academic ethics. The programme has the Curriculum map with clear indication showing that each course develops particular learning outcome or outcomes.

As concerns Programme learning outcomes assessment mechanism the Expert Panel could confirm that the mechanism is in place. The documentation certifying the procedure and discussion of learning outcomes assessment results are foreseen in the rules of the University and in the Charter of the Social & Political Sciences Faculty. The faculty members involved in the Programme are updated in detail on assessment results through the faculty's as well as University's Quality Assurance Service.

The Expert Panel discovered that achievement of the programme's learning outcomes is permanently assessed by the programme's committee on yearly basis. The programme committee at the end of each academic year provides for the head of the program and the International Relations Department its own recommendations and opinions. This mechanism opens direct avenue for the utilizations learning outcomes assessment results for the improvement of the programme as a whole.

On the other hand the description of the Programme learning outcomes still has some space for improvement. It could be less general and more specific with direct references to the content of the International Relations discipline.

Evidences/indicators

- o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Doctoral Programme and Syllabus of Academic Courses (Appendix 1)
Programme Development Protocol (Appendix 2)
Curriculum Map (Appendix 15.5)
Analysis of assessment of educational outcomes (Appendix 15.3);
Map of objectives and educational outcomes (Appendix 15.5)
Self-evaluation report
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

It is recommended to elaborate new version of learning outcomes description and to deliver it in more **detailed** and specific manner with direct application to the content of the International Relations discipline.

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme	X			

2. Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering

Programme admission preconditions, programme structure, content, teaching and learning methods, and student assessment ensure the achievement of programme objectives and intended learning outcomes.

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2.1. Programme Admission Preconditions

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Higher education institution has relevant, transparent, fair, public and accessible programme admission preconditions.

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Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

    o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

After the analysis of the Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit the Expert Panel could confirm that the Programme Admission Preconditions take programme characteristics into consideration (it requires at least Master's degree in social and/or humanitarian sciences and a Master's degree in "International Relations" is a priority). This provision ensures admission of the students with relevant knowledge, skills and competences for mastering the programme. The programme admission preconditions are logically linked to the Programme content, learning outcomes and the qualification to be awarded since the applicants are supposed to submit motivation letter and samples of written work related to International Relations. Programme admission preconditions and procedures are consistent with existing legislation. Programme admission preconditions and procedures are fair, public and accessible at least in Georgian language.

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Evidences/indicators

    o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Description of Doctoral Programme (Appendix 1)
Minimum standard of Doctorate (Annex 4)
The Doctorate and Dissertation Board of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences:
https://tsu.ge/data/file_db/faculty_social_political/debuleba____2018-ianvari.pdf
Charter of LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University https://www.tsu.ge/data/file_db/sajaro/07matsne-2014505-6.pdf
TSU Website www.tsu.ge
The provision of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences https://www.tsu.ge/ge/faculties/social/news/
Interviews during the Site-Visit

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Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

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Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

The Expert Panel suggests making Programme admission preconditions and procedures accessible also in English language with the perspective to give the Programme more international visibility and attract international students.

Best Practices (if applicable):

o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

✓ Complies with requirements
☐ Substantially complies with requirements
☐ Partially complies with requirements
☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.2 Educational Programme Structure and Content

Programme is designed according to HEI's methodology for planning, designing and developing of educational programmes. Programme content takes programme admission preconditions and programme learning outcomes into account. Programme structure is consistent and logical. Programme content and structure ensure the achievement of programme learning outcomes. Qualification to be granted is consistent with programme content and learning outcomes.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit persuaded the Expert Panel that the Programme is designed according to Tbilisi State University methodology for planning, designing and developing of educational programmes. Its structure is consistent and logical. It comprised of 180 credits with study component of 40 credits and research component of 140 credits. Programme content and structure is consistent with the qualification to the granted and ensure the achievement of programme learning outcomes. The Programme is structured in accordance with Georgian Legislation and European Credits Transfer System. The study component foresees both – mandatory and elective courses. The content of study component takes into account admission preconditions by including into the list of elective courses following subjects as "Classical Texts in International Relations" and "Modern Debates in International Relations". These courses are particularly helpful for students, which graduated from other than International Relations Master's study programmes. The advantage of the research component of the Programme is that it is not limited to the preparation of a doctoral dissertation, but also provides continuous tracking of the process and regular evaluation of achievements in the form of Colloquiums. As concerns the involvement of all stakeholders in designing the programme the Expert Panel could confirm that this standard requirement is being respected.

Evidences/indicators

o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Programme description and structure (Annex 1);
Protocol sessions of the Development Committee Meeting (Appendix 2); Instruction
    of developing Doctoral Programs (Appendix 7);
Decree of the Academic Council of Tbilisi State University on Approval of Programme Accreditation
    Committees https://www.tsu.ge/en/juridical/axad_council_resolutions/2018acad/742018//
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

The Expert Panel suggests making Programme content and course description accessible also in English language with the perspective to give the Programme more international visibility and attract international students.

Best Practices (if applicable):

o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

The content of the Programme was developed in cooperation with the foreign university with high reputation (in this case the Oxford University).

Permanent involvement of international experts/established professors from the US and Europe into implementation of the Programme and its further improvement.

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

   ✓   Complies with requirements
   ☐   Substantially complies with requirements
   ☐   Partially complies with requirements
   ☐   Does not comply with requirements

2.3 Course
• Student learning outcomes of each compulsory course are in line with programme learning outcomes; Moreover, each course content and number of credits correspond to course learning outcomes;   • Teaching materials listed in syllabi are based on the core achievements in the field and ensure the achievement of intended programme learning outcomes.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

> o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit could confirm that in general student learning outcomes of each compulsory course are in line with programme learning outcomes and each course content and number of credits correspond to course learning outcomes. As regards the standard requirement for Programme content to take new research findings and modern scientific achievements into consideration the Expert Panel didn't discovered any serious discontent, however, it is necessary to make a note that list of literature provided in the Syllabus of the elective academic course "Modern Debates in International Relations" basically refers to literature of the last decade of the 20th century.

Evidences/indicators
> o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Educational Programme and Syllabus (Appendix 1)
Curriculum Map (Appendix 15.5)
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

The Expert Panel recommends to update the list literature provided in the Syllabus of the elective academic course "Modern Debates in International Relations" in order to meet standard requirement of taking new research findings and modern scientific achievements into consideration.

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard.

☐ Complies with requirements
✓ Substantially complies with requirements
☐ Partially complies with requirements
☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.4 The Development of practical, scientific/research/creative/performance and transferable skills
Programme ensures the development of students' practical, scientific/research/creative/performance and transferable skills and/or their involvement in research projects, in accordance with the programme learning outcomes.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit confirms that Programme ensures the development of students' research performance by their involvement in research projects in accordance with the Programme learning outcomes. By courses of programme (doctoral seminars, assisting and assistantship, and etc.) doctoral students have a possibility to get knowledge and skills by supervision of professors – analytical, research, decision-making, planning skills. Also they are taught how to teach and supervise and be involved in the implementation of individual research projects.

Evidences/indicators

o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Doctoral Programme and Syllabuses (Appendix 1)
Curriculum Map (Appendix 15.5)
Legal Acts of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences:
     https://www.tsu.ge/ge/faculties/social/nw8jtxipx4jns0cg-/
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

An essential prerequisite for obtaining doctoral degree is the requirement for students to have published a minimum of two publications, one of which should be published in a "Scopus"-indexed journal.

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

    ✓ Complies with requirements
    ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
    ☐ Partially complies with requirements
    ☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.5 Teaching and learning methods

Programme is implemented using student centered teaching and learning (SCL) methods. Teaching and learning methods correspond to the level of education, course content, student learning outcomes and ensure their achievement.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit confirms that Programme is implemented using student centred teaching and learning methods. Following teaching and learning methods: practical work method, writing method, e-learning elements, individual and group work method, demonstration method and case analysis, discussions give a hand to the development of the student as an established performer and a researcher. They correspond to the level of education, course content, and student learning outcomes and ensure their achievement.

Evidences/indicators

o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Syllabi
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):
o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.6. Student Evaluation
Student evaluation is conducted in accordance with established procedures. It is transparent and complies with existing legislation.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

- o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit confirms that Student evaluation is conducted in accordance with established procedures. It is transparent and complies with existing legislation. Since the Programme still hasn't got graduates the Expert Panel cannot confirm that standards related with the dissertation thesis defence are respected. However the information of the Self-evaluation report and the results of Interviews do not provide grounds for doubting that this will not be implemented.

Evidences/indicators

- o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Programme description and syllabi (Annex 1)
"On Approval of Rules Regulating the Study Process of LEPL - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University",
    https://www.tsu.ge/en/juridical/axad_council_resolutions/rrub//
The doctorate and dissertation Board of the faculty of social and political sciences:
    https://tsu.ge/data/file_db/faculty_social_political/debuleba%202018-ianvari.pdf
Minimum Standard of Doctoral Studies (Annex 4)
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):
- o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

  o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering	X			

3. Student achievements and individual work with them

HEI creates student-centered environment by providing students with relevant services; programme staff ensures students' familiarity with the named services, organizes various events and fosters students' involvement in local and/or international projects.

3.1. Student support services

Students receive appropriate consultations and support regarding the planning of learning process, improvement of academic achievement, employment and professional development.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

> o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that all necessary students support services are in place. Students receive appropriate consultations and support regarding the planning of learning process, improvement of academic achievement, employment and professional development. In the framework of the Programme, students have an opportunity to participate in local and international projects, events, conferences and research fellowships; they can also participate in international exchange programmes. Students are informed about various local and international projects and events. During the interviews it was confirmed that for the purpose of providing news, the electronic website www.lms.tsu.ge and the closed Facebook group are specially designed for students and professors of doctoral Programme in International Relations. The workload of faculty members includes hours for student advising.

Evidences/indicators

> o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Provision of career development center (Annex 4) student Survey results (Annex 15)
The provision of the doctorate and dissertation board of the Social and Political Sciences faculty
    https://tsu.ge/data/file_db/faculty_social_political/debuleba%202018   -ianvari.pdf
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

> Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

Besides the academic staff directly involved in the Programme, advisory services are actively involved in process, including professors of the leading European and American universities.

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

    ✓ Complies with requirements
    ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
    ☐ Partially complies with requirements
    ☐ Does not comply with requirements

3.2. Master's and Doctoral Student supervision
Master's and Doctoral students have qualified thesis supervisors.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

- o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that the Programme meets the accreditation standards in this regard. Every student has a qualified supervisor and if necessary, more than one co-supervisor who has scientific-research experience relevant to the topic of the thesis. The University has an elaborated document, which defines rights and obligations of the supervisor and the supervision process. A supervisors conduct consultations with students on a regular basis.

Evidences/indicators

- o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Staff Resumes (Appendix 3)
The provision of the doctorate and dissertation board of the Social and Political Sciences faculty,
https://tsu.ge/data/file_db/faculty_social_political/debuleba%202018　　-ianvari.pdfI
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

Involvement in the Programme high qualifications professors with rich academic experience from the leading universities of Europe and America.

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress
o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation
o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard ✓ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements ☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Student achievements and individual work with them	X			

4. Providing teaching resources

Programme human, material, information and financial resources ensure programme sustainability, its effective and efficient functioning, and achievement of intended objectives.

4.1 Human Resources
• Programme staff consists of qualified people who have necessary competences in order to help students achieve programme learning outcomes;
• The number and workload of programme academic/scientific and invited staff ensures the sustainable running of the educational process and also, proper execution of their research/creative/performance activities and other assigned duties. Balance between academic and invited staff ensures programme sustainability;
• The Head of the Programme possesses necessary knowledge and experience required for programme elaboration. He/she is personally involved in programme implementation;
• Programme students are provided with an adequate number of administrative and support staff of appropriate competence.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements
o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)
The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit acknowledges that the human resources of the Programme satisfy requirements of the Standard. Each professor of the Programme has an academic position at Tbilisi State University with full compliance with Georgian legislation and internal regulations of the University. Also, the faculty members possess experience of practical work in public administration institutions and/or international organizations. The number and workload of programme academic/scientific and invited staff ensures the sustainable running of the educational process. 8 professors involved in the Programme are fully capable to manage 13 PhD students enrolled in the Programme. Among them there are 2 full and 3 associate professors directly involved in scientific supervising. The Head of the Programme Associate Professor Tornike Turmanidze has an academic degree of doctor in International Relations and possesses necessary knowledge and experience required for programme elaboration. He is personally involved in Programme implementation. On the basis of the interview with students the Experts Panel acknowledges that Programme students are provided with an adequate number of administrative and support staff of appropriate competence. However, still some international component is missing. Due to the limited funds, it is difficult to invite foreign scholars in order to deliver valuable knowledge to PhD Students.

Evidences/indicators

  o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Resumes of persons who implement this Programme (Annex 3)
The list of personnel implementing the educational Programme, with reference to the course/courses (Annex5)
"Recommendation Methodology for Planning the Number of Personnel Implementing the Programme"   (Annex 6).
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

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Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

To continue fund raising process and develop further international links with relevant foreign scholars to ensure the continuing international excellence.

Best Practices (if applicable):

  o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

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In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

  o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

  ✓ Complies with requirements
  ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
  ☐ Partially complies with requirements
  ☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.2 Professional development of academic, scientific and invited staff
• HEI conducts the evaluation of programme academic, scientific and invited staff and analysis evaluation results on a regular basis; • HEI fosters professional development of the academic, scientific and invited staff. Moreover, it fosters their scientific and research work.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

By studying the Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and during the Site Visit the Expert Panel found that the University quality service is permanently conducting to survey the personnel in order to obtain the information needed for their professional retraining and development. Even more the Faculty organizes annual conferences and round tables for academic personnel to familiarize them with the latest methodology for preparing academic personnel publications. This allows us to conclude that in this respect the Programme meets the standard.

Evidences/indicators

o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Social and Political Sciences Faculty Website https://www.tsu.ge/ge/faculties/social/news/
Individual programs and projects website: http://www.pestuge.iliauni.edu.ge/ ,
   http://socpol.tsu.edu.ge/visegradfund/
Results of the survey of academic and invited personnel (Annex 15.2)
Measures for the development of academic and invited personnel (Appendix 14)
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.3. Material Resources
Programme is provided by necessary infrastructure and technical equipment required for achieving programme learning outcomes.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements   o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable) The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit could confirm that all the necessary material resources for the Programme are available. During the interviews, the students and faculty members confirmed that they have no problems in this regard and are satisfied with the current situation.
Evidences/indicators   o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results Self-evaluation report Official web-site of Tbilisi State University Library and Social Sciences Center www.css.ge Interviews during the Site-Visit
Recommendations: Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards
Suggestions for programme development: Non-binding suggestions for programme development
Best Practices (if applicable):   o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress   o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.4.Programme/faculty/school budget and programme financial sustainability

The allocation of financial resources stipulated in programme/faculty/school budget is economically feasible and corresponds to programme needs.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

During the Site Visit interviews with University budget officer the Expert Panel was reassured that financing of the Programme is stable and sustainable. The Programme is financed from the two budgets: the centralized University budget and local budget of the Faculty of Social & Political Sciences, which is basically used for professor's salaries. At the same time the Expert Panel discovered that these salaries are relatively low and faculty members as a rule are also involved in other jobs within or even outside the University in order to generate enough income for financial support of their families. The Expert Panel at this point would like to express a concern and indicate that this situation in the long run may damage successful development and sustainability of the Programme.

Evidences/indicators

o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
TSU Website Faculty budget (Annex 12) www.tsu.ge
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

While involvement of faculty members in other jobs this is a general condition not only in Tbilisi State University, but in all Georgia, it would be reasonable (at least for the International Studies Department) to elaborate a strategy and foresee resources for gradual "returning" people from other jobs and providing for them full time employment with adequate salary in order to achieve high level research and high quality international publications.

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Providing teaching resources	X			

5. Teaching quality enhancement opportunities

In order to enhance teaching quality, programme utilizes internal and external quality assurance services and also periodically conducts programme monitoring and programme review. Relevant data is collected, analysed and utilized for informed decision making and programme development on a regular basis.

5.1 Internal quality
Programme staff collaborates with internal quality assurance service(s) available at the higher education institution when planning the process of programme quality assurance, creating assessment instruments, and analysing assessment results. Programme staff utilizes quality assurance results for programme improvement.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements   o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable) The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through detailed Programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that the Programme meets the accreditation standards in this regard. The University has developed policy for quality assurance and it is publicly available and form a part of the Programme's strategic management. The Expert Panel noticed that the Head and Faculty members of the Programme have good working relations with internal Quality Assurance services on Faculty and University levels. The Quality Assurance service staff is involved in the process of the Programme improvement and enhancement. The interviews with students also revealed that the Programme is delivered in a way that encourages them to take an active role in the process.
Evidences/indicators   o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results Self-evaluation report Quality Assurance Service Regulations (Annex 4) Quality Assurance Mechanisms (Annex 15) Interviews during the Site-Visit
Recommendations: Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards
Suggestions for programme development: Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

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In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

✓ Complies with requirements
☐ Substantially complies with requirements
☐ Partially complies with requirements
☐ Does not comply with requirements

5.2 External quality
Programme utilizes the results of external quality assurance on a regular basis.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

- o   Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that the Programme meets the accreditation standards in this regard. According the Self-evaluation Report over the last 5 years changes have been made along the recommendations including the structure of the research design course.

Evidences/indicators

- o   Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report.
A letter from Professor Walt Kilroy of Dublin University regarding the Programme evaluation (Annex 11).
Interviews during the Site-Visit.

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o   Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o   Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

5.3. Programme monitoring and periodic review

Programme monitoring and periodic review is conducted with the involvement of academic, scientific, invited, administrative staff, students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders through systematically collecting and analysing information. Assessment results are utilized for programme improvement.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance <u>with the standard component requirements</u> based on the information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and Site Visit; the analysis has to reflect problematic issues (if applicable)

The Expert Panel on the basis information collected through programme Self-evaluation Report, relevant enclosed documents and the Site Visit discovered that the Programme meets the accreditation standards in this regard. The Quality Assurance service organizes student opinion surveys, which are specifically designed for PhD students. The Service has legal instruments to influence content and initiate changes of the Programme. There was not drastic changes of the Programme so far, however some changes of credit amounts distribution were suggested and implemented. All changes are reflected on web page of the Faculty and every student has access to this information.

Evidences/indicators

o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Self-evaluation report
Reports of the accreditation committee sessions (Annex 2)
Quality assurance service decree (Annex 4)
Interviews during the Site-Visit

Recommendations:

Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards

Suggestions for programme development:

Non-binding suggestions for programme development

Best Practices (if applicable):

- o Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

- o Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

- ✓ Complies with requirements
- ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
- ☐ Partially complies with requirements
- ☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Teaching quality enhancement opportunities	X			

Enclosed Documentation (If Applicable)

None

HEI's Name: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Higher Education Programme Name: Doctoral Programme "International Relations"

Number of Pages of the Report: 31

Programme's Compliance with the Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
1. Programme objectives are clearly defined and achievable; they are consistent with the mission of the HEI and take into consideration labour market demands	X			
2. Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering	X			
3. Student achievements and individual work with them	X			
4. Providing teaching resources	X			
5. Teaching quality enhancement opportunities	X			

Expert Panel Chair's

Name, last name, signature   Gediminas Vitkus

Expert Panel Members'

Name, last name, signature   David Gegetchkori

Name, last name, signature   Nana Pirtskhelani