



განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

## Accreditation Expert Group Report on Higher Education programme

### Doctoral programme Pharmacy - Tbilisi State Medical University

Date(s) of Evaluation

26.07.2019

Report Submission Date

2.10.2019

Tbilisi  
2019

## HEI's Information Profile

Name of Institution Indicating its Organizational Legal Form	Tbilisi State Medical University Legal Entity of Public Law
HEI's Identification Code	2113328703
Type of Institution	State University

## Higher Education programme Information Profile

Name of the Programme	Doctoral programme "Pharmacy" TSMU
Level of Education	Doctoral studies
Qualification Granted Indicating Qualification Code	Doctor of Pharmacy (Academic) 0903
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Number of Credits	180 ECTS credits
programme Status (Authorized/ Accredited/New)	Accredited (accreditation decision N. 111 of May 27, 2014, expired on May 27, 2019)

## Expert Panel Members

Chair (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Danilo Corradini, PhD CNR, Institute for Biological Systems, Monterotondo, Rome, Italy.
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Nana Shashiashvili, PhD (Member) LEPL Drug Agency Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Nino Baratashvili, M.D. (Member) Head of Pharmaceutical Regulations Department Tbilisi, Georgia
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Lana Bokuchava, M.D.(students member) Department for Education Process School of Medicine New Vision University Tbilisi, Georgia

## Accreditation Report Executive Summary

### ▪ General information on the education programme

The submitted PhD programme is aimed at providing TSMU with a highly respected PhD degree programme finalized to prepare junior scientists with the skills necessary to carry out high quality research activity at universities and public and private entities. The Members of the expert panel fully agree with the choice of orienting the submitted PhD programme toward the studies of natural products in drug discovery, since Georgia is rich in such sources of plant, animal and mineral origin. In particular, Georgia is the home of a complex mosaic of vegetation zones that support a high diversity of plants, part of which are endemics. This exceptional plant diversity and the occurrence of a large number of medicinal plants, already used in traditional medicine, are expected to be the object of an increasing number of studies on the occurrence and pharmacological activity of bioactive compounds of plant origin. Such studies are the basis of the development of novel, more effective and safer pharmaceutical preparations, as it is requested by the society and the international drug market. Thus, one of the main and appreciated objective of this PhD Programme is to involve PhD students in stimulating research activities in the fields of bioactive compounds of natural origin, with particular emphasis on those extracted from Georgian endemic plants. The Members of the expert panel consider this orientation of the PhD programme positive under both scientific and economical aspects because therapeutic drugs from natural sources, either as pure compounds or as standardized extracts, provide unlimited opportunities for the development of novel safe and effective medicines.

The examination of the PhD Programme and the results of the site visit at TSMU have evidenced that the submitted Doctoral Programme provides rigorous research training in a range of scientific disciplines that are critical to the success of today scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, government, and academia. The PhD Programme is taught in a highly multidisciplinary atmosphere and the PhD students are expected to gain the knowledge and skills required for research related to human health and disease, as well as for the design, development and delivery of drugs for safe and effective therapy. During the three years of the PhD Programme, students have a personal mentors who educate them to follow research topics, with the purpose to allow them to become able to formulate a scientific problem independently, propose hypotheses and procedures leading to its solving, either on an experimental or theoretical level in the different fields involved in the PhD Programme.

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

During the Site Visit it has clearly emerged that the submitted PhD Programme in Pharmacy has been compiled after a very thought-provoking and thorough debate that has involved the Academic Staffs (permanent and invited), students and stakeholders. The Members of the expert panel have met and interviewed representatives of the **University Administration**, the **Self Evaluation Team** the **Heads of the PhD Programme** the **Academic Staff** the **Invited Staff** the **Head of University Faculty Quality Assurance**, as well as some **employers, students, and alumni** . The interviews with the University Management, Self Evaluation Team, Academic Staff, Invited Teachers, PhD Supervisors, Students, Alumni, and Employers have confirmed that the PhD Programme contains realistic, achievable, and clearly established objectives, which are coherent with the mission of TSMU. The interviews have also confirmed that the academic staff and the invited teachers possess the necessary competences, professional skills and experience to develop the planed learning outcomes, which are consistent with the PhD Programme objectives, with the level of education internationally requested for a PhD course, and with the high qualification to be awarded. Also consistent with the qualification to be awarded are the the programme admission preconditions, as well as the educational programme, structure and content.

The Members of the expert panel have visited the TSMU facilities, including library, laboratories and classrooms. The site visit has offered to the Members of the expert panel to verify the availability of all infrastructures and scientific instrumentation needed for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the PhD Programme. The tour throughout TSMU has confirmed that the University has well equipped laboratories, classrooms and a library with internet wireless access, a large number of computer terminals and internet access to indexed scientific journals. Also available in the library are several TSMU databases, which include textbooks and a collection of dissertations of PhD research projects carried out at TSMU. In addition, the Library Conference Hall is equipped to host events and meetings. All scientific laboratories are equipped with the instruments, tools, and glassware necessary for achieving the learning outcomes, including the possibility to carry out the research projects requested for writing the PhD thesis.

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

The Members of the expert panel express unanimously the opinion that the PhD Programme is in full compliance with each accreditation standard requested by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. The persuasion that the PhD

Programme complies with the standard requirements is based on the careful study of the PhD Programme, the in deep evaluation of the self-evaluation report (SER), and on the basis of the result of the interviews with the University Representatives, during the site visit, that have completed the information provided by TSMU in the above documents .

To summarize, the examination of both PhD Programme and SER and the interviews with the University Management, Self-evaluation Team, Academic Staff, Invited Teachers, PhD. Supervisors, Students, Alumni, and Employers have evidenced that the PhD Programme contains realistic, achievable, and clearly established objectives, which are coherent with the mission of TSMU. Moreover, the learning outcomes are consistent with the PhD Programme objectives, with the level of education internationally requested for a PhD course, and with the high qualification to be awarded. Also consistent with the qualification to be awarded are the the programme admission preconditions, as well as the educational programme, structure and content. The admission to the PhD Programme is reserved to students holding a Master in Pharmacy degree or equivalent and it is conducted by transparent, public, and easily accessible procedures, based on the students performance in a relevant admission examination, which includes a B2 level test in English language.

The content of each course of the educational programme is based on modern scientific knowledge, ensuring the achievement of the programme objectives. In most of them the students may learn how to examine complex pharmacy issues and systematically solve them from a variety of angles. The ability to formulate a scientific problem independently and to propose hypotheses and procedures leading to its solution is further gained by PhD students during the conduction of their experimental thesis, which is carried out under the scientific supervision of a member of the academic staff.

The analysis of the documents (PhD Programme and self evaluation report) and the information gathered during the interview sessions have evidenced the students-centric character of the programme. The teaching and learning method that has emerged from the documents and the interviews is designed to train students to develop real-world skills. It is clearly emerged that PhD students receive appropriate support from academic staff, invited teachers and supervisors during both the taught courses and the original research work they have to carry out to write and defend their dissertation. This support is also enlarged to the PhD students to produce scientific communications to be presented in national or international congresses or/and to be published in local or indexed peer-reviewed scientific journals. Moreover, TSMU encourages and supports PhD students in the participation in national and international projects, as well as in conferences and research fellowships.

Transparent and in accordance with the adopted teaching and learning methods, as well as with European standards, is the students evaluation, which is appropriate for the course and its learning outcomes. The PhD students are informed on the evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts. Also coherent with the teaching and learning methods and with European standards is the organization and evaluation of the individual doctoral research program, which is aimed to educate and train PhD students to independently carry out research projects. The doctoral research projects are aimed at developing and characterizing new drugs, as well as active ingredients and their therapeutic application, and to investigate their effects on relevant physiological and pathological processes in mammal or other model organisms. The PhD students receive appropriate information on the facilities they have access during their studies at TSMU and receive appropriate consultations and support regarding the planning of the learning process.

The Director of the PhD Programme, the members of the academic staff and the invited teachers have evidenced to possess the necessary competences, professional skills and experience to develop the planed leaning outcomes. Also evidenced and appreciated has been their dedication to support and encourage the PhD students during the learning process. This important aspects of the PhD Programme is not only due to individual attitudes, but is also the results of the activities organized by TSMU, or at which the TSMU Members participate, with the purpose of progressing professional preparation of the academic, scientific and invited staff. These include the regular training of the academic staff and invited teachers in “Medical Education Methodology” and the participation of the Members of academic and invited staff in a variety of educational training courses and conferences, both at national and international level. Also significant is the participation of the Members of the academic staff to international projects. Moreover, the Programme staff collaborate with the internal quality assurance service to eliminate/limit weakness, and plane to take into valuable consideration all recommendation received during the Programme accreditation.

The availability of well equipped laboratories, classrooms and a library with a large number of computer terminals, internet wireless access to indexed scientific journals and several TSMU data bases, which include textbooks and a collection of PhD dissertations, has been confirmed by a tour through the TSMU facilities, which has been included in the site visit performed by the Members of the expert panel.

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

The PhD Programme submitted for accreditation is the results of the evolution of the previous Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Pharmacy, which has been improved to meet the today more demanding requirements of modern pharmaceutical sciences and the increasing interest for drugs of natural origin of both the society and the international drug market. The new PhD Programme is also oriented to meet the requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia, which defines the quality requirements for the testing of pharmaceutical products in Europe. The Educational Programme Structure is the results of a well balanced combination of taught courses, seminars, individual development of a novel research project and the dissemination of its results, which is performed by the presentation of scientific communication in congresses and/or the publication of reports in scientific journals.

## 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**

The PhD Programme in Pharmacy conducted at Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) serves to educate and train junior scientists with the background and the skills necessary to conduct advanced research activity at universities, public and private entities, and pharmaceutical industry. Special consideration is devoted to the development and characterization of novel drugs, as well as the investigation of active ingredients of natural sources of plant, animal and mineral origin. The graduate of the PhD Programme in Pharmacy at TSMU have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and of the methods employed to conduct advanced investigations in this field. The formation and training of junior scientists in Pharmacy at TSMU is particularly oriented to conduct scientific investigations related to bioactive compounds occurring in endemic medicinal plants growing in Georgia, which is a country with exceptional high botanical diversity. Therapeutic drugs from natural sources, either as pure compounds or as standardized extracts, provide unlimited opportunities for the development of novel and more safe and effective medicines, as it is requested by the society and the international drug market. In conclusion:

- the objectives of the PhD Programme are clear, realistic and achievable;
- the orientation of the PhD programme to conduct scientific investigations related to bioactive compounds occurring in natural sources is positive under both scientific and economical aspects;
- the submitted doctoral programme provides rigorous research training in a range of scientific disciplines that are critical to the success of modern pharmaceutical scientists



<p>in the pharmaceutical industry, government, and academia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the programme is taught in a highly multidisciplinary atmosphere;</li> <li>- the PhD students are expected to gain the knowledge and skills required for research related to human health and disease, as well as for the design, development and delivery of drugs for safe and effective therapy.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation Report</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <p>Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</p>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <p>Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</p>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

## 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**

- Learning outcomes are an essential part of the PhD Programme and include theoretical, practical and communicative competences gained by the students during their doctoral studies at TSMU. Theoretical or fundamental competences include the detailed knowledge of the disciplines relevant for the scientific background of students and for their successful work on the dissertation. Practical competences comprise ability to plan, execute and interpret experimental data by means of the methods employed in pharmaceutical sciences, which are needed to carry out scientific investigations in Pharmacy and related disciplines. Learning outcomes related to practical competences also include ability to acquire and critically interpret scientific literature and other information, including the use of databases relevant for the subject field. Communicative competences refer to the gained ability of the students to present scientific results independently and to analyze and critically discuss their own results and those of the others, as well as concepts and experimental data with colleagues, supervisors, and competent audience.
- The content of each course of the educational programme is based on modern scientific knowledge, ensuring the achievement of the programme objective. In most of them the students may learn how to examine complex pharmacy issues and systematically solve them from a variety of angles. The ability to formulate a scientific problem independently and to propose hypotheses and procedures leading to its solution is further gained by the students during the conduction of their thesis, which is carried out under the scientific supervision of a member of the Academic Staff.
- The mechanisms for assessment of the program learning outcomes are clearly described and the program curriculum map, reported in the self evaluation report (SER), clearly indicate the level of the learning outcomes for each course (see Table N°3).
- The analysis of the documents ( Programme and SER) and the information gathered during the interview sessions have evidenced that the learning outcomes are realistic,

<p>reachable, and measurable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme</li> <li>- Self evaluation report</li> <li>- Interviews with the academic staff, with students and with employers</li> <li>- Program curriculum map</li> <li>- Results of graduates and employers survey displayed in SER (Tables N°4 and N°5)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

## 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	YES			

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

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

### 2.1. programme Admission Preconditions

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

#### Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

In accordance with European standards, the admission to the PhD Programme is reserved to students holding a Master in Pharmacy degree or equivalent and it is conducted by public, and easily accessible procedures, based on the students performance in a relevant admission examination, which includes a B2 level test in English language. The examination of both Programme and self evaluation report and the interviews with the University Management, Self-evaluation Team, Students, and Alumni, have evidenced that the admission procedures to access the Programme are transparent and are conducted in accordance to Georgian legislation regulating competitive application processes.

- 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)

#### Evidences/indicators

- Programme
- Self evaluation report
- Interviews with Academic Staff, Self-evaluation Team, Students, Alumni
- Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

<p><b>2.2 Educational programme Structure and Content</b></p>
<p>Programme is designed according to HEI's methodology for planning, designing and developing of educational programme. 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.</p>
<p><b>Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Content, volume and complexity of the educational programme are coherent with European standards and comprise taught courses, seminars and the development of an original research project in the field of pharmacy. The project is the subject of a dissertation that PhD students have to write to document and set forth proof of their ability to deal independently with scientific questions.</li> <li>○ The Programme is the results of the evolution of the previous Doctor of Philosophy Programme in pharmacy, which has been improved to meet the today more demanding</li> </ul>

<p>requirements of modern pharmaceutical sciences and the increasing interest for drugs of natural origin of the society and the international drug market. The new Programme is also oriented to meet the requirement of the European Pharmacopoeia, which defines the quality requirements for the testing of pharmaceutical products in Europe. The Educational Programme Structure is the results of a well balanced combination of taught courses, seminars, individual development of a novel research project and the dissemination of its results through the presentation of scientific communication in congresses and the publication of reports in scientific journals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Members of the expert panel strongly agree with the proposed Educational Programme Structure, which is logical, coherent with European standards and is expected to ensure the achievements of the programme learning outcomes.</li> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives and employers</li> <li>○ TSMU website (<a href="http://new.tsmu.edu/images/dxp/sadoqtoro-programa--5afe69340970f.pdf">http://new.tsmu.edu/images/dxp/sadoqtoro-programa--5afe69340970f.pdf</a>)</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>

## Evaluation

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

### **X Complies with requirements**

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

## 2.3 Course

- students 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 Taught courses are intended to form junior scientists with a solid background in the leading disciplines in Pharmacy, which is the basis to perform independently significant scientific work. Therefore, the programme courses are aimed at teaching and discussing the most recent advancements in pharmaceutical sciences and related topics. The content of each course of the educational programme is based on modern scientific knowledge and has been developed with the purpose to ensure the achievements of the objectives planned for the Programme. In most of the taught courses students may learn how to examine complex pharmacy issues and systematically solve them. The ability to formulate a scientific problem independently and to propose hypotheses and procedures leading to its solutions is further gained by the students during the conduction of their experimental thesis, which is carried out under the scientific supervision of a member of the academic staff. TSMA library, with its internet access to indexed scientific journals, databases, text books and the collection of dissertations carried out at the University, is expected to significantly contribute to the learning outcomes of the Programme.
- o The Members of the expert panel believe that each course of the educational programme is designed to contribute positively to the achievement of the planed objectives and complies with requirements.
- o Describe, analyze and evaluate programme's compliance with the standard component requirements

<p>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)</p>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Program Curriculum Map</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Site visit (Library and other facilities)</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives.</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b> Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b>  Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

#### 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**

- The Faculty has a long-term experience of collaborations and cultural exchanges with a large number of foreign universities, including the University of Liege (Belgium), the Mediterranean Sea University of Marseille (France), the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi (Canada), the Lublin Medical University (Poland), and the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). The Faculty also cooperates with a variety of Georgian private and public Institutions operating in the pharmaceutical field. These include GMP, pharmaceutical companies, chemical-toxicological department of Levan Samkharauli Forensics Bureau and others. Moreover, TSMU Iovel Kutateladze Institute of Pharmacochimistry has been actively involved in the implementation of the program. The PhD Programme also proves that students can carry out part of their research activity in Georgian and foreign institutions and companies.
- The Members of the expert panel agree with TSMU on the importance of exchange ideas, students and members of the academic staff with other Institutions, in particular with foreign universities and enterprises. Strong collaborations with national and foreign institutions are expected to improve the ability of PhD students to critically understand existing knowledge and to independently apply innovative research methods and approaches. Also appreciated is the involvement of PhD students in scientific activities conducted in industries producing pharmaceutical preparations or/and developing novel drugs according to the requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia.
- 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)

**Evidences/indicators**

- Self evaluation report
- Programme
- Interviews with academic staff, students, alumni, employers
- Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

**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

**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**

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

**X 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 students centered teaching and learning (SCL) methods. Teaching and learning methods correspond to the level of education, course content, students learning outcomes and ensure their achievement.

**Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements**

- The teaching and learning methods of each academic course are performed according to third level of academic higher education and are based on doctoral students oriented methods, with interactive involvement of the students in the learning process. The teaching and learning methods are flexible and consider the individual needs of the doctoral students. The presentation of oral or poster communications in scientific congresses, both national and international, is part of the the teaching and learning methods, as well as searching and processing relevant literature in the field and the involvement in experimental research activities.
- The teaching and learning method that has emerged from the documents (Programme and self evaluation report) and the interviews with the University Representatives is designed to serve students, not only as a mechanism for the development of scientific expertise, but also to equip them with real-world skills. It has been clearly emerged that

<p>PhD students receive appropriate support from academic staff and supervisors during both the taught courses and the original research work they have to carry out to write and defend their dissertation. Programme staff also support students to produce scientific communications to be presented in national or international congresses and/or to be published in local or indexed peer-reviewed scientific journals. Moreover, TSMU encourages and supports, also financially, PhD students in the participation in national and international projects, as well as in conferences and research fellowships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives</li> <li>○ Site visit (TSMU Library and PhD dissertation databases)</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

## 2.6. students Evaluation

students 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**

- Students of the Doctoral Programme are evaluated during and at the end of their studies and the evaluation is conducted in accordance with the adopted teaching and learning methods, as well as with European standards. The assessment in the learning progresses of the students during the three years of the Doctorate is performed according to TSMU rules. The PhD Programme reports a punctual illustration of the methods applied to quantify both the midterm and the final assessment. The calculation of the credits of the educational programme is conducted by a transparent method according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which is active at TSMU. The students evaluation during the PhD programme (midterm assessment) is based on several components, which include academic activities, practical skills, participation to working groups, and midterm exams. The evaluation of students is conducted by transparent methods and the evaluation is appropriate for the courses and the learning outcomes. The PhD students are informed on the evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts. Also coherent with the teaching and learning methods and with European standards is the organization and evaluation of the individual doctoral research program, which is aimed at educating and training PhD students to independently carry out research projects, including the doctoral thesis. The research project can be aimed at developing and characterizing new drugs, as well as active ingredients and their therapeutic application, or/and at investigating their effects on relevant physiological and pathological processes in mammal or other model organisms.
- The Member of the expert panel appreciate the procedures adopted for the evaluation, which are in accordance with the teaching and learning methods and comply with requirements.
- 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)

### **Evidences/indicators**

- Programme
- Self evaluation report
- Interviews with University Representatives

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TSMU web site</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>  <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<b>Suggestions for programme development:</b>  <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>  <p>o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

### 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	YES			

### 3. students achievements and individual work with them

HEI creates students-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. students 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**

- The Tbilisi State Medical University has elaborated valuable regulations to govern the status of PhD students, and to improve the learning process and the achievements. In addition, students are adequately informed on the competences they are expected to gain, as well as on the possible career development, which include the profile of scientist in academic and industrial environments. In addition, the students receive all necessary information on the facilities they have access to carry out their doctoral studies, are constantly informed on calls and applications for funding for research proposals, and are in direct contact with potential employers. Additional facilities made available to PhD students include the offer of distance learning by World Wide Web ( WWW ) space to enhance their knowledge.
- The Members of the expert panel have had the opportunity to verify that PhD students receive appropriate support concerning the planning of learning and improvement of academic achievements. They appreciate the exceptional effort of TSMU to support students with extensive information on all facilities and opportunities that TSMU offers them, which has emerged from reading the documentation (Programme and self evaluation report) and interviewing the Universities Representatives, during the site visit at TSMU. Particularly positive is the role of TSMU in establishing direct contacts and professional interaction of the PhD students with pharmaceutical industries, acting either as partners in scientific collaborations or potential employers after graduation. The above documentation and the interviews with the Universities Representatives have also evidenced the valuable involvement of TSMU in supporting students interested to participate in national and international projects. Some of the above mentioned actions are carried out in the framework of official agreement between TSMU and the European Pharmaceutical Students Association (EPSA), the students Scientific Society, and the Young Scientist Association. In addition, TSMU, offers financial support to ensure the student participation in international projects,

<p>using funds from its budget. Also valuable is the support of TSMA in the organization of PhD student recreational activities, conducted in cooperation with the Students Self-Government, the students Scientific Society and the Intellect Club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Interviews with students, academic staff, invited teachers, employers</li> <li>○ TSMU web site</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

### 3.2. Master's and Doctoral students supervision

Master's and Doctoral students have qualified thesis supervisors.

#### **Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements**

- Tbilisi State Medical University has established well defined rules to regulate the process for the preparation of the research projects that graduated students have to carry out for earning their Doctoral degree. Accordingly, PhD students carry out the research project in three years (minimum) under the scientific direction of a supervisor, who may be a Full Professor, an Associate Professor, or an Emeritus Professor. PhD students start to work on the research project after it has been prepared according to the established regulations and has received the approval of the Faculty Council. At the end of the first and second year of the doctoral studies, PhD students are requested to report to TSMU the advancements of their project. Supervisors conduct regular consultations with the PhD students and advise him/her on the appropriate organization and conduction of the research project. At the end of their studies, PhD candidates are requested to successfully complete and submit a dissertation, which describes the research project and the results obtained during its conduction. The dissertation is evaluated by the Dissertation Council, according to rules established by the Georgian Minister of Education and Science.
- From both the received documentation and the interviews with the University Representatives, the Members of the expert panel have ascertained that PhD students have well qualified supervisors, who consult them on a regular basis and support them in conducting fruitfully the research project. Also valuable is the encouragement and support of Supervisors to the PhD students to present the results of their work in national and international congresses and in publishing research papers, especially in indexed peer reviewed scientific journals. Supervisors are aware of the several advantages that the PhD students may have in participating to congresses, especially those at international level. Such advantages include the possibility of discussing the results and perspectives of their research project with internationally recognized scientists, the chance to make new contacts, and the possibility to establish international collaborations, which may also result in the participation to financed research projects. Very positive is also the action of Supervisors to encourage and support PhD students in conducting part of their research project in a foreign university or other research institution, also supporting them to obtain visiting students



<p>fellowships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Interviews with Supervisors, Academic Staff and Students</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

### programme's Compliance with Standard

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

#### 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**

- The PhD Programme in Pharmacy prescribes that the Education Program of the Doctorate in Pharmacy is run by academic staff and invited teachers, having the requested competences and qualification. To improve the quality of the PhD Programme, since 2014 TSMU has activated several “Teacher Training” courses at Medical Education Center and has established that attending these courses is a necessary condition to obtain the status of “Invited Teacher”. Moreover, TSMU supports the enhancement of the professional skills of the Members of the academic staff by encouraging and supporting their participation in international events (congresses, scientist exchange programs, conferences, etc.).
- The Director of the PhD Programme, as well as all members of the academic staff and the invited teachers, have evidenced to possess the necessary competences, professional skills and experience to develop the planned learning outcomes. Also evidenced, and appreciated by the Members of the expert panel, has been their dedication to support and encourage the PhD students during the learning process. This important aspects of the PhD Programme is not only due to individual attitudes, but is also the results of the activities organized by TSMU, or at which the TSMU Members participate, with the purpose of enhancing professional skills and scientific preparation of the academic, scientific and invited staff. These include the regular training of the academic staff and invited teachers in “Medical Education Methodology” and the participation of the Members of academic and invited staff in a variety of educational training courses and conferences, both at national and international level. Also

<p>significant is the participation of the Members of the academic staff to international projects. Moreover, the Programme staff collaborate with the Internal Quality Assurance Service to eliminate/limit weakness, and plan to take into valuable consideration all recommendation received during the Programme accreditation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Interview with the Director of the Programme</li> <li>○ Interviews with the University Representatives</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Site visit</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

#### 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**

- For the successful implementation of the Programme, the academic staff and the invited teachers are regularly trained in the "Medical Education Methodology" at the Teacher Training Center of the Tbilisi State Medical University. From this year (2019), the Quality Assurance Service and the Human Resources Management Department of TSMU jointly conduct the evaluation of the productivity of both academic and invited staff. The assessment is conducted in electronic format, using a dedicated software named "SurveyMonkey". Further initiatives to enhance the academic staff development include the participation in international and national events.
- The Member of the expert panel express their positive evaluation of the initiatives of Tbilisi State University aimed at enhancing competences and professional skills of the academic staff and invited teachers. Their involvement in classroom teaching, advising PhD students in their research activity, participation in the development of the curriculum through assessment, and assisting in recruitment of students is crucial for the successful implementation of the PhD Programme. Therefore, ensuring an elevated level of both academic staff and invited teachers is expected to enhance the learning environment and, therefore, the scientific level of the University, as well as the successful implementation of the PhD Programme.
- 
- 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)

##### **Evidences/indicators**

- Programme
- Self evaluation report
- Interviews with University Representatives
- Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

##### **Recommendations:**

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

<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

<p><b>4.3. Material Resources</b></p>
<p>programme is provided by necessary infrastructure and technical equipment required for achieving programme learning outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The self evaluation report describes in detail the necessary infrastructure and technical equipment needed for the achievement of learning outcomes of the Programme. Most of the described infrastructure and scientific instrumentation, including the library and the laboratories where the experimental work is carried out, have been visited by the Members of the expert panel during their site visit.</li> <li>○ The tour through the TSMU facilities has offered the possibility to the Member of the expert panel to appreciate the availability of all infrastructures and scientific instrumentation needed for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the PhD Programme. The tour throughout TSMU has confirmed that the University has well equipped laboratories, classrooms and a library with internet wireless access, a large number of computer terminals and internet access to indexed scientific journals. Also</li> </ul>

<p>available in the library are several TSMU databases, which include textbooks and a collection of dissertations of PhD research projects carried out at TSMU. In addition, the Library Conference Hall is equipped to host events and meetings. All scientific laboratories are equipped with the instruments, tools, and glassware necessary for achieving the learning outcomes envisioned by the educational program. Also available in some laboratories are advanced instruments useful for specific investigations, such as a high performance liquid chromatography unit, equipped with photodiode array detector (HPLC-DAD), which is communally used for the isolation and identification of the components of complex mixtures, such as bioactive plant secondary metabolites extracted from medicinal plants. The interviews with the University Representatives have evidenced that in the case of research projects that needs the use of specific and expensive instrumentation, which is not available at TSMU, such as a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer, the project is conducted in collaboration with institutions having such instruments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tour through the TSMU facilities (library, laboratories, classrooms)</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives</li> <li>○ Programme</li> <li>○ Self evaluation report</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <p>Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</p>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>

**Evaluation**

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

**X 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 TSMU declares in the Self-Evaluation Report that the PhD Programme “Pharmacy” is financed by its own expenses, grants and/or sponsors. The interviews with the University Administration, with the Self-evaluation Team, and with the Head of the Programme have confirmed the financial sustainability of the PhD Programme.
- 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)

**Evidences/indicators**

- o Self evaluation report
- o Interviews with University Administration, Self-evaluation Team, Head of the Programme
- o Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

**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

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

### 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	YES			

## 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.

<p><b>5.1 Internal quality</b></p> <p>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 analyzing assessment results. Programme staff utilizes quality assurance results for programme improvement.</p>
<p><b>Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TSMA has planned the Quality Assurance Strategy according to its rules and with the participation of all the personnel involved in the PhD Programme. Criteria and procedures for the evaluation of doctoral research, syllabi, scientific publications and textbooks of the educational programs have been developed by the Quality Assurance Service and approved by the Academic Council. The assessment of the Self-Evaluation Report and the interviews with the University Representatives have</li> </ul>



<p>evidenced that the Programme Staff has collaborated with the Internal Quality Assurance Service to establish the process of Programme Quality Assurance. The results of the planed process is that the Quality Assurance Service makes periodic assessment according to the following schedule: evaluation of the educational program and its separate component (especially - syllabi), at least once during an academic year; students evaluation, at least once in the semester; printed learning and scientific products, as needed; academic performance of students, at least once in the semester; assessment of the staff involved in the program and self assessment, according to the established form and periodicity. Criteria and periodicity of the assessment are in agreement with European standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidences/indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self evaluation report,</li> <li>○ Programme.</li> <li>○ Interviews with University Representatives</li> <li>○ Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for programme development:</b></p> <p>Non-binding suggestions for programme development</p>
<p><b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>○ Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard</p> <p><b>X Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements</p>

## 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**

- The self evaluation report describes the external mechanisms authorization and accreditation for promoting educational quality development, in accordance with the Law of Georgia "on Higher Education" and Law of Georgia "on Education Quality Development". External mechanism of the quality evaluation based on "The provision of accreditation of educational programs of educational institutions" and "Authorization provision of educational institutions".
- The above documentation and the interviews with the University Representatives have evidenced that TSMU submits information on each educational program to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, in a form of an annual self-assessment report in accordance with the established periodicity and terms. The University Staff involved in the PhD Programme takes into consideration the recommendations received from the experts during authorization and accreditation and makes relevant changes to the program, according to TSMU rules.
- 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)

### **Evidences/indicators**

- Self evaluation report
- Interviews with University Representatives
- Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

### **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

**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**

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

**X 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 analyzing information. Assessment results are utilized for programme improvement.

**Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements**

- The self evaluation report describes the criteria employed at TSMU for the periodic evaluation and monitoring of the PhD Programme using data systematically collected, processed and analyzed. The criteria have been established with the involvement of all University Representatives (academic staff, invited teachers, university administration, support personnel, undergraduate students, graduated students, employers). The results of the periodic evaluation are used for the improvement of the PhD Programme.
- The assessment of the self evaluation report and the interviews with the University Representatives have evidenced that the monitoring and evaluation of the programme "Pharmacy", was carried out by involving undergraduate students, graduated students, and employers, who answered a questionnaire elaborated by the TSU Quality Assurance Service. The questionnaire was submitted electronically by means of a dedicated software (SurveyMonkey), which collected, processed and analyzed the received information. The results of the questionnaire has resulted in a positive evaluation of the Programme expressed by undergraduate students, graduated students and employers, who, however, have expressed few recommendations, some of which has been considered in developing the Programme.
- The Members of the expert panel have also appreciated the continuous evaluation of the Programme, using, with a given periodicity, questionnaires developed by the Quality Assurance Service and that the same process of monitoring the PhD Programme will be applied during the next stage of accreditation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>
<b>Evidences/indicators</b>  Self evaluation report Interviews with University Representatives  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b> Proposal(s), which should be considered by the institution to comply with requirements of the standards
<b>Suggestions for programme development:</b> Non-binding suggestions for programme development
<b>Best Practices (if applicable):</b> Practices, which prove to be exceptionally effective and which may become a benchmark or a model for other higher education programmes
<b>In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress</b> Significant accomplishment and/or progress made by the programme after previous accreditation (If Applicable)
<b>Evaluation</b>  o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard  <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>X Complies with requirements</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially complies with requirements         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Partially complies with requirements         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not comply with requirements         </div>

### 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	YES			

### Enclosed Documentation (If Applicable)

HEI's Name: Tbilisi State Medical University

Higher Education programme Name: Doctoral Program Pharmacy

Number of Pages of the Report: 37

**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	YES			
2. Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering	YES			
3. students achievements and individual work with them	YES			
4. Providing teaching resources	YES			
5. Teaching quality enhancement opportunities	YES			

**Expert Panel Chair's**

**Danilo Corradini**

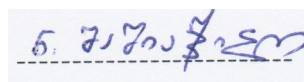
signature



**Expert Panel Members'**

**Nana Shashiashvili**

signature



**Nino Baratashvili**

signature



**Lana Bokuchava**

signature

