



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATIONAL QUALITY
ENHANCEMENT**

Accreditation Expert Group Report on Higher Education Programme

**PHD Program of Veterinary Medicine
LEPL Samtskhe-Javakheti State University**

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Tbilisi

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Information about a Higher Education Institution ¹

Name of Institution Indicating its Organizational Legal Form	LEPL Samtskhe-Javakheti State University
Identification Code of Institution	424066977
Type of the Institution	University

Expert Panel Members

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¹ In the case of joint education programme: Please indicate the HEIs that carry out the programme. The indication of an identification code and type of institution is not obligatory if a HEI is recognised in accordance with the legislation of a foreign country.

I. Information on the education programme

Name of Higher Education Programme (in Georgian)	ვეტერინარიის სადოქტორო პროგრამა
Name of Higher Education Programme (in English)	PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine
Level of Higher Education	8
Qualification to be Awarded ²	ვეტერინარიის დოქტორი PhD in Veterinary Medicine
Name and Code of the Detailed Field	0841 Veterinary
Indication of the right to provide the teaching of subject/subjects/group of subjects of the relevant cycle of the general education ³	-
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Number of ECTS credits	50
Programme Status (Accredited/ Non-accredited/ Conditionally accredited/new/International accreditation) Indicating Relevant Decision (number, date)	Conditionally Accredited [№1425389, 04.11.2022]
Additional requirements for the programme admission (in the case of an art-creative and/or sports educational programme, passing a creative tour/internal competition, or in the case of another programme, specific requirements for admission to the programme/implementation of the programme)	-

² In case of implementing a joint higher education programme with a higher education institution recognized in accordance with the legislation of a foreign country, if the title of the qualification to be awarded differs, it shall be indicated separately for each institution.

³ In case of Integrated Bachelor's-Master's Teacher Training Educational Programme and Teacher Training Educational Programme

II. Accreditation Report Executive Summary

■ General Information on Education Programme⁴

The PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine at LEPL Samtskhe-Javakheti State University (SJSU) received accreditation on November 4, 2022. It emphasizes integrating clinical research into fundamental achievements and applying the latest advancements in veterinary and biological sciences to enhance human and animal health.

The program's structure is deemed consistent and logical, ensuring the achievement of learning outcomes. It spans a minimum of three years, divided into an educational component of 50 credits (1 credit equivalent to 25 hours) and a scientific and research component.

Following accreditation, changes were implemented based on recommendations from the accreditation council. These adjustments were made by the academic council of the university to align the program with accreditation standards and enhance its effectiveness.

Overview of the Accreditation Site Visit

The agenda for the PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine at SJSU consists of two days focused on key stakeholders and programme evaluation and improvement activities. The first day begins with a preparatory period, followed by a meeting with the university administration and relevant departments, including the Dean and the Finance Department. This is followed by a meeting with the self-evaluation team, doctoral students and academic staff to gather insights and feedback. Day 1 concludes with a meeting with academic and invited staff to discuss programme dynamics and potential improvements.

Day 2 of the programme began with preparation time and progresses to a meeting with employer representatives, both face-to-face and online, to understand industry perspectives and requirements. A tour of the campus facilities, including the University's physical and technical base, was undertaken to provide a comprehensive overview. Finally, a meeting was held with the Programme Leader and the Quality Assurance Office to discuss standards and potential improvements. Finally, the visiting team made a short final presentation, identifying the most commendable areas and the relevant findings and comments. The dedicated time to work on and present key findings facilitated collaborative efforts to improve and develop the programme. Overall, the visit was a testament to the spirit of collaboration and dedication that defines the PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine at SJSU, leaving everyone inspired and invigorated by the shared vision of academic excellence and innovation.

Brief Overview of Education Programme Compliance with the Standards.

The PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine at the Samtskhe-Javakheti State University demonstrates compliance with the five standards outlined for educational programmes. In the areas of educational programme objectives, learning outcomes, methodology and organisation of teaching, adequacy of evaluation of programme completion, students' achievements, individual work with them, provision of teaching resources and opportunities for improving the quality of teaching, the programme meets the specified requirements. In addition, it substantially complies with the requirements in two areas, indicating a high level of competence and effectiveness in meeting educational standards. This robust

⁴ When providing general information related to the programme, it is appropriate to also present the quantitative data analysis of the educational programme.

compliance demonstrates the programme's commitment to excellence in veterinary education and its dedication to ensuring student success and programme effectiveness.

Recommendations.

- To edit „The Regulation of the PhD Program of Veterinary and Dissertation Council”, Article 13, f) component and make the statement clear.
- Revise any difference between evaluation methods defined in syllabi and in final evaluation forms and solve them.
- It is recommended to emphasize the importance/requirement of recent scientific activity and publications in the Impact Factor journals for scientific supervisors.
- To involve foreign colleagues in the supervision/co-supervision process.
- To set a requirement for potential supervisors of PhD students, they must have published at least one scientific article in a relevant journal with an impact factor during previous 5 years.
- The research facilities of the university require urgent updates to meet the expected impact of research in international journals, particularly in veterinary clinics. It is important to ensure that infrastructures are built according to the plan and that elective subjects are accommodated by the available infrastructure.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- To improve the effectiveness of student enrolment and recruitment to the Integrated Programme or other qualified sources.
- The active quality assurance system for reviewing student performance in both elective and non-elective subjects, as well as the scientific research components, should be maintained.
- It is suggested that impact-factor journals were chosen from western-European countries.
- To involve international partners in the professional and scientific development supporting procedures for the PhD program students.
- To increase participation in the international projects, events, research fellowships
- The quality assurance measures need to be tailored to the PhD programme, particularly to complete the PDCA cycle for students and to provide academic staff with objective indicators to enhance the capacity and impact of their research.
- It is also advisable to periodically compare the programme with similar programmes at foreign universities.

Brief Overview of the Best Practices (if applicable)⁵

- PhD students have fostered strong connections with the academic staff, with some even taking on roles as adjunct instructors .

Information on Sharing or Not Sharing the Argumentative Position of the HEI

On Tuesday, 21 May 2024, the Committee received the argumentative position on the draft report on the Doctoral Programme of Veterinary Medicine of LEPL - Samtskhe Javakheti State University. After review, the Committee agreed that, based on Article 22, Clause 4² of the Accreditation Regulation, changes made after the accreditation visit cannot be accepted.

In case of re-accreditation, it is important to provide a brief overview of the achievements and/or the progress (if applicable)

⁵ A practice that is exceptionally effective and that can serve as a benchmark or example for other educational programme/programmes.

1. **Inclusion of Basics of Scientific Research Fundamentals:** The recommendation to include a course on scientific research fundamentals was implemented and added to the optional educational courses of the PhD program.
2. **Specification of Admission Prerequisites:** Admission prerequisites were specified, particularly regarding English language competency for foreign candidates, aligning with B2 level requirements.
3. **Improvement of Scientific Research Methods Course:** Changes were made to the compulsory educational course "Traditional and Modern Methods of Scientific Research" to better align its content with program learning outcomes.
4. **Inclusion of Biostatistics Study:** A syllabus for "Biomathematics and Mathematical Statistics (Biostatistics)" was developed and included in the list of optional educational courses.
5. **Enhancement of Optional Course Syllabi:** Optional course syllabi were modified to better match the requirements and capacities of PhD student-researchers, incorporating ongoing research tendencies and English scientific reviews.
6. **Compulsory Publication of Scientific Articles:** Scientific research requirements were revised, making it compulsory for PhD students to publish articles in impact factor journals instead of relying solely on patents or medicine production introductions.
7. **Requirement for Publication of Scientific Papers:** Prior to defending the thesis, PhD students must have a scientific article published or accepted for publishing in a journal with an impact factor. However modified section (Article 13, F paragraph) to the regulation of veterinary PhD program: "Before defence of the dissertation paper a student considering its research field, has to publish (or submit for publishing) a scientific article in the journal having an impact-factor as an author/co-author and considering regional specifics, a dissertation council is eligible to define the opportunities for the publishing necessary scientific publications in other high-rated journals." Still provides possibility to escape the Recommended requirement.
8. **Inclusion of External Evaluators in Dissertation Evaluation:** Participation of external evaluators in dissertation evaluation was guaranteed, emphasizing their necessity rather than leaving it optional. The process for involving external evaluators was clarified.

Additionally, new optional courses were added to the program, leading to structural changes. Affiliated academic staff, including Professor Revaz Chigladze, were added to support the implementation of the new courses.

III. Compliance of the Programme with Accreditation Standards

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 HEI. Programme learning outcomes are assessed on a regular basis to improve the programme. The content and consistent structure of the programme ensure the achievement of the set goals and expected learning outcomes.

1.1 Programme Objectives

Programme objectives consider the specificity of the field of study, level and educational programme, and define the set of knowledge, skills and competences a programme aims to develop in graduate students. They also illustrate the contribution of the programme to the development of the field and society.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard.

During the site visit and interviews with university authorities, the programme manager, and stakeholders, as well as to the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), it was made clear that the PHD Program of Veterinary Medicine at Samtskhe-Javakheti State University (SJSU) is part of the university's strategic plan. The programme aims to develop the field and society for scientific, economic, and regional needs, based on labour market requirements and public interests. One of the underlined outcomes is to be useful for renewing the academic staff at SJSU in the areas of veterinary medicine and facilitating the progression of graduates into their professional careers.

The specific objective of the Doctoral Programme is to create new scientific knowledge in the field of veterinary medicine using traditional and innovative methods, as well as interdisciplinary approaches. It aims to prepare competitive and qualified human resources capable of carrying out independent scientific research and teaching, and adapting veterinary education to the needs of the national health system. Additionally, the programme aims to stimulate scientific research activities in veterinary medicine, improve the quality of scientific studies, and integrate researchers into the international scientific community. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) has qualified staff with international links and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and cooperation agreements that create a favourable environment for field research and teaching activities. This facilitates the interdisciplinary implementation of research and provides the opportunity to train highly qualified veterinarians capable of participating scientific, teaching, and practical activities. The integration of teaching and research is a declared priority of the University's strategy.

The programme's aims and objectives were defined and developed with input from all stakeholders, including academic and visiting staff, doctoral students, graduates, and potential employers. The recommendations from the previous visitation regarding syllabus, research components, publications, and evaluation were considered. A periodic schedule of meetings is proposed as part of the quality assurance system to enhance the doctoral programme.

Regarding both current and prospective students, the present cohort, although small in size, demonstrates a high level of dedication to the PhD program. These students are seasoned professionals with substantial experience in administration, and they fully meet the program's requirements. Moreover, they have fostered strong connections with the academic staff, with some even taking on roles as adjunct instructors. To maintain the necessary enrollment levels for the doctoral program, it is

recommended to enhance the efficiency of the enrollment process and to actively recruit qualified candidates from the integrated Veterinary Master Program, among other potential sources.

Evidences/Indicators

- Programs and syllabi of the PhD educational program in veterinary medicine.
- Analysis of the labour market and employers' requirements.
- The regulation of the PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine and dissertation council (codified) of the Faculty of the Engineering, Agrarian and Natural Sciences of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University.
- The structure of PhD program.
- The strategy of the program internalization.
- Quality Assurance Mechanisms-Samtskhe-Javakheti State University internalization concept) www.sjuni.edu.ge: Samtskhe-Javakheti mission, vision and strategy.
- Interviews with Administration, Dean, Financial Department, Head of the Programme, Academic and Invited Staff, PhD Students (and graduates from other Programmed), QA Office and Employers representatives.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for the Programme Development

- Improve the effectiveness of student enrolment and recruitment to the Integrated Programme or other qualified sources.
- The active quality assurance system for reviewing student performance in both elective and non-elective subjects, as well as the scientific research components, should be maintained.

Evaluation

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1.1 Programme Objectives	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Programme Learning Outcomes

- The learning outcomes of the programme are logically related to the programme objectives and the specifics of the study field.
- Programme learning outcomes describe knowledge, skills, and/or the responsibility and autonomy that students gain upon completion of the programme.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

Learning outcomes are measurable, achievable, and realistic statements of the skills, abilities, knowledge, or values that students should be able to demonstrate upon completing a course. In the PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine at SJSU, the information on career development of undergraduates and the interview results are reasonably linked to the program goals, as outlined in the educational programme and the map of objectives and learning outcomes. The PhD programme in veterinary medicine encompasses the knowledge, abilities, responsibilities and autonomy acquired by a student upon completion of the programme. The evaluation process of the programme's learning

outcomes involves defining the necessary data for measuring said outcomes, as well as collecting and analysing the required data.

Learning outcomes are aligned with the appropriate level of the doctoral programme. Learning outcomes are detailed field descriptors and qualifications that are awarded based on sectoral benchmarks developed from the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The learning outcomes of the programme are developed collaboratively with all stakeholders, including academic/research/visiting staff, students, graduates, and employers. They are designed to be consistent with the employment demands of PhD programmes and the peculiarities of the field of study and labour market.

Evidences/Indicators

- PhD program and syllabi in veterinary medicine;
- Planning, design and development methodology of the educational program;
- Learning outcome assessment mechanism
- Analysis of labour market and employment requirements;
- Quality assurance mechanisms Quality assurance mechanisms Article 7. The instruction of the educational program design and program presentation compulsory form, Article 15. www.sjuni.edu.ge.

Recommendations

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1.2 Programme Learning Outcomes	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.3 Evaluation Mechanism of the Programme Learning Outcomes

- Evaluation mechanisms of the programme learning outcomes are defined; the programme learning outcomes evaluation cycle consists of defining, collecting and analysing data necessary to measure learning outcomes;
- Programme learning outcomes assessment results are utilized for the improvement of the programme.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

A mechanism for evaluating the achievement of program learning outcomes is defined for the [PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine](#). The learning outcomes are evaluated by the head of the program together with the quality service of the faculty and the academic staff of the program. Both direct and indirect methods of assessment are used. In the direct evaluation, the examination evaluation of training courses, the evaluation of the research component, the thesis, participation in conferences, etc. are used. In indirect assessment, observation of the program head, survey of employers, survey of academic staff, survey of graduates and students, assessment of scientific supervisor, etc. are used.

Target marks are defined for each learning outcome. According to the program's learning outcomes assessment mechanism, the program head will create a monitoring group together with the faculty's quality service and academic staff, and with their involvement, the learning outcomes will be evaluated and compared with the target marks, followed by the analysis process and appropriate response.

Accordingly, the mechanism for evaluating the learning outcomes of the program envisages the involvement of the academic staff implementing the program and administrative personnel in the evaluation process and the use of the evaluation results for the development of the program.

Evidences/Indicators

- Assessment of the Learning Outcomes of the PhD program of veterinary medicine.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1.3 Evaluation Mechanism of the Programme Learning Outcomes	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.4. Structure and Content of Education Programme

- The Programme is designed according to HEI's methodology for planning, designing and developing of education programmes.
- The Programme structure is consistent and logical. The content and structure of the programme ensure the achievement of programme learning outcomes. The qualification to be granted is consistent with the content and learning outcomes of the programme.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The goals of the educational Programme are closely aligned with the university's mission and Strategic Plan, with a major emphasis on integrating research and education. This priority, highlighted by both the administration and academic staff, underscores the university's commitment to fostering a synergistic environment where educational and research endeavors complement and enhance each other, preparing students to effectively contribute to their fields through both scholarly inquiry and practical application.

The PhD Programme is designed according to the ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) methodology for planning, designing and developing of education programmes. The PhD Programme described involves a total of 50 credits, comprising both compulsory and optional

components tailored to a PhD student's specific interests and field, designed in consultation with their academic and doctoral Programme supervisors.

The Programme was reviewed by an accreditation council, which recommended improvements to several courses to better meet the Programme's learning outcomes. Specifically, the course on "Traditional and modern methods of scientific research" needed to better align with the educational goals, and there was a suggestion to introduce biostatistics as well as a course on the fundamentals of scientific research.

Following these recommendations, the Programme underwent revisions: the syllabus for "Traditional and modern methods of scientific research" was updated, and new syllabi were created for "Biomathematics and mathematical statistics (Biostatistics)" and "The fundamentals of scientific research." Each of these courses is worth 5 credits and was added to the list of optional courses within the PhD Programme.

The scientific-research component of the PhD Programme in veterinary science is designed to support a student from the inception through to the completion of their dissertation. It consists of a structured progression through six distinct stages: initiating the research with a project, plan, and bibliographic outline; finalizing foundational bibliography and defining methodologies; gathering and executing research material; completing data collection and presenting initial dissertation chapters; finishing research activities, analyzing data, and drafting the main thesis content with resultant publications; and finally, preparing and defending the thesis publicly. This structured approach ensures comprehensive development and enhancement of the student's research skills, facilitating a thorough exploration of their chosen topic within veterinary science.

Evidences/Indicators

- Programmes.
- Syllabuses.
- Self-Evaluation Report.
- Interview with programme management and administration team.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1.4 Structure and Content of Educational Programme	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.5. Academic Course/Subject

- The content of the academic course / subject and the number of credits ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes defined by this course / subject.
- The content and the learning outcomes of the academic course/subject of the main field of study

ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes of the programme.

➤ The study materials indicated in the syllabus ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes of the programme.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The Veterinary PhD Programme incorporates a blend of compulsory and optional educational courses designed to meet specific learning outcomes aligned with higher education standards. The Programme includes courses such as Assistance to Professor (10 credits), Methods of Scientific Writing (5 credits), Traditional and Modern Methods of Scientific Research (5 credits), Modern Methods of Teaching (5 credits), Scientific Project Management (5 credits), and a Doctoral Seminar (10 credits), along with 10 credits worth of optional courses tailored to individual research interests. Each course aims to develop specific skills; for example, scientific writing enhances report and dissertation writing capabilities, while scientific research methods equip students with practical and theoretical knowledge applicable to their dissertation topics. Modern teaching methods and scientific project management courses prepare students for the academic and practical challenges of modern educational and research environments. The optional courses provide flexibility for students to deepen their expertise in areas directly related to their research.

The educational material, study methods, and literature included in the courses are carefully selected to reflect the latest scientific advancements and are often made available in digital formats for ease of access. The Programme also promotes the integration of fundamental scientific achievements into practical clinical applications, enhancing the veterinary and biological sciences fields. Following recommendations from the accreditation council, the content of optional subjects has been revised to better align with current research trends and student needs, ensuring the program remains contemporary and relevant.

Evidences/Indicators

- Program.
- Syllabuses.
- Interview with personnel.
- Interview with doctorates.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1.5. Academic Course/Subject	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compliance of the Programme with the Standard

1. Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme	Complies with requirements	X
	Substantially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does not comply with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>

Methodology and Organisation of Teaching, Adequacy of Evaluation of Programme Mastering

Prerequisites for admission to the programme, teaching-learning methods and student assessment consider the specificity of the study field, level requirements, student needs, and ensure the achievement of the objectives and expected learning outcomes of the programme.

2.1 Programme Admission Preconditions

The HEI has relevant, transparent, fair, public and accessible programme admission preconditions and procedures that ensure the engagement of individuals with relevant knowledge and skills in the programme to achieve learning outcomes.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

A person with a master's degree or equivalent academic degree, whose diploma is recognized by the state, has the right to enrol in the PhD program in Veterinary Medicine. According to Article 50 of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education" ("Recognition of Education Received Abroad"), the right to study at PhD program can be granted to a master's degree graduate of a foreign university in the field of veterinary.

Admission of students to the PhD program of Veterinary Medicine is carried out on a competitive basis. The faculty council (on the proposal of the dissertation council) determines the composition of the competition commission.

Candidates wishing to study at the doctoral program are required to prove their knowledge of the English language at least at the B2 level. They are required to prove their knowledge of the English language at least at the B2 level. The level of knowledge of the English language is evaluated by the examination committee in all four language skills - listening, reading, writing, speaking.

The minimum threshold is defined - 51 points, if it is not exceeded, the Candidate loses the right to participate in the competition.

For foreign Candidates, it is additionally required to confirm the level of knowledge of the Georgian language at the B2 level. In case of failure to present the relevant document, the Candidate is obliged to pass the Georgian language exam. The requirements are the same as for the English language test described above.

After proving knowledge of Georgian and English languages at the B2 level, a candidate's doctoral application is reviewed, which is evaluated by the sectoral commission with a maximum of 40 points, and here the minimum competence level is 21 points. Also, the candidate must pass the exam in the specialty (conducted orally, evaluated by the sectoral commission, the maximum grade of which is 60 points, the minimum competence level is 30 points).

If the candidates receive equal points, the existence of scientific publications, participation in scientific conferences, experience and other documents related to educational/research activities (grant projects, certificates, certificates, patents, etc.) is taken into account.

In accordance with the current legislation of Georgia and the "Regulating Rule of the Educational Process" of the SJSU, the doctoral candidate has the right to appeal the evaluation of the exam results.

Enrolment to the PhD program of Veterinary Medicine is also carried out in accordance with the order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated February 04, 2010 N10/N "Rule of transfer from a higher educational institution to another higher educational institution".

Evidences/Indicators

- Program.
 - Regulation of the Doctoral and Dissertation Council of the Samtskhe-Javakheti State University, Faculty of Engineering, Agricultural and Natural Sciences, Veterinary Department.
 - Admission Document.
 - Regulating Rule of the Educational Process of the Samtskhe-Javakheti State University
- Component evidences/indicators, including the relevant documents and interview results

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
2.1 Programme Admission Preconditions	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2. The Development of Practical, Scientific/Research/Creative/Performing and Transferable Skills

Programme ensures the development of students' practical, scientific/research/creative/performing and transferable skills and/or their involvement in research projects, in accordance with the programme learning outcomes.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

Describe, analyse and evaluate the compliance of the education programme with the requirements of the component of the standard, based on the information collected through the self-evaluation report (SER), the enclosed documents and site-visit.

The Veterinary PhD Programme at the university has been designed to advance the scientific, research, and pedagogical skills of its students, preparing them for careers in higher education and beyond. The curriculum offers a balanced approach, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application through structured coursework and research activities. A key component of the program is the doctoral seminar, where students present their research findings, promoting peer learning and professional growth. To support these academic pursuits, the university provides financial assistance through an internal scholarship program aimed at nurturing promising scientists and researchers. The program also includes mandatory pedagogical training such as assistance to professors, which equips students with essential teaching skills.

An important aspect of the program's structure is its reliance on external collaborations for research activities, as highlighted during interviews. This is due to the current limitations in university facilities, which necessitate conducting most research externally in partner organizations linked through memorandums of understanding. These memorandums specify the program's key elements, such as student admissions, objectives, outcomes, and the duration of practical experiences, ensuring that the program's learning outcomes are met and align with the expected educational standards. By establishing these agreements, the university ensures that all aspects of the program are coherent and

support the achievement of comprehensive skills development, thus preparing graduates for successful careers and meaningful contributions to the veterinary field.

Evidences/Indicators

- Program.
- Syllabuses.
- Interview with personnel.
- Interview with doctorates.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
2.2. The Development of practical, scientific/research/creative/performing and transferable skills	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.3. Teaching and Learning Methods

The programme is implemented by use student-oriented teaching and learning methods. Teaching and learning methods correspond to the level of education, course/subject content, learning outcomes, and ensure their achievement.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The doctoral program is thoughtfully designed to align with doctoral-level curriculum standards and learning objectives, emphasizing a coherent and comprehensive educational approach. The development team has crafted teaching strategies that foster an environment where doctoral candidates are encouraged to independently analyze data, interpret events, and construct knowledge. Key methodologies incorporated into the program include discussions and debates, project development, action-oriented teaching, and case studies, which enhance critical thinking and practical application skills.

Recognizing the challenges that may arise for foreign or non-native speakers, the program requires proficiency in the Georgian language as a prerequisite. This requirement ensures that all students can fully engage with the teaching, learning, and evaluation processes without language barriers.

Furthermore, the program is designed to be flexible, acknowledging the diverse needs of its doctoral students. It offers personalized study plans, which allow for customization of the educational experience to better meet the individual goals and research interests of each student. This tailored

approach ensures that students can maximize their learning outcomes and achieve their academic and professional aspirations effectively.

Evidences/Indicators

- [PhD Program of Veterinary Medicine](#). Self-evaluation report and syllabus of training courses.
- Teaching-learning methods and relevant activities.
- Interviews with academic staff, quality service, students.
- Personalized study plans.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component		Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
2.3.	Teaching and learning methods	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.4. Student Evaluation

Student evaluation is conducted in accordance with the established procedures. It is transparent, reliable and complies with existing legislation.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

Student evaluation is conducted in accordance with established procedures, to Georgian Law (N3 Order of January 5, 2007 of the Minister of Education and Science) and the regulating rules of the educational process applied at the HEI.

Evaluation of the Doctoral Programme students is conducted by 100 points system, which includes mid-term and final evaluations. Evaluation components, methods, and criteria are transparent, accessible and known in advance to the students. In all syllabi of the Programme there are clearly defined evaluation methods, distributed points and requirements for obtaining a positive evaluation. But after comprehensive review of the final evaluation forms for each subject, there was one noncompliant detail found, particularly in the syllabus of the study course “cytodiagnosics” there is determined only one quiz to be conducted during the semester, but in the final evaluation form for the first semester students, they were given points for two quizzes, when the evaluation component „preparing case report“ was removed. So, this issue should be revised.

The expert panel checked „The Regulation of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine and Dissertation Council” and the recommendation about removing “introduction of a patent or medication in the production” as a possible substitution for scientific article publication, is fulfilled.

But in addition to the issue, experts believe that „The Regulation of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine and Dissertation Council”, Article 13, f) “Before defence of the dissertation paper a student considering its research field, has to publish (or submit for publishing) a scientific article in the journal having an impact-factor as an author/co-author and considering regional specifics, a dissertation

council is eligible to define the opportunities for the publishing necessary scientific publications in other high-rated journals” - the regulation should be modified in such way, that underlines that publication in impact-factor journals is mandatory step and publication in other high-rated journals – an additional achievement. This meaning of above-mentioned rule was confirmed by QA office during the interviews, but the formulation of the rule needs to be edited.

For further improvement it is suggested that journals with legitimate impact factor were chosen from western-European countries for ensuring high quality of scientific article and increasing the opportunity of international recognition.

Students of the PhD Programme get periodic formative assessments from their scientific supervisors, that is confirmed by respective assessment forms presented by the HEI.

The recommendation given by the accreditation council of the education programs “It is recommended to ensure participation of an external evaluator/evaluators (not necessarily foreign) in the evaluation of the dissertation paper; accordingly, there should be “must” instead of “may” in the wording” is fulfilled as in the „The Regulation of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine and Dissertation Council” it is defined so: “If there is no plagiarism, the Programme supervisor in agreement with the supervisor of the dissertation paper and submit the paper to a local or international evaluator, professor or associate professor for external evaluation.”

In the same regulation document requirements for the academic style of the dissertation are clearly determined and known in advance to the students.

According to the SER and provided documents, the HEI has acquired and launched the software Turnitin for prevention plagiarism and ensuring academic integrity, academic and research ethics.

Evidences/Indicators

- SER
- Syllabi
- Final evaluation forms
- The Regulation of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine and Dissertation Council
- Interviews
- Periodic assessment forms of PhD students by their scientific supervisors

Recommendations.

- Revise any difference between evaluation methods defined in syllabi and in final evaluation forms and solve them.
- It’s suggested to edit „The Regulation of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine and Dissertation Council”, Article 13, f) component and make the statement clear.

Suggestions for the programme development

- It is suggested that impact-factor journals were chosen from western-European countries.

Evaluation

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
2.4. Student evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compliance with the programme standards

2. Methodology and Organisation of Teaching, Adequacy of Evaluation of Programme Mastering	Complies with requirements	X
	Substantially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partly complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does not comply with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>

Student Achievements, Individual Work with Them

The programme ensures the creation of a student-centered environment by providing students with relevant services; promotes maximum student awareness, implements a variety of activities and facilitates student involvement in local and/or international projects; proper quality of scientific guidance is provided for master's and doctoral students.

3.1 Student Consulting and Support Services

Students receive consultation and support regarding the planning of learning process, improvement of academic achievement, and career development from the people involved in the programme and/or structural units of the HEI. A student has an opportunity to have a diverse learning process and receive relevant information and recommendations from those involved in the programme.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard.

After proper analysis of the SER and results of the site-visit and interviews, experts panel members came to the conclusion that the HEI is providing sufficient consultation services to the PhD students. As the students themselves confirmed the information, they have developed an adequate individual study plan with the involvement of administrative and academic staff.

A student is able to get required information, support and consultation from the university and faculty administration, scientific paper supervisor, academic staff through e-mails. Provision of students with necessary information is the function of the educational process management department and it is defined in the regulatory rule of the body.

In the regulatory documents there were mentioned, that if a student is already participating in the academic activity within the HEI, the study course "Assistance to Professor", III semester, will be automatically credited; During the meeting with active students of this PhD Programme, one student mentioned, that he was an invited lecturer for the Integrated Programme of Veterinary and he had the information about the above-mentioned rule. This fact underlined an adequate information provision process in the HEI.

The HEI has successfully implemented an e-platform - Moodle and web-site, by which information about new projects, scientific activities, scholarship conditions, mobility etc are provided.

The university has a memorandum and agreement with the VETERINARY DEPARTMENT of THE CAUCASUS INSTITUTE of TURKISH REPUBLIC, Kars, which has participated in partnership with the HEI in several conferences, but the experts panel suggests, that for scientific development and mastering it would be reasonable if the international partners would be involved in the professional development, including consultation process; The experts panel believes that in the internationalization process sharing experience and knowledge, especially from foreign partners is extremely important.

It is also suggested to increase the number of international projects, conferences and events, research fellowships, conducted or participated by the HEI and its PhD students; Especially select the ones, that strengthen and improve the scientific activity and performance of not only students, but also academic staff, scientific supervisors and etc. That would have a distinguishable positive effect for current and future PhD students and their scientific/academic development in the modern society, regarding the internationalization and contemporary challenges.

Evidences/Indicators

- SER.
- Site-visit.
- Interviews.
- Programme planning and development methodology; Faculty strategic plan
- The duties and responsibilities of a Programme head, supervisor of a master and doctoral Programme students and administrative staff; Agreement sample of a supervisor and co-supervisor, the load of the people involved in consultation service, their duties and responsibilities, job description.
- Memoranda and agreements.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development

- Involve international partners in the professional and scientific development supporting procedures for the PhD Programme students.
- Increase participation in the international projects, events, research fellowships

Evaluation

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
3.1 Student Consulting and Support Services	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.2. Master's and Doctoral Student Supervision

- A scientific supervisor provides proper support to master's and doctoral students to perform the scientific-research component successfully.
- Within master's and doctoral programmes, ration of students and supervisors enables to perform scientific supervision properly.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

As mentioned in the SER, the HEI has elaborated regulatory documents, which clearly determine the duties and responsibilities of the supervisor/co-supervisor of doctoral students and has rules about appointing, changing them. This all are visible not only in the "The Regulation of a doctoral Programme and dissertation council of the Faculty of the Engineering, Agrarian and Natural Sciences, Samtskhe-Javakheti State University", but also in the labour contract between the HEI and the supervisors/co-supervisors. The procedures were held according to the rules and this is confirmed by the minutes of the faculty meeting;

The number of doctoral thesis supervisors in the HEI is 14, doctoral students – 6, so the ratio is 14/6. The students get periodic formative assessments by their scientific supervisors; Already existing assessments are part of the provided documentation by the HEI.

In the above-mentioned regulation, it is also defined: "a scientific supervisor is authorized to supervise 5 students with the active status at the Master and Doctoral levels".

The rule also determines requirement for supervising, namely: “A scientific supervisor of a student shall have the research experience in the dissertation topic related field (S/he had have the published works); “But according to the provided documents, some of the current scientific supervisors do not have any article published recently in any IF journals, Google-Scholar or etc. So, this issue should be taken seriously and the scientific activities, publications in the international (European) high-ranking journals should be required, so that supervisors will be better acknowledged in the modern methodology, tactics and techniques, that are used in the current developed scientific/research field and by this way supervision, supporting and participating in the PhD students’ scientific activities would be more efficient and adjusted to the modern challenges.

On the other hand, the HEI has partnerships with the Caucasus University of Turkish Republic, Kars, and two professors, doctors of veterinary are members of visiting staff for LEPL SJSU. But they aren’t by any means currently involved in the supervision/co-supervision of current 6 PhD students, so it would be strongly suggested to promote involvement of foreigner colleagues in the process, so that supervision would be more efficient and multisided.

The HEI has developed mechanisms for evaluating the quality of activities of the supervisor/co-supervisor, these are mentioned in the QA politics and according to the interviews with active PhD students, they are successfully implemented.

Data related to the supervision of master’s/ doctoral students	
Quantity of master/PhD theses supervisors	14
Number of master’s/doctoral students	6
Ratio	2.33

Evidences/Indicators

- SER.
- Personnel qualification proving documents.
- The Regulation of a doctoral Programme and dissertation council of the Faculty of the Engineering, Agrarian and Natural Sciences, Samtskhe-Javakheti State University (codified);
- Quality Assurance Mechanisms (14.1. Internal quality mechanisms, 14.1.4 Quality Service surveys).
- The duties and responsibilities of a Programme head, supervisor of a master and doctoral Programme students and administrative staff; Agreement sample of a supervisor and co-supervisor.
- Contracts between scientific supervisor and the HEI.
- Periodic formative assessment forms of the doctoral student’s progress by his/her scientific supervisor

Recommendations.

- It is recommended to emphasize the importance/requirement of recent scientific activity and publications in the IF journals for scientific supervisors.
- Involve foreign colleagues in the supervision/co-supervision process.

Suggestions for the programme development

- None.

Evaluation

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
3.2. Master's and Doctoral Students Supervision	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compliance with the programme standards

3. Students Achievements, Individual Work with them	Complies with requirements	X
	Substantially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partly complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does not comply with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>

Providing Teaching Resources

Human, material, information and financial resources of educational programme ensure sustainable, stable, efficient and effective functioning of the programme and the achievement of the defined objectives.

4.1 Human Resources

- Programme staff consists of qualified persons, who have necessary competences in order to help students to achieve the 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. Quantitative indicators related to academic/scientific/invited staff ensure programme sustainability.
 - The Head of the Programme possesses necessary knowledge and experience required for programme elaboration, and also the appropriate competences in the field of study of the programme. He/she is personally involved in programme implementation.
 - Programme students are provided with an adequate number of administrative and support staff of appropriate competence.
-

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine offered by SJSU is conducted by skilled experts in veterinary medicine, possessing extensive experience in teaching and scientific research. The responsibilities and workload of the faculty overseeing the Programme adhere strictly to the qualification standards stipulated by both national legislation and the university's internal regulations.

The considerable expertise of the academic and scientific faculty is evidenced by their published research showcased in both local and international journals, as well as in authored monographs and textbooks. However, it is noteworthy that most lecturers engaged in the Programme have had limited contributions to highly esteemed journals in recent years.

It is worth noting the involvement of teachers implementing the Programme in local and international conferences. The qualifications of the invited personnel are also in full compliance with the requirements necessary for the implementation of the Programme.

The semester workload, educational endeavour and scientific research engagements of both the academic/scientific staff and guest lecturers, along with their designated responsibilities, collectively ensure the effective execution of the educational process as outlined by the Programme.

The PhD Programme of veterinary medicine comprises 17 teachers, consisting of 9 affiliated professors, 3 affiliated associate professors, and 5 invited specialists, many of whom hold prestigious professorial positions at other higher education institutions in Georgia, the Republic of Turkey, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The collaboration between the academic and invited staff ensures the Programme's smooth operation and the efficient fulfilment of their designated responsibilities. The balance between academic and visiting staff (12/5) and the existing lecturer-to-student ratio (17/6) play positive roles in maintaining the Programme's sustainability.

The Programme's head is among the foremost experts in veterinary medicine, possessing the requisite knowledge and experience crucial for Programme development and actively participating in its

implementation. His involvement in domestic and international grant-funded scientific research projects underscores his stature as a widely recognized scientist.

Furthermore, the Programme head boasts extensive teaching experience at both the foundational and advanced levels of veterinary education. Under his mentorship, six doctoral theses have been successfully prepared and defended.

Programme students are provided with an adequate number of administrative and support staff of appropriate competence.

Number of the staff involved in the programme (including academic, scientific, and invited staff)	Number of Programme Staff	Including the staff with sectoral expertise ⁶	Including the staff holding PhD degree in the sectoral direction ⁷	Among them, the affiliated staff
Total number of academic staff	17	14	12	12
- Professor	9	4	4	9
- Associate Professor	3		3	3
- Assistant-Professor				
- Assistant				
Visiting Staff	5		5	–
Scientific Staff	0			–

Evidences/Indicators

- Personal files of Programme managers;
- Syllabi of training courses;
- Programme self-evaluation report;
- Personal files of the academic/guest staff involved in the Programme: CV, publications, conference papers, competition materials, employment contracts;
- Interview with academic/guest staff;
- Interviews with graduates.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
4.1 Human Resources	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁶ Staff implementing the relevant components of the main field of study

⁷ Staff with relevant doctoral degrees implementing the components of the main field of study

4.2 Qualification of Supervisors of Master's and Doctoral Students

The Master's and Doctoral students have qualified supervisor/supervisors and, if necessary, co-supervisor/co-supervisors who have relevant scientific-research experience in the field of research.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

After reviewing the self-evaluation report of the educational Programme and accompanying documentation, along with insights gathered during the accreditation visit, it has been established that each doctoral student will be assigned a qualified supervisor. Additionally, if necessary, a co-supervisor, specializing in the field or a related area, may be appointed alongside the primary scientific supervisor. The maximum number of students under the guidance of one scientific supervisor is determined by the institution, allowing a total of 5 active students across bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels.

The scientific supervisor for a doctoral candidate can include a faculty professor, associate professor, or visiting professor from another institution, as well as a researcher holding a doctoral academic degree. Notably, arrangements for a foreign supervisor or co-supervisor are permitted, fostering internationalization and facilitating collaborative research endeavours. The institution has outlined specific requirements for doctoral student supervisors, emphasizing the importance of the supervisor's research experience in the relevant field, particularly recent publications and involvement in ongoing research projects. This focus is crucial, given instances where certain individuals involved in the Programme, potentially serving as scientific supervisors for PhD students of Veterinary Medicine, lack any scientific publications discoverable by Google Scholar, which have been published in the scientific journals with impact factor over the past five years.

At the time of the external evaluation, six doctoral students have been enrolled in the [PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine](#), all of whom are supervised by supervisors holding PhD degree in the sectoral direction.

Number of supervisors of Master's/Doctoral theses	Thesis supervisors	Including the supervisors holding PhD degree in the sectoral direction	Among them, the affiliated staff
Number of supervisors of Master's/Doctoral thesis	14	12	12
- Professor	9	6	9
- Associate Professor		3	3
- Assistant-Professor			
Visiting personnel	5		—
Scientific Staff			—

Evidences/Indicators

- Personal data of academic and invited staff;
- Programme self-evaluation report;
- Information about students, dissertation topics and supervisors

Recommendations.

- To set a requirement for potential supervisors of PhD students, they must have published at least one scientific article in a relevant journal with an impact factor.

Suggestions for the programme development

- None.

Evaluation

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
4.2 Qualification of Supervisors of Master's and Doctoral Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.3 Professional Development of Academic, Scientific and Invited Staff

- The HEI conducts the evaluation of programme staff and analyses evaluation results on a regular basis.
- The HEI fosters professional development of the academic, scientific and invited staff. Moreover, it fosters their scientific and research work.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

At SJSU, a comprehensive evaluation mechanism is in place for both academic and guest personnel. The university's quality development service conducts systematic monitoring of their pedagogical and scientific research activities, aiming to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

To analyse scientific research endeavours, the university has devised a research activity concept, which focuses on aspects like research planning, evaluation metrics, and workload distribution among academic staff. Additionally, satisfaction surveys are conducted among the academic staff to assess and further support their scientific research activities, guiding the allocation of necessary budgets accordingly.

Students actively participate in evaluating academic and guest personnel, enhancing the objectivity of the evaluation process. Notably, the university hosts numerous scientific-educational workshops and conferences to enhance the qualifications of both academic and visiting staff. It is worth mentioning the involvement of the university in the project - „Erasmus+ CBHE Development of Veterinary Faculties at Georgian HEIs to Create a New Pool of Young Veterinary Professionals in Georgia. ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND 1-101082479“.

Moreover, the university has established regulations for internal grant project competitions, fostering ongoing scientific research activities within the institution. This intra-university grant competition serves as a significant stimulus for research endeavours.

Furthermore, the university has forged cooperative agreements with prominent veterinary, medical, and biological institutions in the country, facilitating the enhancement of educational processes and fostering professional growth among the teaching, scientific, and research staff.

Evidences/Indicators

- Personal data of academic and invited staff;
- Programme self-evaluation report;
- Statistical data about personnel;

- Website of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University;
- The procedure for evaluating the academic staff's activity;
- Memorandums of cooperation and agreements;

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
4.3 Professional development of academic, scientific and invited staff	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.4. Material Resources

Programme is provided by necessary infrastructure, information resources relevant to the field of study and technical equipment required for achieving programme learning outcomes.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The campus of the university is located in Akhaltsikhe, the building is adapted for persons with limited abilities, has educational auditoriums, equipped with necessary tools and other equipment. It has computerised classrooms with access to the Internet and several scientific bases.

The university has a library where the books are regularly updated and the staff and students have access to all the literature required by the curricula. The scientific bases are represented by Elsevier and Scopus. Students can access the databases from the university building as well as from other network connections.

On the site there are auditoriums, where it is planned to build a veterinary clinic and also some research facilities, such as a vivarium.

The university also has a project to build a veterinary clinic in a completely separate building.

Currently all students have access to research facilities in memorandum affiliated organisations, it must be mentioned that the list of such organisations is impressive.

The university has a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture laboratory, which represents a central laboratory in Tbilisi and 3 regional laboratories, one of which is located near the university campus. These laboratories mostly work on government projects and have no space for independent research, but with proper management, the projects in which the PhD students will be researchers can be carried out.

The most important institution with the Memorandum is the Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, this institution is a world leader in bacteriophage research, including phage therapy, genetics, immunology etc.

The university also has a very strong partner university in Kars, Kafkas University, which is among the top universities in Turkey and does research in the veterinary field.

Material resources are largely adequate, more research facilities should be accessible locally.

Evidences/Indicators

- Self-Evaluation Report.
- Syllabuses.
- Interview with personnel.
- Interview with doctorates.
- Observation on site.
- Memorandums and contracts.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
4.4 Material Resources	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.5 Programme/Faculty/School Budget and Programme Financial Sustainability

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

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The Budget of PhD Programme in Veterinary Medicine covers the years 2023 to 2025, and covers the items:

- Number of compensable hours (programme academic/visiting staff);
- Travel expenses for the participation of academic/visiting personnel in the conferences, forums, trainings and other events;
- Co-financing of academic/visiting staff for publishing of scientific work in the journals registered in impact factor or other international refereed/peer-reviewed databases;
- The cost of the students' participation in the conference;
- The cost for motivation of the students;
- Remuneration of the scientific supervisor;
- Cost for sustainable development of the Programme.

With a programme implementation cost of GEL 5563.41 and a negative balance of GEL -1063.41, according to the SER and confirmed during the visit, the implementation of the PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine is a priority for the University and the additional costs related to the implementation of the programme will be covered by the University's consolidated budget. For the number of students given (3) and the estimated cost of the different items, the budget allocated is financially feasible and ensures the sustainability of the programme.

In relation to the previous visitation, it was recommended to include the cost for improving and restructuring infrastructure, including the establishment of veterinarian clinics, in the budget of the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine. It has been reported that the Ministry of Education and Sciences has included the costs for constructing two-storey veterinarian clinics for SJSU. This was based on the funds received from doctoral grant competitions announced by the National Scientific Fund. Educational study tours and other types of projects are applied for raising additional finances. It is stated that there is a budget of 908,495 GEL allocated for the purchase of necessary equipment for the veterinary clinics. Based on the evidence provided, the infrastructure supporting the PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine has been improved and resources have been allocated to meet the minimum requirements for teaching and research in veterinary medicine. The new basic facilities for veterinary clinics are brand new and are expected to be used in the near future. The two-level hospital is still a project. It is a fact that clinical activities in veterinary medicine are in high demand and require specialised veterinarians with a PhD. However, the current programme design only partially covers this need, and the university's research facilities require urgent updates to meet the expected impact of research in international journals.

Evidences/Indicators

- The Budget of PhD Programme of Veterinary Medicine 2023-2024-2025.
- Self-Evaluation Report.
- Material resources acquired in 2022-2023. www.sjuni.edu.ge.
- Individual self-assessment report, Annex 15

Recommendations.

- The research facilities of the university require urgent updates to meet the expected impact of research in international journals, particularly in veterinary clinics. It is important to ensure that infrastructures are built according to the plan and that elective subjects are accommodated by the available infrastructure

Suggestions for the programme development

- None.

Evaluation

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
4.5. Programme/ Faculty/School Budget and Programme Financial Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compliance with the programme standard

4. Providing Teaching Resources	Complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Substantially complies with requirements	X
	Partly complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does not comply with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunities

In order to enhance teaching quality, programme utilises 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.

5.1 Internal Quality Evaluation

Programme staff collaborates with internal quality assurance department(s)/staff available at the HEI when planning the process of programme quality assurance, developing assessment instruments, and implementing assessment process. Programme staff utilizes quality assurance results for programme improvement.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

Based on the SER of the educational Programme, the submitted attached material and interviews, the quality assurance service cooperates with the governing bodies of the university and the faculty, administrative and support staff, and the academic staff implementing the Programme in order to develop the educational Programme. During the visit, cooperation with employers, readiness and desire to take into account the requirements of the region was very well demonstrated.

The institution has developed relevant rules and questionnaires for stakeholder engagement.

The rules and procedures for planning, development, evaluation, development of the Programmes of LSU - SJSU, as well as the entities participating in the development of educational Programmes are determined by quality assurance mechanisms (approved by the Academic Council of LSU - SJSU on February 17, 2018, Resolution N14). This document defines the mechanisms of participation of interested parties in the development of the Programme, as well as the methodology of creating the work/self-evaluation group of the Programme, the functions of the work/self-evaluation group and the methodology of selecting members.

In order to develop the [PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine](#) and take into account the recommendations, by the decision of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering, Agricultural and Natural Sciences of the SJSU (Minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2022 N 22), a working group was created, which included the head of the Programme, the academic staff implementing the Programme, students, dean of the faculty, head of the quality assurance service, specialist of the quality assurance service, head of the human resources management service, technical head of the library, head of the financial department, etc.

The studies/surveys conducted by the Quality Assurance Service are presented. During the interview, the students confirmed their participation in the surveys conducted by the quality assurance service.

Accordingly, the work on the development of the educational Programme and the self-assessment report was a participatory process.

Evidences/Indicators

- Quality assurance mechanisms (approved by the Academic Council of LSU - Samtskhe-Javakheti State University on February 17, 2018, Resolution N14)

- Minutes of meetings of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering, Agricultural and Natural Sciences of the Samtskhe-Javakheti State University
- Interview results of meetings with Self -evaluation team, students, employers

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
5.1 Internal quality evaluation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2 External Quality Evaluation

Programme utilises the results of external quality assurance on a regular basis.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

The mechanisms of external assessment are authorization and accreditation, which is carried out by the National Center for Educational quality enhancement. In order to develop the educational Programme, the institution conducted a series of activities to take into account the recommendations presented by the Council for Accreditation of Educational Programmes and accreditation experts within the framework of the previous external evaluation (accreditation) and changes were made in the educational Programme.

The institution has submitted an external peer review for the [PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine](#). The Programme is evaluated:

- By Professor M. J, Doctor of Veterinary Sciences, Dean of the Caucasus University of the Republic of Turkey;
- By Dr. N. Z., head of "Biotex" LLC;
- By O. Sh., Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor of the Technological Faculty of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University.

Evidences/Indicators

- Component evidences/indicators, including the relevant documents and interview results

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for Programme Development.

- None.

Evaluation.

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component		Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
5.2.	External Quality Evaluation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.3 Programme Monitoring and Periodic Review

Programme monitoring and periodic evaluation is conducted with the involvement of academic, scientific, invited, administrative, supporting staff, students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders through systematic data collection, study and analysis. Evaluation results are applied for the programme improvement.

Summary and Analysis of the Education Programme's Compliance with the Requirements of the Component of the Standard

Based on SER, Internal and External Assessment for Quality Assurance and personal, and interviews, the doctoral programme undergoes regular monitoring and review with input from academic, scientific, administrative staff, students, graduates, employers, and other stakeholders. Information is systematically collected and analysed through complementary materials and interviews conducted according to the SER. Based on the survey results, the programme may be modified or adapted to ensure modernisation. The programme's efficiency is assessed using indicators from monitoring and evaluation, and if necessary, the programme is modified and improved. At the end of each course or subject, students are given the opportunity to evaluate it through questionnaires or other means, and also evaluate the implementation of the scientific-research component and scientific supervision.

Due to the short time between the previous and current visitations, it was not possible to monitor all expected improvements in the [PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine](#) and identify the periodic schedule of reviews or surveys. The surveys mentioned were conducted through a Google Form questionnaire as part of an Erasmus project, providing useful information. However, it is suggested that quality assurance measures be tailored to the PhD programme, specifically to complete the PDCA cycle for students and provide academic staff with objective indicators to enhance the capacity and impact of their research. It is also advisable to periodically compare the programme with similar programmes at foreign universities. By adopting the best international practices, the programme can be brought into compliance with modern requirements.

Evidences/Indicators

- Quality Assurance Mechanisms (Programme external evaluation) www.sjuni.edu.ge.
- SER,
- Internal and External Assessment for Quality Assurance and personal.
- Interviews.

Recommendations.

- None.

Suggestions for the programme development

- The quality assurance measures need to be tailored to the PhD programme, particularly to complete the PDCA cycle for students and to provide academic staff with objective indicators to enhance the capacity and impact of their research.
- It is also advisable to periodically compare the programme with similar programmes at foreign universities.

Evaluation

Please, evaluate the compliance of the programme with the component

Component	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
5.3. Programme monitoring and periodic review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compliance with the programme standards

5. Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunities	Complies with requirements	X
	Substantially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partially complies with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does not comply with requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>

Attached documentation (if applicable): None.

Name of the Higher Education Institution: LEPL Samtskhe-Javakheti State University

Name of Higher Education Programme, Level: PHD Programme of Veterinary Medicine

Compliance with the Programme Standards

Evaluation Standards	Complies with requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially complies with requirements	Does not comply with requirements
1. Education Programme Objectives, Learning Outcomes and their Compliance with the Programme	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Teaching Methodology and Organisation, Adequacy Evaluation of Programme Mastering	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Student Achievements, Individual Work with them	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Providing Teaching Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunities	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signatures

Chair of Accreditation Experts Panel

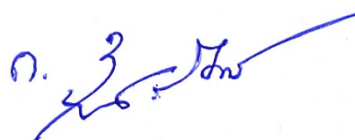


Gaspar Ros Berruezo, University of Murcia, Spain

Of the member(s) of the Accreditation Experts Panel



Nino Jojua, International Black Sea University,
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Irakli Janashia, Agricultural University of Georgia



Giorgi Melashvili, Agricultural University of
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Shota Silagadze, Tbilisi State Medical University,
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