

# Decision by the Accreditation Council For Educational Programmes Tbilisi

14/02/2024

MES 7 24 0000160333

## On accreditation of one-cycle educational programme (English) in "General Medicine" of Yerevan State Medical University After Mkhitar Heratsi

### 1. Legal basis for making a decision

1.1 Based on the first paragraph of Article 66 of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", the Article 5(1)(b2) of the Law of Georgia "On Educational Quality Enhancement", the first paragraph of Article 22 and the first paragraph of Article 27<sup>2</sup> of the Statute of Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter - the Accreditation Charter) approved by Order No. 65/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated May 4, 2011, also in accordance with the Article 31<sup>2</sup>, the Accreditation Council of Higher Educational Programmes (hereinafter - the Council) makes a decision on the accreditation of the educational programme of the educational institution based on the accreditation documentation, the report of the accreditation expert panel, the study of the argumentative position presented by the institution on the draft report of the accreditation expert panel, as well as based on holding an oral hearing.

According to paragraph 5 of Article 27<sup>5</sup> of the Accreditation Charter, the Council is obliged to substantiate its decision.

1.2. In accordance with Article 22(2)(a) of the Law of Georgia "On Educational Quality Enhancement" and Article 27<sup>5</sup>(1)(a) of the Accreditation Charter, the Council shall make a decision on granting accreditation to the educational programme, if in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 66 of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", paragraph 8 of Article 22 of the Law of Georgia "On Educational Quality Enhancement" and subparagraph "a" of the first paragraph of Article 27<sup>6</sup> of the Accreditation Charter, in the case of the first and every subsequent accreditation of the educational programme, the educational programme was evaluated by the Council as "fully and/or substantially in compliance with the requirements of the standard" in relation to all standards.

1.3 In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 27<sup>5</sup> of the Accreditation Charter, in case of making a decision to grant accreditation to an educational programme, the Council is authorized to give recommendations to the applicant for accreditation.

1.4. If, according to Article 27<sup>6</sup>(1)(b) of the Accreditation Charter, it has been evaluated as "substantially in compliance with the requirements of the standard" with respect to at least one standard it is not evaluated as "partially in compliance with the requirements of standard" nor as "not in compliance with the requirements of standard" in relation to no other standard, the Council shall make a decision on accreditation and set a deadline for the institution to submit a report on the implementation of the received recommendations, which is reflected in the minutes of the Council meeting.

1.5. According to Article 27<sup>6</sup>(1)(b<sup>1</sup>) of the Accreditation Charter, if the educational programme was assessed as "substantially in compliance with the requirements of the standard" in relation to the first (Objectives and learning outcomes of the educational programme and the programme's compliance with them) or the 4th (provision of teaching resources) standards and is not assessed as "partially in compliance with the requirements of the standard" with respect to any standard, or as "not in compliance with the requirements of the standard" and the "substantial compliance" of the standard is due to evaluation of no more than one component of this standard as "partially in compliance with the standard requirements", the council shall make a decision on granting an

accreditation and applies to the center with a motion regarding implementation of monitoring in the institution in the manner established by this regulation (within no more than 2 years), which is reflected in the minutes of the council meeting;

## 2. Descriptive part and rationale

2.1. At LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (hereinafter referred to as the Center), the accreditation application submitted by Yerevan State Medical University After Mkhitar Heratsi on the one-cycle educational programme (English) in "General Medicine" is presented by the letter №02,01/673 of June 15 2023 (the center's registration -№740094, 21/06/2023). According to the Center's letter No. 761959 of June 26, 2023, the institution was identified as having a shortcoming. Correspondence to correct the shortcoming was sent to the center by letters No. 857929 and No. 858101 of July 10, 2023.

2.2. Based on the Center's order No. 949553 of July 31, 2023, Yerevan State Medical University After Mkhitar Heratsi was recognized as an accreditation seeker. On the basis of the Center's order No. 1273715 of October 02, 2023, a panel of experts was created, which visited the institution for the purpose of evaluating the Armenian, English and Russian language one-cycle educational programmes of "General Medicine" on October 16-20, 2023.

According to the report presented by the expert panel, the one-cycle educational programme in "General Medicine" (English) presented for accreditation was evaluated as follows:

Standards	Complies with the requirements	Substantially complies with the requirements	Partially complies with the requirements	Does not comply with the requirements
1. Educational Programme Objectives, Learning Outcomes and their Compliance with the Programme		x		
2. Methodology and Organisation of Teaching, Adequacy of Evaluation of Programme Mastering		x		
3. Student Achievements, Individual Work with them	x			
4. Providing Teaching Resources	x			
5. Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunities	x			

2.3 The Council studied the documentation related to the accreditation of educational programmes, in particular, the information reflected in the self-evaluation report and the documentation attached to it, the expert panel's report, the argumentative position presented to the center by the accreditation seeker on the draft report of the expert panel. The oral hearing was held on February 6, 2024.

2.4 On the basis of the accreditation application, the report of the expert panel of accreditation and the argumentative position presented to the center by the accreditation seeker on the draft report of the expert panel, as well as on the basis of the hearing of the oral position of the interested party at the meeting, the Council fully shared the assessment recorded in the experts report,

## 3. Resolution Part

According to Article 66(1), paragraph 2(a) and paragraph 3 and 4 of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, the paragraphs 1, 2(a), 3 and 8 of Article 22 of Law of Georgia on Educational Quality Enhancement, Article 31<sup>2</sup>(1), 27<sup>2</sup>(1), 27<sup>5</sup>(1)(a) and paragraphs 2 and 5, as well as Article 27<sup>6</sup>(1)(b<sup>1</sup>) of Accreditation Charter, in accordance with Article 8 of the Order No. 223 of June 01, 2011 of the Director of LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality

Enhancement “on the approval of the procedure and bylaws of the NCEQE”, as well as in accordance with Article 53 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia, the Accreditation Council with 31 votes against none,

**Has decided:**

1. The accreditation application submitted by the Yerevan State Medical University After Mkhitar Heratsi should be approved and the English-language one-cycle educational programme of "General Medicine" provided for in Appendix No. 1 should be granted accreditation for a period of 7 years, on the condition that monitoring is carried out within 2 years;
2. The report of the accreditation expert panel on the English-language one-cycle educational programme of "General Medicine" shall be announced as an integral part of this decision (Appendix No. 2).
3. Part No. 02 of the minutes of the meeting No. 160329 of February 14, 2024 of the Council shall be announced as an integral part of this decision (Appendix No. 3).
4. The following recommendations and suggestions have been determined by the Council to be implemented by the institution:

**Recommendations:**

1. Make the programme objectives publicly accessible, possibly through the institution's website or other platforms, to bolster transparency and stakeholder engagement.
2. In clinical settings the assessment criteria of practical skills should better be controlled and described as the portion of the assessment of the skills (in clinical courses, in general) is low.
3. Review the teaching and learning of the Armenian language, including an increase in hours allocated and ensure that students are competent to communicate effectively with patients. Review the structure of the modules (linking of subjects, connection between themes and topics, the prerequisites).
4. Monitoring linkage must be assured between separate phases of the program (for example, between the preclinical and clinical parts) to promote an uninterrupted teaching and learning process, and to ensure harmony between plans and reality.
5. More emphasis, additional elective training courses in Armenian language would be necessary for foreign students.
6. The University should develop an Action Plan detailing the activities, responsibilities, timelines, and the nature of expected changes.
7. The modular structure of the programme should be reviewed and modified, integration levels (horizontal, vertical and spiral components) should be reviewed and further developed based on an agreed educational strategy.
8. A balanced distribution of mandatory and elective courses during each academic year/semester is recommended. It is also recommended to offer more than 20 elective courses as stated in YSMU MD Educational Programme.
9. Review the programme by clearly defining and listing the skills/research competencies in the curriculum.
10. Devise and implement detailed criteria and rubrics for scoring.

**Suggestions:**

1. Regular workshops or feedback sessions can ensure that all stakeholders, from faculty to students, are aligned with the programme objectives.

2. Given the dynamic nature of the medical field, it is suggested to periodically review and update the programme objectives to ensure their continued relevance.
  3. Ensure that employers who are involved in program development are fully familiar with programme learning outcomes
  4. Revisit the formative assessment schedule and consider whether another term would provide a more accurate description.
  5. Review the Institution's established data protection policy to take specific care of data privacy issues.
  6. Encourage collaboration between faculty from various preclinical departments and clinical disciplines to work together to develop a structure that incorporates elements of preclinical courses and subjects of clinical medicine.
  7. The structure of the programme could be made more understandable and easier to follow with a diagram (organogram) showing the administrative, academic, and clinical units, departments, divisions, affiliated teaching hospitals. This could be presented on the website of the HEI.
  8. In some cases, the English names of the courses are less clear - Private Surgery might be "General Surgery" and Topographical Anatomy and Operative Surgery - "Surgical Anatomy and Techniques".
  9. Refine the definition of the module.
  10. Review the distribution of academic hours.
  11. Utilize an internationally recognized English textbook as a required literature.
  12. A wider use of modern teaching methods is suggested; encourage active learning techniques, such as problem-solving, case-based learning, and group projects.
  13. Place a stronger emphasis on communication skills in Armenian language.
  14. E-learning approaches can be used more extensively to improve the didactic concept.
  15. Strengthen the curriculum-based research work of students further e.g., with elective courses for those who are participating in student scientific circles at the departments/clinics.
  16. Implement a multicomponent assessment system for all subjects.
  17. Continue pursuing ERASMUS+ programme and to form bilateral partnerships with different universities to increase the range of possibilities for students who want to participate in international programmes.
  18. Establish annual norms for scientific and other activities in addition to the teaching workload.
  19. Expand the library resources, as well as the resources of the Department of Basic Subjects and Simulation Center/OSCE exam.
  20. Further improve stakeholder insight and invest in initiatives aimed at enhancing the understanding and engagement of all stakeholders, especially external collaborators like employers.
  21. Simplify, streamline and prioritise evaluative results by developing strategies for consolidating evaluative findings and prioritizing them based on their strategic impact potential.
  22. Explore opportunities for leveraging technological advancements in optimizing the evaluation processes. This could include the use of advanced analytics tools to enhance the analysis of evaluative findings.
  23. While the programme already involves multiple stakeholders in its evaluation process, there could be more structured forums or platforms where these stakeholders can provide feedback. Regular roundtable discussions or workshops could be organized to facilitate this.
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5. The aforementioned decision of the Council shall enter into force on February 14, 2024.
  6. 2 years - February 14, 2026 shall be determined as the monitoring implementation period.

7. In accordance with the first part of Article 180 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia and the first paragraph of Article 24<sup>1</sup> of the Law of Georgia "On Educational Quality Enhancement", as well as Article 31<sup>2</sup>, paragraph 13 of the Accreditation Charter, the decision made by the Council can be appealed by the educational institution by submitting an appeal to the Appeals Council at the following address: City of Tbilisi Aleksidze 2nd Lane No. 2, or by filing a lawsuit in the Administrative Board of Tbilisi City Court at the following address: City of Tbilisi, Davit Agmashenebeli alley N64, within one month from the date of publication of the said decision and its supporting parts (Annex #1, Annex #2, Annex #3) on the website of the Center (www.eqe.ge).

Annex N. 1

№	Information on the education programme	
1	Education Programme Name	ზოგადი მედიცინა / General Medicine
2	Joint higher education programmes	-
3	Status	Institutional Accreditation
4	Given the status, the date and number of the decision of the council(s).	N36, 24.12.2020
5	Previous title of the programme in the case of re-accreditation	
6	Higher Education Level	The second cycle One-cycle
7	Admission prerequisites	-
8	Level of Qualification	7th
9	Name of Qualification	MD Physician, Republic of Armenia; Medical Doctor, Georgia
10	Indication of the right to provide the teaching of subject/subjects/group of subjects of the relevant cycle of the general education	-
11	Detailed field name and code according to ISCED - F - 2013	Medicine, 0912
12	Language of instruction	English
13	Total number of ECTS credits	360
14	Location	Yerevan, Koriuni 2, RA 0025
15	Eligibility to study and teach at the educational programme of convicted entrants	-
16	Effective date of the decision	February 14, 2024
17	The deadline for submitting the report/ conducting monitoring on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Accreditation Council	February 14, 2026
18	Expiry Date of the Accreditation	February 14, 2031