Order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia

№65/n of May 4, 2011

City of Tbilisi

On Approval of the Charter and Fees for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – webpage, 29.01.2020

Order №83/ n of July 7, 2022 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia - Webpage, 08.07.2022

Based on Article 3, paragraph 3, subparagraph "c" and Article 30 of the Law of Georgia on Education Quality Improvement, and Article 7 paragraph, 1 subparagraph "f" of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education,

Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – webpage, 29.03.2018
Order №49/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated April 24, 2018 – webpage, 24.04.2018
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – webpage, 08.07.2022
Order №93/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated May 31, 2024 – webpage, 03.06.2024

1 Approve the Charter for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions According to the Annex №1.

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – webpage, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

2 Approve Fees for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions According to the Annex №2.

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – webpage, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – webpage, 08.07.2022

2^1. Approve the Accreditation Standards for Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institution According to the Annex №3 of this Order.

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – webpage, 01.02.2018

2^2. Approve the service fees provided by the Legal Entity of Public Law - National Center for Education Quality Enhancement based on the Charter for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions (Annex № 1) approved by this Order, according to the Annex № 4.

Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – webpage, 29.03.2018
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – webpage, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – webpage, 08.07.2022

2^3. Approve the Rules and Conditions for Grouping Higher Educational Programmes into Clusters in accordance with the Annex № 5. .

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – webpage, 08.07.2022

2^4.Framework Document for Doctoral Level Education shall be Approved in Accordance with the

Annex №6.
Order №141/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated August 30, 2024 – webpage, 30.08.2024

3 The Order shall enter into force upon promulgation.

D. Shashkin

Annex №1

The Charter for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – webpage, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – webpage, 08.07.2022

Chapter I
General Provisions

Article 1. Regulation Scope

This Charter sets the conditions for meeting the Accreditation Standards (hereinafter - the Standards) for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter – the Institutions), the procedure of accreditation, monitoring of the fulfillment of accreditation conditions, recognition of accreditation granted by a foreign organisation, the rule and procedure of accreditation of the higher educational programme of a higher educational institution operating abroad, the rules and conditions for determining the threshold for students' places on the educational programme of Medical Doctor and for increasing this threshold, the rules for reviewing appeals, the authority and rules of procedure for the Accreditation Council of Educational Programmes and for the Appeals Council.

Order № 20/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 9, 2015 – web - page, 10.03.2015
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 2. Purpose and Content of Accreditation

1. The purpose of the accreditation is to establish systematic self-evaluation of the institutions and promote the development of quality assurance mechanisms to improve the quality of education through determining compliance of educational programmes of the institution with the accreditation standards.
2 The accreditation standards include:
a) Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme;
b) Teaching methodology and organisation, adequate evaluation of programme mastering;
c) Student achievements and individual work with them;
d) Providing teaching resources;
e) Teaching quality enhancement opportunities.
2^1. In accordance with this Charter, each accreditation standard is broken down into the components.
3. Accreditation is an external evaluation mechanism of the compliance of educational programmes with the standards, which, in order to develop the quality of education, by determining compliance with accreditation standards, promotes the establishment of a systematic self-evaluation process in the institution and the development of mechanisms for ensuring the quality of education. An institution shall carry out the self-evaluation in accordance with the procedure for evaluating its own activities and compile an accreditation self-evaluation report, while external evaluation shall be carried out by the Legal Entity of Public Law - the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (hereinafter

- the Center).

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 2^1. The Term for Rectifying the Deficiencies

1. Within the administrative proceedings envisaged by this Charter, the term for rectifying the deficiencies determined by the Center shall be no less than 5 and no more than 15 working days.

2. The term determined for the administrative proceedings shall be deemed as suspended during the term determined for rectifying the deficiencies.

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Chapter II

(removed)

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Chapter III

(removed)

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Chapter IV
Accreditation Standards of Educational Programmes of the Institutions

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 13. Accreditation Standards of Educational Programmes of the Institutions

Accreditation standards of educational programmes of the higher education institutions are determined by the Annex №3 of this Order.

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 14. (removed)

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Article 15. (removed)

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Article 16. (removed)

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Article 17. (removed)

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Article 17^1. Evaluation Guidebook of Accreditation Standards

The Evaluation Guidebook of Accreditation Standards shall be approved by the individual administrative

legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order № 20/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 9, 2015 – web - page, 10.03.2015

Article 17². Specifics of the Accreditation of a Joint Educational Programme

While defining the compliance with the accreditation standards of joint higher education programmes to be implemented together with a higher education institution/institution(s) recognised in accordance with the legislation of a foreign country, the approaches developed by the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for the quality assurance of joint higher education programmes are taken into account.

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Article 17³. Specifics of Accreditation of Doctoral Educational Programmes

When determining compliance of a doctoral educational programme with accreditation standards, the special requirements established by the Framework Document for Doctoral Level Education shall be taken into account.

Order №141/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated August 30, 2024 – web - page, 30.08.2024

Article 18. Specifics of the Accreditation of a Regulated Educational Programme

While defining the compliance of a regulated educational programme with the accreditation standards special requirements established by the Sectoral Benchmark Statements shall be taken into consideration.

Order №49/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated February 21, 2012 – web - page, 23.02.2012

Order №194/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 20, 2012 – web - page, 20.09.2012

Order №248/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated December 17, 2012 – web - page, 18.12.2012

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Article 18¹. (Removed - 17.12.2012, №248/n)

Order №194/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 20, 2012 – web - page, 20.09.2012

Order №248/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated December 17, 2012 – web - page, 18.12.2012

Chapter V
Rule for Conducting an Accreditation

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017

Article 19. Accreditation Process

1. Accreditation process includes the following stages:
a) Submitting an accreditation application;
b) Recognition of an educational institution as a seeker of accreditation (hereinafter - accreditation seeker) of respective educational programme/cluster of educational programmes;
c) Creation of Accreditation Expert Panel;
d) Preliminary study of the self-evaluation report of an accreditation seeker and the attached documents and elaboration of the accreditation site-visit agenda;
e) Implementation of the accreditation site-visit;
f) Elaboration of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel and submitting it to the Center;
g) Introduction of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel to an accreditation seeker;
h) Submission of the argumentative position on factual circumstances reflected in the report of accreditation expert panel by an accreditation seeker to the Center;
i) Elaboration of the final report by the accreditation expert panel and submitting it to the Center;
j) Introducing the report of the accreditation expert panel to an accreditation seeker;
k) Sending an accreditation application, the final report of the accreditation expert panel and the argumentative position on the draft report submitted to the Center by an accreditation seeker to the members of the Accreditation Council (hereinafter - the Council);
l) Oral hearing on accreditation issue and decision-making by the Accreditation Council of Educational Programmes;
m) Publication of a substantiated decision of the Council by the Center.
2. The decision related to accreditation by the Council is made within 180 calendar days after the official submission of the document confirming the payment of the accreditation fee to the Center.
3. Accreditation process can be done through the electronic system of quality management, the rule of management and use of which is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.
Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 19[1]. Preparatory Meeting for Accreditation Process

1. At least 1 month prior to submitting the accreditation application, the institution has the right to address to the Center with a request to hold a preparatory meeting for the accreditation process.
2. Preparatory meeting is consultative in nature and covers the following:
a) Planning and implementation of the self-evaluation process;
b) Planning and implementation of the accreditation site-visit;
c) Definition of accreditation standards and procedures.

3. In case provided by the paragraph 1 of this Article, an individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center shall be issued on determining the employee / employees of the Center authorised to conduct the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process and on conducting the preparatory meeting. The preparatory meeting for the accreditation process can be held remotely, using modern electronic tools of communication.

4. In case provided by the paragraph 3 of this Article, after the preparatory meeting of the accreditation process, an authorised employee of the Center draws up a written protocol, reflecting the information about the provided consultation. The institution is obliged to facilitate the implementation of the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process and the preparation of the corresponding protocol, as well as to designate an authorised person who will sign the protocol of the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process on behalf of the institution. On behalf of the Center, the protocol is signed by the employee / employees of the Center provided for in the paragraph 3 of the same Article.
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 20. Accreditation Application

1. The following shall be attached to the accreditation application submitted to the Center for the accreditation of the educational programme/cluster of educational programmes of the educational institution:

a) A self-evaluation report of an educational programme/cluster of educational programmes and supporting documents to be attached to it;

b) A document confirming the payment of the fee for accreditation application review;

c) In case of submission of a foreign educational programme, an international agreement or document certifying the consent issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

d) In case of submission of a joint higher educational programme, the contract signed between the implementing institutions of the joint higher education programme and the document confirming the agreement of the draft contract with the Center.

2. For the purpose of accreditation of one educational programme, it is permissible to submit an accreditation application to the Center if:

a) an institution implements an educational programme in the field of study corresponding to the "Classifier of the Fields of Study“, which cannot be grouped with other educational programme/programmes in accordance with the Annex No. 5 of this Order;

b) an institution, for the purposes of initial accreditation, submits an accreditation application of an educational programme to the Center.

c) for the purpose of accreditation, an institution submits an educational programme with conditional accreditation to the Center;

d) for the accreditation purposes, an institution submits the Medical Doctor educational programme or a Georgian language training educational programme to the Center.

e) for the accreditation purposes, an institution submits a joint higher educational programme to the Center.

3. For the purpose of the accreditation of educational programmes grouped in a cluster of educational programmes, one accreditation application submitted to the Center shall include no more than eight educational programmes.

4. The rules and conditions for grouping the higher education programmes into a cluster provided for in the paragraph 3 of this Article shall be determined in accordance with the Annex No. 5 of this Order.

5. An educational programme submitted for accreditation corresponds only one qualification according to the learning outcomes. Except for the case when one accreditation application envisages:

a) A master's degree educational programme, which, according to the learning outcomes, corresponds to more than one, but not more than three qualifications, considering the fields of studies within the same detailed field of “Classifier of the Fields of Study“, except for the regulated educational programmes;

b) A teacher training educational programme which, according to the learning outcomes, implies the teaching of the modules of subjects’ teaching methodology, within the limits of the number determined by the Sectoral Benchmark Statement of teacher training.

6. During each subsequent accreditation of the educational programme to maintain the continuity of the status of the educational programme, while submitting an accreditation application to the Center, the educational institution shall consider the terms defined by the paragraph 2 of Article 19 and Article 22 of this Charter in such a way that the 180 calendar days set by the Council for deciding on accreditation is devoted to the implementation of the stages of the accreditation process provided for from the subparagraph “c” to the subparagraph “m” of the paragraph 1 of Article 19 of this Charter. The institution shall be responsible for the consequences caused by not taking this into account.

7. (removed - 25.02.2025, №5/n).

8. (removed - 25.02.2025, №5/n).

9. (removed - 25.02.2025, №5/n).

10. (removed - 25.02.2025, №5/n).

11. (revoked - 07.07.2022, №83/n).

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12.In the case of participation by an international expert or experts in the accreditation expert group, the institution is entitled—either when submitting the accreditation application to the Center or within a deadline agreed upon in writing with the Center—to submit the completed accreditation self-evaluation report, as stipulated in the subparagraph "a" of the paragraph 1 of this Article, along with a translation of the accompanying documentation in English. The requirements for the English translation are specified in the approved accreditation self-evaluation report template.

13. In the case referred to in the paragraph 12 of this Article, the institution is responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the translated documentation. If a translation error is identified during the accreditation process that affects the determination of the educational programme’s compliance with accreditation standards, the Center is entitled to issue an individual administrative legal act terminating the administrative proceedings. In the event of a discrepancy between the Georgian and English versions of the documents, the Georgian text shall prevail.

14. In the case of participation by an international expert or experts in the accreditation expert group, and based on a petition submitted by the institution, upon payment of the fee specified in Appendix No. 2 of this Order, the Center shall provide an English translation of the completed accreditation self-evaluation report—as envisaged in the subparagraph "a" of the paragraph 1 of this Article—and the accompanying documentation required to be submitted in English, as indicated in the approved accreditation self-evaluation report form.

15.In the case provided by the paragraph 14 of this Article, in order to control the quality of the translation service, the Center submits the translation to the institution. Within 10 (ten) calendar days of receiving the translations, the higher education institution is authorised to submit any reasonable comments related to the translation to the Center. After the expiration of this period, the institution

shall be deemed to have no comments regarding the translations.

16. For the purpose of re - accreditation of an educational programme, submission of the accreditation application to the Center occurs twice a year – if the accreditation period of the educational programme expires from January 1 through July 1, submission of the accreditation application is carried out from July 1 of the previous year through November 1, whereas if the accreditation period of the educational programme expires from July 2 through December 31 of the calendar year, submission of the accreditation application is carried out from December 1 of the previous year through May 1 of the current year.

17. The deadlines for submitting the accreditation application to the Center established by the paragraph 16 of this Article do not apply:

a) to the accreditation application submitted to the Center for the purpose of the first accreditation of educational programme/educational programmes grouped within a cluster of educational programmes;

b) to accreditation applications submitted for the purpose of accrediting a conditionally accredited educational programme;

c) to accreditation applications submitted to the Center by higher educational institutions operating abroad.

18. The documentation stipulated in the paragraph 1 of this Article can be submitted to the Center through the electronic document management system or in physical form, in which case the documentation to

be attached to the accreditation self-evaluation report shall be submitted through the electronic information carrier to the Center.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Order №26/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 12, 2024 – web - page, 12.02.2024

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 21. Self-Evaluation

1. The goal of self-evaluation is to evaluate the readiness of an educational programme/a cluster of educational programmes to get accreditation.
2. Self-evaluation is done according to the accreditation standards.
3. Self-evaluation results are reflected in the accreditation self-evaluation report.
4. The form of accreditation self-evaluation of an educational programme and for the educational programmes grouped into a cluster of educational programmes is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center, which is public.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 - webpage, 23.08.2017

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 - webpage, 08.07.2022

Article 22. Recognition as Accreditation Seeker

1. The Center verifies, within 3 working days, and in the case of an accreditation application for educational programmes grouped in a cluster, within 7 working days, the compliance of documentation attached to the accreditation application with the requirements established by the paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Provision.2. If the institution fails to submit to the Center any of the documents required under the paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Charter, the Center shall set a deadline for the institution to rectify the deficiency. 3. If the deficiencies are rectified within the time period specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act recognizing the institution as an Accreditation Seeker. If the deficiencies are not rectified within the same time period, the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act refusing to review the application.

4. The individual administrative legal act of the Center on recognition of an institution as an accreditation seeker is issued no later than within 20 calendar days from the date of submission of application or rectification of deficiencies.

4^1. If necessary, the institution is entitled, on a one-time basis, to submit changes to the information provided in the self-evaluation report and/or the attached documentation to the Center within 15 calendar days of receiving individual administrative legal act referred to in the paragraph 4 of this Article. In addition, if the changes involve the replacement of any document, the institution shall also submit a written description / explanation of the changes along with the revised document. After the

expiration of this deadline, any changes to the information reflected in the self-evaluation report and the attached documentation shall be inadmissible.

4 [2]. After expiration of the term envisaged in the paragraph 4[1] of this Article, the changes to the self-evaluation report and attached documentation shall not be taken into account.

5. If the Accreditation Seeker fails to pay the accreditation fee within 15 calendar days of becoming acquainted with the individual administrative legal act recognizing it as an Accreditation Seeker, and fails to submit to the Center a document confirming payment within the same period, the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act terminating the administrative proceedings.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 23. Accreditation Expert Pool

1. An accreditation expert cannot be an employee of the Center, except in case when, he/she is employed at the Center for a period of less than 3 months in order to execute expert work of specific volume.

2. The accreditation experts pool shall consist of specialists in the relevant fields, taking into account the specifics of educational programmes.

3. The procedure for selection, activity and termination of membership of the expert pool is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Article 24. Creation of Accreditation Experts Panel

1. The Center shall issue an individual administrative - legal act regarding the establishment of the accreditation expert group and the site-visit to the institution seeking accreditation within 70 calendar days from the official submission to the Center of the document verifying payment of the accreditation fee.

2. The accreditation expert panel includes members of the experts pool - administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other institutions, international expert (except for those presented in individual form in accordance with the paragraph 2 of Article 20 of this Charter - Georgian language preparation, teacher training and veterinary training educational programmes), and student; The composition may also include the employers, the representatives of corresponding regulatory body and/or professional associations in case of a regulated educational programme and other persons with relevant qualifications.

2^1 (Removed - 07.07.2022, №83/ n).

2^2. In the event that an accreditation application includes a joint higher education programme to be implemented in cooperation with a higher education institution/institutions recognised under the legislation of a foreign country, the panel of accreditation experts shall include international expert(s) with appropriate qualifications from the respective implementing country/countries.

2^3. According to the paragraph 2 of Article 20 of this Provision, the institution is entitled to address the Center with a request to include an international expert in the accreditation expert group for the accreditation of educational programmes submitted individually, namely teacher preparation, special teacher preparation and veterinary preparation educational programmes, about which the institution specifies in the letter regarding the accreditation application submission.

3.The accreditation expert panel is chaired by the Chair of the panel. In the event that an international expert is included in the accreditation expert panel, he/she will be designated as the chairman of the accreditation expert panel.

3^1. In the case when an international expert, as chairman of the expert group, cannot fulfill his/her functions during the preparation of the draft report/report, the duties of the chairman of the expert group is assigned to another expert from the same group.

4. An accreditation expert is obliged to declare any conflict of interest with the institution seeking accreditation where the site visit is to be conducted.

5.An institution seeking accreditation is authorised to submit a recusal of an accreditation expert/experts to the Center within 2 working days of receiving an individual administrative legal act referred to in the paragraph 1 of this Article.

6.The institution is obliged to justify the recusal of the accreditation expert/experts. The basis for recusal may be the conflict of interest of the chair and/or member of the accreditation expert panel.

7. For the purposes of this Charter, a conflict of interest shall be understood as the circumstances outlined in the Rules on Accreditation Experts' Selection, Activities, and Termination of Membership of the Expert Pool, and/or the circumstances envisaged by Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.8. The Center shall review the recusal claim within three business days. If the recusal application is granted, the Center shall decide to amend the composition of the accreditation expert panel.

9. If the application for recusal of an accreditation expert or experts is not granted, the accreditation expert panel shall continue its activities with the same composition.10.The duration of the site-visit and the number of members of the accreditation expert panel shall be determined by the Center under the individual administrative legal act stipulated in the paragraph 1 of this Article, considering the volume and specifics of work to be done according to the Rules Accreditation Experts' Selection, and Activities, and Termination of Membership of Expert Pool.

11. To effectively manage the activities of the accreditation expert group within the framework established by law and to ensure a unified approach to the evaluation, the Center shall assign its employee(s) to participate in the site visit conducted by the accreditation expert group.12.The remuneration of the international expert is determined in accordance with the rules of remuneration of experts approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center, in the labour contract signed between the Center and the international expert, and shall be added to the accreditation fee.

13.The Center shall send the institution an invoice based on the labor contract signed with the international expert. If the institution fails to pay the amount due for the international expert's remuneration within 15 calendar days of receiving the invoice, and does not submit a document confirming the payment within the same period, the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act terminating the administrative proceedings.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №93/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated May 31, 2024 – web - page, 03.06.2024
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web – page, 27.02.2025

Article 25. Evaluation of Accreditation Self-evaluation Report

1. The Center shall send to each member of the accreditation expert panel the documents defined in subparagraphs "a", "c" and "d" of the paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Charter after the expiry of the term provided in the paragraph 5 of Article 24 of this Charter.

2. The Chair of the accreditation expert panel shall ensure distribution of duties among the members of the panel to study the completed self-evaluation report and the accompanying documentation and determine their compliance with the accreditation standards.

3. Before the accreditation site-visit, the expert panel reviews the completed self-evaluation report and accompanying documentation, based on this determines the agenda of the site-visit and agrees it with the Center. In the process of agreeing on the agenda, the Center considers the argumentative opinions of an institution. The Center sends the final version of the agenda to the institution.

4. The accreditation expert group, within the framework of a preparatory meeting(s) held before the accreditation visit, determines additional issues to be studied during the site-visit in order to draft a report.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 26. Accreditation Site-Visit

1. The Chair of the accreditation experts panel ensures distribution of duties among members of the accreditation experts panel during the site-visit.

2. A member of the accreditation expert panel participates in the work of the panel, ensures the implementation of the functions envisaged by the Rules of Accreditation Experts' Selection, and Activities, and Termination of Membership of Expert Pool.

3. The accreditation expert is obliged, according to the pre - agreed agenda, to study all issues within the framework of the accreditation site-visit to draft the report, including conducting interviews with stakeholders, requesting additional documentation if necessary, carrying out visual inspection and when necessary, implementing activities not provided in the agenda.

4. (Removed - 10.09.2020, №96/n);

5. The institution is obliged to support the accreditation expert group in conducting the accreditation visit and in the preparation of the relevant report, to provide all documentation necessary for accreditation purposes, and to facilitate interviews with individuals requested by the expert group.

5^1. In the event of the participation of an international expert in the Accreditation Experts Panel, the Center shall be responsible for providing the necessary translation services during the accreditation visit. The Center shall ensure that no conflicts of interest arise between the interpreter and the accreditation seeker during the selection of the interpreter.

6. On the last day of the site-visit, the accreditation expert panel shall present the main findings to an accreditation seeker.

7. If the institution interrupts the activities of an accreditation experts panel, the Center is entitled to issue an individual administrative legal act terminating the administrative proceedings.

8. When necessary, part of the functions and duties stipulated in this Provision for the accreditation expert group may also be performed remotely or in a hybrid format, using modern electronic communication tools.

9. The methodology of the evaluation process conducted remotely or in hybrid format shall be

approved by an individual administrative - legal act of the Director of the Center.
Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

26[1]. Definition of the Four-Level Evaluation Scale

1. The educational programme is evaluated against the standard component as “complies with standard requirement”, if the educational programme fully meets the requirements of the standard component.

2. The educational programme is evaluated against the standard component as "substantially complies with standard requirement" if the educational programme mostly satisfies the requirements of the standard component and the institution can demonstrate relevant results. However, the institution has weaknesses and demonstrates a willingness to solve those shortcomings within a short period of time (no more than 1 year) and it has a plan ensured with relevant resources.

3. The educational programme is evaluated against the standard component as “partially complies with standard requirement” if the educational programme meets the component requirements on a basic level and has such areas for improvement that require the mobilization of significant resources. However, the institution has a willingness and the plan to overcome weaknesses ensured with relevant resources in the medium-term period (more than 1 year, not more than 2 years).

4. The educational programme is evaluated against the standard component as “does not comply with standard requirement" if the educational programme fails to satisfy at least the requirements of the standard component at the level defined by the paragraph 3 of this Article.

Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018

Article 27. Evaluation of Compliance with the Accreditation Standards

1. Compliance with accreditation standards is assessed using a four-level scale: “complies with standard requirements,” "substantially complies with standard requirements", “partially complies with standard requirements,” and "does not comply with standard requirements”.

2. An educational programme "complies with standard requirements" if the educational programme is evaluated as "complies with standard requirements" in relation to all components of this standard, or is evaluated as "substantially complies with standard requirements" for at most one component, while for the remaining components is evaluated as "complies with standard requirements".

3. The educational programme "substantially complies with standard requirements" if the educational programme is evaluated as "substantially complies with standard requirements" in relation to more than one component of this standard and is not evaluated as "partially complies with standard requirements" in relation to more than one component". Also, in the case when it is evaluated as "partially complies with standard requirements" in relation to only one component of this standard". In these cases, the educational programme is not evaluated as "does not comply with standard requirements" in relation to any other component.

4. An educational programme "partially complies with standard requirements" if the educational

programme is evaluated against more than one component of this standard as "partially complies with standard requirements" and is not evaluated in regard to any other component as "does not comply with standard requirements".

5. An educational programme "does not comply with standard requirements" if the educational programme is evaluated against at least one component of the standard as "does not comply with standard requirements".

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 27[1]. Preparing the Report

1. The draft report of the accreditation expert panel shall be elaborated and submitted to the Center as a result of study of the self-evaluation report and documentation attached to it and the accreditation site-visit.

2. The draft report shall describe the compliance of the educational programme with the accreditation standards.

3. The Center shall define the formal compliance of the accreditation expert panel's draft report with the requirements established by the individual administrative legal acts issued by the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraphs 3 of Article 23 and paragraph 9 of this Article of this Charter. If the compliance is established, the draft report shall be sent to the institution.

4. If necessary, to ensure formal compliance of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel, it shall be returned back to the accreditation expert panel.

5. Within 5 working days after the introduction of the draft report on the educational programme, and within 10 working days in the case of a cluster of educational programmes, the accreditation seeker shall submit an argumentative position regarding the factual circumstances provided in the draft report in written form to the Center, which then shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

6. In case of submission of the argumentative position provided in the paragraph 5 of this Article, after getting acquainted with it or in case of non-submission of argumentative position, after expiry of term envisaged by the paragraph 5 of this Article, the expert panel shall elaborate the final report and submit it to the Center.

6[1]. In the case of submission of the argumentative position provided for in the paragraph 5 of this Article, the report formed by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on sharing or not sharing the argumentative position by the expert panel.

7. In the case of participation of an international expert in the expert panel, the Center shall provide the necessary translation service to form the draft report and final version of report of the expert panel. In case of difference between the Georgian and English texts, the preference is given to the Georgian one.

8. The Center shall send the accreditation expert panel final report to the institution.

9. The forms of the educational programme and the cluster of educational programmes' accreditation expert panel report and requirements set for them, are approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 27². Oral Hearing

1. The Council shall make a decision on accreditation based on the accreditation documents, accreditation expert panel report, the argumentative position of the institution on the accreditation expert panel draft report and the oral hearing.

2. The session of the Council is convened by the Chair of the Council, or the Director of the Center.

3. The interested party shall be notified on the oral hearing at least 7 calendar days prior to the oral hearing. The interested party participating in administrative proceedings shall be authorised to participate in oral hearing.

4. The oral hearing shall be led by the Chair of the Council, in case of his/her absence it shall be led by the deputy, while in case of absence of both the Chair and the deputy it shall be led by a member of the Council selected through majority of attendees' votes. If the secretary of the Council is unable to perform his/her duties, such duties are carried out by one of the members of the Council, as requested by the Chair.

5. The Council meeting is authorised, if it is attended by more than half of the full composition, but no less than 3 members. In the case of participation of invited members of the Council, the Council is authorised if it is attended by more than half of the full composition. The member of the Council who has self - recusal and/or recusal in relation to the issue under discussion are not counted in the number specified in this paragraph.

6. The Council session is public. The chairperson of the session is authorised to declare session as closed in the cases envisaged by the legislation.

7. Members of the accreditation expert panel participate in the oral hearing, while the representatives of the Center and/or other interested parties are entitled to take part in the discussion with the consent of the Chair of the Council.

8. By decision of the Council, it is possible to invite another expert in the relevant field, a member of a professional organisation, a field specialist, or another relevant person to the oral hearing.

9. The Chair of the session is obliged to ensure that the important circumstances of the case are examined at the oral hearings.

10. Stakeholders participating in the administrative proceedings are entitled to place a motion for further investigation of the circumstances that are important to the case.

11. When making a decision on the oral hearing, the document of the accreditation seeker elaborated after the accreditation site visit shall not be taken into consideration.

12. Minutes of the Council meeting shall be signed within 10 working days after the session by the Chair of the Council and the Secretary. Based on the minutes of the Council sessions an individual administrative legal act is issued signed by the Chair of the Council and Secretary.

13. The functions and duties of the members of the Council stipulated by this regulation can also be performed remotely or semi-remotely using modern electronic means of communication (if possible).
Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 - webpage, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 27^3. Composition of the Council

1. The term of office of the Council shall be determined by one year and the term of office of invited members of the Council is determined by two years. Activities of the Council members will be remunerated (will be given honorarium) from the Center's own revenues. The Rule of issuing and amount of remuneration (honorarium) of the member of the Council shall be determined by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center. The members of the Council are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia, upon the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

$1.^1$ Accreditation Council is composed of permanent and invited members. Invited members participate in the activities of the Council only if the accreditation application submitted by the institution indicates the regulated academic higher education programme (hereinafter - educational programme of Medical Doctor) provided in the subparagraph "b" of paragraph 2 of Article 75 of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education. Invited members of the Accreditation Council have the right to vote.1^2. During the selection of the candidates of invited members of the Council, the Ministry is guided by the requirements and criteria established by the World Federation for Medical Education in relation to the composition of the Council.

2. No more than 2 persons according to the field specifics shall be determined by the Chair of the Council to participate with the right to deliberative vote in the decision-making process of the Council. The manner and amount of remuneration for their activities (honorary payment) is determined by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center. Invited persons will be compensated for their activities (honorary will be given) from the Center's own income.

3.A member of the Council can have his/her term terminated before expiration based on the initiative of the Prime Minister of Georgia, or based on as follows:

a) On the basis of a personal statement;

b) Upon the entry into force of the court conviction against him/her;

c) In case of recognition as an entity with limited legal capacity or as a support recipient by a court, unless otherwise provided by the court's decision;

d) In case of systematic absence from the sessions, if this hinders the work of the Council;

e) In case of violation of the norms envisaged by Article 27^4 of this Charter.

f) Taking into account the Center's motion/ on its own initiative based on the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

4.Termination of authority of the member of the Council before expiration of the term is confirmed by an individual administrative legal act of the Prime Minister of Georgia. In case of termination of

the mandate before the term, the Prime Minister, as recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science, appoints a new member, within one month, for the remaining term of the previous member.
Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №26/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 12, 2024 – web - page, 12.02.2024

Article 27^4. Rules and Principles of Activity of the Council

1. A member of the Council shall be independent, objective, and impartial in fulfilling his/her functions.

2. A member of the Council shall maintain neutrality in any situation, and shall not be subject to the influence of interested parties, regardless of their status.

3. A member of the Council shall not disclose any information and/or documents obtained while performing his/her official duties, and shall not use them for personal interests.

4. A member of the Council shall be focused on cooperation and shall not try to display privileged position. He/she shall not publicly doubt competence of experts, representatives of institutions, members of Council, and members of the Appeals Council, even if he/she does not share their position.

5. A member of the Council shall be responsible for declaring about any conflict of interest and self-recusal before the oral hearing. A conflict of interest can be any circumstance stipulated in Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

5^1. In the presence of the conflict of interests provided for in the paragraph 5 of this Article, the member of the Council shall not participate in the process of discussion, decision-making and voting] at the Council session.

5^2. The member of the Council provided for in the paragraph 5^1 of this Article is not authorised to present the position of the interested party - the institution at the meeting of the Council.

6. Organisational-financial support of the Council is ensured by the Accreditation Council Secretariat (hereinafter - the Secretariat) and its functions are fulfilled by the Center. Composition of the secretariat is defined using individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

7. The Secretariat sends the session agenda and the following documents to the Council members 7 days prior to the oral hearing:

a) Self-evaluation report of the accreditation seeker and attached documents;

b) Accreditation expert panel's final report;

c) The argumentative position presented by the accreditation seeker on the draft report of the accreditation expert panel;

d) Additional documentation requested from the institution within the framework of the accreditation visit, in accordance with the paragraph 3 of Article 26 of this Provision.

8. Before the oral hearing, for full examination and assessment of all substantial issues, each member of the Council is responsible for reviewing documents described in the paragraph 7 of this Article in advance. A

member of the Council is entitled to request additional documents for reviewing the subject matter, and the Council is entitled to postpone the oral hearing for that reason, with consideration of remaining time frame of the administrative proceeding.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 - webpage, 23.08.2017
Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 - webpage, 01.02.2018
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 - webpage, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 - webpage, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 - webpage, 27.02.2025

Article 27^5. Decisions Regarding Accreditation

1. The decisions made by the Council can be as follows:

a) On accreditation;

b) On conditional accreditation;

c) On refusal of accreditation;

d) On cancellation of accreditation.

2. The decision of the Council shall be made by at least 3/4 of the members attending the session. In addition, in case of participation of invited members of the Council, the Council shall make a decision by no less than 3/4 of the attending members, from which the votes of the invited members shall be no less than 3/4 of the invited members.

2^1. The Council makes the decision provided for in the paragraph 1 of this Article on the basis of secret voting. Furthermore, the minutes of the Council meeting ensure publicity of the ballot results.

3. In case of the decision envisaged by paragraphs "a" and "b" of this Article, the Council shall be authorised to give recommendations to the accreditation seeker.

3^1 . In case of the decision made by the Council to conduct verification (monitoring) of compliance with accreditation conditions, together with the decision stipulated in the subparagraph "a" of the paragraph 1 of this Article, the institution, within 15 calendar days from receipt of the written notification sent by the Center regarding payment of the fee established for verification of compliance with accreditation conditions, must submit to the Center the document confirming payment of the aforementioned fee. In case of non - payment of the fee within this timeframe, the Council considers the issue of revoking accreditation for the respective educational programme upon submission of the Center.

$3.^2$ If the decision envisaged in the paragraph “c” and “d” of the first paragraph of this Article is made during an academic year, the Council is authorised, based on petition of the respective institution and considering the lawful interests of the students, in order to maintain continuity of the academic process, despite the remaining term of the accreditation, to allow students to complete the ongoing academic year at respective educational institution upon proper decision and indicate no later than the end of the ongoing academic year as the date of entering the decision on cancellation of accreditation or refusal to re-accreditation into force.

$3.^3$ In relation to the medical doctor educational programme (except for medical doctor educational programmes of higher educational institutions operating abroad), when making a decision stipulated in the subparagraph "a" or "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article by permanent and invited members of the Council, the Council determines, within the limits of the maximum number of student places established

for the institution, the maximum number of student places for the medical doctor educational programme during the accreditation period, in accordance with the procedure established by this Provision. A member of the Council is not entitled to refrain from voting.

4. A Council member does not have the right to refrain from voting.

5. The Council is obliged to substantiate its decision.

6. The decision envisaged by the paragraph 1 of this Article is published on the Center's website within 10 working days after its adoption. Together with the decision, the expert panel report is also published on the webpage.

7. The decision provided in paragraph 1 of this Article shall enter into force on the day of its publication on the website of the Center.

7^1. The purpose of continuity of educational programme accreditation, in the decision stipulated in the subparagraphs "a" and "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article for each subsequent accreditation of the educational programme should specify the date when the decision takes effect, which the Council determines taking into consideration the timeframe presented based on the request of the institution.

7^2. (removed - 25.02.2025, №5/n).

8.The accreditation is canceled in case of expiration of authorisation term or cancellation of authorisation.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 27⁶. Decision on Accreditation or Conditional Accreditation

1. In the case of the first and every subsequent accreditation of the educational programme, if during Council's evaluation of the educational programme's compliance with the accreditation standards the educational programme:

a) is evaluated against all standards, as "complies with standard requirements", the Council makes decision on accreditation;

b) is evaluated against one standard as "substantially complies with standard requirements" and is not evaluated against any of the standards as "partially complies with standard requirements" or "does not comply with standard requirements", the Council shall make a decision on accreditation and shall define the term for the institution to submit the report on the fulfillment of the recommendations that will be reflected in the minutes of the Council session;

b[1]) Concerning the standard stipulated in the subparagraphs "a" or "d" of Article 2, paragraph 2 of this Provision, if it was evaluated as "substantially complies with the standard requirements" and in relation to any standard it is not evaluated as "partially complies with the standard requirements" or "does not comply with the standard requirements" and the substantial compliance of the standard results from the evaluation of at most one component of that standard as '"partially complies with the standard requirements", the Council makes a decision on accreditation and requests the Center to conduct institutional monitoring according to established procedures (within a maximum of 2 years), which is reflected in the Council meeting minutes;

c) is evaluated against at least one standard as "partially complies with standard requirements" and is not evaluated against any of the standards as "does not comply with standard requirements", the Council makes a decision on conditional accreditation;

d) is evaluated against at least one standard as "does not comply with standard requirements", the Council makes a decision to refuse the accreditation.

1[1]. In the case of the next accreditation of an educational programme with conditional accreditation, if the educational programme was assessed by the Council in relation to at least one accreditation standard as "partially in compliance with the requirements of the standard", the Council makes a decision to refuse accreditation;

2. The deadline for the submission of the report determined by the Council in subparagraph "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not exceed the period provided in paragraph 2 of Article 26[1] of this Charter. The calculation of the deadline for submission of the report shall start from the day of entry into force of the decision provided for subparagraph "b" of the paragraph 1 of this Article and the final date of submission of the report shall be indicated in the same decision.

2.[1] A form of the report on fulfillment of the Council's recommendations shall be approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

2.[2] The institution shall attach the document confirming payment of the fee to the report in accordance with the form provided in the paragraph 2[1] of this Article.

2.[3] The Center shall verify the compliance of the report submitted by the institution with the requirements stipulated in the paragraphs 2[1] and 2[2] of this Article within 3 working days.

2.[4] If the institution shall not submit the report considered by the paragraph 2[1] of this Article or the documents attached to it to the Center, it shall set the term for the institution for rectifying deficiencies.

2. [5] The report submitted by the institution according to the procedure established by the paragraph 2[1] of this Article is studied by a member of the accreditation expert body who is an expert in the corresponding field. The Center sends information to the institution about the accreditation expert who will study the report submitted by the institution.

2.[6] Upon request from the expert envisaged by the paragraph 2[5] of this Article, the Center is authorised to request respective documentation from the institution.

2.[7] An expert shall elaborate a conclusion as a result of the examination of the report, as well as, of the documentation referred in the paragraph 2[6] of this Article.

2.[8] A form of the conclusion on the report on the fulfillment of the recommendations submitted by the institution shall be approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

2.[9] The Center shall establish formal compliance of the report elaborated by the expert with the form envisaged by the paragraph 2[8] of this Article. If necessary, to ensure formal compliance, the report is returned back to the expert.

2.[10] Taking into account the paragraphs 2[7] - 2[9] of this Article, the report drawn up by the expert will be submitted to the Council and also to the relevant institution for information.

2.[11] The report submitted by the educational institution and the expert's opinion will be discussed at the meeting of the relevant council. The Council is authorized to approve a report or to refer to the Center with a petition on the implementation of monitoring at the educational institution for examination of the accreditation conditions, which will be reflected in the minutes of the session.

2.[12] The decision provided in the paragraph 2[11] of this Article shall be adopted within 90 calendar days from the submission of the report by the institution.

2.[13] Issues of self - recusal and/or recusal of the accreditation expert are regulated in accordance with the paragraphs 4 - 9 of Article 24 of this Provision.

3. The term of accreditation for educational programme is 7 years. The educational programme (except for educational programmes of higher educational institutions operating abroad) that is submitted to the Center for accreditation during a calendar year when educational programmes classified in the field of study of the aforementioned educational programme do not undergo re - accreditation, shall be granted accreditation until the next accreditation period for educational programmes classified in the field of study of the aforementioned educational programme.
4. The term of conditional accreditation for the educational programme is no more than 4 years. The educational programme (except for educational programmes of higher educational institutions operating abroad) that is submitted to the Center for accreditation during a calendar year when educational programmes classified in the field of study of the aforementioned educational programme do not undergo re - accreditation, shall be granted conditional accreditation until the next accreditation period for educational programs classified in the field of study of the aforementioned educational programme, but for no more than 4 years. Decision on conditional accreditation cannot be made twice consecutively.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 27^7. Accreditation of Joint Higher Education Programmes

1. To implement the joint higher education programme provided in the paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 49^1 of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, an agreement shall be concluded between its implementing institutions, which shall define the content and forms of implementation of the joint higher education programme. The draft contract provided by this paragraph shall be agreed with the Center.

2. The draft agreement form of the contract provided in the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be approved by an individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. In order to implement the joint higher education programme provided in the paragraph 1 of this Article, the draft contract must be submitted prior to the submission of the accreditation application and must be accompanied by a document confirming the payment of the contract agreement fee.

4. In case of agreement on the draft agreement, the institution, together with the accreditation application for the joint educational programme provided in paragraph 1 of this Article and the documents provided in the paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Charter, shall also submit the document about agreement on draft contract with the Center according to the form envisaged by the paragraph 2 of this Article and also the contract signed considering the agreed draft.

5. Accreditation of the joint higher education programme provided in the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be carried out in accordance with the rules established by this Charter.

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Article 27^8. Legal Consequences for Refusing the Accreditation or Cancellation of Accreditation

1. In case of refusal or cancellation of accreditation of the higher education programme of a higher education institution:

a) the institution is restricted to accept students / entrants / master 's degree candidates / doctoral candidates to the educational programme and the Georgian language preparation educational programme for which the accreditation was refused, the accreditation was canceled or the accreditation period has expired;

b) a student, who studies on the accredited educational programme with the State funding shall be entitled according to the paragraph 3^2 of Article 27^5 of this Charter to continue the studies at the same higher education programme for the term (if any) established by the Accreditation Council and to receive State funding or exercise the right of mobility, transfer to other accredited educational programme and transfer the remaining funds allocated by the State to him/her to that higher educational programme;

c) a student, who studies on the accredited educational programme with the State funding, according to the paragraph 3^2 of Article 27^5 of this Charter, after expiration of the term (if any) established by the Accreditation Council, shall be subject to termination of the student status for 5 years after the Accreditation Council's decision on refusing or canceling the accreditation enters into force and this student shall be entitled to exercise its right for mobility.

d) an entrant who successfully passed the Unified National Examinations and obtained a right to be enrolled to the higher education programme or to the Georgian language preparation programme

according to the ranking document approved by the LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center, shall be authorised to exercise the right of mobility;

e) a candidate of master's programme, who has been listed in the ranking document ofwith the coefficients of the master's exams shall be authorized to exercise the right of mobility;

2. In case of expiration of the accreditation period for an educational programme or Georgian language preparation educational programme, based on a reasoned petition of the institution, based on the decision of the Council, the student has the right to continue studying in the same educational programme until the end of the ongoing academic semester and receive State funding. Within 5 years after the end of the ongoing academic semester, the student 's status is suspended and he/she is entitled to exercise the right of mobility.

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 27[9]. Determining the Maximum Number of Places for Students in the Educational Programme of a Medical Doctor

1. The basis for determining the maximum number of student places for the medical doctor educational programme (except for medical doctor educational programme of higher educational institutions operating abroad) is the number of places indicated in the accreditation application submitted by the institution to the Center, or in the application regarding increase of the maximum number of student places.

2. The maximum number of student places indicated by the institution in the application stipulated in the paragraph 1 of this Article must be based on the methodology for determining the maximum number of student places for the institution and educational programme, which takes into consideration the requirements of corresponding sectoral benchmarks, the specifics of the educational programme, human resources and the resources of the institution, practice facilities, laboratory and clinical bases.

3. The Council shall review the application provided for in the paragraph 1 of this Article in accordance with the procedure established by this Charter and, taking into account the report of the accreditation expert panel and the opinions of other interested parties, make the appropriate decision by at least 3/4 of the members present at the meeting, of which the votes of the invited members must be at least 3/4 of the invited members present.

4. The Council is authorised to agree to the institution's request or to reduce the maximum number of student places requested by it. The Council shall substantiate its decision.

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 27[10]. Increasing the Maximum Number of Places for Students in the Educational Programme of a Medical Doctor

1. The institution, within the limits of the maximum number of student places set for it by the authorization council, is entitled to submit a written application to the Center for increasing the maximum number of student places in the educational programme of a Medical Doctor.

2. The written application form for increasing the maximum number of places for students to be presented to the Center is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center, which is published publicly.

3. Within the framework of the administrative proceedings provided for in this article, the Director of the Center issues an individual administrative legal act on the creation of the accreditation expert panel and on the visit to the institution.

4. The accreditation expert panel includes members of the expert pool - administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff and a student of other institutions, also the composition may include employers, the representatives of corresponding regulatory body and/or professional associations and other persons with relevant qualifications.

5. After examining the application stipulated in the paragraph 1 of this Article and accompanying documentation, considering the methodology for determining maximum number of student places for the institution and educational programme, relevant Sectoral Benchmark Statement requirements, programme specifics, human resources and institutional resources including practice facilities, laboratory and clinical bases, the accreditation expert group prepares a draft report based on the site - visit results and submits it to the Center.

6. The Center shall define the formal compliance of the accreditation expert panel's draft report with the requirements established by the individual administrative legal acts issued by the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this Charter and the paragraph 14 of this Article. Upon determination of the compliance, the draft report is sent to the institution. If necessary, to ensure formal compliance of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel, it shall be returned back to the accreditation expert panel.

7. Within 5 calendar days upon reviewing the draft report of the accreditation experts panel, the higher education institution submits to the Center a written argumentative position related to the factual circumstances in the draft report. Then, it is sent to the Experts Panel and the Council.

8. In case of submission of the argumentative position provided in the paragraph 7 of this Article, after its examination or in case of non-submission of the argumentative position, after the expiration of the period envisaged in the paragraph 7 of this Article, the accreditation expert panel prepares the final version of the report and submits to the Center.

9. In case of submission of the argumentative position provided for in the paragraph 7 of this Article, the report formed by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on sharing or not sharing the argumentative position by the expert panel.

10. The Center shall send the accreditation expert panel final report to the institution and the Council.

11. The decision to increase the maximum number of student places is made in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 27^9 of this Provision.

12. A decision to increase the maximum number of student places in the educational programme of Medical Doctor or to refuse to increase the maximum number of student places shall be made within 90 calendar days after the submission of a written application for increasing the number of student places to the Center.

13. Exceeding the maximum number of student places in the educational programme of a Medical Doctor shall be the basis for revocation of accreditation for that programme, except in the case of exceeding the maximum number of student places upon restoration of student status.

14. At the initiative of the Center, based on the verification of the accreditation conditions in accordance with Article 31 of this Charter, according to the decision of the Council, it is possible to reduce the maximum number of places for students in the educational programme of a Medical Doctor.

15. The form of the report of the accreditation expert panel on the increase of the maximum number of student places in the programme of Medical Doctor is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 28. Recognition of the Accreditation Granted by a Foreign Organisation

1. Accreditation of higher educational programme, including a joint higher education programme developed in accordance with the requirements of Georgian legislation, may be carried out by a foreign organization with the relevant competence recognised by the Center.

2. For the purposes established in this Article, the Center recognises accreditation granted by an organisation operating on the territory of European Union member countries, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries, which is a member of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and which has the authority to grant accreditation according to the procedure established by the legislation of the respective country. The higher educational institution provides the Center with preliminary information about the selected organisation and educational programme (including the title of the programme, qualification/qualifications to be awarded, programme components, number of credits, distribution of credits).

2^1. For the purposes established in this Article, in the case of medical doctor educational programme, the Center recognises accreditation if the programme is accredited in Georgia and simultaneously has been granted accreditation by an organisation operating on the territory of European Union member countries, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries, which is a member of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), which has the authority to grant accreditation according to the procedure established by the legislation of the respective country and has obtained recognition from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). The institution provides the Center with preliminary information about the selected organisation and educational programme.

2^2. For the purposes established in this Article, the Center is authorised to also recognize accreditation granted by an ENQA affiliated member operating on the territory of European Union member countries, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries, which represents an organisation registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and which has the authority to grant accreditation according to the procedure established by the legislation of the respective country and conducts evaluation of programmes

in specific fields and uses relevant Sectoral Benchmark Statement for educational programme accreditation. The higher educational institution provides the Center with preliminary information about the selected organisation and educational programme (including indication of the programme title, qualification / qualifications to be awarded, programme components, number of credits and distribution of credits).

3. In the cases stipulated in paragraphs 2, 2^1 and 2^2 of this Article, recognition shall be carried out based on the submission by the institution to the Center of the relevant application, the report of the accreditation expert group created by the foreign organisation and the decision made by the foreign organization regarding accreditation of the educational programme.

4. For the purposes envisaged by this Article, the Center is authorised to recognize the accreditation granted by the organisation operating in the United States of America, which has such authority according to the rules established by the relevant legislation.

5. An institution addresses the organization envisaged by the paragraph 4 of this Article with an accreditation application on the basis of preliminary consent from the Center to recognize the accreditation granted by this organisation. The prior approval of the Center is issued if the external evaluation mechanism of the organisation, in terms of quality assurance, is compatible with the accreditation standards and procedures operating on the national level. Otherwise, the Center refuses to recognise the accreditation granted by the organisation indicated by the institution.

6. The basis for commencement of proceedings envisaged by the paragraph 5 of this Article is the submission of a written application and document confirming the payment of the fee for review of this application to the Center by the institution. The written application provided for in this paragraph shall be submitted to the Center no less than 30 calendar days before addressing to the organization provided for in paragraph 4 of this Article. The written application envisaged by this paragraph must consider information about relevant educational programme (including indication of programme duration, components comprising the programme, credit distribution and qualification to be awarded), also the information on the status and authority of the organisation implementing accreditation, on the standards and procedures of accreditation.

7. In the case provided for in the paragraph 4 of this Article, the recognition is carried out by the institution based on the submission of a relevant application to the Center, the report of the accreditation expert panel created by the foreign organisation, and the decision made by the foreign organization on the accreditation of the educational programme.

8. Except for the cases stipulated in the paragraphs 2, 2^1, 2^2 and 4 of this Article, the Center is authorised to recognise accreditation granted by a foreign organisation if the external evaluation mechanism used by this organisation is compatible, from a quality assurance standpoint, with accreditation standards and procedures operating at the national level and such recognition is considered in international agreements. Prior to the conclusion of an international agreement, the Center, based on a request from the structure responsible for preparing the draft of this agreement, ensures the determination of compatibility of the external evaluation mechanisms of the foreign organisation with accreditation standards and procedures operating at the national level.

9. In the case provided for in the paragraph 8 of this Article, the recognition is carried out by the institution based on the submission of a relevant application to the Center, the report of the accreditation expert panel created by a foreign organisation, and the decision made by a foreign organisation on the accreditation of the educational programme. Submitted application shall include information about respective educational programme (including the title, the qualification(s) to be

granted, the programme components, the programme duration, the number of credits, the credit distribution).

10. The decision on the recognition of accreditation by the Center shall be made no later than 30 calendar days after the submission of the documentation provided in the paragraphs 3, 7 and 9 of this Article. If a period of more than 30 calendar days is necessary to establish the circumstances relevant to the case, the Center is authorised to make a decision to increase this period up to 60 calendar days at the beginning of the administrative proceedings.

11. The institution is obliged to notify the Center of any changes in the accreditation decision granted by a foreign organisation stipulated in this Article.

12. 12. The Center is authorised, with prior agreement with a foreign organisation stipulated in the paragraphs 2, 2^1, 2^2, 4 and 8 of this Article, to conduct verification of accreditation conditions granted by the foreign organisation through unscheduled monitoring according to the procedure established by this Provision. The accreditation expert group report is sent to the relevant foreign organisation and the institution.

13.The institution is obliged to notify the Center about the information on the results of examination of the accreditation conditions by the foreign organisation.

14.The application form for recognition of accreditation granted by a foreign organisation provided in this Article shall be approved by an individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Chapter V^1.

Authority and Rules of Operation of the Appeals Council

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Article 28^1. Composition of the Appeals Council

1. The decisions envisaged by the paragraph 1 of Article 27^5 of this Charter can be appealed at the Appeals Council by the institution within one month after familiarisation with it, according to procedure established by the law. The appeal submitted by the educational institution to the Center must be accompanied by a document confirming the payment of the fee for the admissibility for the review of the complaint.

2. Members of the Appeals Council are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia, as recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The term of office of the Appeals Council is set at two years. Members of the Appeals council cannot be public servants, members of Authorization Council or member of a Council.

3. Members of the Appeals Council are paid for their work (are given honorarium) from the Center's revenues. Rule of issuing and amount of remuneration (giving honorarium) of the Appeals Council

shall be determined by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

4. The Appeals Council is functionally independent from the institution and the State agencies.

5. Termination of the mandate of the member of the Appeals Council before the expiration term takes place through the initiative of the Prime Minister, or based on the following:

a) On the basis of a personal statement;

b) Upon the entry into force of the conviction of the court against him/her;

c) If the court declares him / her incapable;

d) In case of systematic absence from the sessions, if this hinders the work of the Appeals Council;

e) In case of actions that are incompatible with implementation of mandate of the member of the Appeals Council;

f) In the case of employment in the structural unit of the institution that regularly ensures quality assurance;

g) In case of being recognised by the court as having limited ability or as a beneficiary of support.

6. Termination of the mandate of the member of the Appeals Council before the term is confirmed by the individual administrative legal act of the Prime Minister. In case of termination of the mandate before the term, the Prime Minister, as recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science, within a month appoints a new member for the remaining term of the previous member.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Order №26/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 12, 2024 – web - page, 12.02.2024

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 28². Regulations for activities of the Appeals Council

1. Member of the Appeals Council shall be independent, objective and impartial in fulfilling his/her functions.

2. A member of the Appeals Council shall maintain neutrality in any situation and shall not be subject to the influence of interested parties, regardless of their status.

3. Member of the Appeals Council shall not disclose and use in personal interest the information and / or documentation obtained during the performance of his / her official duties.

4. Member of the Appeals Council should be focused on cooperation and should not try to portray himself/herself in a privileged position; he/she should not publicly doubt competence of an expert, member of the Council or other member of the Appeals council, regardless he/she agrees with their position or not.

5. A member of the Appeals Council is obliged to declare about conflict of interests with an institution

and on self-recusal before the review of the case starts. Conflict of interest is existence of circumstances described in Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

5[1]. In the presence of the conflict of interests provided for in paragraph 5 of this Article, the member of the Appeals Council shall not participate in the processes of discussion, decision -making and voting of the issue to be discussed at the Council session.

5 [2]. The member of the Appeals Council provided for in paragraph 5[1] of this Article is not authorized to present the position of the interested party - the institution- at the session of Appeals Council.

6. The Secretariat of the Appeals Council (hereinafter - the Secretariat) is responsible for the organizational and financial support of the Council activities. Its function is fulfilled by the Center. Composition of the Secretariat is defined according to the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

7. The Secretariat shall send the following documents to the members of the Appeals Council at least 7 calendar days before the oral hearing:

a) Appeal and documentation attached to it;

b) The accreditation documentation;

c) A report of the accreditation expert panel and an augmentative position of the accreditation seeker on that report (if any);

d) Appealed decision.

8. (Removed - 31.01.2018, №09/n).

9. Before the oral hearing, to fully study and evaluate all substantial circumstances regarding the case, each member of the Appeals Council is responsible for preliminary revision of documents listed in the paragraph 7 of this Article. Member of the Appeals Council is entitled to request additional documents for better examination of the case.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 28[3]. The Appeal

1. Appeal should be drawn up in written form and it shall indicate the following:

a) Address to the Appeals council;

B) Identity / name, address and contact information of the person presenting the appeal;

c) Name of the Council decision of which is under appellation;

d) The title of the appealed resolution;

e) Request;

f) Circumstances on which the request is based on;

g) List of documents attached to the claim, if any;

2. Appeals Council does not review the appeal, if:

a) the appealed resolution is under a court proceeding;

b) the appeal is submitted by an unauthorized person;

c) the deadline for submitting an appeal established by the paragraph 1 of Article 281 of this Provision is expired;

d) The claimed issue is beyond the scope of the Appeals Council authority.

3. Appeals council makes its decision on accepting or refusing the review of the claim within 10 days after submission of the claim. The decision of the Appeals Council shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Appeals council.

4. (Removed - 31.01.2018, №09/n).

5. The institution shall submit a document confirming the payment of the fee for reviewing the appeal within 10 calendar days after the entry into force of the decision on the appeal by the Appeals Council. In case of non-submission of the document confirming the payment of the appeal fee within the mentioned period, on the basis of the motion of the Center, the Appeals Council shall make a decision to not review the appeal.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 28^4. Term for Review of an Appeal

The Appeals Council reviews the appeal and makes the corresponding decision within 60 calendar days from receipt of the complaint.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 28^5 Oral Hearing

1. The Appeals Council shall make a decision based on appeal, accreditation documentation, the report of the accreditation expert panel, argumentative position of accreditation seeker on report (if available), examination of decision of the Council and based on conducting the oral hearing.

2. The session of the Appeals Council is convened by chairperson of the Council.

3. Interested parties are informed on the oral hearing no less than 7 days before the date of oral hearing. Interested parties are authorized to participate in oral hearings.

4. The session is led by the Chair of the Council, while in case of his/her absence – by the deputy. In case of absence of both, the Chair and deputy, the session is led by the Council member, as determined by majority of attendees. In case of inability of the secretary to fulfill his/her duties, his/her functions are carried out by one of the members of the Appeals Council.

5. The session is authorized, if it is attended by more than half of the members of the list of Appeals Council, but no less than by 3 members. This number does not include member of the Appeals Council, who has been recused, or submitted self-recusal towards the issue to be discussed.

6. Sessions of Appeals Council are public. The chairperson of the session is authorized to declare session as closed in the cases envisaged by the legislation.

7. Experts of the accreditation expert panel as well as representatives of the Center are entitled to attend oral hearing, and participate in oral hearing as well upon decision of the Chair of the session.

8. It is possible to invite other person to the oral hearing by the decision of the Appeals Council;

9. Depending on the specifics of the field, a person designated by the Appeals Council may participate in the process of decision-making by the appeals council with a right to deliberative vote.

10. The chairperson of the hearing is obliged to ensure the examination of the circumstances relevant to the case at the oral hearing.

11. The interested party has the right to file a motion to investigate the circumstances relevant to the case, to provide oral or written explanations to the Appeals Council, to present additional evidence, to substantiate its claim or to reject the data, opinions or evidence on which the appealed decision was based.

12. At the oral hearing, the Appeals Council discusses only the documentation that was prepared prior to the appealed decision was made.

13. The minutes of the Appeals Council is signed within 10 business days after the session by the signatures of the Chair and Secretary of the Appeals Council. Based on the minutes of the Appeals Council session an individual administrative legal act shall be issued, which is signed by the Chair and Secretary of the Appeals Council.

14. The functions and duties of the members of the Appeals Council provided for in this Charter can also be performed remotely or semi-remotely using modern electronic means of communication (if possible).

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

1. **Article 28⁶. Participation of the Council that Issued the Appealed Decision in the Appeal Proceedings** In case of receipt of an appeal by the Appeals Council, the appeal and copies of the accompanying documents are forwarded through the Secretariat to the Council, which made the appealed decision.

2. The Council, that made the appealed decision is authorised to submit its own written opinion on the appeal to the Appeals Council within 10 working days from the receipt of the copy of the appeal.

3. In administrative proceedings related to the appeal, the Council, that made the appealed decision shall exercise the same rights that are assigned to the interested party participating in the administrative proceedings.

4. At the administrative proceedings including oral hearings, the Council, that made the appealed decision shall be represented by its Chair or by other member of the Council with the consent of the Chair.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №09/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated January 31, 2018 – web - page, 01.02.2018

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 28^{7}. Decisions of the Appeals Council

1. The Appeals Council shall examine the appealed decision in respect of legality and expediency.

2. The Appeals Council shall make one of the following decisions by a majority of the members present at the hearing:

a) On sharing the decision of the Council;

b) On returning the issue to the Council for reconsideration.

2^{1}. The decision referred to in the paragraph 2 of this Article shall be taken by the Appeals Council on the basis of secret ballot. Furthermore, the minutes of the Appeals Council meeting ensure publicity of the ballot results.

3. Member of the Appeals Council is not authorised to refrain from voting.

4. Appeals Council is responsible for providing arguments for its decision.

5. Decision of the Appeals Council is published on the webpage of the Center within 10 business days upon making it.

6. Appealing against the decision of the Council at the Appeals Council does not result in suspension of that decision.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 28^{8}. Legal Consequences of the Decision of the Appeals Council

1. If the Appeals Council decides to support the decision of the Council, interested party is authorised to appeal that decision in court under the rules and within the terms established by the legislation.

2. If the Appeals Council decided to return the issue to the Council for reconsideration, the respective Council shall review the issue according to the rules defined by Articles 27^{2} and 27^{5} of this Charter and makes a decision within the time frame defined by the legislation.

3. If the Appeals Council decides to return the issue to the Council for reconsideration, within 45 calendar days after publication of the decision and minutes of the session on the website of the Center, respective Council shall make a decision based on the documentation envisaged by the paragraph 1 of Article 27^{2} of this Charter, the appealed decision of the Council, review of the decision of the Appeals Council and the oral hearing.

4. Institution can appeal only once against the decision related to the accreditation in accordance with the procedure defined in this Chapter.

Order №121/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated September 16, 2016 – web - page, 16.09.2016

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Chapter VI
Checking Accreditation Conditions

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017

Article 29. Submission of Accreditation Self-Evaluation Report

1. For checking the accreditation conditions, institution that implements accredited programme(s), is obliged to submit the self-evaluation report once in three years to the Center. The terms for the submission of the self-evaluation report are determined by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

2. The self-evaluation report of the educational programme / cluster of educational programmes can be submitted through the electronic document circulation system or in a material form, at which time the accreditation self-evaluation report and the documentation attached to it are submitted to the Center through the electronic information carrier.

3. Submission of a self-evaluation report shall not be obligatory for the following educational programmes:

a) which was granted with a conditional accreditation;

b) which was granted with an accreditation or conditional accreditation for the term of no more than 4 years;

c) which was granted accreditation and for which, based on the request of the Council, verification of accreditation conditions was carried out within the framework of scheduled monitoring according to subparagraph "b^{1}" of paragraph 1 of Article 27^{6} and Article 31 of this Provision.

d) which has been accredited by a foreign organization recognised by the Center and the Center has recognized the accreditation granted to this programme;

e) which was granted an accreditation based on the accreditation standards of the educational programmes of the institutions operating before enactment of the "Standards of Accreditation of Educational Programmes of Higher Educational Institutions" envisaged by the Order N09/n of 2018 January 31 issued by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on making amendments to the Order №65/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of May 4, 2010 on approval of the accreditation provision and fee of educational programmes of educational institutions;

f) which is subject to administrative proceedings about an accreditation application during the period of submission of the self-evaluation report envisaged by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center referred to in the paragraph 1 of this Article;

g) which was granted accreditation and for which the evaluation process was carried out according to subparagraph "b" of the paragraph 1 of Article 27^6 and paragraphs 2^2 - 2^{11} of this Provision and according to the decision of the Council, the report has been accepted for recognition.

4. The forms of the self-evaluation report of the educational programme and the cluster of educational programmes are approved by the Director of the Center with an individual administrative legal act.

5. Within 3 working days, the Center shall examine compliance of the self-evaluation report submitted by the institution with the requirements envisaged by the paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Article.

5^1. Within 7 working days, the Center shall examine compliance of the self-evaluation report of the educational programmes cluster submitted by the institution with the requirements envisaged by the paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Article.

6. In order to examine the self-evaluation report, the Director of the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act on creation of an accreditation experts panel and on evaluation of the self-evaluation report.

7. Composition of the accreditation expert panel created for the purposes of study of the self-evaluation report shall include the members of the expert pool - administrative/academic/scientific/invited personnel and students of other higher educational institutions; the representatives of corresponding regulatory body and/or professional associations in the case of regulated educational programme and other persons with relevant qualifications.

8. Based on the request from the accreditation experts panel, the Center is authorised to request respective documentation from an institution.

9. As a result of the examination of the self-evaluation report, as well as, if necessary, of the documentation referred to in paragraph 8 of this Article, the panel of accreditation experts shall draw up a draft report.

10. The Center shall define the formal compliance of the accreditation expert panel's draft report with the requirements established by the individual administrative legal acts issued by the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraphs 3 of Article 23 and the paragraph 18 of this Article of this Charter. If the compliance is established, the draft report shall be sent to the institution.

11. If necessary to ensure formal compliance of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel, it shall be returned back to the accreditation expert panel.

12. The institution, within 5 working days from familiarization with the draft report and in the case of a cluster of educational programmes, within 10 working days, submits in written form to the Center

an argumentative position regarding the factual circumstances presented in the draft report, which is sent to the expert group.

13. In case of submission of the argumentative position provided in the paragraph 12 of this Article, after getting acquainted with it or in case of non-submission of argumentative position, after expiry of term envisioned by the paragraph 12 of this Article, the expert panel shall elaborate the final report and submit it to the Center.

14. In the case of submission of the argumentative position provided for in the paragraph 12 of this Article, the report formed by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on sharing or not sharing the argumentative position by the expert panel.

15. The Center sends the accreditation expert group report to the institution within 90 calendar days from the issuance of the individual administrative - legal act of the Center stipulated in paragraph 6 of this Article.

16. The evaluation results of the self-evaluation report provided for in this article are used by the Center to promote the establishment of systematic self-evaluation within the framework of the institution and educational programme/cluster of educational programmes, the development of internal quality assurance mechanisms, and the planning of development and support measures based on the needs of institutions.

17. Failure to submit the self-evaluation report within the prescribed time-frame provided in this Article may serve as a basis for examination of the accreditation conditions of the educational programme in accordance with the Article 31 of this Charter.

18. The forms of the educational programme and the cluster of educational programmes' accreditation expert panel report and requirements set for them, are approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 30. Amendments to the Educational Programme Implemented During the Accreditation/Conditional Accreditation Period by the Educational Institution

1. During the accreditation/conditional accreditation of an educational programme, in the case of any changes to the title of the programme, the precondition(s) to the programme admission, learning outcome(s) or/and place of implementation of the educational programme (except of the cases envisaged by the paragraph 2 of this Article) or/and to the structure of the educational programme (making changes to the components of the basic fields of study and changing-adding or/and subtracting the number of credits granted to them by at least 30%, that does not change the learning outcomes of the educational programme or/and adding or/and removing a concentration), the institution is obliged to notify the Center about the amendments in written form within 30 calendar days after implementing the amendments and submit revised educational programme, also the basis for amending the programme and the respective legal act issued by it.

1[1]. If after granting accreditation/conditional accreditation of an educational programme, the total number of affiliated academic staff implementing core study field components of the educational programme has changed by at least 1/3, the institution is obliged to notify the Center in writing regarding this change within 30 calendar days.

2. It is inadmissible to change the language of instruction or/and the title of the qualification to be granted during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of the educational programme, also to join or divide the educational programmes under the accreditation/conditional accreditation mode (except for the cases envisaged by paragraph 3 of this Article). Also, during the period of accreditation/conditional accreditation of the regulated educational programme provided for in Article 75 of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", the change of place/places of implementation of the educational programme - municipality/municipalities is not allowed. In case of the implementation of the amendments provided in this paragraph, the educational programme(s) are reviewed as new programme(s) and the right for their implementation shall be obtained by the institution as provided by the legislation.

2[1]. During the period of accreditation/conditional accreditation of the joint higher education programme, an amendment entered into the agreement signed on the implementation of the joint higher education programme, which provides for the termination/suspension of the agreement by any institution implementing the joint higher education programme, shall result in the circumstance that the higher education programme is considered a new programme, the right of implementation of which the institution shall obtain according to the rules of procedure established by the law.

3. It is permissible to change the qualification to be awarded in the educational programme or to divide educational programmes within the period of accreditation/conditional accreditation of the educational programme, if this relates to complying the educational programme(s) with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study or with the Sectoral Benchmark Statements based on the implemented amendments in the existing Sectoral Benchmark Statements. In such a case, the said educational programme/programmes are not considered as new programmes/programmes and continue to operate in the accredited mode until the change of the title of the qualification to be granted under this paragraph and/or the division of the existing educational programme in the accreditation/conditional accreditation mode for the remaining period of accreditation determined for the valid educational programme.

4. In the case were aligning with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study results in the division of the educational programme into two or more educational programmes, the institution is obliged, within the same calendar year, to bring the divided educational programmes into alignment with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study, regardless of their detailed field codes and submit them to the Center.

5. When implementing changes stipulated in the paragraphs 1, 1[1], 3 and 4 of this Article, as well as in the case of non - fulfillment of obligations provided in the same paragraphs, the Center is authorised to verify accreditation conditions through monitoring.

Article 31. Checking the Accreditation Conditions Through Monitoring

1. Checking the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions is carried out through Planned and/or Case-Based Monitoring.

2. The Planned Monitoring is carried out by mediation of the Council and/or by initiative of the Center.

3. The methodology for drawing up the plan for Planned Monitoring, the criteria for selection of educational programmes, are approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.

4. The annual plan for Planned Monitoring of educational programmes is approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center, which is sent to the relevant institution within 10 working days after its publication.

5. Case-based Monitoring is implemented by the mediation of the Council, based on the complaint submitted to the Center about fulfillment of the accreditation standards of the education programmes and/or by the initiative of the Center.

6. The complaint stipulated in the paragraph 5 of this Article may be submitted to the Center by the interested person (legal representative, student, academic, invited, scientific or administrative staff, etc.) who believes that the standards defined by this regulation are violated. In addition, the form of the complaint, the methodology for drawing up and reviewing the complaint shall be approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Center Director.

7. In order to verify the fulfillment of the conditions of accreditation of an educational programme or educational programmes grouped in a cluster of educational programmes, during Planned and/or Case-Based Monitoring, the Center is authorised to request relevant documentation/information from the institution and/or to issue an individual administrative legal act on the creation of a panel of accreditation experts and/or on the Planned/Case-Based Monitoring visit to the institution.

8. In the event that the Center requests relevant documentation/information from the institution, if as a result of the study of the documentation/information, an additional need to verify the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions is identified, the Center shall issue an individual administrative legal act on the creation of a panel of accreditation experts and on the implementation of Planned and/or Case-based monitoring of the institution through a visit and/or documentation study, and otherwise, on the basis of the Center's petition, the Council terminates the administrative proceeding regarding monitoring.

9. In case of verification of the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions through Planned and/or Case-based monitoring, the members of the expert's pool - administrative/academic/scientific/invited personnel of other institutions are included in the accreditation expert panel. Also, taking into account the scope and content of the monitoring, the expert panel may include - a student, an employer, the representatives of corresponding regulatory body and/or professional associations in the case of regulated educational programme and other persons with relevant qualifications.

10. The accreditation expert panel is chaired by the Chair of the panel.

11. The individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center regarding the creation of the accreditation expert panel and on the implementation of Planned Monitoring in the institution with a visit and / or study of documentation shall be submitted to the institution at least 10 working days before the beginning of the visit / evaluation process.

12. The individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center on the creation of a panel of accreditation experts and on the implementation of Case-Based Monitoring in the institution with a visit and/or study of documentation shall be submitted to the institution directly at the beginning of

the visit/evaluation process, or at least 5 calendar days before the beginning of the visit/evaluation process.

12[1]. If necessary, part of the functions and duties of the accreditation expert group established by this Regulation may also be performed remotely or in hybrid format using modern electronic communication tools.

13. The issues of self-recusal or/and recusal of the expert/experts shall be regulated according to the paragraphs 4-9 of Article 24 of this Charter. Using the right to recusal by the education institution does not hinder the implementation of the visit.

14. In case of creation of accreditation experts panel, a draft report of the accreditation experts panel is drafted and submitted to the Center.

15. The Center defines formal compliance of the accreditation expert panel's draft report with the requirements established by the individual administrative legal acts issued by the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraph 3 of Article 23 and the paragraph 9 of Article 27[1] of this Charter. Upon determination of the compliance, the draft report is sent to the institution.

16. If necessary to ensure formal compliance of the draft report of the accreditation expert panel, it shall be returned back to the accreditation expert panel.

17. Within 5 working days after the introduction of the draft report on the educational programme, and within 10 working days in the case of a cluster of educational programmes, the accreditation seeker shall submit an argumentative position regarding the factual circumstances provided in the draft report in written form to the Center, which then shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

18. In case of submission of the argumentative position provided in the paragraph 17 of this Article, after getting acquainted with it or in case of non-submission of argumentative position, after expiry of term envisioned by the paragraph 17 of this Article, the expert panel shall elaborate the final report and submit it to the Center.

19. In the case of submission of the argumentative position provided for in the paragraph 17 of this Article, the report formed by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on sharing or not sharing the argumentative position by the expert panel.

20. The Center shall send the accreditation expert panel final report to the institution.

21. As a result of checking the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions, the Council is authorised to make a decision on the cancellation of accreditation/conditional accreditation of the educational programme, if during evaluation of the compliance of the educational programme with the accreditation standards, the Council has evaluated at least one standard as "does not comply with standard requirements".

22. In case of occurrence of the deficiencies, taking into consideration remaining terms for the administrative proceedings the Council is authorised, to define no more than 60 days for the relevant educational institution to rectify these deficiencies, unless it is apparent that there will be no actual results.

22[1]. Within the timeframe established in the paragraph 22 of this Article, verification of compliance with accreditation conditions may be carried out by an accreditation expert group or an accreditation expert, considering the content, scope and specifics of the recommendation.

23. In the case where, following the expiration of the deadline determined based on the paragraph 22 of this Article, verification of compliance with accreditation conditions establishes that more than 50% of recommendations have not been fulfilled by the institution, the Council is authorised to make a decision on revocation of accreditation/conditional accreditation.

24. After the expiration of the period determined on the basis of paragraph 22 of this Article, if as a result of the checking the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions it is determined that part of the recommendations have been fulfilled by the institution, and none of the standards are evaluated as "does not comply with standard requirements", the Council will determine the period for the institution to submit a performance report on the remaining recommendations or apply to the Center for implementation of monitoring through motion. The procedure for presenting and considering the report provided for in this paragraph is determined in accordance with paragraphs 2-2^{12} of Article 27^{6} of this Charter.

25. If the examination of the accreditation conditions establishes that the institution has fulfilled all the recommendations, the Council shall make a decision to terminate the administrative proceedings related to the monitoring.

26. In the case of addressing the Center with a motion on examination of the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions, the Council shall define the period for implementation of the monitoring, the form and the scope of the implementation of such monitoring.

27. Respective decision of the Council shall be made within 90 calendar days after the Director of the Center issues an order on examination of the fulfillment of accreditation conditions by the institution. This term is deemed suspended during the term determined by the Council for the elimination of the deficiencies.

Order №144/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated August 22, 2017 – web - page, 23.08.2017
Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018
Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Article 31^{1}. The Rules of Procedure for Review of Complaints Related to the Accreditation Process

1. An educational institution or/and other stakeholder that participates in the accreditation process shall be authorized to submit a complaint to the Center about the accreditation process within 10 calendar days after occurrence of a specific circumstance during the accreditation process or after its completion, if the employee/employees of the Center or/and the member/members of the accreditation expert panel violate the requirements established by this provision, by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this provision, by the Code of Ethics of Authorisation and Accreditation Experts approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center or/and by the internal regulations of the Center.

2. A complaint which is submitted against the member/members of the accreditation expert panel, shall be reviewed according to the rules of procedure established by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center envisaged by the paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this Provision.

3. A complaint which is submitted against the employee/employees of the Center, shall be reviewed according to the rules of procedure established by the Center's internal regulations.

4. The form of the complaint envisaged by this article, the methodology for drawing up and reviewing the complaint shall be approved by the individual administrative legal act of the Director of the Center.
Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 31². International Accreditation of Education Programmes of Higher Education Institutions Operating Abroad

1. International accreditation and examination of the conditions of the educational programme of a higher education institution operating abroad shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures established by this Article. Matters not regulated by this Article shall be governed by the relevant Articles of the same Order.

2. At least 2 months before the submission of the accreditation application, the higher education institution operating abroad notifies the Center in written form about the desire to start the accreditation process for the education programme.

3. Higher education institutions operating abroad are authorized to apply in written to the Center with a request to hold a consultation meeting on the accreditation process, which concerns to:

a) The process of international accreditation;

b) Preparation of an accreditation application, planning and implementation of the self-evaluation process;

c) Planning and implementation of the accreditation visit;

d) Definition of accreditation standards and sectoral benchmarks;

4. The cost of the consultation meeting and accreditation is set out in the Annex 4 of this Order;

5. In order to find information about the system of higher education operating in a foreign country, sectoral benchmarks and standards and procedures for quality assurance of higher education, the Center is authorized to contact the organization/organizations responsible for external quality assurance of higher education operating in the country of the higher educational institution.

6. The accreditation application and accompanying documentation of a higher educational institution operating abroad must be submitted to the Center in English. The Center provides Georgian translation of documentation for which the requirement for Georgian language versions is specified in the approved template of the accreditation self - evaluation report completed by higher education institutions operating abroad. The cost of Georgian translation of English - language documentation submitted for accreditation by the Center is established through an invoice issued by the Center to the higher education institution.

7. At the stage of being recognised as an accreditation seeker of a higher education institution operating

abroad, an agreement is concluded between the Center and the institution, which defines the rights and responsibilities of the parties, expenses related to translation of accreditation documents, to business trip of members of the accreditation experts panel and representative(s) of the Center and accreditation fee.

8. When evaluating a higher educational programme of a higher educational institution operating abroad, participation of expert(s) in the expert group representing the country in which the institution seeking international accreditation operates is mandatory. The aforementioned expert(s) are determined based on consultation with the organization responsible for external quality assurance in higher education in the country of the institution.

9. In the case of accreditation of the educational programme of a higher educational institution operating abroad, the composition of the accreditation expert group includes members of the expert body – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff and students from other educational institutions, international expert(s), employer and in the case of regulated educational programme, representatives of regulatory bodies and/or professional associations from the respective country and other persons with relevant competence.

10. When the Council of Educational Programmes reviews the educational programme of a higher educational institution operating abroad, no more than 2 international experts appointed by the Council Chairman may participate with advisory voting right, whose remuneration procedures and amounts shall be determined by an individual administrative - legal act of the Director of the Center. Invited persons are remunerated for their activities (given honoraria) from the revenues of the Center.

11. When the accreditation application includes a medical doctor educational programme, during evaluation the Center considers sectoral benchmarks of higher medical education confirmed by the Director of the Center, standards for basic medical education established by World Federation for Medical Education and relevant Sectoral Benchmark Statement or fundamental legislative requirements operating in the country of the accreditation - seeking institution (if applicable).

12. The decision of the Council regarding the higher education programme of the higher education institution operating abroad and the relevant part of the minutes of the Council session shall be published in the Georgian and English languages.

13. A higher education institution operating abroad is entitled to file an appeal in English against the decision of the Council of Educational Programmes.

14. The decision of the Appeals Council on the educational programme of the higher education institution operating abroad and the relevant part of the minutes of the Council session shall be published in the Georgian and English languages.

15. The forms of self - evaluation reports for higher educational programme of higher educational institution operating abroad and educational programmes grouped in the cluster are approved by an individual administrative - legal act of the Director of the Center, which is published publicly.

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Chapter VII

Transitional Provisions

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020

Article 32. Accreditation of the programmes developed based on the Order №120 / N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 10 December 2010 on Approval of National Qualifications Framework at the transitional stage

1. For continuous implementation of the programmes developed on the basis of the Order №120/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 10 December 2010 on Approval of National Qualifications Framework and the programmes operating in an authorized/accredited mode as of 5 October 2018, the accreditation application of the respective educational programme may be submitted to the Center by 29 February 2020.

2. An educational programme reflected in the accreditation application envisaged by paragraph 1 of this Article may correspond to more than one but for no more than three qualifications (except for regulated educational programmes of Teacher Training, Georgian Language Preparation, and doctoral programme).

3. The educational programme reflected in the accreditation application provided in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be comply with the "National Qualifications Framework" and the "Classifier of Fields of Study" approved by the Order N69/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of April 10, 2019 within the term determined by the same Order.

Article 33. Rules for Implementation of Some legal Relations Envisaged by the Charter =During the Transitional Period

1. During the transitional period, functions-duties of the experts, Council members and members of the Appeals Council envisaged by this Charter may be implemented remotely by using the modern electronic means of communication (if possible) except for the functions-duties to be implemented by the accreditation experts before the Council session within the proceedings related to the implementation of the regulated academic higher educational programme in medicine.

1^1. During the transitional period, within the administrative proceedings related to the accreditation of regulated academic higher educational programme envisaged by the subparagraph "b" of the paragraph 2 of Article of Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", the functions and duties of the accreditation experts of the higher educational programs provided for by this provision may be implemented in a partially remote manner, which implies evaluation of the HEI's material resources, clinical bases and laboratories by the accreditation experts (except for the international expert) through a site visit. In addition, this implies that an international expert will evaluate the HEI's material resources, clinical bases and laboratories remotely via modern electronic communication means, which shall be technically ensured by the accreditation seeker.

2. Transitional period is the period before the threat of New Coronavirus spread is eliminated.

Order №37/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 18, 2020 – web - page, 19.03.2020

Order №17/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated March 15, 2021 – web - page, 16.03.2021

Article 34. Reviewing the Report on Fulfillment of the Recommendations Issued by the Council

The review of the report submitted by the educational institution before January 30, 2020 on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Council shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations in force for the reporting period.

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 35. Re-Accreditation of an Educational Programme and Suspension of the Term for Administrative Proceedings

1. If the term of the accreditation of the educational programme (except for the educational programmes accredited in 2011-2012) expires in 2020, it shall be extended until 31 December 2020.

2. If the term of the accreditation for the educational programme of Medical Doctor (except for the educational programmes accredited in 2011-2012) expires in 2020, it shall be extended until 1 July 2021.

3. This article shall not apply to those educational programmes on which the Council made the respective decision before the Law of Georgia N6284-IIS of 12 June 2020 on making amendments to the Law of Georgia on Education Quality Improvement entered into force and/or for which the term of accreditation has expired before the enactment of this law and which is not under accreditation administrative proceedings at the Center.

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Article 36. In Individual Cases, the Period of Validity of the Regulation Related to the Participation of an International Expert in the Accreditation Expert Panel

The paragraph 11 of Article 20 shall be declared void from January 1, 2023.

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Annex №2

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Accreditation Fee for Educational Programmes of Higher Education Institutions

Article 1. Amount of Accreditation Fee

1. Accreditation application review fee is 200 GEL for one programme, 400 GEL for 2-3 programmes, 600 GEL for 4-6 programmes, 800 GEL for 7-8 programmes.

2. The fee for reviewing the accreditation application submitted by a higher education institution operating abroad is 600 GEL for 1-2 programmes, 900 GEL for 3-4 programmes, 1100 GEL for 5-8 programmes.

3. The application fee for increasing the maximum number of vacant places in the educational programme of a Medical Doctor is 200 GEL.

4. The accreditation fee includes: Projected fees of administrative proceedings (salary, office and Council meeting expenses), accreditation expert remuneration fees, service fees related to verification of compliance with accreditation conditions of the educational programme during the accreditation period, simultaneous interpretation fees during the site visit and the corresponding amount from the Center revenues that should be directed to the state budget of Georgia.

5. Accreditation fee for educational programmes (except for regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation and doctoral education programmes) / Accreditation fees for educational programmes included in the cluster are:

a) 6,239 GEL in case of one educational programme, and 7,759 GEL if a business trip is required;

b) 8,904 GEL in case of two educational programmes, and 10,672 GEL if a business trip is required;

c) 13,162 GEL in case of three educational programmes, and 16,027 GEL if a business trip is required;

d) 16,319 GEL in case of four educational programmes, and 19,252 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

e) 18,106 GEL in case of five educational programmers, and 21,502 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

f) 19,973 GEL in case of six educational programmers, and 23,537 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

g) 25,006 GEL in case of seven educational programmes, and 30,619 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

h) 28,095 GEL in case of eight educational programmes, and 34,722 GEL in case of business trip is required.

6. The amount of the fee for the accreditation of the regulated educational programme (except for the educational programme of Medical Doctor), as well as the doctoral educational programme / accreditation of the educational programme included in the cluster is:

a) 9,362 GEL in case of one educational programme, and 10,670 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

b) 11,760 GEL in case of two educational programmes, and 13,316 GEL if a business trip is required;

c) 16,345 GEL in case of three educational programmes, and 18,849 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

d) 19,549 GEL in case of four educational programmes, and 22,491 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

e) 21,123 GEL in case of five educational programmes, and 24,157 GEL in case of business trip is required;

f) 22,767 GEL in case of six educational programmes, and 25,970 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

g) 28,750 GEL in case of seven educational programmes, and 33,853 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

h) 31,617 GEL in case of eight educational programmes, and 37,733 GEL in case of business trip is required.

7. The amount of the accreditation fee for the educational programme of Medical Doctor is 12,573 GEL, and in case of a business trip is required - 14,093 GEL.

8. The amount of the accreditation fee for the Georgian language preparation educational programme is: 4,795 GEL, and in case of a business trip is required - 6,315 GEL.

9. The amount of the accreditation fee for the teacher training programme (60 credits) / the educational programs included in the cluster are:

a) 5,573 GEL in case of one educational programme and 7,093 GEL if a business trip is required;

b) 8,415 GEL in case of two educational programmes, and 10,183 GEL if a business trip is required;

c) 12,162 GEL in case of three educational programmes and 15,027 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

d) 13,986 GEL in case of four educational programmes, and 16,919 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

e) 16,773 GEL in case of five educational programmes, and 20,168 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

f) 18,528 GEL in case of six educational programmes and 22,093 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

g) 23,339 GEL in case of seven educational programmes, and 28,953 GEL in case of a business trip is required;

h) 26,317 GEL in case of eight educational programmes, and 32,944 GEL in case of business trip is required.

10. The amount of the accreditation fee for the veterinary training educational programme (60 credits) is 5,573 GEL, and in case of a business trip, it is 7,093 GEL.

11. The fee for increasing the maximum number of student places in the educational programme of a Medical Doctor is 6,328 GEL, and in case of the need for business trips - 8,134 GEL.

12. The accreditation fee for the educational programmes of the higher education institution operating abroad is:

A) 35,376 GEL in case of one and / or two educational programmes;

B) 55,634 GEL in case of three and / or four educational programmes;

C) 89,244 GEL in case of five, six, seven and / or eight educational programmes.

13. The fee for consulting services provided by the Center for higher education institutions operating abroad is 7,500 GEL.

14. In case when one master's educational programme, according to learning outcomes, leads to more than one but no more than three qualifications (except for regulated educational programme) within one detailed field of the classifier of fields of study, its accreditation fee increases by 20% of the fee established for the educational programme stipulated in the paragraph 5 of this Article for each subsequent qualification).

15. If the educational programmes included in the cluster (except regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation, veterinary training educational programmes) include a doctoral level educational programme, the amount of the accreditation fee will be calculated using the paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same Article.

15^{1}. If the educational programmes included in the cluster contain teacher preparation, special teacher preparation or veterinary preparation educational programmes, the amount of the accreditation fee is calculated considering the paragraphs 5, 6, 9 and 10 of the same Article.

16. The fee for the study of the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Education Programme Accreditation Council is:

a) 1,627 GEL in the case of an educational programme (except for regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation, veterinary training and doctoral educational programmes);

b) 2,016 GEL in case of a regulated educational programme (except for a Medical Doctor educational programme, teacher preparation educational programme, special teacher preparation educational programme, veterinary preparation educational programme), as well as in the case of a doctoral education programme;

c) 2 549 GEL in the case of the educational programme of Medical Doctor;

d) 1,494 GEL in the case of an educational programme of the Georgian language preparation;

e) 1655 GEL in case of teacher training (60 credits) educational programme;

f) 2,016 GEL in case of veterinary training educational programme.

17. The fee for verification of compliance with accreditation conditions for the educational programme that has been granted accreditation and for which monitoring was determined to be conducted based on the request of the Council according to the subparagraph "b¹" of the paragraph 1 of Article 276 and Article 31 of the "Accreditation Provision of Educational Programmes of Educational Institutions" approved by the paragraph 1 of this Order, constitutes 38% of the corresponding fee stipulated in the paragraphs 5 - 10, 12 and 15 of this Article.

18. The admissibility fee for the review of an appeal is 200 GEL, and the fee for the admissibility of a complaint submitted by a higher education institution operating abroad is 500 GEL. Fee for the Review of an appeal is 2,777 GEL.

19. The fee for the draft agreement to be concluded between the institutions for the implementation of the joint higher education programme is 480 GEL.

20. The fees envisaged by this Article shall be paid as non-cash payment via transferring the funds to the bank account of the Center. The fees provided for in this Article shall not be reimbursed to the applicant, except in the case provided for in paragraph 21 of this Article.

21. The accreditation fee for the educational programme/cluster accreditation shall be fully refunded if the educational institution requests termination of the administrative proceedings before the formation of the accreditation expert group.

22. The fee for translation of documentation submitted for accreditation by the Center from Georgian to English and in the case of international accreditation of educational programme of higher educational institution operating abroad, from English to Georgian is calculated based on the number of pages to be translated and the amount for the educational institution is determined according to an invoice sent by the Center. The translation fee for one-page amounts to 30 lari (2500 characters).

Order №93/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated May 31, 2024 – web - page, 03.06.2024

Order №5/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated February 25, 2025 – web - page, 27.02.2025

Annex №3

Order №96/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated September 10, 2020 – web - page, 11.09.2020

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

(Attached as an attachment file)

Annex №4

Order №40/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated March 28, 2018 – web - page, 29.03.2018

The Service Fees Provided by the Legal Entity of Public Law - National Center for Education Quality Enhancement based on the Charter for the Accreditation of Educational

Programmes of the Higher Education Institutions (Annex № 1)

Order №14/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia dated January 29, 2020 – web - page, 29.01.2020
Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022

Article 1. To recognise the accreditation granted by the organization operating on the territory of the United States, the fee for reviewing written application submitted by a higher education institution to the legal entity of public law - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (hereinafter - the Center) for issuing prior consent by the Center for addressing this organization with accreditation application.
1. To recognize the accreditation granted by the organization operating on the territory of the United States, the fee for reviewing written application submitted by a higher education institution to the Center for issuing prior consent for addressing this organization with accreditation application equals to 1,000 GEL (including value added tax).
2. The fee provided for by the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be covered through non-cash transaction through deposit to the Center's bank account. The paid amount shall be returned to the applicant only in the case if it requests termination of administrative proceedings based on the application provided by paragraph 1 of this Article within 5 working days from submitting the application.

Article 2. Remuneration of the activity of international expert participating in the accreditation process of the higher education programme.
1. In the case of participation of an international expert in the accreditation process of the higher education programme, the higher education institution shall pay the necessary amount for the remuneration of work of the international expert.
2. The amount of money provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article is determined in accordance with the invoice sent by the Center, which is drawn up on the basis of the labor contract signed between the Center and the international expert.
3. The fee provided for by the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be covered through non-cash transaction through deposit to the Center's bank account.

Annex №5

Order №83/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated July 7, 2022 – web - page, 08.07.2022
Order №93/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated May 31, 2024 – web - page, 03.06.2024

(Attached as an attachment file)

Annex **№6**

Order №141/n of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia dated August 30, 2024 – web - page, 30.08.2024

(Attached as an attachment file)