

Assessment Report

for the Application of
Kyiv Medical University
for the Accreditation of the Study Program "Pharmacy, Industrial
Pharmacy", Master

AHPGS Akkreditierung gGmbH

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master's programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains, such as law or economics. By implementing accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for fulfilling the quality assurance, too.

Since 2004 the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS also joined the ENQA and became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in 2009. Since 2012, the AHPGS has been a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). Starting from 2009, the AHPGS has been listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria¹:

- 1. Program aims and learning outcomes
- 2. Curriculum design
- 3. Personnel
- 4. Facilities and learning resources
- 5. Study process and student assessment
- 6. Program and quality management

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the self-evaluation report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfill the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. As a result, the AHPGS produces a summary (see Sections 2-5), which is to be approved

¹ Approved by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission

by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the accreditation commission of AHPGS. This is done in order to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria valid in Ukraine. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out an external on-site visit at the University. During this visit discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers and students. This provides the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the on-site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies and methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as of the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the on-site visit, the expert group issues the expert report. This report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the report is made available to the University so that it can issue a response opinion.

The expert report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The accreditation commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the summary comprised by the AHPGS, the expert report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents represent the basis for the commission's decision regarding the recommendation for accreditation of the study program. Consequently, this decision – together with all

other documentation – is forwarded to AHPGS Accreditation Commission for it to reach a decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Expert report

Please note that this expert report will be included into the Final Report following the decision of the Accreditation Commission. Upon the expiry of the time period for objections, the Final Report will be forwarded to the University. The Final Report consists of the introduction to the accreditation procedure, the summary of current state of the study program before the on-site assessment, the given expert report and the decision of the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS.

2.1 Preliminary remarks

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (hereinafter AHPGS) was commissioned by Kyiv Medical University to accredit the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" (Master).

In regard of the current situation, the AHPGS Commission decided to conduct the evaluation of the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy," offered at the Private Higher Establishment "Kyiv Medical University" (hereinafter KMU) as a paper-based review.

The documents of the University, the feedback from the experts on the documents and the results of the discussions with the representatives of the University serve as the foundation for the statements made in this expert report.

The following experts were appointed by the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS for the evaluation of the study program.

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Currently focus on leadership, strategy, change management – and equal employment officer of the university as well as lead on internationalization project

According to the Rules for the Accreditation of Study Programs and for System Accreditation (determined by the decision of the Accreditation Commission, of December 8, 2009 in the version of February 20, 2013, Drs. AR 20/2013), the task of the experts in the accreditation procedures is to evaluate the education concept of a specific study program as well as to estimate the possibility of its successful implementation. This concerns, in particular, qualification objectives of the study program, its conceptual integration into the system of education, the concept of the study program, feasibility of the content and scope of studies, the examination system, study-relevant collaborations, personnel, material and space resources, transparency and documentation, application of the results of quality assurance for further development of the study program (it is especially important to present the analyses and evaluation results of student workload, academic accomplishments and employment of graduates, which are to be documented and taken into account within the framework of continuous development of the study program), as well as the provision of gender equality and equal opportunities.

The experts' on-site visit is carried out in accordance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). After the announcement of the accreditation decision, the expert report will be published as a part of the Final Report.

2.2 Basic information about the study program

The main objective of the Master study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" offered at the Kyiv Medical University is the training of qualified competitive specialists in the pharmaceutical industry by acquiring appropriate professional competencies that meet national and international requirements.

Graduates must be key players in the health care team, whether in healthcare and research institutions, the pharmaceutical industry or pharmacies, providing advanced knowledge of the effectiveness and safety of drugs tailored and dispensed to each individual patient. Furthermore, graduates will be able to develop new drugs and new formulations for the pharmaceutical industry. The study program requires the obtainment of 300 credit points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One CP is equal to 30 workload hours.

The total workload of the program constitutes 9.000 hours, of which 4.126 are contact hours and 4.874 are hours of independent study. It is offered as a full-time study program with a regular duration of 5 years / 10 semesters and a part-time study program with a regular duration of 5.5 years / 11 semesters. The program's curriculum consists of 43 compulsory modules and 61 optional modules, out of which 23 modules must be completed.

General initial enrollment of Ukrainian citizens is performed on a competitive score in the combination of three subjects: 1st - Ukrainian Language or Ukrainian Language and Literature; 2nd - Mathematics; 3rd - Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The competitive score is the sum of the chosen three subjects and the average sum of a secondary school certificate.

The enrollment of foreign citizens and stateless persons is based on the secondary school certificate and the results of two entrance exams (1st Ukrainian or English Language exam; 2nd Chemistry).

Students are informed about the amount of the tuition fees in advance. The University has determined tuition fees for native and international students in full and part time. The tuition fees for Ukrainian students are \$ 6.100 in total for the full-time study program and \$ 3.140 for the part-time program. The tuition fees for international students, studying in English are \$ 15.800 in total in the full-time program and \$ 13.900 for the part-time program. The tuition fees for international students, studying in Ukrainian are \$ 11.500 in total in the full-time program and \$ 9.275 for the part-time program

Upon completion of the study program, students are awarded with the academic degree "Master" with the professional qualification "Pharmacist". There are 500 study places available across all years in the program. Admission takes place twice a year between 10.01. and 01.03. for the winter semester and

between 11.07 and 01.11. for the summer semester. The first batch of students was admitted to the program in the academic year 2017. There are no graduates of the study program yet.

2.3 Expert Report

The expert group discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation as well as questions that had been raised.

The expert report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the University, the experts' feedback on the documents, the results of discussions with the representatives of the University serve as the foundation for the statements made in the expert report.

2.3.1 Program aims and their implementation

The main objective of the program is to train qualified competitive specialists for the pharmaceutical industry by acquiring appropriate professional competencies that meet the national and international requirements. Graduates must be key players in the health care team, whether in healthcare and research institutions, pharmaceutical plants or pharmacies, providing the advanced knowledge of effectiveness and safety of drugs tailored and dispensed to each individual patient. They must be able to develop new drugs and new formulations for the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, to establish their own pharmacy or to work in the field of drug promotion, in commitment to the principles of medical ethics and patient safety.

The Master program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" pursues specific qualification objectives, such as

- The ability to define technological processes of development and manufacturing of medicines in accordance with the rules of good practice
- the ability to organize and participate in drug manufacturing under the conditions of pharmaceutical companies, including the choice and validation of technological process in accordance with the rules of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)

the ability to organize activities of a pharmacy aimed to provide the population and health care institutions with medicines, parapharmaceuticals, medical devices and medical cosmetics in accordance with the requirements of the National Medical Policy, Good Pharmacy Practice and other legal regulations.

In the experts' opinion, the University provides optimal capacities of human and technical resources.

The program's mission, its general and specific learning objectives, curriculum, and its outcome competences were presented in a clear and transparent manner. The curriculum description specifies the learning outcomes expressed in the domains theoretical knowledge, abilities and skills achieved at the end of each course and comprising cognitive and professional areas.

The graduates are able to work as lab assistants, Pharmacist intern or junior researcher. They work in institutions such as: production of basic pharmaceutical products and materials, wholesale of pharmaceutical goods, market research and public opinion polling. Graduates also have the right to enter the postgraduate study program, where they get a specialized training in areas such as: research, clinical pharmacology, toxicology or education in higher education institutions.

International students after graduation can carry out further practical activity only after obligatory fulfillment of postgraduate education and licensing in accordance with the regulations of the country where they aim to pursue the healthcare career. The University supports graduates and prepare for a smooth transition into the professional career. The Career Center of KMU discusses prospective employment opportunities with students and graduates.

The learning objectives of the study program are intended to equip graduating students with the essential scientific qualifications, to prepare students for a qualified occupation, to provide the students for social responsibilities and geared towards personal development. The first enrollment of students was in September 2017. There are no graduates of the study program yet. The total number of students in the program in Kyiv is 351.

Overall, the experts confirm that the study program focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

The objectives of the program are considered to be reasonable and appropriate with regard to the structure and content of the curriculum.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

2.3.2 Structure of the study program

The Master study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is offered as a full-time study program with a regular duration of 5 years / 10 semesters and a part-time study program with a regular duration of 5.5 years / 11 semesters. The program's curriculum consists of 43 compulsory modules and 61 optional modules, out of which 23 modules must be completed.

The study program is structured into fundamental training and professional training. The fundamental training lasts from semesters one to five and includes the study of basic science such as human anatomy and physiology and organic, biological and analytical chemistry. During this phase, students acquire basic knowledge, basic analytical and research skills, form most of the general competencies that are focused on communication, social interaction, understanding the principles of working in a multicultural environment and more.

The fundamental training ends with the first stage of state attestation in form of the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE, stage 1). Stage 1 of USQE consists of the "KROK 1" Integrated Test-Based Exam for fundamental biomedical disciplines and the English Language Proficiency Test. The successful completion of that stage gives the students the right to move to the professional training phase.

The professional training lasts from semester six to ten. This phase provides the formation, consolidation and deepening of practical pharmaceutical competencies, management skills, the application of ethical principles in practice, the application of the principles of research and evidence-based medicine. The professional training ends with the second stage of USQE which consists of the "KROK 2" Integrated Test-Based Exam. Attestation also includes Practical Comprehensive Exam / Master's Thesis Defense. Thus, successful completion of all

above mentioned exams is mandatory for graduation and awarding the diploma. The experts take positive note of the different study phases and the final examination.

There are two separate cohorts in the study program. International students are studying in English and Ukrainian students are studying in Ukrainian. All assignments are in English for International students. The students describe the cohorts to be well connected and treated equal.

The experts acknowledge the very detailed course files with their contents and aims, which allows a high level of transparency. In the experts' opinion, the structure of the curriculum seems to make the workload manageable. The students confirm this impression. The experts conclude that students acquire specialized and program-specific knowledge as well as interdisciplinary knowledge and professional, methodological and general competences. They recommend that the university further strengthen the interdisciplinary classes and increase international exchange prospects.

The expert group evaluates the fundamental structure of the study program to be coherent and reasonable. The course content and examinations are considered to be feasible to be accomplished within the envisaged period of time.

The study program has a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students.

The experts also appreciate that seminars as well as practical and laboratory classes are conducted in small groups.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

2.3.3 Admission and Feasibility

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements for International and Ukrainian students are properly documented and made publicly available. The procedure for admission of foreign citizens and stateless persons is created in accordance with the Conditions of admission to higher education establishments of Ukraine in 2021, approved by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No 12 74 of 15.10.2020 and registered at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No 12 25/35508 of 09.12.2020.

The enrollment of foreign citizens and stateless persons is based on the secondary school certificate and the results of two entrance exams (1st Ukrainian or English Language exam; 2nd Chemistry).

General initial enrollment of Ukrainian citizens is performed on a competitive score in the combination of three subjects: 1st - Ukrainian Language or Ukrainian Language and Literature; 2nd - Mathematics; 3rd - Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The competitive score is the sum of the chosen three subjects and the average sum of a secondary school certificate.

Admission rules of Ukrainian and international students are developed and approved by the Medical Academic Council every year.

The experts determine the admission procedure and requirements to be appropriate. They correspond to the standards of the study program.

2.3.4 Examination system and transparency

The University employs a continuous assessment procedure to ensure the quality of education for its students. This is achieved by evaluating the performance of the student through the Internal Exam System (Ongoing and Final Assessments) and the External Exam System (Unified Stare Qualification Examination). The Ongoing Assessment is carried out during practical, laboratory, and seminar classes. The Final Assessment is conducted at the end of the semester during the examination session, which averages two weeks. The Final Assessment can include oral examinations, presentations, written exams, practical tasks, or multiple-choice questions. Students may redo the examination after the end of the examination period, but before the beginning of the next semester.

The experts conclude that the examinations serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved or not. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge. The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organization, is appropriate. The students report receiving extensive support from the faculty and teaching staff including a suitable preparation for the assessments.

Students with disabilities or chronic illnesses are provided with special testing accommodation, in particular extended time, extra breaks and computer screen magnification.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

2.3.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

The "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" program is carried out by 57 teachers in total: 18 professors, 28 associate professors and 11 assistant professors. Apart from regular staff, the University invites guest lecturers and professors to deliver specific modules or give masterclasses, e.g., on KROK-1 preparation. There are currently 351 students enrolled. The University explains that the student/teacher ratio is 6.3/1. The experts take positive note of the ratio.

Regarding the employment process, the qualification and experience of the teaching staff is closely evaluated prior to the appointment decision. The experts are convinced that the instructors involved in the study program reveal a high level of competency in the relevant field.

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the program and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Students evaluate the performance of all teaching and other staff periodically.

Overall, the teaching and academic staff of the Kyiv Medical University shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution and further development of the study program they are responsible for. The expert group concludes that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the University staff and the faculty administration.

The experts find the number of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff within the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is in possession of academic and technical credentials as well as experience adequate to their tasks. The University informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently. It actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to further their ability, which is confirmed with the staff.

Due to the war against Ukraine, KMU has launched the study process for all students in an online format starting from March 21st 2022. The digital tools were used to teach theoretical knowledge only. The University conducted a survey among faculty members to analyze the current situation of the teaching staff and possibility to teach the practical part of the study program offline. The

majority of Ukrainian students remain in Kyiv and attend practical classes at the Main campus. International students, who returned to their home country use the online tools for theoretical classes and complete their practical classes either after returning to Ukraine or in an institution in their home country. Nevertheless, the experts understand the University's remarks and appreciate the alterations in the teaching structure of the study program.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of the criterion are fulfilled.

2.3.6 Quality assurance

The quality assurance system is organized by Medical Academic Consortium. The Medical Academic Consortium forms expert groups for various topics, for example quality assurance or the quality of teaching. The Medical Academic Consortium and the University share the responsibility for the quality assurance system.

The monitoring and evaluation process includes evaluations of the academic staff (teaching, assessment, provided material, satisfaction among students, etc.). Evaluation of the educational and assessment process includes surveys conducted among the students, teachers and heads of the departments. It also includes an annual analysis of the results of external assessment (USQE). Student surveys are conducted annually and student course evaluation once a semester. Modules are evaluated at the end of each semester by the students. The results are discussed in the departmental meetings. The students are involved in each step of the quality assurance. The Medical Academic Consortiums uses the same survey for all members to guarantee comparability.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

2.3.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

To the issue of equal opportunities and gender equality, the University states that it adheres to the principle of gender equality enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine. The University demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social developments.

Additionally, possible experiences of racism are discussed with the students. The international students in the study program describe the University to be

very supportive in this matter. They never experienced racism within the University and feel well integrated and equal to the Ukrainian students.

Overall, the experts conclude that the University's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

2.4 Summary

The University presented itself convincingly as an open-minded, young and dynamic institution with the willingness to train and support pharmacists. The Medical Academic Consortium ensures the quality of teaching and the exchange among the teaching staff.

The experts review a well-established study program at the Kyiv Medical University. The experts conclude that the overall impression of the University and the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is positive. Students describe great support by the University and a high contentment with regard to the topics teaching quality.

The quality assurance system is organized by the Medical Academic Consortium and students are involved in the process.

Based on the information from written documents, the experts came to the conclusion that the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" offered at the Kyiv Medical University fulfills the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS make a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- Interdisciplinary classes should be strengthened, and international exchange prospects should be increased
- the incorporation of research into teaching should be strengthened and extended

3 Decision of the accreditation commission

Decision of the accreditation commission June 30, 2022

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the application, as well as the paper-based expert review covered in the expert report.

The accreditation decision is based on the "Accreditation Criteria for International Program Accreditation" which have been developed in close accordance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group.

Due to the war in Ukraine, the experts cannot visit the premises of the university and a physical on-site visit isn't possible. The Accreditation Commission also takes into account that the written documents submitted for assessment did not give rise to any doubts regarding the proper and ESG-compliant implementation of the study program. In addition, a detailed report on the implementation and further development of the study program is expected as part of the follow-up in 2024. In consideration of these reasons and following the EQAR decision of February, 24th (CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426bis/2.3) and 25th (CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426ter/2.3) 2022, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS grants the accreditation for a total period of five years until September 30th, 2027.

The regulated study period in the full-time program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is five years / ten semesters. The regulated study period in the part-time program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is five and a half years / eleven semesters. The study program consists of 43 compulsory modules and 61 optional modules, out of which 23 modules must be completed. The language of instruction is English or Ukrainian. The master study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Master" and the professional qualification "Pharmacist". Admission takes place twice a year. The first batch of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2017.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is accredited for the duration of five years, until September 30th, 2027.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the expert report. Furthermore, in view of the announcement of the application for EU membership, the Accreditation Commission points out that the system should be adapted to the European requirements, for example by giving more value to the Master's thesis.

The Accreditation Commission considers a visit by a group of experts within the accreditation period to be necessary, as soon as the political situation permits such a trip.

Decision of the accreditation commission September 29, 2022

The Accreditation Commission accredited the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" on June 30th, 2022. The assessment took place on May 16th, 2022 and due to the war in Ukraine an on-site visit by a group of experts was not possible. The Accreditation Commission, taking into account EQAR decisions, accredited the program until September 30th, 2027.

The AHPGS has now been asked by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA), Ukraine, in an effort to standardize the approach of different agencies, to ensure equal treatment of public and private higher education institutions, and to avoid distortions of competition, to adapt the decision regarding the accreditation period to the requirements of national law.

The time limitation of accreditation is now additionally based on the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of March 16th, 2022 (No. 295) "Про особливості акредитації освітніх програм, за якими здійснюють підготовку здобувачі вищої освіти, в умовах воєнного стану" in conjunction with the "Regulations on Accreditation of Study Programs in Higher Education", approved by an order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of July 11th, 2019 (No. 977).

In the current situation (under martial law), accreditation procedures cannot be carried out as initially intended by the ESG, since an on-site visit in presence is not possible. The above mentioned regulations (Resolution No. 295) state, that accreditation without an on-site visit should be limited serially to one year.

The Accreditation Commission adopts the following decision:

The Accreditation Commission revokes its decision of June 30th, 2022 in as far as the accreditation period of five years is to be issued serially for one year at a time. Annually in the winter semester, it is to be checked whether an on-site visit is possible in order to be convinced of the fulfillment of the requirements outlined in the expert report. This does not affect the decision on accreditation itself.

The accreditation period of the study program "Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy" is limited to June 30th, 2023.