



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2024/110

DECREE N 110

May 10, 2024

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
UNIVERSITY OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: University of Traditional Medicine PC
Official Address: 38a Marshal Babajanyan, Yerevan, RA

Previous Accreditation **Conditional institutional accreditation for a period of**
decision and date: **2 years: 15.01.2021-15.01.2023**

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the Approval of Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the “National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance” foundation (hereinafter referred to as “ANQA”) as well as by the Regulation on the Formation of ANQA’s Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the University of Traditional Medicine (hereinafter referred to as “UTM”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on May 22, 2023.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application: March 28, 2023
Submission of the self-evaluation: July 24, 2023
Site visit by the expert panel: November 28 – December 1, 2023

Submission of the expert panel report: March 6, 2024

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan April 3, 2024

The external review of the UTM's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Research and Development**" and "**External Relations and Internationalization**" were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the UTM's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the three members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the UTM's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The UTM generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.

Consistent with its mission, the UTM implements ongoing and integrated academic programmes (Aps) "Medical Case" and "Dentistry". Following the previous accreditation, the UTM has revised the academic programmes, particularly distinguishing between general, general professional and professional learning outcomes.

The UTM has also modified the traditional medicine subjects, moving them to the elective category and providing the opportunity to link classical medicine with evidence-based knowledge of traditional medicine.

The hours for practical classes and internships have been increased. More situational cases and problems have been incorporated into the academic programmes. The assessment criteria and components for the ongoing and final attestation have been improved. Steps have been taken in the benchmarking of academic programmes.

The appropriate requirements and procedures for the selection of the academic staff have been set and are now in place. The academic staff is supplemented with medical specialists. Meanwhile, it

has not yet been possible to recruit sufficient qualified staff for all subjects. There are some mechanisms for the evaluation of the academic staff and dissemination of best practice. The UTM supports the professional development of the academic staff. However, it is also necessary to improve the teachers' foreign language skills. The UTM has upgraded the laboratories. The construction of a new campus is regarded as a significant improvement in resources. There is an environment necessary for the implementation of academic programmes. Contracts have been signed with three hospitals for clinical practical training.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems generally support the enhancement of the credible award of qualifications.

The UTM offers educational services at the levels 6 and 7 of the the Armenian NQF (ANQF). Currently, the UTM mainly targets the international labour market and applicants from abroad. This change has contributed to the stable flow of applicants and ensured the continuity of the UTM's activities.

Following the previous accreditation, the UTM's strategic planning and governance processes have been significantly enhanced. However, the strategic management based on the KPIs is not yet established. Decisions on the governance, development, resource management are still made on the principle of sole management. The UTM strives to strengthen the principles of collegial management in the governance processes, thereby trying to get a more participatory decision-making process.

Stable mechanisms and systems for data collection are in place. However, they need proper targeting.

Following the previous accreditation, an attempt has been made to integrate elements of quality assurance culture into all areas of the UTM's activity. For the operation of the quality assurance system, the UTM has developed appropriate policies and procedures, which have been put into practice over the last two years. Relevant resources have been allocated for quality assurance.

Discussions and surveys with stakeholders have been conducted, procedural documents and templates have been developed and approved.

Addressing the internal stakeholders' needs has also notably enhanced the APs. Several examples of the PDCA cycle can be observed.

The quality assurance system contributes to the identification of the internal stakeholders' needs and boosts the effectiveness of governance processes.

3. Internationalisation and research activities have development trends and support the credible award of qualifications.

The number of the UTM's students has doubled, with most of them being foreign students from 17 countries. Local students study only in the AP "Dentistry". The number of local applicants shows a decreasing trend. Students receive adequate support and significantly impact the programme modernisation and teaching.

The UTM's goals and resources for research development are still not interconnected and do not ensure the promotion and implementation of research in the specified directions. The research directions for the chairs have not yet been specified. The teachers are not actively involved in research activities. The teachers conduct research activities not at the UTM or with the financial support from the UTM, but rather at the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences and Yerevan State University. The incentive mechanisms have not yet led to the increase in research activities and the achievement of scientific outcomes in the priority areas for the UTM. However, the UTM has the necessary potential with 28 teachers holding academic degrees and titles, including 6 doctors of sciences, 22 candidates of sciences. Mechanisms for the connection between research and learning are weak.

An accountability system is in place. The website is functioning, transparency about the implementation of the processes is ensured.

The TLI has a Scientific and Medical Training Center that provides accessible medical services to the public through the UTM's human and material resources. The implemented medical services demonstrate the UTM's realisation of social responsibility.

The UTM has not yet conducted targeted study of the international labour market (countries from which it receives applicants) and taken measures for applicant recruitment, cooperation with employers or awareness programmes based on the study results.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, a benchmarking of the APs was organised. However, it did not target the countries where the UTM's alumni work after graduation.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and its implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the University of Traditional Medicine PC for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of **“Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the peer review, taking into consideration the identified issues;
 - b) the enhancement of the mechanisms for identifying the external stakeholder needs, strategic planning based on those needs;
 - c) the acquisition of resources necessary for practical skills and diversification of evaluation mechanisms;
 - d) the necessity of considering the needs of the international labour market when defining the academic programmes' learning outcomes;
 - e) the specification of teaching and assessment methods in academic programmes based on the student assignments through the integration of the PBL, CBL, OSCE, OSPE methods;
 - f) the planning of trainings for the teaching staff and allocation of appropriate resources;

- g) the clarification of the mechanisms and criteria for the incentivisation of the teaching staff and professional progress;
 - h) the enhancement of mechanisms for identifying needs and evaluating the effectiveness of student services;
 - i) the necessity of the interconnection between research and educational processes.
4. To organise an internal audit of the TLI's Aps with the involvement of external experts.
 5. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the TLI's activity, innovations and achievements.
 6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.
 7. The decision enters into force from the moment of registration in the State Accreditation Register.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

May 10, 2024

Yerevan