



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2023/90

DECREE N 90

October 16, 2023

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
"MKHITAR GOSH" ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: "Mkhitar Gosh" Armenian-Russian International
University JV LLC

Official Address: 3/7 Sebastiai St., Yerevan, RA
30a Tigran Metsi Ave., Vanadzor, RA

Previous Accreditation **Institutional accreditation for a period of 4 years:**
decision and date: **18.10.2019-18.10.2023** (AKKORK, RF/AKKOPK, PΦ)

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 "Mkhitar Gosh" Armenian-Russian International University (hereinafter referred to as "MGU", "TLI") in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on October 16, 2023.

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

Submission of application: April 21, 2023

Submission of the self-evaluation: May 25, 2023

Site visit by the expert panel: July 5–8, 2023

Submission of the expert panel report: September 22, 2023

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan: October 3, 2023

The external review of the MGU'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, “**Societal Responsibility**” and “**Internal Quality Assurance**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the MGU'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 MGU's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

The academic programmes (APs) align with the MGU's mission and National qualifications frameworks (NQF), with defined outcomes. There are policies for the selection of teaching and learning methods, as well as for student assessment based on the learning outcomes.

The MGU has revised the APs and related development and monitoring documentation.

During the revision of the APs, the MGU attached importance to the students' acquisition of practical skills and competences. The education institution introduced elective subjects, and modernised teaching methods. Employers play a major role in the alumni preparation.

The APs “Medical Case” and “Dentistry”, the procedure of the final attestation, and the assessment of the acquisition of practical skills have been aligned with international standards.

The MGU has a policy for the selection of the academic staff with specified requirements. The education institution has highly qualified academic staff with practical work experience for the implementation of the strategic plan (SP).

The MGU is equipped with the necessary resources for the implementation of the APs. The resource base is sufficient. The works in this area are continuous. In terms of ensuring continuity, the MGU has notably enhanced the special material-technical resources required for medical professions. However, the progress in identifying and addressing the special needs of other professions is scarcely noticeable.

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

The MGU has adopted the principle of continuing education. The MGU has a well-defined mission in line with the NQF. The stakeholders are mainly involved in setting, reviewing or modifying the MGU's mission, goals and objectives.

The MGU has a reformed management system and units. It has also sufficient human, material and financial resources to ensure the achievement its strategic goals. As a result of the previous institutional accreditation process (AKKORK), the internal audit with the participation of an external expert, the education institution's structure was modified, and the statutes of the units, as well as position passports were revised and approved. The MGU's organisational structure has undergone dynamic changes over the past years. The education institution tried to find effective ways to achieve its goals and objectives.

As a monitoring mechanism, the MGU relies on accountability, specifically through reports from structural units. Currently, the effectiveness of separate processes is monitored through QA surveys, which, as an operational mechanism, is still under development. The policy for quality assurance is not fully introduced. The QA surveys are not targeted, and the included questions do not elicit necessary information.

A culture of strategic management based on the KPIs is in the stage of development. It has been adopted as a development priority.

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

There are mechanisms for student recruitment and identification of needs. Students have access to additional classes and counseling and take part in the decision-making process related to them. The

MGU has two separate student councils for foreign and local students, both of which also include part-time students.

The MGU attaches importance to the development of research direction. Following the previous accreditation, the education institution developed a follow-up plan and a respective schedule to address the issues in the research area. A scientific research center was formed within the institution. In 2022, the MGU joined the Erasmus+ programme to support the development of its staff's grant activities, allowing participation in various international grant programmes.

The MGU's teachers and students participate in student symposiums and conferences, including international ones, organised by other HEIs.

The MGU has taken steps to link the research and educational process. From this standpoint, it is important to include specific research components in the academic programmes for the bachelor's and master's degrees. The "Methodology of Scientific Research" course was introduced as an elective in the curricula for "Medical Case" and "Dentistry".

The strategic plan outlines the external relations and internationalisation as the key directions of the MGU's development. The inclusion of the vice-rector for international activities and the department of international affairs in the MGU's structure underscore the management staff's commitment to developing the field.

The key factor driving the need for the development of external relations is the availability of English-language academic programmes for foreign students.

The MGU's accountability system does not fully reflect the actual operational connections of the bottom-up, top-down accountability. The reports' analytical component is inadequate and does not provide a basis for evaluation. Public access to information is not fully ensured. The mechanisms for feedback and knowledge transfer to the public are still in the stage of formation.

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 "Mkhitar Gosh" Armenian-Russian International University JV LLC 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 **“Societal Responsibility”** and **“Internal Quality Assurance”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need for clearly measurable KPIs to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented processes;
 - b) the decision-making and reporting based on clear quantitative and qualitative data;
 - c) the improvement of the organisation of part-time courses, adapting them to the part-time learning mode;
 - d) more effective use of sustainable mechanisms to ensure the link between educational and research processes, by evaluating and enhancing results;
 - e) the review and implementation of the rating regulation for the teaching staff, with evaluation based on clear analytical data;
 - f) the necessity of planning and allocating relevant funds for intra-university grants research grants;
 - g) the implementation of activities aimed at boosting the academic mobility for students and teachers in all professions;
 - h) the increase in the impact of the quality assurance system on the TLI management.
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

October 25, 2023

Yerevan