



# **AAB College, Pristina**

*Faculty of Law*

## *Master Program*

### **Criminal Law (LLM)**

#### *Reaccreditation*

## **REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM**

*February 2025*

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## INTRODUCTION

**Date of the site visit: February 6, 2025**

### **Expert Team (ET):**

*Prof. Dr. Johannes Falterbaum (Germany)*

*Prof. Dr. Dovile Gailiute-Janusone (Lithuania)*

*Katerina Klimoska, Student expert (North Macedonia)*

### **Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):**

*Fjolle Ajeti, KAA Officer*

*Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, KAA Department Director*

### **Sources of information for the Report:**

- *Self-Evaluation-Report (SER) submitted by the AAB College in January 2025, including annexes (Syllabuses, Academic staff CVs, Financial Plan, Action Plan, List of mobilities, List of scientific publications).*
- *Information obtained during the site visit with the management of the faculty, teaching and administration staff, students, external stakeholders and employers of graduates.*
- *Website of AAB College.*
- *Visit of on-site facilities.*
- *Additional documents sent by KAA on 11 February, 2025.*

### **Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations**

- *Accreditation Manual (File No. 1, Article 24, page 36-50: Re/accreditation of Higher Education Institutions), February 2024 of the KAA*

### **Site visit schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:50</b>	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programs are integrated	Mentor Lecaj, Dean of the Faculty Besard Belegu, Coordinator for Teaching
<b>09:55 – 10:35</b>	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	Furtuna Mehmeti, QAO Office Ganimete Ismajli, QAO Coordinator

		Albulena Ramadani, Head of Administration Office Leron Berisha, Head of IT Office
<b>10:40 – 11:40</b>	Meeting with the program holders of the study program <b>Civil Law, LLM, 60 ECTS</b> <b>Criminal Law, LLM, 60 ECTS</b>	Egzsoni Hajdari Skender Gojani Veton Vula Mensut Ademi
<b>11:40 – 12:40</b>	Lunch break	
<b>12:50 - 13:30</b>	Visiting Facilities	
<b>13:35 – 14:10</b>	Meeting with teaching staff	Nora Osmani Albana Pasjaqa Isuf Jahmurataj Fatmir Qollakaj Emursh Kastrati Milot Krasniqi
<b>14:15 – 14:55</b>	Meeting with students	Jeton Peci Rita Imeri Erelinda Zogaj Laureta Dervodelli Saranda Dushku Fjolla Skeja Granit Dashevc Erodit Thaqi
<b>15:00 – 15:40</b>	Meeting with graduates	Valentin Krasniqi Shaban Jetullahu Arben Zeneli Blerta Ferizi Vesel Ismajli Sedat Gashi Bleona Krasniqi Nimet Demiri Erande Hyseni Avni Leci Ngadhnjim Arni
<b>15:45 – 16:20</b>	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	Valbone Dermaku, OSBE Shehije Rudari Leci, Justice Academy Ardiana Bejtullahu, PRISIG Niman Hajdari, Ombudsperson Arnita Kalanderi, Ministry of Justice Morea Pula, American Chamber of Commerce Ismail Dibrari, Kosovo Corrective Service Isa Shala, Notary Chamber of Kosovo
<b>16:20 – 16:30</b>	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
<b>16:30 – 16:40</b>	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	Mentor Lecaj, Dean of the Faculty Besard Belegu, Coordinator for Teaching

## **A brief overview of the programme under evaluation**

The Faculty of Law is an academic unit within the AAB College that offers three study programs: one at the bachelor's level LLB Law, and two master's programs – LLM Civil Law and LLM Criminal Law in accordance with levels 6 and 7 of NQF/EQF respectively. The BA program lasts four (4) years and offers 240 ECTS credits (60 ECTS credits per academic year). On the other hand, LLM programs count 60 ECTS credits during one (1) academic year (with 30 ECTS credits per semester).

As the SER indicates, the Faculty of Law aims to develop the personality of students, engaging them in various discussions related to social and ethical issues and social responsibility. The Faculty of Law aims to promote the participation and engagement of students as well improving the learning process, thus contributing to building leadership skills, cooperation, and responsibility towards others.

In accordance with the Statute, the Faculty of Law consists of the Teaching Council, the Dean, the Coordinator for Teaching, and the Quality Assurance Coordinator. The faculty also includes a number of assistants and coordinators for student affairs and student internships.

The Faculty of Law employs administrative officers who are responsible only for the students of the faculty and support the learning process of students and teaching staff. In addition to administrative officials, AAB College has digitized most of the administration's services. A wide range of services and communication between students, teaching staff, and the Dean's Office is conducted through the electronic platform E-SERVICE. This platform integrates the accounts of students, teaching staff, and administration.

In terms of research, the Faculty of Law has made significant progress. One of the strategic objectives of AAB College is scientific research and at the institutional level great efforts have been made to improve the quality of scientific research and other activities related to research. Based on the Regulation on Grants, in the last three years, all members of the teaching staff have been supported for the publication of scientific works on the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus platforms.

The Master Program Criminal Law (LLM) has been accredited since the year 2012. The last reaccreditation was in the year 2020 with a reaccreditation for five years and approved for max. 35 enrolled students.

## **PROGRAMME EVALUATION**

*The programme evaluation consists of 7 standard areas through which the programme is evaluated.*

### **1. MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Republic of Kosovo, a country that continues to face serious challenges in the rule of law, including corruption and organized crime, the demand for qualified professionals in criminal law is more crucial than ever. The fight against these forms of crime requires experts who not only have a strong grasp of criminal theory but also those who contribute to the design of appropriate policies for preventing and addressing these issues.

The AAB College's program in Criminal law can provide valuable qualifications for those aiming to take a leadership role in these processes. In particular, students can acquire the necessary skills to tackle serious crimes and combat transnational crime phenomena, which are often interconnected with domestic corruption. Moreover, this program can prepare students to contribute to institutional reform and meet international standards in criminal justice, thus preparing Kosovo for greater integration into European criminal justice structures.

The program seems to be good for students aspiring to build careers in law enforcement institutions, including courts and law enforcement agencies or intelligence agencies, as well as in international justice organizations, policy consulting, mediation, academic and research institutions, NGOs. With expertise in interdisciplinary fields such as criminology, human rights, and cybersecurity, graduates can also work as legal consultants and policy analysts, contributing to justice, crime prevention, and legal innovation.

The content and structure of the LLM in Criminal Law program is fully aligned with the mission and strategic goals of the Faculty of Law and AAB College. There is a concordance between the faculty's mission, AAB College, and the LLM program.

There is therefore no doubt that a master's program with this content is generally useful. However, it should be noted that there are already similar programs at other universities and colleges in Kosovo and that a very large number of students are currently completing various law programs. On page 11 of the SER, it is described that the target number of 70 students in the master's program is based on an analysis of the labor market. This is doubtful. According to the expert team, the priority is not to have more graduates of the master's program in Criminal Law but rather the best possible quality (quality over quantity). A significant increase

in the number of students therefore does not make sense. Furthermore, the AAB College has not provided any evidence of its labor market analysis.

This assumption is confirmed by a significant decrease in the number of students in both the bachelor's program and the master's program in Criminal Law over the last five years. Only in the master's program in Civil Law has there been a modest increase. This is based on information from AAB College, submitted as an additional document. The number of enrolled students in LLM Criminal Law over the last five years only 2022/2023 was to fully approved number of 30 students. In the year 2024/25 it is only 22. Therefore, there is no need to increase the approved number of students in the program.

The general objectives for teaching are in concordance with western European standards.

In all academic and administrative activities at AAB College, unethical behavior and academic dishonesty are sanctioned through the Code of Ethics, the Code of Ethics of Scientific Research, and the Regulation on Disciplinary Procedure. All three of these documents apply to students, teaching staff, and administrative staff, as well as to any party that, in one form or another, creates a working relationship with AAB College.

The management of AAB College has been proved since more than ten years as the results of evaluation show.

AAB College has an advanced electronic system that serves to collect, manage, and analyse various data related to the study programs. The primary platform for registering and analysing academic data is e-service while several additional electronic platforms are utilized for storing and collecting data related to research activities, partnerships, mobilities, projects, and more.

In the SER was announced an action plan addressing the recommendations from the preliminary external evaluation, in line with the requirements of the KAA (2020). The missing attachment was sent by the College as additional document. On five pages above all concerning "Educational Process Content" and "Research" it was showed that seriously was worked on the previous recommendations.

#### **ET recommendations:**

- 1. The Faculty of Law should work out a serious analyse of the labour market, regarding the actual programs of other universities and colleges in the field of Criminal law.*

## 2. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**Standard 2.1 The study program delivery is subject to an established and functional internal quality assurance system, in which all relevant stakeholders are included. (ESG 1.1)**

AAB College established an internal quality assurance system in line with national regulations, ESG and other international standards. There is a quality assurance policy covering all aspects related to the delivery of the study program: teaching, learning, student services and other administrative services.

Internal quality assurance procedures for the study program are defined by internal regulations. AAB College in 2021 adopted the Quality Assurance Regulation, which defines internal quality assurance procedures, the scope of internal assessment, assessment mechanisms and instruments, and responsible bodies for quality assurance. Moreover, in 2023 AAB College also adopted the Quality Assurance Guideline, which provides detailed descriptions of the quality assurance processes and procedures for both internal and external evaluations. Both documents are publicly accessible on the website of AAB College.

ABB College has established a Quality Assurance Office which operates at the central level, while a quality assurance coordinator functions at the faculty level. The Faculty of Law has its own quality assurance coordinator. During the on-site visit clear explanations were given regarding activities and collaboration between the Quality Assurance Office and the coordinator at the faculty. It should be noted that coordinator of the Faculty of Law also has teaching obligations (not in the program in question).

Quality assurance processes are carried out within a cycle of planning, implementation, control, and action (PDCA). For each element of the cycle AAB College has introduced measures and instruments.

Annual plans are introduced for the implementation of the quality assurance procedures for the study program, which include regular assessments through questionnaires, meetings with various stakeholders, etc. During the on-site visit various stakeholders confirmed their involvement in the revision of the study program through the participation in survey and focus groups meetings.

**Standard 2.2 The study program is subject to a process of design and approval established by the HEI. (ESG 1.2)**

The development of the study program aligns with the mission and strategic goals of ABB College, as well as Faculty of Law.



Study programs undergo a review process on an annual basis and include input from various stakeholders (internal and external). According to Article 6 of the Regulation on Quality Assurance “The Senate is responsible for approving the internal quality assurance regulation as well as ensuring that every study program is subject to regular quality assessment prior to approval”. Quality Assurance Office, as well as the coordinator at the faculty level are also involved in the development of the study program.

Since the last re/accreditation in 2020, the LLM Criminal Law program has undergone a review process in accordance with internal regulations. The action plan has been provided as an additional document and shows that majority of recommendations have been implemented, including the introduction of new courses. The Teaching Council of the Faculty of Law and the Senate approved the program. The review process of the study program included consultations with key partners such as industry professionals, alumni, current students in the LLM Criminal Law program, as well as a market needs analysis and a comparative analysis with similar programs in Kosovo, the region, and throughout Europe.

The Faculty of Law, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Office, has developed key performance indicators that focus on teaching, learning, student services, student progress, academic success, etc. These indicators are monitored on a semester basis and reported through semester reports after the completion of each respective academic semester.

**Standard 2.3 The study program is periodically monitored and reviewed to ensure its objectives are achieved. The monitoring of the study program involves stakeholder participation. (ESG 1.9)**

ABB College every two years organizes surveys for the employers and industry to assess relevance of the study program to the needs of society, also to evaluate the knowledge, skills, and competencies of graduates acquired through the LLM Criminal Law program and how these competencies and knowledge serve them in their workplace. During the site visit it was confirmed that the participation rate of such surveys is quite low. Therefore, meetings with employers and the industry serve better to get useful recommendations.

The student workload and learning outcomes are monitored through surveys. During the on-site visit it was explained that surveys for the students are compulsory. Taking into consideration recommendations from the experts in previous reaccreditation procedure of the study program LLM Criminal Law, as well as consultations with students, AAB College has revised the student questionnaire by reducing the number of questions from 25 to 6. Moreover, to ensure that students read the questions and do not respond automatically, the time-limit for each question is installed. Besides surveys ad hoc formal meetings with students, focus group meetings are also organized.

The Quality Assurance Office conducts surveys and focus group meetings with all relevant stakeholders such as teaching staff, alumni, and employers, as a tool for collecting qualitative data. During the on-site visit various stakeholders confirmed their participation in the surveys or meetings. However, not all stakeholders are duly involved, the participation rate of employers, as well as graduates, is quite low. Therefore, during the on-site visit the idea to create a platform for alumni has been introduced.

After each assessment by the Quality Assurance Office, reports and action plans are drafted based on data collected from questionnaires. These summary reports, together with recommendations for improvement, are forwarded to the management of the Faculty and the College, which serve as a basis for improving study programs, improving student services, improving teaching and learning, etc.

On the website of AAB College general information about the activities and functions of the Quality Assurance Office is published, however, the information is not easily accessible, as it is in the section “About us”. Some reports on assessment of students are published on the website (Albanian version), however, majority of them were prepared 2 or more years ago. Moreover, there is not any report on the Faculty of Law.

**Standard 2.4 All relevant information about the study program is clear, accurate, objective, up-to-date and is publicly available. (ESG 1.8)**

All regulations and institutional policies that govern the study program are published on the official website of AAB College. Information on pass rate, dropout rate, and graduate employment is not publicly available.

A separate section on the website is dedicated to the Faculty of Law and LLM Criminal Law program. In the SER it is claimed that on this website information regarding admission criteria, registration quotas, learning outcomes, assessment methods, and other relevant information for the study program are published. However, on the website of LLM Criminal Law program (even Albanian version) not all above mentioned information is provided.

**ET recommendations:**

- 1. To ensure that information about the Quality Assurance Office, its activities, documents in the field are easily accessible on the official website of ABB College.*
- 2. To ensure that results of the monitoring processes and the resulting action plans are communicated to all stakeholders and published on the website.*
- 3. To collect information on the employability rate of graduates.*

4. *Although all regulations and institutional policies are publicly available on the website of AAB College, however, the list is quite long, therefore, it is not easy to find necessary documents. It is recommended to divide documents into sections for easier access (for instance, study procedure, quality assurance, assessment of learning outcomes, financial support, etc.).*
5. *To update and regularly review the website of LLM Criminal Law ensuring that accurate, relevant, and up-to-date information is provided.*
6. *To publish information on pass rate, dropout rate, and graduate employment which is not publicly available.*

### **3. ACADEMIC STAFF**

**Standard 3.1 The study program delivery is supported by teaching staff who are recruited in line with national legislation, and internal regulations in effect, and it is based on objective and transparent procedure. (ESG 1.5)**

The Statute of the ABB College sets the procedure for staff recruitment, which is specified by the Regulations for the selection, re-selection, and advancement of teaching staff. Prescribed processes are clear, objective and transparent, indicating in detail the procedure, terms for staff recruitment, as well as the complaint procedure for the candidates. Both central (Senate) and Faculty level (Teaching Council) bodies are involved in the selection process.

Based on the proposals of the Faculties, the Senate announces competitions for the election and re-election of teaching staff ensuring that the candidate selection process is conducted transparently and through a public competition. Announcements are published on the website of the ABB College for 15 days. Announcements indicate the position, functions, as well as the working conditions.

**Standard 3.2 The study program is supported by sufficient permanent academic staff who are adequately qualified to deliver the study program. (ESG 1.5)**

The Faculty of Law employs a total of 40 teaching staff members. As indicated in the additionally provided document, 10 out of them are teaching in the LLM Criminal Law program. 7 teaching staff members have full-time employment contracts, remaining 3 – part-time contracts. Therefore, more than 50% of the teaching staff, who are involved in delivering the study program, are full-time employees. All teaching staff members involved in the study program hold the academic degree of Dr. Sc. The analysis of CVs as well as publicly available information do not indicate that any of the teaching staff engaged in the study program covers more than two teaching positions. Some of the teaching staff (mainly part-time employees) are

practicing lawyers in the field. Duration of teaching experience varies, some teaching staff members have already been teaching at ABB College for more than 15, some – have started 3-5 years ago. In general, qualification of the teaching staff members is adequate for the implementation of the study program and for performing scientific/professional activity at the required level.

5 out of 10 teaching staff members are teaching 1 study course in LLM Criminal Law program, remaining 5 are teaching 2-3 courses (some of them are elective). Analysis of CVs reveals that the majority are also teaching other courses in LLB Law program. In the SER, it is claimed that each teaching staff member has a teaching load of 6-8 hours per week throughout the program. However, the analysis of CVs of the teaching staff members reveals that many of them are teaching 5 and more different study courses.

Faculty of Law has assigned 2 (1+1) program holders, they both hold the academic degree of Dr. Sc. with full-time employment.

The information on teaching staff provided in the SER is general, covering all teaching staff employed by the Faculty of Law, but not the ones who are teaching in the LLM Criminal Law program. It is claimed that in the LLM Criminal Law program the teaching staff to student ratio is 1:15. However, the calculation of such ratio is not clear. If we consider upon experts' request provided additional information, there are 7 teaching staff who are full-time employers and teach in the program in question. Numbers of the students show that for the academic year 2024/2025 only 22 students have been enrolled. Therefore, the teaching staff to student ratio is even better. However, it should be taken into consideration, as it was pointed out above, that majority of teaching staff also are teaching in other study programs.

According to the internal regulations of AAB College, to ensure a fair distribution of the teaching staff's mentoring workload, no staff member may mentor more than 10 candidates at the same time. Therefore, due to a small number of students in LLM Criminal Law there are enough teaching staff employed to mentor efficiently all students in the study program.

Analysis of provided list of publications, as well as information in CVs of the teaching staff reveals that 2 of the teaching staff are publishing annually in the field of criminal law, also have Scopus or/and WoS publications. However, there are many others who in the last five years have published only 1-2 publications. Teaching staff actively participate in various conferences with presentations in the field of criminal law.

**Standard 3.3 The study program is supported by teaching staff who are subject to advancement and reappointment based on objective and transparent procedures which include the evaluation of excellence. The advancement of staff arises from the higher education institution's strategic goals and is in line with the legislation and internal regulations in effect. (ESG 1.5)**

The Regulation on Election, Reelection, and Academic Advancement outlines the advancement process in the AAB College. It stipulates that the contributions of teaching staff are evaluated based on their work in research, teaching, and community service. For the advancement in academic titles, teaching staff members must meet specific criteria related to their scientific publications (depending on the academic title, certain number of publications in journals, indexed by Scopus or WoS, is required). In addition to the scientific contribution, candidates must demonstrate high pedagogical skills for each academic title, including positive evaluations or feedback from the teaching activity.

**Standard 3.4 The academic staff engaged in the delivery of the study program is entitled to institutional support for professional development. (ESG 1.5)**

The Faculty of Law operates according to an annual work plan that focuses on training and professional development for teaching staff. This plan outlines the number of training sessions, academic exchanges, study visits for staff, and other collaborative activities with local and international partners.

AAB College has established the Center for Professional Training and Innovation (QAPI), which offers certified professional training and support services for teaching staff. Recently organized trainings covered various aspects: professional development skills (for instance, “Project planning”), skills related to testing and assessment methods (for instance “Assessment of students based on competence and grade construction”), method of preparation and delivery of teaching and assessment (for instance, “Higher education methodology from the perspective of adult learning principles), development of research skills (for instance, “Evaluation of scientific articles”). However, information on how many teaching staff members from the Faculty of Law participated in these training courses is not provided.

QAPI also organizes training for new teaching staff who engage in teaching for the first time to strengthen their teaching competencies. Moreover, training is also carried out by the IT Office as well as the General Secretary. The teaching staff receives all information on available institutional support, including criteria for scientific papers, performance evaluation, and other important academic elements from the Vice Rector's Office for Quality and Academic Affairs. In the SER (p. 26) it is indicated that the teaching staff is encouraged to participate in international activities through projects and Erasmus+ exchange programs. The entire teaching staff of the faculty is involved in projects that include study visits or participation in international weeks at partner universities. However, the list of mobilities provided in the annex shows that this statement is far away from the reality. Only 6 teaching staff members of the Faculty of Law have participated in mobilities. Moreover, only 1 of them is involved in the teaching in the LLM Criminal Law program.

The teaching staff receives support from the Vice Rector's Office for Scientific Research and the Scientific Commission to facilitate scientific work and research projects. During the site visit teaching staff members confirmed the possibility to get funding for the publications in the journals indexed in Scopus or WoS.

**Standard 3.5 External associates who teach at the study program have adequate qualifications and work experience for the delivery of the study program and achievement of the intended learning outcomes. (ESG1.5)**

The Faculty of Law engages several external collaborators as lecturers for its master's programs, drawing from professionals in Kosovo's justice sector. However, the SER does not provide any example of such cooperation. It could be noted that in the LLM Criminal Law program there are 3 teaching staff who work on a part-time basis. At the same time, they are practicing lawyers in the study program related field (for instance, prosecutor, attorney).

**ET recommendations:**

- 1. To include more female teaching staff to keep gender balance in the study program. Currently out of 10 teaching staff teaching in the study program, only 1 is female.*
- 2. To organize language courses (especially, English) to the teaching staff (also administrative staff).*
- 3. To increase international mobility of teaching staff of the study program and their involvement in international projects.*
- 4. To ensure that all teaching staff engaged in the study program are involved in professional development programs.*
- 5. To involve external associates practicing in the field in the teaching process (not necessary through employment).*

#### **4. EDUCATIONAL PROCESS CONTENT**

The SER shows a detailed plan for the LLM Program Criminal Law.

<b>Program Objective 1:</b> To provide students with comprehensive and specialized knowledge in Comparative Criminal Law, Criminalistics, and Criminology.
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LO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrates knowledge of national and international criminal laws, including comparative criminal law systems and the implications of human rights in criminal procedures;</li> <li>- Analyzes and critically evaluates contemporary criminological theories and concepts, as well as emerging trends in criminal justice;</li> <li>- Understands the legal challenges and regulatory framework related to cybercrime and cybersecurity, including the impact of digital technology on crime and criminal investigations;</li> </ul>
<b>Program Objective 2:</b> To foster critical thinking and analytical skills in students to enable them to respond to the evolving demands of the legal profession.	
LO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- applies critical thinking and legal reasoning to analyze complex criminal issues, interpret statutes and legal precedents, and develop well-supported legal arguments;</li> <li>- demonstrates practical skills in criminal investigation techniques and tactics, including evidence collection, forensic analysis, and the application of advanced investigative technologies;</li> <li>- integrates knowledge from various disciplines, including law, criminology, and cybersecurity, to address complex legal issues and propose innovative solutions in a global context;</li> <li>- demonstrates practical skills in criminal investigation techniques and tactics, including evidence collection, forensic analysis, and the application of advanced investigative Technologies;</li> </ul>
<b>Program Objective 3:</b> To encourage independent learning, critical thinking, and research skills of students through exposure to a variety of methodologies and academic frameworks.	
LO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develops advanced research skills, including the ability to design and execute legal research projects using scientific methodologies and heuristic approaches;</li> <li>- designs a research project and defends the master's thesis;</li> <li>- demonstrates knowledge of national and international criminal laws, including comparative criminal justice systems and the implications of human rights in criminal proceedings;</li> </ul>
<b>Program Objective 4:</b> To encourage students to actively engage with the community and participate in initiatives that promote positive legal and social transformations in Kosovo and beyond.	
LO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- applies ethical standards and professional responsibility in the practice of criminal law, including sensitivity to human rights issues and the fair execution of criminal sanctions;</li> <li>- integrates knowledge from various disciplines, including law, criminology, and cybersecurity, to address complex legal issues and propose innovative solutions in a global context;</li> <li>- develops oral and written communication skills, enabling effective advocacy and the presentation of legal arguments.</li> </ul>

There are no doubts that the study program intended learning outcomes are formulated clearly, precisely, and comprehensively according to the best practices. They are aligned with the published institution's/academic unit's mission and strategic goals and are publicly available.

As well it is proved that the study program intended learning outcomes comply with the National Qualification Framework and the European Qualifications Framework level descriptors.

The content and structure of the curriculum has proven itself for more than ten years and it is open for the actual challenges concerning Criminal Law. It guides the students smoothly through their studies.

Learning outcomes are evaluated in terms of student workload and expressed in ECTS.

The Syllabuses overall are good and differentiated according to individual lessons. However, several syllabuses give literature only in Albanian language (e.g. “Comparative Crime Law”, “Criminal Investigation”, “International Criminal Law”) or only very old English literature (more than 40 years old!, e. g. “Crime and Syber Security”).

Because the program is held in Albanian language, it is undoubtedly important to provide evidence of Albanian literature. Due to the dependence on international contacts and the large amount of international content in the Program, it is essential to provide evidence of current English-language literature at all syllabuses in addition to Albanian literature. In this respect, progress is essential. As well in some syllabuses it could be helpful to add online sources.

The reality that the Republic of Kosovo is heavily dependent on international cooperation, the fact that many graduates of the program later work abroad and that important scientific discourses take place using English technical terms, should also have an impact on the educational process content.

As it is already the case in other master's programs in the Republic of Kosovo, AAB College should also offer individual courses in English in this program under reaccreditation. Not only should technical terms be explained, but individual content-related courses should also be held totally in English language. This corresponds to the wishes of the teaching staff, as well the students, as the Expert Team was able to clearly determine during the meetings with these groups during the on-site visit.

**ET recommendations:**

- 1. Those responsible for the program must ensure that all syllabuses include references to relevant literature in both English and Albanian.*
- 2. It is necessary to check where additional online sources can be included.*
- 3. The programme should include one or two courses in English language.*



## 5. STUDENTS

### **Standard 5.1: Clear admission policies, including requirements, criteria, and processes for the study program, are clearly defined and publicly available. (ESG 1.4)**

The College/faculty has made sure to properly respond to the requirements and standards concerning student admission policies and rules. Following the procedures, defined deadlines, required documents, and clearly established conditions are part of the steps through which the College/faculty strives to meet the required standards. To enrol in the second-cycle studies, applicants must have completed first-cycle studies with an appropriate number of ECTS credits (for one-year second-cycle studies, first-cycle studies with 240 ECTS are required). Those without the appropriate undergraduate studies take differential exams. Those dissatisfied with the competition results can appeal. It is commendable that the University/faculty organizes open days for newly enrolled students to introduce them to their studies and colleagues.

However, in the process of aligning with European standards and achieving better results, not only as a College/faculty, but also as added value for society's development, further improvements are needed in the "Students" standard area.

In the future, the student admission competition should include inclusivity and internationalization. Quotas and conditions for enrolling international students should be considered, not just from neighboring countries with Albanian origin but also from around the region and world. For this purpose, it is necessary to further equip the administrative service, at least with one more professional administrative worker, to take care of internationalization. Additionally, the AAB College should offer study programs in English (for international students) and elective courses in English (for local students).

Furthermore, quotas and special conditions for students from underrepresented communities, families with lower incomes, and students with disabilities should be established. In this way, the AAB College would not only give students in disadvantaged positions, a chance to study but also develop its societal responsibility even further.

AAB College could participate in education fairs not only in Kosovo but also in the region and beyond. The expert team also encourages the organization of open days and presentations of the College in high schools across Kosovo. This way, not only local youth will be informed in time, but also potential international students.

**Standard 5.2: Student progression data for the study program are regularly collected and analyzed. Appropriate actions are taken to ensure the student's completion of the study program. (ESG 1.4)**

AAB College has provided a good electronic platform that supports various activities within the faculties, including the process of distributing self-evaluation questionnaires for students and teaching staff. In the SER it is claimed that upon receiving the results, measures are taken for unsatisfactory results. However, the documents provided to the expert team do not clearly show whether and what measures have been taken regarding certain aspects. The documents also do not clearly show whether the administrative staff is included in the self-evaluation process, given that the questionnaires for students contain questions only regarding the teaching staff. If this is missing, it is necessary to include these aspects in the questionnaire in the future. The expert team strongly recommend that monitoring results be regularly presented to students and staff.

AAB College has established a transfer procedure for students from other higher education institutions who wish to continue their studies at this College. The administrative staff should assist students wishing to transfer, ensuring an efficient process.

It is also necessary for the faculty of Law or the program holders to establish a practice of inviting professionals, through which students will not only gain additional practical knowledge but also become aware of the future of their profession.

**Standard 5.3: The study program ensures appropriate conditions and support for outgoing and incoming students (national and international students). (ESG 1.4)**

Since this is a second-cycle study program lasting one year, it is difficult for the students to use long term mobilities (for one semester studies). However, students could use various opportunities for short term mobilities (summer/winter schools, intensive programs, travelling visits, etc.). This indicates that more efforts should be made to ensure good awareness of students about mobility opportunities. Kosovo has the opportunity to participate in various EU programs, especially Erasmus+, which the expert team strongly encourage AAB College to focus on. This further indicates the need for training for both academic and administrative staff at the Faculty of Law, in order to provide accurate and timely information to students about these opportunities. Moreover, invitation of foreign visiting professors/experts and classes in English would give a sense of internationalization for students who for various reasons are not able to go even on short-term mobilities (internationalization at home).

There are no foreign students at the faculty, which does not mean that management should not find solutions for attracting them in the future. First, the institution's structures need to be developed (such as the possibility of offering programs in English, administrative and academic support for this process).

AAB College should make efforts to participate in European University Alliances, from which it will gain not only knowledge and new ways of building capacity but also opportunities. Although the Alliances are already established, there are still ways to collaborate with them.

**Standard 5.4: The study program delivery is ensured through adequate resources for student support. The needs of a diverse student population (part-time students, mature students, students from abroad, students from under-represented and vulnerable groups, students with learning difficulties and disabilities, etc.) are taken into account. (ESG 1.6)**

The College/Faculty has made efforts through various resources to make students' studies more efficient and friendly. Through the e-platform services, students can complete most activities, which is commendable. Some students shared experiences with tutoring, which should be applied in the future through tutoring, mentoring, or advising students for easier mastery of tasks and challenges. Students recognize the College/Faculty as a partner, which gives a positive image of the management and staff's efforts. However, it must be emphasized that there is no impression of a diverse student population, and a plan and steps need to be made in the near future.

Students have representatives in the College/faculty's bodies, through which they express their requests. Whether this is done efficiently enough and whether it fulfils the purpose of their existence must be assessed in the future. More meetings should be organized at the level of student representatives and students, where students will be informed about certain changes and new decisions. During on-site visit students expressed their need for more green spaces on the campus, more social activities, and continuous information about them.

As a concluded impression and assessment concerning Standard are 5 “Students”, it can be said that the College/Faculty is making significant efforts and investments to ensure that students have an efficient and effective study experience, aiming to acquire new knowledge and competencies. However, to build a college that fosters the development of critical thinking, innovation, social responsibility, and connection with the outside world, the recommendations bellow are introduced.

## **ET Recommendations:**

1. *Faculty should put more efforts in the internationalization of its students (internationalization at home as an alternative to long-term or short-term mobilities).*
2. *To provide opportunities for short-term student mobility.*
3. *To organize events outside the mandatory curriculum.*
4. *Faculty should plan possible resources for future engagement of administrative staff for internationalization.*
5. *Faculty should put attention in improving inclusion of students belonging to vulnerable groups and minorities, as well with disabilities.*

## **6. RESEARCH**

Research is the focus of a chapter in AAB College's strategic plan. In this regard, the Faculty of Law has set the following strategic research priorities:

Priority 1: Ongoing legal reforms in Kosovo

Priority 2: Modalities of criminal law and justice in Kosovo

Priority 3: Innovations in civil law within Kosovo's positive law

The Faculty of Law has established a series of objectives that contribute to fulfilling the faculty's research priorities, while simultaneously aligning with the overall focus on research development as outlined in Chapter 2 of AAB's Strategic Plan.

According to internal regulations, the development of research and scientific inquiries at AAB College involves the following:

- thematic research conducted by the faculties, culminating in scientific conferences;
- research efforts led by Research Centers and faculties, independently or in collaboration with other partners;
- individual research and scientific contributions from the teaching staff.

In terms of publishing scientific papers, AAB College fulfils the criteria outlined in the Administrative Instruction of MEST No. 01/2018, which establishes principles for the recognition of International Peer-Reviewed Journals. The platforms and journals recognized under this instruction, which are assessed with a coefficient of 1, include Web of Science, Scopus, EBSCO, WorldCat, and DOAJ. Furthermore, based on the KAA's Accreditation

Manual, only teaching staff who have at least one scientific publication — either as first author or corresponding author on these platforms, are formally recognized as responsible individuals for the study program for the purposes of accreditation.

The proof of scientific publications of the full-time Professors of AAB College was provided by an appendix which was attached to the SER. The publication list is above average compared to other universities in the Republic of Kosovo. This corresponds to international standards.

The SER shows that the Faculty of Law is involved in three international research projects. This is good. However, research projects should be developed as well related to the Master Program under reaccreditation.

In accordance with the SER, the faculty has “planned” research collaboration with students and has also designed a program for this. Those responsible for the Master's program should make progress in implementing it. This also corresponds to a wish of the students, as the Expert Team could find out at the meeting with the students.

**ET recommendations:**

1. *International Research Programs should be developed concerning the Criminal Law Program.*
2. *Those responsible for the Master programs should make progress regarding the involvement of students in research.*

## **7. INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES**

AAB College is not only one of the largest universities in the Republic of Kosovo but is also recognized for its quality. This is also clearly reflected in the college's facilities. The rooms are very generous in terms of size and quality. Without any doubts it is possible to realize the Master Program with facilities.

Faculty of Law has two libraries available to students six days a week, from morning until evening. Each library features reading rooms, group workrooms, and individual study rooms. The number of reading seats in the library is aligned with the enrolment of students in the LLM Criminal Law program. Similarly, the capacity of the group workrooms is adequate for the number of students enrolled in the same program.

There is also no shortage of technical equipment. Quite often this is not the case in the Republik.

In terms of the library, an improvement is generally desirable. The College should make progress in acquisition of international books. But the college has a good electronic system through which international literature can be easily accessed in scanned form. The Expert Team checked whether five titles from the syllabus were accessible via the library. This was absolutely the case.

Based on the 3-year financial plan attached to the SER, there is no doubt that AAB College is financially able to finance the Master Program in Criminal Law. As well the 5-year financial plan for the master Program shows a solid base for the program.

With regard to the needs of people with special needs, it should be noted that the entire building is accessible via elevators and escalators.

**ET recommendations:**

1. *The AAB College should acquire more international books.*

**8. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**


As shown above, the compliance levels per general areas are:

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Compliance level</b>
1. Mission, objectives and administration	Fully compliant
2. Quality management	Substantially compliant
3. Academic staff	Substantially compliant
4. Educational process content	Fully compliant
5. Students	Substantially compliant
6. Research	Fully compliant
7. Infrastructure and resources	Fully compliant
<b>Overall compliance</b>	<b>Fully compliant</b>

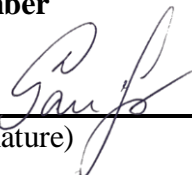
*According to the expert team's evaluation, the Master Program "Criminal Law (LLM)" is "Fully compliant" with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, the expert team recommends accrediting the programme for the duration of five years and admitting maximum 35 students to the programme per year. AAB College has to report on the implementation of the recommendations in one year.*

### Expert Team


#### Chair

	<b>Prof. Dr. Johannes Falterbaum</b>	<b>March 10, 2025</b>
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)

#### Member

	<b>Prof. Dr. Dovile Gailiute-Janusone</b>	<b>March 10, 2025</b>
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)

#### Member

	<b>Katerina Klimoska</b>	<b>March 10, 2025</b>
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)