

PBHE – Universe College

Bardosh village, Kosovo

Application for Accreditation:

- 1. Bachelor in ‘Physiotherapy’**
- 2. Bachelor in ‘Midwifery’**
- 3. Integrated Program (level 6 and 7) in ‘Dentistry’**
- 4. Integrated Program (level 6 and 7) in ‘Pharmacy’**
- 5. Master in 'Physical culture sports and recreation'**
- 6. Master in ‘ General Nursing’**

Site visit on the 23rd of April 2015

At the school site in Bardosh village

Experts Team (ET):

- Prof. Dr. Danica Zeleznik/ Univ. College of Health Sciences Slov. Gradec (SI)
- Prof. Dr. Markus Paulmichl/ Paracelsus Medical University (AT)
- Prof. Dr. Helvi Kyngäs/ Univeristy of Oulu (FI)
- Prof. Dr. Gábor Gerber/ Semmelweis University (HU)
- Prof. Dr. Dušan Hamar / Comenius University (SK)

Coordinator's of KAA (CKAA):

- Prof. Dr. Ferdije Zhushi-Etemi - National Quality Council/ KAA
- Ms. Furtuna Mehmeti – Acting Director/ KAA (present at the site)
- Mr. Shkelzen Gerxhaliu - Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring/ KAA

The Task:

PBHE “Universe College” is applying for the accreditation of the following programs:

1. Bachelor in ‘Physiotherapy’ (3 year program)
2. Bachelor in ‘Midwifery’ (3 year program)
3. Integrated Program (level 6 and 7) in ‘Dentistry’ (5 year program)
4. Integrated Program (level 6 and 7) in ‘Pharmacy’ (5 year program)
5. Master in ‘ General Nursing’ (2 year program)

And re-accreditation of the following program:

6. Master in 'Physical culture sports and recreation' (1 year program)

The site visit was on the 23rd of April 2015 at the school in Bardosh village, and organized as follows:

- Meeting with management
- Meeting with responsible persons for the study programs (curriculum, teaching, researches and fulfilment of ET-recommendations)
- Visit of the facilities and infrastructure
- Meeting with academic staff
- Meeting with students
- Expert team (ET) and CCAA consultation
- Closing meeting with management

The additional document, the curriculum for four-year Physical Culture Sport and Recreation was requested and received by ET during site visit.

The ET noted that there are many discrepancies between the printed self evaluation document and the electronically received Annexes, Syllabuses, which might affect for example comments regarding student hours and ECTS.

The report is based on:

- Self-evaluation report 2014/2015
- Meeting with the Management of College and extensive discussion between the members of University College, the expert team, and representatives of KAA
- The Code of good practice and guidelines for site-visit, provided by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency
- Site-visit of the facilities
- Verification of the compliance with the recommendations provided by the KAA

Ad 1. ACCREDITATION of the program

BACHELOR IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

Curriculum

The academic program corresponds to the institution's mission statement. The program is organized and will be conducted according European standards. The program is divided into six semesters and the duration of study is three academic years, equivalent with 180 ECTS. ECTS by two semesters is 60. All courses carry ECTS points and 1 ECTS is equal to 30 hours. The curriculum includes 10% from 180ECTS elective courses (18 ECTS). The number of independent students' working hours shows good balance.

The teaching methods are sufficient for the successful achievement of the program's goals and outcomes such as competences and qualifications, knowledge and skills. Teaching methods are combination of lectures, seminars, assignments, practice-clinical training, demonstration with patients, teamwork, project, and supervision in health and social institutions. The program content is in full compliance with European requirements for a proper and appropriate training in physiotherapy. Academic degree is bachelor of physiotherapy.

The administration and the prospective program coordinator clearly described why the program is needed and how the program would contribute to higher education in Kosovo. The academic program corresponds to the institution's mission statement and principles of operation.

Staff

The teaching staff consists of full time and part time professionals. The teaching staff for the program needs to be doctors in the discipline. At the moment this requirement is not fulfilled. There are three teachers with degrees in physiotherapy. Responsible person of the program has BA and MA degree in physiotherapy and he is doctoral candidate. The quality of the teaching staff is sufficient only for the first year of the program.

Equipment (rooms, labs, library and IT infrastructure, etc)

Bachelor physiotherapy has good conditions for application of curriculum. There are classrooms for lectures, library, and computer cabinet for informatics. The existing

infrastructural capacities of the Institution enable proper development of for 40 students per academic year.

The school is advised to activate international exchange programs as soon as possible.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

To strengthen the competence of the teaching staff it is recommended to invite visiting professionals from abroad and support academic staff to do PhD. Equipment is good and offers good conditions to have high level teaching and research. It is strongly suggested to have no more than 40 students.

Since qualified teaching staff is available only for the first year and the Accreditation Board will not accept partial accreditation the University College program for *BACHELOR IN PHYSIOTHERAPY* can NOT be recommended for accreditation.

Ad 2. ACCREDITATION of the program

BACHELOR IN MIDWIFERY

Curriculum

The program is 180 ECTS. There is 60ECTS per year. All courses carry ECTS points and 1 ECTS is equal to 28 hours. The curriculum includes elective courses all together 18 ECTS. The curriculum contains the number of independent working hours of the students which is in good balance. Teaching methods are combination of lectures, seminars, assignments, practice-clinical training, demonstration with patients, teamwork, project, and supervision in health and social institutions. Literature is old and it must be updated. The content of curriculum covers the most important areas. Academic degree is bachelor of midwifery. The program is organized and conducted according European standards.

The administration and the prospective program coordinator clearly described why the program is needed and how the program would contribute to higher education in Kosovo. The need for midwifery program (BA) is obvious. The academic program corresponds to the institution's mission statement and principles of operation.

Staff

The teaching staffs consist of full time and part time professionals. All together there is 13 academic staff including one nurse and two midwives. The quality of the teaching staff is not sufficient for the program because there is too few academic staff with midwifery education. If the qualified teaching staff is not available in Kosovo international support is needed.

Equipment (rooms, labs, library and IT infrastructure, etc)

There are relative good conditions for application of curriculum. There are classrooms for lectures, library, and computer cabinet for informatics. The existing infrastructural capacities of the Institution enable normal development of teaching for around 20 students per academic year.

The school is advised to activate international exchange programs as soon as possible.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

The program needs more academic staff with midwifery education. Increasing the number of them is the condition to conduct the curriculum in a proper way. It is also recommended that visiting professionals are invited from abroad. Learning materials need to be updated. Equipment is good to conduct the education. It is strongly suggested not to have more than 20 students. The most serious problem is that there is not enough qualified staff.

The University College program for BACHELOR IN MIDWIFERY can NOT be recommended for accreditation.

Ad 3. ACCREDITATION of the program

BACHELOR AND MASTER integrated (level 6 and 7) program in ‘DENTISTRY’

Academic Program and Student Management

The academic program as it was mentioned by the responsible person of the program was adapted from the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb. It consists of 300 ECTS in total and 60 per year and fits well with European standards. However, there is room for fine tuning, for example First Aid and Gnathology are elective subjects which means that students might not take them but they are essential for practicing dentists.

The program was evaluated according the 40 students the school intends to assume per year.

Staff

The teaching staff for the program needs to be master or PhD in the respective disciplines. This goal is NOT achieved and the management was not able to present a “development program” indicating the improvement of this issue in the years to come. Furthermore, Kosovo law requires that at least half of the teaching staff is full-time employees from the school. This is also not the case for the program in dentistry. For the 14 topics in dentistry in the first year only 4 are assigned to full time employee. It might be a mistake but the lecturer for physics is the English language teacher (page 110)!

The main problem with staff is that there is practically no one who can teach after the first year. There is only one full and one part time staff member with dental degree and both of them are prosthodontists. It is not only the core dental subjects which lack teachers but the rest of the subjects as well.

International Co-operation

The responsible persons for dentistry informed the ET that they plan close cooperation with universities in Turkey and Albania.

Finances and Infrastructure/Space and Equipment

Besides of competent staff the infrastructure is the major problem.

There is none for dentistry! There are no anatomy, physiology or chemistry labs models, specimens or equipment even for the first year students, no dental or preclinical laboratories with proper equipment, dental units etc. for the later years.

The management was not able to demonstrate a convincing development plan and budget to ET which would show that they were capable to provide this infrastructure in the near future.

Quality management

A basic quality management plan is in place and the program is so far evaluated accordingly. The ET acknowledged the effort undertaken by the institution to improve the quality of teaching. However, at the moment the quality that could be offered by the institution for the dentistry program is not even close to Kosovarian or European standard.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

The program for bachelor and master in “Dentistry” can NOT be recommended for accreditation for multiple reasons.

Ad 4. ACCREDITATION of the program

BACHELOR AND MASTER integrated (level 6 and 7) program in ‘PHARMACY’

Academic Program and Student Management

The academic program shows serious inconsistencies in organization as well as content. The Albanian language was referred to as a foreign language in the original version of the curriculum offered to the ET, however, a modified version of the curriculum structure was offered at site AFTER the shortcoming was pointed out by the ET.

The program was evaluated according the 40 students the school intends to assume per year.

Staff

The teaching staff for the program, needs to be master or PhD in the respective disciplines. This goal is NOT achieved and the management was not able to present a “development program” indicating the improvement of this issue in the years to come. Furthermore, Kosovo law requires that at least half of the teaching staff is full-time employees from the school. This is also not the case for the program in pharmacy. For the 8 topics in pharmacy in the first year 8 masters and 5 doctors are assigned, however, only 3 doctors and 1 master are full time employed by the school.

International Co-operation

The responsible persons for pharmacy informed the ET that a tight cooperation with a school in Tirana that failed accreditation is in place. From that institution the school intends to purchase equipment.

Finances and Infrastructure/Space and Equipment

A budget for the school shows serious inconsistencies i.e. the rector informed the ET that all the profit should be re-invested, however, in the budget plan such investments before-tax are not mentioned. A major setback regarding the pharmacy program is the fact that the school did not have any laboratory for chemistry (laboratory benches, hoods, centrifuges and other equipment needed for a chemistry teaching), physics or biology (equipped with microscopes), needed for a pharmacy program that would allow an adequate teaching in pharmacy at Kosovo or European level.

As performed by other educational institutions the ET suggests to the management to apply first for a bachelor program in pharmacy (when all the necessities for the first year i.e. staff and infrastructure – see above – are 100% in place) and in a second step to a master in pharmacy and eventually both can be combined in the future into an integrated system.

Quality management

A basic quality management plan is in place and the program is so far evaluated accordingly. The ET acknowledged the effort undertaken by the institution to improve the quality of teaching. However, at the moment the quality that could be offered by the institution for the pharmacy program is not even close to Kosovar or European standard.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

The program for bachelor and master in “Pharmacy” can NOT be recommended for accreditation for multiple reasons.

Ad 5. ACCREDITATION of the program

MASTER IN NURSING

Curriculum

The program is divided into three following profile; *nurse educator profile* 120 ECTS, *nurse management profile* 120 ECTS and *clinical nursing profile* 120ECTS.

The idea of curriculum to have three different profiles is good. The curriculum contains the number of independent working hours of the students which is in good balance. Teaching methods are diverse and purposeful for master level education. Literature is old and must be updated. The program will take in 40 students.

The administration and the prospective program coordinator clearly described why the program is needed and how the program would contribute to higher education in Kosovo. The academic program corresponds to the institution's mission statement and principles of operation.

Staff

There is not enough competent academic staff because only one has MA in Nursing. None of them has PhD in Nursing. The quality of the teaching staff is not sufficient for the program. There is academic staff development plan to have more academic staff with master and doctoral degree in Nursing. It is also advised to have some visiting academic staff from abroad. It is understandable that when new education is developed at the beginning it is a challenge to get qualified academic staff but without it no program can be started.

Equipment (rooms, library and IT infrastructure, etc)

There are relative good conditions for application of curriculum. There are classrooms for lectures, library, and computer cabinet for informatics.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

The biggest challenge is to get competent academic staff with master and doctoral degree. It is recommended to invite visiting professionals from abroad, and to have an active academic staff development plan. Literature is old and must be updated. The most serious problem is that there is no qualified academic staff to start the program.

The University College program for MASTER IN NURSING can NOT be recommended for accreditation.

Ad 6. ACCREDITATION of the program

MASTER IN PHYSICAL CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Historically, as a heritage of educational system in the former Yugoslavia, university institutions in Kosovo dealing with physical education, sport and recreation have been offering rather unconventional 4 year bachelor programs. As such programs do not comply with EU standards, some years ago a group of experts has recommended this program to be terminated and replaced by a standard 3 year bachelor program to be followed by an optional 2 year master curriculum.

However, in order to create an equal opportunity for the bachelors graduated from 4 year program, a special 1 year master curriculum has been created and temporary accredited. As this accreditation expires in 2015 and there are still potential candidates for master studies from graduates of former 4 year bachelor program, College University has submitted this application for temporary reaccreditation for an additional 2 year period. So it should be underlined that the curriculum under consideration can be exclusively offered to the graduates of already terminated 4 year bachelor program and not for those finishing conventional 3 year bachelor program.

Academic Programme

The proposed academic programme is structured in modules with a total of 60 ECTS. As such it would not comply with international recommendations requiring total of 120 ECST. However, as compensation of missing 60 ETC subjects from extra year of extended bachelor program have been proposed to be recognised. After careful evaluation of both programmes such a compensation can be accepted. Taken together, program corresponds with 120 ECTS as required by international standards.

Curriculum

The current curriculum further enhances knowledge and competences gained during extended 4 year bachelor program. Considered together it meets well the international standards. Also students work load (ECTS) in the different fields of study corresponds with european recommendations. Teaching subjects are clearly described in terms of content, learning objectives and outcomes. Key competences to be gained and teaching methodology to be applied are defined and study materials specified. Though literature recommended not always contains the most recent editions of textbooks, it can be considered satisfactory. A large amount of literature recommended is in English. This can be considered as a positive approach with aim to provide up to date information, however, it also bears a potential problem, especially for students with lack of proficiency in English language.

Facilities

Faculty is situated in a modern building providing excellent teaching facilities. Modern spacious classrooms are equipped with up-to-date audiovisual technique, indoor sport halls are fully sufficient for theoretical and practical subjects proposed in curriculum. Also a laboratory with highly sophisticated equipment for exercise testing, anthropometrical measurement and assessment of neuromuscular functions is available. Provided there is appropriately trained personnel to use them, they can greatly enhance research activities and quality of master thesis dealing with performance and health related topics. Moreover, according to information presented by management, Faculty is ready to provide, for teaching staff as well as for students, an acces to international scientific databases and full text of articles needed. This will also further contribute to quality of research and teaching.

Finances

Considering specific situation in Kosovo as well as budgetary information from previous years it seems that income from tuition fee would be sufficient to cover teaching, management and amount of research activities required by the program.

Academic staff

Documents and oral information provided indicate that there are 6 full time and 5 part time teachers to be engaged in the master programme. Based on their qualification, they possess the competence to teach and supervise research on a master level. Also recognised international cooperating experts are foreseen to support teaching activities. However, their lecturing have to be supported by a qualified interpreter with appropriate knowledge of sport and exercise science terminology, ideally one of the English speaking full time teachers.

Considering 20 students foreseen for the program, the amount of teaching staff as specified above is acceptable.

Quality managment

Regular confidential questionnaires assessing the opinion of students, academic staff, and administrative personnel provide the basis for a continuous quality assessment. There is a system in place to take appropriate steps for improvement of teaching and managment issues revealed by the anonymous surveys.

Conclusion:

Recommendation by the Expert Panel:

The accreditation of the 1 year (60 ECTS) Master Programme is recommended for an additional 2 year period provided that exclusively graduates from 4 year bachelor program or Medical school are recruited and admitted.

However, some of the subjects in curicullum should be rephrased as their titles in English are partly misleading. „Physiology of loads in sport“ should be changed into „Exercise physiology“ and „Sportsman nutrition and stimulation means“ into „Athlete ´s nutrition and ergogenic aids“.

In addition, investment in extending the access to relevant literature is recommended. Also further development of language skills in English to achieve a higher degree of autonomy is strongly recommended for both teaching staff and students.