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Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo

Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency



UBT COLLEGE

***MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
URBANISM AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PROVIDED IN PRISTINA***

ACCREDITATION

FINAL REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

8 June 2021, Budapest



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 25 May 2021

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Prof. Dr. Bálint Bachmann*
- *Christoph Back (student expert)*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- *Naim Gashi, Executive Director of KAA*
- *Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring*
- *Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation*
- *Leona Kovaci, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring*
- *Ilirjane Ademaj, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring*

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-evaluation report (SER) Master (MSc) in Urbanism and Development*
- *KAA Accreditation Manual*
- *The Manual for External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions*
- *Sample of Final Evolutional Report*
- *Annexes from UBT: Quality Assurance Regulation, Regulation for Academic Advancement, Faculty Academic Council, Code of Ethics, Organogram, Research Strategy, ect.*

Requested additional documents sent by UBT College:

- *none*



Criteria used for program evaluation:

- *KAA Accreditation Manual, Standards and Performance Indicators for External Evaluation*
- *The Manual for External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions*

1.2. Site visit schedule

13th April 2021

09.00 – 09.40	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated
9:45 – 10:15	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff
10:20 – 11:20	Meeting with the heads of the study programme
11:20 – 12:00	Lunch Break
12:00 – 12:40	Meeting with teaching staff
12:45 – 13:30	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
13:35 – 13:45	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
13:50 – 14:00	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program

1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation

UBT College offers a dynamic and innovative XXI. century academic environment. It provides a supportive and challenging opportunity for the students, faculty and staff in participatory and self-governance setting. UBT College is a preeminent centre of intellectual and cultural activity in Kosovo, improving the region's quality of life through the skills, knowledge, experience and engagement of its faculty, staff, students and alumni. UBT College will be a leading contributor to the growth, and strategic development of the Kosovo and region. It will serve the Kosovo and region, by preparing leaders for the XXI. century with a global outlook and the skills needed for educational, social, economic, political, environmental and cultural advancement.

In delivering the mission statement for the benefit of students and all other stakeholders, the institution has identified several strategic objectives:

- achieving academic excellence,
- developing research, innovation and social responsibility,



- creating a positive working and learning environment,
- maintaining and increasing internationalization and regional partnerships and partnering with the community.

It is planned that the Master of Science in Urbanism and Development program provided in Pristina will be part of the Architecture and Spatial Planning Department of UBT.

The new site in the suburb of Pristina in Lipjan is a necessary extension of the main campus to host technology and engineering focused study programs, among them Architecture and Spatial Design Bachelor and Master courses with their space consuming needs.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

UBT College's open door policy for applicants allows a wide immersion of students for its study programs. The enrolment process for Master courses includes a personal interview with the applicants, providing information about the desired profession and about the students' engagement and activities during the studies, helping to make the right choice.

Recommendations of former Expert Teams were followed in terms of students' enrollment and development of staff and infrastructure to fulfill KAA quality requirements and local labor market needs at the same time. UBT recently finished its new site of Lipjan in the suburb of Pristina, the buildings serve the science and engineering programs well-fitted with technological equipment in its spacious halls.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.	x	
Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.	x	



Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.	x	
Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.	x	
Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.	x	
Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The study program puts emphasis on holistic competences in urban planning, city development and maintenance, therefor the Expert Team recommends to call the master program Urban Planning and Development in its English form.*
- 2. UBT College provides scholarship for applicants with excellent grades and personal interview for orientation of the applicants to compensate the consequence of open-door policy. Particular priority for the successful knowledge transfer is the selection of capable applicants, therefor ET recommends introducing further criteria and method to measure visual knowledge, technical sense and communication skills during the enrolment.*

2.2. Quality management

The program will be integrated in the overall quality management mechanisms of UBT which consists of the Governing Body, President, Academic Council, Quality Assurance Committee, Quality Manager, Heads of Faculties and Departments and the Faculty Councils. In addition, the faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning has a designated Quality Assurance Officer and Quality Assurance Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee will have three members, a



teaching staff representative, an administrative staff representative, and a student representative. The QA Officer and the QA Sub-Committee will be the connecting link between the application of the QM outputs and the reporting of the QM results to the strategic QM committees above (Quality Assurance Committee, ...).

The whole composition of this processes and procedures with the involvement of different QM boards and responsible positions is described in the Faculty Quality Assurance Manual which is based on the overall UBT Quality Manual.

Regarding academic standards, the Faculty Council will be in charge to check and verify that all academic policies are met within the program. These policies can be found in the Academic Council Regulations on Graduate Study and Quality Assurance Manual.

The QA Officer and the QA Sub-Committee will regulate the evaluation (and self-evaluation) of the academic and administrative services. This information is the main input for the whole QM system and will lead (with the help of an improvement plan which contains changes and implementations) to an improvement in quality.

During the interviews with the Expert Panel, UBT was able to provide enough evidence that this procedure will work for the academic site. For the evaluation of the administrative services no sufficient evidence for a closed QM circle with inputs, outputs, changes and check-ups could be delivered.

The Quality evaluation is described in the Faculty Quality Assurance Manual and the UBT Quality Manual. The Quality evaluation process is structured into this fields: Procedures for student assessment, Procedures for ongoing monitoring of programmes, Procedures for programme evaluation, Procedures for selection, appointment, appraisal and development of staff and Procedures for evaluating premises, equipment and student services. All these procedures assure, that the standards of Kosovo Accreditation Agency are met. The Expert Panel is pleased about this level of gathering QM inputs and outputs on the paper-based dimension. During the interviews, the Expert Panel found some cases where this high level of QA was not well adapted into the “daily UBT life”. The Expert Panel is aware that this process of creating a quality culture is difficult and long-term. The Experts wants to motivate UBT to stay on track with its development in QA. The status quo of the QM at UBT is sufficient, this is clear to say. With further development, it could become significant in Kosovo.

Regarding the topic of academic integrity and potential cases of academic misconduct, UBT was not able to provide sufficient information for an appropriate handling. Policies for these



cases are defined, but during the interviews the answers on how to handle that kind of an issue were unspecific and contradictory. UBT has to change its view on this very important topic, otherwise the creation of the mentioned “quality culture” is not persistent. This topic (which is a widespread issue at HEI’s in Kosovo) is also very important for the acceptance of UBT in the academic landscape in Europe.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.	x	
Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.	x	
Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.		x
Standard 2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as of different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs, with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.	x	
Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.		x
Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.	x	
Standard 2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.	x	
Standard 2.8. The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (eg. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	x	



Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	x	
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The evaluation process of the administrative services should be revised.*
- 2. UBT has well designed QA policies and process descriptions. The better adoption of all of these policies in the “daily UBT life” would lead to a significant quality culture. The pathway is defined, UBT should go this way now.*
- 3. The view and handling of the topic of academic integrity should be revised. UBT has to tackle these issues with higher importance.*

2.3. Academic staff

Many of lecturers and responsible persons of the Urbanism and Development master program are members of the Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Design, which is obvious and makes sense because of the relevance of spatial planning in the urban development. The Faculty puts emphasis on the development of human resources for its program reaccreditations since 2017. They increased the number of PhD holders (33) and candidates (14) among the academic staff (86). Recently the Faculty hires six more colleagues to be prepared for the increasing number of students of Architecture. Reflecting on the former recommendation of the experts the Faculty regularly monitors teaching load of staff to avoid overload in any discipline.

The management led by architect Dr. Sc. Binak Beqaj and Shqiprim Ahmeti improved its' staff significantly, young educators introduced themselves as highly motivated competent members of a community. The MSc in Urbanism and Development conducted in Pristina/Lipjan is led by the full-time employees in charge: agricultural engineer Kultim Lepaja PhD, environmental expert Medin Zeqiri PhD, agricultural professional Vexhi Halili, noise protection engineer Egzon Bajraktari, and Kujtim Elezi PhD responsible for research methods.

The SER 2021/22 shows up (p.35) Kujtim Lepaja and Medin Zeqiri as responsible persons in charge of the Urbanism and Development MSc program in Pristina. According to Kosovo national regulation 2 persons are responsible (each dedicated to 60 ECTS) for the master program.



The representatives of the employees made the impression of competent, enthusiastic and motivated staff. Elvida Pallaska PhD for spatial planning, Lulzim Beqiri PhD for housing and Ferhat Bejtullahu PhD for urban planning are lecturers of the master program demonstrate comprehensive and holistic approach for delivering competences and skill of urban planning and development.

Student/staff ratio is satisfactory, although the high number of students per semester can be difficult to manage in the weekly timetable. If UBT College is intending to enrol 200 students in Pristina/Lipjan on MSc level, they must count with the high working load of staff involved in other programs, especially in tutorial demanding subjects.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 3.1. Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.	x	
Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.	x	
Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity	x	
Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.	x	
Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	x	



Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.	x	
Standard 3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.	x	
Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.	x	
Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.	x	
Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Whilst UBT College has done significant progress in HR development recently, they shall keep on preparing their teaching staff for the high working load of consultation with 100+ students per semester intake. Introduction of online content implemented to the subjects requiring participation can facilitate the success of knowledge transfer to students with different skills.*
- 2. Participation in research projects outside the institution and international mobility ensure the increasing academic quality of the staff.*
- 3. Despite UBT College stated to monitor the workload of the teaching staff, providing multiple related master programs is still a challenge for the colleagues involved parallelly. ET recommends to hire local professionals responsible for site-specific topics and projects beside the commuting staff members with degree.*

2.4. Educational process content

The self-evaluation report (SER) and especially the syllabuses of the subjects of the Master (MSc) in Urbanism and Development program contain all of the relevant knowledge on the



field of urban design and development. Some of the proposed courses cover the core knowledge meanwhile others focus on current key topics like sustainable approaches in different aspects. The planned objectives and outcomes of the courses are adequate, meanwhile the content and used literature includes state of the art international resources together with national reading recommendations.

The overall program fits properly to the expectation of the different international approaches - UN Habitat, European Union Green Deal or New European Bauhaus Initiative - and strategy about current and future urban planning and design.

The SER states an English Language Criterion set for the applicants of the master program. Good foreign language skills help students not just during their studies to reach international literature, but to facilitate their own professional involvement in local and international companies after their studies.

The volume of credits of Urbanism and Development master program is 120 ECTS earned through theoretical and practical, project-based classes (Capstone/Project/Thesis) and other relevant activities accomplished during the 4 semesters. Studies are carried out in accordance with general principles similar study programs at Western Balkan Region, European and American schools (like Polis University, University of Zagreb, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, ETH Zurich, HafenCity Universität, MIT. Program lecturers and the person in charge of the program have academic titles in relevant scientific fields.

The weekly hours of lectures and tutorials is up to 30, which is rather high, but common for studies in master programs. Students' efforts to complete their design studio work outside lecturing hours could justify a lower workload (22 to 24 hours) of contact hours a week.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 4.1. The study program is modelled on qualification objectives. These include subject-related and interdisciplinary aspects as well as the acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies. The aspects refer especially to academic or artistic competencies, to the capability of taking up adequate employment, contributing to the civil society and of developing the students' personality.	x	



Standard 4.2. The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.	x	
Standard 4.3. The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.	x	
Standard 4.4. The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.	x	
Standard 4.5. If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.	Not relevant	
Standard 4.6. The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	X	
Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.	x	
Standard 4.8. Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.	x	
Standard 4.9. Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	x	



Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.	x	
Standard 4.11. If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated ECTS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organisations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.	Not relevant	
Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/ organisations/practical training units.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *ET recommends to further equip dedicated space for students' at project-based master courses, to maintain independent work at the new site of 27.000 sqms and concentrate even more on students' own work methods and the documentation of its outcomes.*

2.5. Students

The Students Admission is Regulated by the Faculty Council Regulation on Admission. For the application process it is mandatory that a bachelor's degree-Diploma is available (for international applicants additionally a document for degree equivalencing from Ministry of Education of Kosovo is required). If this requirement is not met, the application is not valid, and an enrolment is not possible.

The whole process is transparent described and handled.

During the interviews UBT was able to credibly assure that the teaching and learning process will be interactive and student centred. With a maximum enrolment of 100 Students per year, UBT is able to provide sufficient circumstances – the study groups will be well dimensioned with this total number of students.



An academic record will be available for the students during their whole student life at UBT. UBT provided some examples of a flexible treatment of students in special situations (ongoing illness, pregnancy, ...) from other programs. Overall, the Expert Panel is satisfied with the handling of UBT on the mentioned topics.

Student completion rates for all courses and for the program as a whole will be taken into account within the monitoring system of the QM (see chapter 2.2). Appropriate quality indicators are defined.

Regarding the topic of academic integrity and the check-up procedure if the work submitted by students is original, the Expert Panel did not find satisfying information. As mentioned in chapter 2.2., policies for academic misconduct are defined but the handling of these kind of issues is insufficient. During the interviews, UBT was not uniformly able to explain the usage of an antiplagiarism software.

The rights and obligations of students are summarized in the student handbook, which every student will get on the beginning of his studies. Also, the transfer of students (between HEI's, faculties or programs) is possible at UBT. The policies regarding this topic are appropriate and transparent. The Expert Panel is satisfied how UBT is handling this policy driven aspects.

During the interviews the Expert Panel was able to get a good impression of the availability of the academic staff for consultation and assistance. At the UBT Main Campus in Pristina, the availability is very good, no complaints or any other signs of discontent was found.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students	x	
Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	x	
Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	x	
Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	x	



Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	x	
Standard 5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.	x	
Standard 5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	x	
Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.		x
Standard 5.9. Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.	x	
Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.	x	
Standard 5.11. Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The view and handling of the topic of academic integrity should be revised. UBT has to tackle these issues with more importance. The usage of an antiplagiarism software should become normal. Also, a training for the academic staff on how to use this software could be helpful.*

2.6. Research

The study programs on Master of Science level aims to provide scientific work by the students' field study, interviews, database analysis in form of researched based design are part of the knowledge and competence transfer. UBT College and its Institute for Urban Studies and Spatial Planning together with Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning can achieve the state of university of applied science by focusing on R+D+I activity for the building and creative industries. Staff are already dealing with research-based design and are successful in their fields of interest. UBT College set up already research centers within the existing Knowledge Centre for academic excellence by cooperating with economic entities. Topics like *Sustainable Planning and Development, Architectural and Urban Heritage, Landscape Design, Planning History and Theory and Urban Management* offer a wide range of scientific activity for UBT College's researchers.



The Institute for Urban Studies and Spatial Planning allocates Planning and Design, Sustainable Transportation Policy and City History into Labs. These topics are state of the art and can support the development and maintenance of Kosovo's fast growing urban environment.

Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are specified and is respected by the annual evaluation of the staff performance. The outcome of scientific/artistic work per year is registered and required by the institution. UBT College allocates funds for professional activities and supports academic achievements of the staff. Many of the staff members cooperate with prestigious international art schools in applied art projects considered equal to scientific work. Professionals and artists with a degree (PhD or DLA) are supported and promoted at UBT College, fulfilling the accreditation criteria becoming program leaders.

Recognised research outcomes are defined by UBT College, that are consistent with international standards: articles in indexed journals, conference papers, proceedings, books, exhibitions, design competitions and environment fairs.

The academic staff has a wide range of artistic record measurable with scientific achievements, since many of them have international experience not only as acting artists but as authors of scientific articles as well.

The scientific activities at UBT College are demonstrated by the Annual International Conference inviting all fields of applied science and art conducted by the institution. Staff members are expected to lecture about their scientific/professional work during the conference. More relevant to peer reviewed scientific and artistic work are the international appearances of the staff members on independent forum, that has to be strengthened further on.

UBT College is active of organising scientific events, highlighted the Annual International Conference since 2018. Participation of staff on international events abroad is less impacted now by the visa regulations against Kosovo natives. The global COVID-19 lockdown influences recently the scientific mobility, all events took place online.

The institution tracks the publications of its staff through the Knowledge Centre. According to list of the SER most of the FT staff members of the institution fulfil the requirement to publish /produce at least one scientific/art result per year for the past three years. UBT College requires FT academic staff to publish under the name of the HEI. Academics have their own Google Scholar and ORCID accounts for the visibility of their tracks. Protection of intellectual property is stated at the Code of Ethics, but no evidence for commercialization of ideas was detected ever since.

UBT College is on the right track with its urban and spatial planning study portfolio concentrating on business and technology, development and maintenance since these fields are expected to drive global economic growth in an ecologically sustainable way.



Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 6.1. The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.	x	
Standard 6.2. Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.	x	
Standard 6.3. Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.	x	
Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.	x	
Standard 6.5. The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.		x
Standard 6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.	x	
Standard 6.7. Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.		x



Standard 6.8 (1) Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full-time staff.	x	
Standard 6.8. (2) Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.	x	
Standard 6.9. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.	x	
Standard 6.10. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities	x	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The specific research topics shall reflect the local industry's needs to ensure the applicability of its findings. According to rapid urban development of Kosovo, future issues of the built environment, like social housing, urban comfort, sustainable maintenance and energy conscious technologies can be in focus of scientific activities.*
- 2. Based on the focus of scientific interest of urban and environmental research, facilitate proper infrastructure in form of laboratories, hardware and software and allocate maintenance costs at the new campus in Lipjan.*
- 3. Academic promotion on a regular basis and frequency can emphasise staff to achievements.*
- 4. Fund raising through local business entities and participation in international projects can contribute to the academic acknowledgement of UBT as applied sciences university and can substitute the lack of national state funding for private higher education.*



2.7. Infrastructure and resources

Because of the Covid19 pandemic, the Expert Panel was not able to visit UBT in person. So, the basis for the Experts to decide about this standard were videos and photos provided by UBT, the impression from the interviews and last but not least the experience of the chair of the Expert Panel, who had the chance to visit UBT some years ago in context to another Kosovo Accreditation Agency evaluation.

The UBT Campus in Lipjan (Pristina) provides everything what is needed for the delivery of the program. The quantitative resources (space, human resources and equipment) are sufficient for the long-term implementation of the program for the intended number of students (see chapter 3.). The number of seats in lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories are also well dimensioned for the program. This is also the case for the capacity of the library. Adequate documents for evidence regarding the facilities were provided by UBT (for the premises in general, equipment, software and library).

UBT provided a completely and comprehensible financial plan to the Expert Panel. The Experts assess the numbers within the plan as realistic and sufficient to sustainably deliver the program for the next years.

The UBT Campus in Lipjan (Pristina) is well suited for the delivery of the program. Only the preparations for students with special needs is insufficient. For example, the lack of elevators or high stair steps are a problematic.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 7.1. The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.	x	
Standard 7.2. There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	x	
Standard 7.3. The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the	x	



study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years: a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process; b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities; c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilisation licence; d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.		
Standard 7.4. The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the speciality disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	x	
Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs: a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign speciality literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or speciality courses of recognised publishers, from the last 10 years; d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for; e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.	x	
Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs		x

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- UBT should design the facilities in a manner, that students with special needs can participate at the academic life without any restrictions.*



3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

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

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Master of Science in Urbanism and Development offered by UBT College in Pristina/Lipjan is overall *fully compliant* with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and therefore, recommends accrediting the study program for a duration of *3 years* with a number of *100 students* to be enrolled in the program.

4. APPENDICES (if available)



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency

Expert Team

Chair

Signature

Prof. Dr. Bálint Bachmann

8th June 2021

Member

Signature

Christoph Back

8th June 2021