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***UNIVERSITY “ISA BOLETINI” MITROVICA BACHELOR (BSc)
MINING***

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

April 2022, Tallinn-Edinburgh



DATE, PLACE

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 14th March, 2022

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Dr. Alvar Soesoo*
- *Ms. Rebecca Maxwell Stuart, PhD student*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Flamur Abazaj, SO for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Ilirjane Ademaj Ahmeti, SO for Evaluation and Monitoring C



Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self Evaluation Report Bsc Mining, 2022*
- *KAA Accreditation Manual*
- *Syllabi of the program*
- *CVs of academic staff*
- *UIBM Statute*
- *Regulation of the Quality Assurance and Evaluation at the University of Mitrovica “Isa Boletini”, 2018*
- *Guideline for Quality Assurance at UIBM, 2020*
- *UIBM Strategic Research Plan, 2021-2025*
- *Strategic Plan of Faculty of Geosciences (revised), 2019-2021*
- *Regulations for Bachelor Studies*
- *Regulation on the procedures and criteria of promotion selection and appointment of academic staff UIBM*
- *Regulation of Publications, 2021*
- *Regulation on Internationalization and Mobility*
- *Rulebook on Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Geosciences*
- *Summary Report on Questionnaires Conducted with Students: Bachelor level, 2022*
- *Summary Report on Self-assessment of the Academic Staff, 2020*
- *Summary Report on Questionnaire Conducted with External Stakeholders, 2020*
- *Summary Report on the Questionnaire Performed with the Alumni Network, 2020*
- *Medium Term Expenditure Framework, 2022-2024*
- *Law on Budget, 2022*
- *UIBM Forecasts for the years 2023-2024*
- *ECTS User Guide*
- *MEST Guidelines*

- ***Additional documents requested by the ET***
 - How many students entered the Mining BSc Program during last three years
 - How many students graduated during the last three (or more) years, year-wise.
 - How many students continued towards MSc Program during the last three (or more) years
 - How many BSc graduates started geology/mining or closely related jobs after graduation (last 3Y) — Employment rates within the faculty for the past three years



Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations

- *Standards & performance indicators for external evaluation according to the Accreditation Manual of KAA, July 2018*
- *Criteria of Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability*

1.2. Site visit schedule

09:00 – 09:40	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the program is integrated
09.45 – 10.25	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff
10:30 – 11:20	Meeting with the heads of the study program:
11:20 – 12:00	Lunch break (provided at the evaluation site)
12:00 – 12:40	Meeting with teaching staff
12:40 – 13:20	Meeting with students
13:25 – 14:05	Meeting with graduates
14:10 – 14:50	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
14:50 – 15:00	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
15:00 – 15:10	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program

1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

The University “Isa Boletini” in Mitrovica (UIBM) is a public institution of higher education, which delivers high quality academic education, scientific research, professional counselling, and other fields of academic activities. It consists of six academic units, that deliver in total 22 programmes of Bachelor and Master studies: Faculty of Geosciences (FG), Faculty of Food Technology, Faculty of Mechanical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Education. In 1974, Faculty of Mining and Metallurgy was established with three departments: Mining, Technology, Metallurgy, while in 1987, the Department of Geology was established. Today, the Faculty of Geosciences is committed to



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provide educational programs and applied and fundamental research in the fields of geology, mining and metallurgy.

The country's development strategy is also counting on the development of mineral resources. Thus, it requires geological, mining and material sciences and metallurgy graduates, which in addition to exploring, mining and resource-processing knowledge, will also possess the ability to cope with various environmental problems.

The development of regional spatial planning, the provision and sustainable management of mineral resources, environmental protection and coping with natural hazards are the focus of teaching the new generation of Earth scientists, mining and environmental specialists for Kosovo. Faculty of Geosciences is the only institution of higher education in Kosovo which educates competent experts and carries out scientific and professional research in the field of geology, mining, and materials and geometallurgy. With its activities, the Faculty continuously contributes to the prosperity of its professions in the area of geosciences.

The Faculty of Geosciences is situated within the new Campus of the University "Isa Boletini" in Mitrovica. The new campus buildings bring new opportunities for development, teaching and research work for new generation of geoscientist and engineers.

The campus provides infrastructure for teaching, laboratories, library, computer centre, communication areas, geo-materials museum and other service facilities. The total usable space of the Faculty of Geosciences is roughly 3980 m².

The Faculty of Geosciences is responsible for two levels of study:

Bachelor (three-year studies)

Master of Science (two-year studies)

For Bachelor level FG provides educational programs for:

1. Geology (Accredited until 30.09.2024)
2. Mining (Accredited until 30.09.2022)
3. Material and Metallurgy (Accredited until 30.09.2024)
 - 3.1 Specialization on:
 - (a) Materials
 - (b) Metallurgy

For Master level FG provides educational programs of study for:

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1. Deposits of Mineral Raw Materials (Accredited until 30.09.2022)
2. Hydrogeology and Engineering geology (Accredited until 30.09.2024)
3. Mining (Accredited until 30.09.2022)
4. Material and Metallurgy (Accredited until 30.09.2024)
 - 4.1 Specialization on:
 - (a) Materials,
 - (b) Metallurgy

The academic year begins on October, 1 and ends on May, 31. Fifteen weeks of teaching are provided for each semester. Undergraduate studies are divided into six semesters and master studies into four semesters. Teaching load is in accordance with the ECTS credit system. The present Mining BSc Program has been accredited until 30.09.2022.



2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

As UIBM has implemented the Bologna Framework 2001, the teaching process follows these common rules. The Department of Mining / Faculty of Geosciences (FG) mission is to prepare young professionals for the raw materials exploration and mining, especially related to national needs and beyond. The Department of Mining is providing teaching curricula in mining and conducting mining-related research according to international standards. This is the only Mining Department in Kosovo.

According to SER, four programme objectives were defined on the University and Faculty level:

“Objective 1: Program development in line with global mining practices and standards, through applying scientific and professional research to enhance efficient mineral resources exploitation based on sustainable development principles and social welfare, including environmentally friendly principles, socio-economic development, safety and health.

Objective 2. Provide a stimulating environment to attract students to study in the field of Mining, through the provision of scholarships, financial support through their involvement in research projects – thus being able to face future challenges regarding mining policies development and mine planning and design.

Objective 3: The Department of Mining is committed to working closely with the Rectorate, Government institutions, Independent Regulators, mining enterprises, and other relevant institutions (foreign institutions and mobility) international counterpart faculties to enhance participation in mobility research work and professional training, thus enhancing quality education in mining fields.

Objective 4: Due to mining being considered a global industry, the mining department is committed to providing mining knowledge based upon global mining development. Thus, future generations except for the domestic market shall be able to work also abroad, i.e. in the global mining market.”

All of objectives were discussed during the visit and were clearly stated and explained by Faculty and Department staff.

FG has a website where all relevant information and regulations are posted. The website has separate sections for staff and for students. Some examples on-line:



- [Strategic Plan FG](#)
- [Curriculum 2017/2022](#)
- [Syllabus](#)

Some information is also available in English language. However, for foreign visitors some relevant websites are not easy to find or are only in Albanian.

The main learning outcomes comply with the National Qualifications Framework of Kosovo and the European Higher Education Area Qualifications Framework. At the Programme level, all policies, regulations, terms of reference and disclaimers regarding program distribution are reviewed annually. Changes in the program can be made when necessary. There are regulations and codes applied in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities and according to information acquired during the visit, these codes and regulations were followed.

At the programme level, these policies and regulations are reviewed annually and may be changed when needed. This also applies to the Mining program. The program has recently (2020/2021) changed about 30%. These real-time program reviews are important since mining sector has gone through big changes recently and economies are even more dependent on mining due to global policies on green development and more sustainable use of materials. This is the reason the present Strategic Plan of FG (2019 – 2021) needs to be urgently developed further for the next period keeping in mind the drastic changes in society and possibly new strategies for mineral resources exploitation. It was evident the department is, together with stakeholders, preparing the new strategy document and it should be approved later this year.

Standard	Compliant?	
	Yes	No
2.1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution	X	
2.1.2. 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	
2.1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept	X	



2.1.4. 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	
2.1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.	X	
2.1.6. 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	
Overall Compliance		Fully Compliant

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Update webpage, make it more attractive for possible student candidates and foreign visitors*
2. *Finalise and publish the new FG strategy plan for 2022-2024.*

2.2. Quality Management

UIBM has a comprehensive system of quality assurance, particularly in relation to evaluations. Since 2018, UIBM has a Regulation on Quality Assurance and Evaluation that details the responsibilities and activities of quality assurance and enhancement within the University. UIBM has a Central Commission for Quality Assurance and Evaluation which is responsible for managing all quality assurance related activities. There is a dedicated institutional Quality Office that assists the faculties with their quality processes.

The Faculty of Geosciences' Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 includes a dedicated objective relating to QA as well as integrating analysis of evaluations in meeting other strategic objectives. While it is recognised that processes are relatively new, the SV demonstrated to the ET that the Faculty is committed to assuring quality within its programs.

Evaluations are clearly defined within the Regulations on Quality Assurance and Evaluation. As the regulation states "Evaluations are done with the aim of improving and not



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prejudging”. Instruments of evaluation are developed by the Central Commission for Quality Assurance and Evaluation (CCQAE) and implemented and analysed by the University’s Quality Office.

Student evaluations are carried out twice a year on completion of each semester, with final year students are requested to complete a survey based on their entire academic program. Self-evaluation of academic staff also occurs twice a year. Once a year the staff evaluate the Dean, and once a year the Dean also performs a self-evaluation. In addition, UIMB distributes a survey to external stakeholder including employers and government representatives. Based on the assessment of these surveys, matters are discussed, and actions implemented at the Faculty Council. During the SV, a number of students and teaching staff provided examples of where management had listened to their concerns and implemented changes for the benefit of the educational experience. In general, within the Faculty of Geosciences there is extensive consultation with students, the business community, alumni and their employers.

However, as these surveys are organized and developed centrally, they may not be the most relevant questions to student cohorts in different faculties. While these instruments seem to be robust at institutional level and are developed in consultation with stakeholders, FG could benefit from more autonomy in having questions that are specifically related to the faculty’s activities. To ensure that stakeholders do not suffer from “survey fatigue” it is recommended that an additional couple of questions specific to FG are added to existing evaluation surveys.

Closing the feedback loop is evident with the Faculty having regular meetings with stakeholders after evaluations have been conducted. The SER and SV highlighted that the Faculty of Geosciences has a strong commitment to its students and views them as partners in enhancing the quality of education within the program.

Institutional reports based on the evaluations are posted on UIBM’s website. However, these reports are at institutional level and do not provide separate analysis for faculty results. It is recommended to have a dedicated web page to faculty-specific evaluation reports including a section on “you said, we did” to highlight changes that have been made based on feedback.



Standard	Complaint?	
	Yes	No
2.2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity	x	
2.2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes	x	
2.2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.	x	
2.2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.	x	
2.2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance	x	
2.2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.	x	
2.2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are considered for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.	x	
2.2.8. The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (e.g. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	x	
2.2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	x	
Overall Compliance	Fully Compliant	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Include a set of dedicated Faculty related questions to institutional surveys.*
2. *Have an easy to find webpage with faculty-specific evaluation results, including a “you said, we did” section.*



2.3. Academic Staff

Seventeen people are employed full-time, while five are engaged part-time at the Mining Department. According to SER, six persons are full-time staff members, others work with one-year or longer contract bases. These personnel also include teachers of mathematics, language, physics and chemistry.

The academic staff employed by UIBM, as well as the FG, are hired through the competition procedures, with the announcement of the vacancy posting all the requirements for the announced position as well as the job description. The competition is equal for all targeted candidates, without any discrimination and is in accordance with MEST guidelines, Labor Law, UIBM Statute and UIBM Internal Regulations. Recruitment - appointment of candidates to their respective academic vocation or promotion, requires the fulfilment of the minimum criteria set forth in the UIBM Interim Statute.

UIBM provides the manual that will include rights and responsibilities, recruitment processes, supervision, performance appraisal, promotion, support processes and professional development. In addition to the manual, all candidates and employees prior to starting work will be provided with a job contract that contains full job descriptions that they have applied for or that have been employed as well as a code of ethics and conduct. The teaching staff complies with the legal requirements regarding to teaching position. According to SER and site visit information, the Faculty of Geosciences and Department of Mining has adequate academic staff for the studies it offers.

Every position is monitored by the UIBM Human Resources Office and FG management in order to assure that the staff engagement is in line with the Administrative Instruction on Accreditation, MEST guidelines, Labour Law, UIBM Statute and Regulations Interior UIBM. This was confirmed during the site visit.

The University of Mitrovica requires the academic staff to have at least two teaching trainings, which are conducted at the Center for Teaching and Excellence. The majority of staff have proceeded with these trainings. According to SER and site visit information the staff members are encouraged to take part in scientific mobility research motivation activities. However, while the interest of staff is high, the number of such visits seems to be low. The limiting issues of international mobility are related to financing, and sometimes visa requirements.



Apart from teaching, the academic staff are responsible for scientific and applied research, as well as student supervision. The responsibilities are regulated by a policy of UIBM. In general, each week staff will spend about six hours for teaching, 2-4 hours for student consultation per week, in addition to Diploma/thesis supervision, research and other responsibilities.

The evaluation of the academic staff is carried out regularly through self-evaluation, evaluation by students' feedback and by Dean's office. This assessment takes place on a formal basis, is performed on-line and carried out in regular bases after each semester. According to information during the site visit these processes mostly run smoothly and the Dean and Faculty Committee are aware of capabilities and activities of every staff member.

Standard	Complaint?	
	Yes	No
2.3.1. Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment.	X	
2.3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative Instruction on Accreditation	X	
2.3.3. 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	
2.3.4. 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	
2.3.5. For each student group (defined by the statue of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full staff with PhD title or equivalence.	X	
2.3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.	X	
2.3.7. 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	
2.3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on	X	



a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.		
2.3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials	X	
2.3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.	X	
Overall Compliance:	Fully compliant	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Prepare a plan how to attract new members (researchers and teachers) for the Department*
2. *Ensure staff and student mobility activities*
3. *Ensure continuation in staff personal development and international cooperation*
4. *Find possibilities to create more permanent positions in coming years*
5. *Closely monitor the age profile of the main staff and their advances in publishing and project applications.*

2.4. Educational Process Content

The Bachelor program in Mining is based on modern curricula, with the current version having been jointly designed and advanced with visiting [Fulbright specialist](#). The program fulfils the modern mining industry needs and is related to Kosovo’s industry development plans. The students acquire the basics interdisciplinary subjects and the specific mining subjects including practises.

As the SER states: *“The study program refers to the academic competencies, the ability to get adequate employment to meet the needs of the labor market, the ability to obtain suitable employment by combining the theoretical aspect with the practical one and developing the student's personality in the areas of specialization”*. This information was verified during the visit by meeting different groups (stakeholders, graduates, employers, staff). There is also a [report with external stakeholders](#) available in Albanian. Stakeholders are involved in Program design and they support the present curricula.



The study program is in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education and Bologna Framework. According to FG officials, the BSc in Mining is similar to a number of similar program memes in neighbouring countries, including University of Ljubljana, University of Zagreb, Freiberg University of Mining and Technology, University of Leoben and elsewhere.

By analysing the Program, curriculum and syllabus, it is clear that 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. All learning outcomes at the mining program level are harmonized with the learning outcomes at the level of each course. The learning outcomes are listed as follows:

1. Apply principles of mathematics, chemistry, and physics to mining issues
2. Understand mining development aims i.e. sustainability mining development (environment, economy and society)
3. Demonstrate knowledge on the pathway of mine development and mining products as well as mining administration
4. Being able to understand and analyse the mining chain production as well as to addressing the mining production challenges
5. Apply theoretical, conceptual, and observational knowledge to the facing challenges regarding mining development
6. Understand mine cycle life i.e. concept mining for closure (remediation, safety and social issue)
7. Apply and be aware of applying related software in solving mining issues, related to mining industry

The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise: course description, course objectives, expected learning outcomes, teaching methodology, assessment methods, basic and supplementary literature, and the tentative plan of topics covered in each week of lectures.

Teaching at the Department of Mining is provided only in Albanian. The Faculty and the Department members mentioned that if there is interest in the development in teaching in other languages (including English), FG has the opportunity and academic staff for these activities. It has stated in SER that if there are cases of Erasmus+ mobility students visiting the Department the staff are willing and ready to provide lectures in English. However,

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during the site visit not all staff members were willing to speak in English, and in some cases, the ET were not able to assess if this claim is true.

It has also stated by the University “that on the base of the Regulation on Internationalization and Mobility, UIBM and other partners of the HERAS project within five years should develop 1/5 of the study programs in foreign language in one of the study cycles offered by the University”.

It is a common practise, that at the beginning of semester, each lecturer clearly defines the learning outcomes and how these outcomes relate to the student’s development and the needs of mining industry. Student participation in lectures is mandatory. Students are encouraged to seek clarification during lectures, and other teaching activities.

Teachers are available for consultations (generally 4 hours per week), and it was noted by ET that this is common across the department. It was mentioned by the teaching staff that most of lectures are organized in such a way that they are interactive, when possible and oriented to practical situations and outcomes. As the groups are small, flexibility in lecturing and assessments is easily achievable. Assessment types are defined before the course. The evaluation of students is done continuously throughout the semester, using tests, seminar papers, fieldwork reports, research project reports, laboratory work, etc. The grading standard is consistent for each subject of this program and by each teacher. Assessment policies are also defined in the UIBM statute (Article 101 and Article 102) and those are followed by teachers.

It was mentioned during the meeting with teaching and Faculty staff that FG has already approved the regulation which specifies cases where students may have been inconsistently or unfairly graded, and they have the right to complain. Student’s complaint will be reviewed by the Faculty committee and the final evaluation will be made by a commission composed of professors in the field of the given subject. In cases where the standards are not met, student achievement is insufficient or assessed inconsistently then they react through the faculty council.

The students of the Department of Mining are asked to participate in about 20-days professional practice in mining companies or mining institutions (usually 6th semester; five ECTS = 20 working days). The student is expected submit a written report which will be evaluated by the professors' committee. The student is supervised by appropriate teacher

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together with industry mentor. The student can apply for a student internship at the Faculty of Geosciences or outside of it, and a student initiates the process by submitting an application to the Students' Desk. If a student intends to do an internship outside the Faculty of Geosciences, he asks for this in the student's application signed by a potential supervisor. There are very clear rules for the procedure of practises and internships established the Rulebook on Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Geosciences – Section: The Student Internship Guide. FG has a number of cooperation agreements with national and a few international institutions and companies in order to provide students practises and internships. During the site visit it was established that supervisors were aware of these procedures and students were happy to have such kind of the possibilities within the study period.

Standard	Complaint?	
	Yes	No
2.4.1. 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	
2.4.2. 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	
2.4.3. 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	
2.4.4. 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	



2.4.5. 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.	X	
2.4.6. 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	
2.4.7. 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	
2.4.8. 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	
2.4.9. 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	
2.4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.	X	
2.4.11. 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 organizations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.	X	
2.4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organizations/practical training units.	X	
Overall Compliance:	Fully compliant	

Compliance level: Fully compliant



ET recommendations:

- 1. Ensure readiness of teachers for foreign language teaching process (whether 1/5 of subjects or more), most likely in English language. Ensure at least 50% of teachers to be ready to teach in English and have teaching material in English when needed*
- 2. Ensure attractiveness of the Mining BSc program for wider studentship and possible students from abroad*
- 3. Advance departmental homepage, include the best practises from students working in successful mining companies, governmental organisations, good internship experiences etc.*

2.5. Students

The bachelor's study program "Mining" falls under the scope of UMIB's institutional level Regulations for Bachelor Studies. After consultation with the Faculty, the Dean submits a proposal of quotas for admission of students to the Senate of UMIB. Admission requirements are in accordance with MEST. The Regulations for Bachelor Studies and SER highlight that the program is open to all who have completed secondary education. A list of criteria within the Regulations considers different types of candidates including those that have a high school diploma or equivalence.

Teaching and learning activities are held within relatively small groups at FG with an emphasis on ensuring student-centred learning. The maximum number of students in lectures is 60, with other activities and exercises held in smaller groups. The SER highlights that "this small number of students in the classrooms has increased the quality of teaching". This was corroborated during the SV during meetings with teaching staff and students who both spoke of the benefits of having a small cohort.

The SER and SV highlighted that the Faculty of Geosciences has a strong commitment to its students and views them as partners in enhancing the quality of education within the program. Within each course of the program there is dedicated consultation hours each week to allow additional assistance for students in addition to normal teaching activities. Moreover, there is a complaints box near the Dean's office, which provides students an opportunity to give feedback anonymously.



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During the SV the ET had a meeting with both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Mining Program. However, none of the students that attended were involved in the Student Council. When the ET asked if they knew who their student representative was, the majority did not. Some of the students informed the ET that they knew the student representative from last year but were aware that someone new had been elected. This highlights that there needs to be greater communication and visibility of the Student Council and student representatives to student cohorts.

Within the FG website, there is a dedicated page for the Faculty's Students' Council. However, this consists of only a list of five names. This webpage could be improved substantially for example by including email addresses, particularly for the President as well as news feature to highlight any student engagement activities within the Faculty. Further information on the purpose of the Student Council on the website would be useful for students.

Students have the opportunity and right to reject their grades within 48 hours of receiving the grade. While the SER highlights feedback mechanisms, the ET could not find a dedicated timescale for receiving grades upon submission of assignments. It is recommended to develop a clear feedback policy that indicates when students should expect to receive their grades and feedback on their assessments.

Within the syllabus for each course on the program there is a section at the end "Academic Policies and Rules of Conduct". However, information provided is not consistent amongst the courses, nor provides significant detail relating to academic integrity, plagiarism, complaints procedure or mitigating circumstances. To enhance the syllabi, it is recommended that this section includes direct links to Regulation on Bachelor Studies. Moreover, policy and guidance on plagiarism should be made more explicit on the website. Mitigating circumstances relates to when students are not able to submit or complete their assessments on time due to external factors. Given recent times, a clear policy should be developed to highlight to students that the Faculty offers flexibility and understanding to meet the needs of the students. This should be consistent across all courses to ensure equivalence.



Standard	Compliant?	
	Yes	No
2.5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organizing students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	x	
2.5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	x	
2.5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	x	
2.5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	x	
2.5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	x	
2.5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.		x
2.5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	x	
2.5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.	x	
2.5.9. 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
2.5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs are clearly regulated in formal internal documents.	x	
2.5.11. 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	
Overall Compliance:	Substantially Compliant	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant



ET recommendations:

1. *Enhance Student Council website page.*
2. *Introduce a policy on when students should expect to receive grades and feedback*
3. *Greater consistency of course syllabi to include link to Regulation on Studies.*
4. *Create Mitigating Circumstances Policy detailing guidance on when students are struggling with assessments due to external factors.*

2.6. Research

The SER states that “*financial resources are limited, while logistical and human resources are sufficient*” for assuring high level teaching and research of the Program. The FG, including the Mining Program conducts scientific research as an integral part of all of its academic activities. The current staff of this program are qualified and consist of PhDs, PhD Candidates and MScs who have experience in publishing in basic and applied scientific research.

The staff members of the Department of Mining are publishing books and research and overview articles in several journals. The University has set rules for publishing in the following documents - Regulation of Publications and Regulation on Internationalization and Mobility. Several publications are presented at conferences as Abstracts and Presentations. The University publication’s rules have updated on October 2021, defining better the level of international journals (WOS, 1.1; SCOPUS etc. databases). Although the number of published high level research papers has increased during a few last years, there are still challenges to increase considerably publication activity in WOS journals for most of the academic staff. Good publications are vital in order to increase visibility of UIBM and Mining Department researchers worldwide.

The University provides financial support for academic staff to publish their papers and presentations at conferences (up to 70% of costs). However, there is little evidence of research grants for researchers in FG. The lack of directed scientific research funding may severely limit research itself and consequently the publication activity. According to the SER and discussions during the visit, several students are engaged with research and publishing. Through cooperation with foreign universities and local and foreign companies, both the academic staff and students are engaged with national and international mobility. However, despite there being a high amount of interest in participation acquired during the visit, the



number involved remain low. Students have a possibility to present their research every year in the conference organized by FG. Knowledge transfer between academic staff and students and between students themselves can be supported by several activities, namely “*Center for Young Researchers*” and the creation of “*Summer Academy*” as envisaged by the University (UIBM Strategic Research Plan 2021 - 2025).

According to SER each member of the academic staff has published at least one applied or research scientific publication for the last three years. Generally, it is a good practice to ask full time academic or research staff to be publishing at least one paper per year. In this respect, Department’s staff needs to increase publishing activity to fulfil a common European standard for researchers and teaching staff.

In addition to teaching and research, FG staff contribute to the local community through their involvement in professional organisations, management boards of exploration and mining companies, Geological Survey and with public organisations (such as government agencies) and the private sector.

Standard	Complaint?	
	Yes	No
2.6.1. The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research center 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	
2.6.2. 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	
2.6.3. Clear Policies are established for defining what is recognised as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.	X	
2.6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.	X	
2.6.5. The academic and research staff publish their work in specialty magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and	X	



contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.		
2.6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centers, scientific parks and other structures for validation.	X	
2.6.7. 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
2.6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full-time staff.	X	
2.6.9. 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	
2.6.10. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.	X	
2.6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.	X	
Overall Compliance:	Substantially Compliant	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Encourage and support staff members and involved researchers to publish their research in high quality (WOS etc) journals*
2. *Ensure at least one scientific publication per year for all categories of academic staff in high quality applied and fundamental science journals*
3. *Increase research visibility in neighbouring countries and worldwide*
4. *Ensure international mobility for staff members by applying EU grants and involving Faculty mobility support*
5. *Increase activities towards international scientific cooperation including joint applications for European and other funds (Horizon, ERC, EIT, EEIG etc).*



2.7. Infrastructure and Resources

The Faculty of Geosciences is located in a new campus building. The building includes classrooms (746 m²) with internet access and projectors, library (333 m²), laboratories (587 m²), computer room (110 m²) and other rooms. The library and laboratories are shared with students of geology, materials and metallurgy, hydrogeology and engineering geology. The laboratories have new equipment, which is suitable for basic studies. The Faculty' physical provision for the Program is adequate, although problems with space may arise when the number of students increase considerably. However, the SER states *"Referring to the available spaces discussed in the previous standards, as well as the number of students in groups, the size of the halls and amphitheatres are more than enough to organize lectures and exercises in directing the level in geoscience."*

The number of available basic instruments (microscopes, some field equipment) is supporting the present number of students (20 – 25) but may be a problem if student intake will be increasing. Currently FG has only eight microscopes to explore optical feature of minerals and rock structure, including one for ore mineral studies. A staff member mentioned a need for electron microscope. It was also emphasized by the staff that they are seeking for new opportunities to purchase additional equipment and increase the number of basic instruments. Some equipment has been used outside of the University on collaborative basis.

The planning of the financial resources to improve study environment and laboratories are defined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the years 2022 - 2024 for the University of Mitrovica, the Law on Budget for the fiscal year 2022, the forecasts for the years 2023 - 2024. According to SER, the main sources of funding are revenues from the Kosovo Budget / Government Grant, own source revenues and sources from donations.

Library provision is adequate according to staff and students interviewed, however more modern English language textbooks are needed. Several online magazines and textbooks are available. SER notes that more digital materials are needed in the library and access to several important electronic databases is lacking. The university purchases book titles depending on demands. From 157 book titles which are physical, around 70% are in Albanian. FG aims to increase English textbooks in future.



While IT resources may be considered relatively basic, there were no complaints about the quality of IT support, so the resources seem to be adequate for the Program. The infrastructure and facilities related to the program are suitable for students with special needs.

The limits set according to Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2022 - 2024 and the Law on Budget for 2022 justify the sufficient budgetary measure and sustainability of financial resources to realize the mission, objectives and activities related to the strategic documents reflected in the Strategic Plan for the Faculty of Geology for 2019 – 2021 and in the extended version of the Strategic Plan for 2022 – 2024 (which is in the status of compilation, March 2022).

Standard	Complaint?	
	Yes	No
2.7.1. 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 considered.	X	
2.7.2. 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	
2.7.3. The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the 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 utilization license; d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.	X	
2.7.4. The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study group's size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the specialty disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	X	
2.7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:		X



<p>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 specialty literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or specialty 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.</p>		
2.7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.	X	
Overall Compliance:	Substantially Compliant	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Ensure available basic learning and research equipment for all students (especially when the number of students is expected to increase. Pay attention to purchasing more optical microscopes and microscopes for metallographic samples research.*
2. *More general geophysical instrumentation and specific equipment for ore mineral studies is needed to purchase*
3. *Instruments for geochemical and microscopic studies - SEM, XRD, XRF and ICP-MS are recommended to include in the list of purchases*
4. *Digitalisation of library materials (textbooks etc) is needed*
5. *Ensure internet access to Earth sciences and engineering databases, which are not accessible at present but needed by students and researchers.*



3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

Standard	Compliance Level
Mission, objectives & administration	Fully Compliant
Quality Management	Substantially Compliant
Academic Staff	Fully Compliant
Educational Process Content	Fully Compliant
Students	Substantially Compliant
Research	Substantially Compliant
Infrastructure and Resources	Substantially Compliant
Overall Compliance	Substantially Compliant


The overall compliance assessed by the experts at the level of **substantially compliant**.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

Student quota recommended: Three Years; up to 60 students


Expert Team

Member

(Signature) 

Alvar Soesoo
(Print Name) 19.04.2022
(Date)

Member

(Signature) 

Rebecca Maxwell Stuart
(Print Name) 19.04.2022
(Date)

Member



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member
