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UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA
“HASAN PRISHTINA”

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND VEHICLES

ACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

March 2022, Prishtina



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 2nd of March 2022

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Prof. Dr. Tauno Otto*
- *Laura Palac, Student expert*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- *Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation*
- *Ilirjane Ademaj, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring*

Sources of information for the Report (including additional requested resources):

- *Syllabuses*
- *video presentation of infrastructural capacities of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering*
- *Academic Staff CVs*
- *Extract of the Meeting with businesses and List of persons attended the meetings*
- *Code of Ethics*
- *Student assessment of the subject and teaching at faculty of mechanical engineering*
- *protocols of Faculty Council meetings 2021*
- *Roadmap Document advising the senior management of the University of Prishtina (UP) on how to measure the performance of the academic staff*
- *Code of Ethics,*
- *Employment and Labour Market Analysis*
- *Western Balkans Labor Market Trends 2020*
- *Labour Market Needs Analysis in Kosovo*
- *Quality assurance and accreditation plan for Academic Development Office 2020-2022*

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- *STATUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”*
- *STRATEGIC PLAN, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering 2017 – 2022*
- *Report on the number of students admitted-enrolled, graduated, passing exams, Drop out*
- *FME Advisory Board*
- *Conditions for the rights of students with special needs and based on disabilities*
- *REGULATION OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*
- *Statute of University of Prishtina*
- *Student transfer regulation by Statute of University of Prishtina*
- *General Statistics about Form: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - 2021/2022*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- *Standards & performance indicators for external evaluation according to the Accreditation Manual of KAA, July 2018.*

1.2. Site visit schedule

Site Visit Program

23 February

09.00 – 09.45 Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated
(no slide presentation is allowed, the meeting is intended as a free discussion)

FME representatives:

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Shala, Dean

Mrs. Fatmire Kuçi, FME Secretary

Prof. Dr. Ilir Doçi, Vice Dean for teaching affairs

09.50 – 10:35 Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff

FME representatives: Prof. Ass. Dr. Xhevahir Bajrami, Vice Dean for quality assurance and cooperation with economy.

Msc. Rifat Krasniqi, Coordinator for quality assurance

Msc. Rinor Berisha, Teaching assistant, member of Faculty Council

Msc. Liridon Bytyqi, IT Officer



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- 10:40 – 11:40** Meeting with the heads of the study programme
- FME/EDM representatives:
Prof. Dr. Mirlind Bruçi
Prof. Ass. Dr. Riad Ramadani
- 11:40 – 12.20** Lunch break
- 12:25 – 13:10** Meeting with teaching staff
- FME/EDM representatives:
Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Shpetim Lajqi
Prof. Ass. Dr. Halil Demolli
Dr. Sc. Riad Morina, assistant
MSc. Donjeta Sogojeva, assistant (part time)
- 13:15 – 14:00** Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
- Representatives:
Mr. Avdulla Jasiqi, Metrology Agency of Kosovo
Mr. Besim Sahiti, Mercedes Kosovo
Mr. Fitim Bajrami, Eurometal
Mr. Elmi Konjusha, KEK, Centre for Training
- 14:05 – 14:15** Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
- 14:15 – 14:25** Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program
- FME representatives: Prof. Dr. Ahmet Shala, Dean
Mrs. Fatmire Kuçi, FME Secretary
Prof. Dr. Ilir Doçi, Vice Dean for teaching affairs
Prof. Ass. Dr. Xhevahir Bajrami, Vice Dean for quality assurance and cooperation with economy.

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

The University of Prishtina has Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FME), established in 1967 as formation of Technical Faculty, thus celebrating 55th anniversary this year.



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The FME mission includes training of “*students in the fields of mechanical engineering, industry, technology, transport, mechatronics etc., for the labor market*”. The labour market is well analysed and connections with main employers via Industrial Board regular meetings established.

The objectives of FME according to SER include technology and innovation development, and adaptation to European standards.

The FME offers in the academic year 2021/2022 6 bachelors and 4 masters study programmes. The MSc level program of Engineering Design and Vehicles, a subject of the particular accreditation process, is a 2 years program aiming to provide knowledge and training of students in Master studies with advanced knowledge in the field of engineering design, mechanical design, engineering analysis, motor vehicles, vehicles of industrial transport, mechanization, computer science in design and robotics. The need for the study program is analysed and grounded by labour market analysis.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

The program that is subject of accreditation is considered very important, as the ET learned during the study visit. The mission of the study program Engineering Design and Vehicles – MSC as prescribed in the SER are to is to prepare students in the fields of mechanical engineering, automotive engineering, computer engineering design and information technology to understand the advanced principles of contemporary technologies used in all branches of industry, mining, transportation, agriculture, etc.

The SER declares that the program’s learning outcomes are on Level of the National Qualification Framework and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area, as it can be concluded from the information provided in the SER. In particular, SER evaluates that the particular program operates based on University’s regulations are in line with both Frameworks. The study program has modern curriculum, and the research in collaboration with enterprises offering internship and research topics is foreseen. Academic plan for activities 2020-2022 foresees investments into short term trips of active researchers, support for student conferences and activities, internationalisation, organising feedback surveys etc. Regarding the didactical concept, the importance of e-learning and targeting the coverage of curriculum with e-learning supported courses was not discussed in SER.



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SER defined formal policies including Strategic Plan of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" 2017 – 2019. The policies are publicly available. However, regarding the study programmes at the faculty, there was no evidence of a clearly defined concept of target Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The institution has not set KPIs at the level of the study programme. The student admission rate and drop-out rate are not defined in strategic agenda. The recent number of graduates at BSc (616 in 2016-2022) is on a good level. There was no evidence neither in the SER nor in the additional materials provided on what are the strategic goals regarding the number of admission, rate of drop-out, rate of graduation in time.

Internal regulations regarding academic ethics are elaborated and in use at academic and administrative activities.

There is active Advisory Board established in 2016 of industry and public sector representatives, giving opinion in planning new steps in management and delivery of the study programs. The set of KPI-s has been elaborated for study programs. Policies are reviewed every second year; the last documented plan was “Plan of Activities for Academic Development Office of University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” 2020-2022”. Performance data is analysed twice a year. However, the analyses are not publicly available.

There was evidence of fulfilling the planned investments into laboratories, 4 million EUR have been invested e.g., into 5-axis CNC machining centre. From stakeholders Kosovar-German Chamber of Commerce is supporting the laboratories development.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	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



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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: Partially Compliant (66.6%)

ET recommendations:

- 1. The KPI-s collected every semester are not delivered openly to all academic staff members. The understanding of current bottlenecks or successes related to KPI-s is recommended to make accessible not only to academic leaders but also other teaching staff members.*
- 2. Set strategic goals and enablers for the study programme to cover all obligatory courses by supportive e-learning materials/courses.*
- 3. Improve Strategic Plan of FME and Plan of Activities for Academic Development Office of University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina 2020-2022: Currently the KPIs at "Key performance indicators" are on an overall level but without yearly target values related to study programmes.*

2.2. Quality management

According to Quality assurance and accreditation plan for Academic Development Office 2020-2022 there are set priorities. The relevant costs have been foreseen and planned. The corresponding tools as academic staff questionnaires, questionnaire for course evaluation, administrative staff questionnaires and student questionnaires have been elaborated.

The feedback from students is gathered systematically and the questionnaire is renewed on regular basis. The feedback from stakeholders is gathered by regular meetings of Industrial Board. Feedback gathering system from alumni is in progress.



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The countermeasures for non-ethical behaviour for students (e.g., 6 months ban in entering to university in case of dishonesty in exams) have been elaborated and proved to be effective.

The inputs and outputs for quality evaluations are elaborated, for students with excellence performance are offered scholarships.

External evaluation reports from KAA have been used as an input when planning improvement in presence. In the future it would also be advised to take these assessments to the next level, integrate them into regular quality assurance processes and perform a documented regular internal reporting on the implementation of all the recommendations formulated.

Survey data is collected from students and academic staff members on regular basis. However, there was no real results so far regarding surveys of employers and alumni. During interviews it was reasoned by good cooperation with Industry Board.

Student workloads have been analysed in study program related to contents, assesment and pedagogic methods.

The study programs in FME so far have been analysed periodically. The Industrial Board of 19 members also helps in industrial internship arrangements.

FME has implemented quality assurance procedures for the Engineering Design and Vehicles study program. According to SER The University of Prishtina has begun the development of the Alumni system, which will include surveys of graduates, and other performances. However, there was no evidence of resulting the Alumni survey to be fulfilled.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Ye s	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	

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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 (e.g., 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	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (88.8%)

ET recommendations:

- 1. To establish measurable regular system of feedback from alumni and employers.*
- 2. To develop a functional mechanism for systematical translation of the recommendations derived from the stakeholder surveys (questionnaires) into certain improvement measures.*

2.3. Academic staff

Academic staff employed in study program of program Engineering Design and Vehicles respectively in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, within which this program is implemented, carries out its activity in full compliance with the provisions of the UP Statute, specifically under Article 170 of the Statute of UP. There are 12 Professors (PhD), 2 Assistants (PhD), 3 Assistant (MSc) and 1 part-time Professor (PhD) and 1 part-time Assistanst (Msc).



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The academic staff engaged in this program is Full Time and with adequate professional training, in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Instruction of the Ministry of Education Science.

Over 75% of the academic staff involved in this study program is in regular employment terms. For each group of students and for every 60 ECTS, for the study program Engineering Design and Vehicles Program, it has provided sufficient full-time and full-time staff of the Doctor (PhD). Teaching staff are encouraged to publish their research activities in high impact publishing magazines and publishing circles. There was evidence in teaching staff involvement in Erasmus+ study visits, participation in international conferences, and Train the Trainers events. The participation in national and international conferences is supported by a grant system. However, there was no clear system of ranking the publications and motivating staff members to target higher scientific visibility described in the SER.

Each professor has announced a consultations schedule which is at least twice per week.

An end of the semester of each academic year is carried the process the self-evaluation of academic staff and course subjects by students,

Once a year, the performance assessment of the administrative staff,

After analysing the information from the Dean and the Academic Development Coordinator, relevant reports are distributed to the academic staff and discussed separately with each.

Based on feedback academic development coordinator undertake proportional actions for the identification and eventual improvement of certain weaknesses.

The retirement age of the academic staff is 65 years, under the legal provisions of the UP is allowed the engagement of retired academic staff up to the age of 70 years.

In meeting with the expert team, staff members communicated without need of translator. The academic English is well spread amongst staff members, enabling also internationalisation and research activity. All academic staff members have passed teaching methodology trainings. University supports faculty members in publishing activities by yearly grants up to 1000 EUR per academic staff member.

Incorporating industry representatives and CEO-s as invited lecturers is often used in study process.

Feedback from students is collected every semester, and it is basis for improving the teaching process.



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Academic staff members are involved in learning materials preparation. During pandemic academic staff members used Google Meets and Google Classroom solutions to keep teaching activities. The e-learning was mentioned in the SER to be populated with programs and modules, but without a clear number of study programme related e-courses.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	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	



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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 (90%)

ET recommendations:

- 1. The importance of preparation of e-courses should be underlined and monitored to achieve larger coverage in study programme.*
- 2. Motivation of staff members to publish in high-level journals (ranked Q1 and Q2) should be increased.*

2.4 Educational process content

The SER states that the purpose of this Master program is to enable students to gain scientific knowledge in the field of Engineering Design, analysis of mechanical structures, as well as the study and analysis of motor vehicles and their application in Mechanical Engineering, industry and economy. During the meeting with employers and industry representatives it was stated that in general they are satisfied with the knowledge and skills that students acquired in the current study program, and they encourage the FME to keep improving and modernizing syllabuses to make sure that student knowledge and competences are up to date. Also, one of the industry representatives present at the meeting is a member of the Industry Advisory Board and he confirmed that they share needs of the labour market during the meetings with faculty. Although the SER states that learning outcomes are in line with the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area, analysis showing the compliance of the study program with these frameworks was not provided. The



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management stated that they wish to enrol 20 students in this Bachelor programme and that their goal is to attract students in this field with this new study program.

The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and learning outcomes on the program level meet the precise determination of the general and specific competencies. The courses within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which are explained and discussed with students in the beginning of each semester (first class of every course) according to the teachers. Course syllabuses contain student assessment mechanisms which are also clearly communicated to students at the beginning of every course (according to the teachers). If a student disagrees with the result of the assessment, he/she has the right to complain.

This study program will be offered is Albanian. However, the management mentioned that they sometimes have international students, and if necessary, some professors can give lecture summary in English at the end of each lecture if international student is present. They also mentioned that there is a need to increase both outgoing and incoming student mobility but did not explain how they plan to achieve this.

It can be said that the program is student-cantered because it offers different teaching methods that allow students to actively learn, such as discussions, practical works, projects, seminars and laboratory exercises. It is also important to note that students can rate their professors and the way courses are conducted. The results of these surveys are analysed and used as a quality indicator which means that the effectiveness of planned teaching strategies in achieving different types of learning outcomes is regularly assessed and adjustments are made in response to evidence about their effectiveness. This also assures that assessment methods are conducted fairly. Unfortunately, students are not informed about the results of these surveys. The Expert Team recommends giving feedback to students about the results of the surveys they fill out.

Course Professional Internship is mandatory, and it has 10 ECTS allocated in the 2nd semester. Students should provide evidence of professional internship and a written report on the work done during the professional internship. The nature of professional internship is closely related to the Diploma Work.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	Y e s	No



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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.	n. a	
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	



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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 ETCS 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.	X	
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 (100%)

ET recommendations: *The Expert Team recommends giving feedback to students about the results of the surveys they fill out.*

2.4. Students

According to the SER, admission criteria for enrolment are clearly defined and publicly announced in daily newspapers and on the university website. Admission of new students is done according to the regulations set forth by the UP Statute. To enrol in this Master study programme, a student must possess a valid bachelor's degree diploma or other equivalent study document in accordance with the requirements of the Kosovo Ministry of Science, Education and Technology (MEST), and pass the entrance exam organized by the Faculty. These criteria apply to all students. The study groups should be organized to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process, but since this is a new study program study groups are not organized yet. University has established an Electronic Student Management System (SEMS) to which students have individual

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access. The SEMS contains all course syllabuses, materials and other important information and records individual student achievements and it is very helpful for the student management. Also, students are informed about the results of assessments through this platform and their official email. Furthermore, Faculty collects and analyses the pass rate and grades of students in all courses through the SEMS platform and the obtained data is used to improve the quality of the studying process.

Students have the possibility of extended duration of studies and exams in accordance with the Statute of the University. During the meeting with the teaching staff, it was mentioned that they adapt to students with disabilities but that there is no formal regulation for this. Also, during the meetings it was mentioned that both academic and teaching staff have sufficient scheduled times in their working hours for consultations with students.

The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is regulated by the university statute. Same applies to the students' rights and obligations which are made publicly available.

During the meeting with the heads of the study programme it was mentioned that that the university has 20 available plagiarism software accounts. Also, teachers mentioned that they prevent cheating during exams and encourage students to behave ethically.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	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	



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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 (100%)*

ET recommendations: *Learning outcomes of the study programme should underline also digitalisation, sustainable/ circular economy and green eco-friendly approach aspects of Engineering Design and Vehicles.*

2.6 Research

The study programme research objectives are related to serving the local economy needs. Strategic plan foresees international cooperation in the field of scientific research. There is opened Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center in UP, supporting R&D with companies.

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There was evidence of FME academic staff members being involved in project research. FME staff performance in research and research projects is an integral part of the advancement procedures.

Research in the field of Engineering Design and Vehicles are conducted at university laboratories enabling research in metal cutting, welding, metal forming, measurement techniques, CNC machine tools. 2017-2021 about 30 scientific papers in the field of Engineering Design and Vehicles have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

The teaching staff of the FME involves students into research. There is a clear system considering the value of publications to be used in elections/re-elections. Academic staff members have a publication record from the last three years.

During the period 2016-2021, about 80 scientific papers were published in the fields of the Mechanical Engineering in indexed journals in Scopus databases, Web of Science, EBSCO, DOAJ, CrossRef, etc. During the period 2017-2021, about 20 participations of International Scientific Conferences were from the field of Engineering Design and vehicles.

In the framework of FME, research is carried out in 13 existing laboratories as well as in cooperation with the economy. The publication is supported on yearly basis, targeted to participation in international conferences and publishing in academic journals. The quality of publications is monitored and used as indicators in evaluation for promotion. It is expected that each academic staff member has published at least one publication in the last three years. Academic staff carries out high level research. There was evidence of collaborative research arrangements with colleagues in other institutions and in the international community.

During the period 2015-2018, each FME academic staff member of the Engineering Design and Vehicles Program study program has published at least 4 scientific papers as the first author and 5 scientific papers as co-authors. All works are published in international journals with international peer-review.

All FME academic staff of the Engineering Design and Vehicles Program study program has published under the name of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, the University of Prishtina "HASAN PRISHTINA".

The academic staff of the program Engineering Design and Vehicles Program have published in international scientific journals, presented at International Scientific Conferences and as such are planned for implementation in the curricula of relevant subjects.

Students are foreseen to be involved in university related research.

Students have been largely engaged in industry projects and internship is supported by local stakeholders and companies.



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<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Ye s	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. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full-time staff.	X	
Standard 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	X	



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developments in the field.		
Standard 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	
Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities	X	

Compliance level: Fully Compliant

ET recommendations:

The forming of a research group in Engineering Design and Vehicles, having strategic research topics and additional financing is recommended.

2.7 Infrastructure and resources

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering has in total 3666.67m² at their disposal: 2 amphitheatres, 12 classrooms, 9 laboratories, library, rooms for teachers and administration and so on. Video was provided about the facilities mentioned in the SER. It seems that the Faculty has enough premises and equipment for satisfying the needs of the study program. Also, in the meetings it was mentioned that in the recent years about 2 million euros have been invested in laboratories and equipment used by the Faculty.

There have been investments to the lab environment. In additional documentation was also presented a clear plan regarding financial cost of opening the program.

Considering the number of students, the number and size of teaching classrooms and laboratories is adequate. Also, in the SER it is stated that the Faculty is continuously purchasing adequate licensed software that is applied in this study program. This was confirmed during the meeting with heads of study programme and teachers.

The library and reading rooms seem sufficient and contain a considerable literature related to the curriculum of this program. The FME has its own library of 180 m².

The SER states that the infrastructure and facilities respond to the requirements for implementing the program for students with special needs. The three floors of the building can be accessed by a functional elevator, but during the meetings it was mentioned that only students with disabilities



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are allowed to use them due to elevators preservation. Sanitary nodes are equipped with toilets for people with special needs only on the ground floor. The Expert Team encourages the faculty to fully adapt the infrastructure to students and staff with special needs.

<i>Standard</i>	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 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.	X	
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:	X	



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<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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.</p>		
<p>Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.</p>	X	

Compliance level: Fully Compliant (100%)

ET recommendations:

1. *Explore the possibilities for renewing the library collection, through including recently published editions for the use in this study programme, preferably in English language.*
2. *Explore the possibilities for securing access to international scientific databases.*

3.2 OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The ET welcomed the SER and all the additional documents that have been shared with them. The ET would like to acknowledge the good cooperation between the University of Prishtina and the industry sector.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Engineering Design and Vehicles – (MSc) offered by University of Prishtina is Fully compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, recommends to accredit the study program for a duration of 3 years with a number of 20 students to be enrolled in the program.



Standard	Compliance Level
Mission, objectives and administration	Partially Compliant
Quality management	Substantially Compliant
Academic Staff	Fully Compliant
Educational Process Content	Fully Compliant
Students	Fully Compliant
Research	Fully Compliant
Infrastructure and resources	Fully Compliant
Overall Compliance	Fully Compliant

1. APPENDICES (if available)

N/A

Expert Team

Chair

(Signature)

Prof. Dr. Tauno Otto

(Print Name)

28/03/22

(Date)

Member

(Signature)

Laura Palac

(Print Name)

28/03/22

(Date)