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Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

***UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”
DENTISTRY, PHD***

REACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

20th of June 2022, Pristina/Kosovo



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 31 May 2022

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Dr. Joke Denekens*
- *Dr. Adrian Tudor Stan*
- *Jadranka Pelikan, PhD candidate*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- *Ilirjane Ademaj Ahmeti, KAA Officer*
- *Flamur Abazaj, KAA Officer*

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-evaluation report for “Dentistry, PhD” program, University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”*
- *KAA Accreditation Manual*
- *Syllabi*
- *University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” Policies, Memorandums, and other internal regulations*
- *The discussions and interviews during the on-line visit*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

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



1.2. Site visit schedule

Programme Accreditation Procedure at Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	
Programme:	Dentistry, PhD (Re-accreditation)
Online site visit on:	May 31, 2022
Expert Team:	Dr. Joke Denekens , Dr. Adrian Stan , Jadranka Pelikan
Coordinators of the KAA:	Ilirjane Ademaj Ahmeti, KAA Officer ; Flamur Abazaj, KAA Officer

Site Visit Programme

Time	Meeting	Participants
08:00 – 08:50	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	
08:55 – 09:55	Meeting with the head/s of a doctoral programme	Agim Begzati, Gloria Staka, Blerim Kamberi, Kujtim Shala, Hidajet Paçarizi
09:55 – 12:30	Lunch break	
12:30 – 13:20	Meeting with representatives of relevant doctoral committees, administrative and QA staff involved in doctoral programmes	
13:30 – 14:20	Meeting with research-teaching staff and supervisors	
14:25 – 15:15	Meeting with doctoral candidates	
15:15 – 15:25	Internal meeting between expert team and KAA	
15:25 – 15:35	Closing meeting with the management of the institution/doctoral programme	



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

The Faculty of Medicine is one of the 14 Faculties of the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” (UP) and was established in 1969. The Faculty of Medicine offers 5 study programs: General medicine, 6 years, doctor in Medicine; Dentistry, 5 years, Doctor in dentistry; Pharmacy, 5 years, master of Pharmacy; Physiotherapy, 3 years, bachelor in Physiotherapy; Nursing, 3 years, bachelor in Nursing. The faculty offers also a master in education in Health Care and Physiotherapy. The PhD studies offered are in Preclinical Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Dentistry, Experimental Biomedicine and Public Health.

The Advisory Body of the Faculty of Medicine was established on June 29, 2016 as a communication mechanism that initiates dialogue and cooperation between the private sector and academia in terms of updating study programs and adapting curricula to market demands; development of research projects of common interest; providing professional practice so that students apply theoretical knowledge in practice and increase the chances for employment and self-employment after graduation.

Universities in Kosovo are adopting curricula based on the Bologna Declaration rules, and this is to achieve a better comparability of degrees in Europe. The structure for the current PhD program was adjusted from the Doctoral Program of Applied Medical Science at Medical University of Vienna/Austria (<https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/en/studies-further-education/phd-doctoral-programmes>). The study program was adapted to the needs of the Kosovar higher education system to ensure achievement of the requirements of the European standards of higher education programs and will refer to the comparability of the study program in biomedicine with one or two other (European) countries. The criteria of ECTS, modules structure with their content, practical and theoretical ratio, and self-learning tasks of students were adapted to the local requirements and conditions.



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2. PROGRAMME EVALUATION: Doctoral programme in Dentistry

2.1. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING

According to the self-evaluation report(SER) the PhD program of dentistry at the University of Pristhina is under formal policies, guidelines and regulations derived from Law for Higher Education of Kosovo and the Statute of the University of Pristhina: PhD regulation nr 1/96, 24.06.2021 (see annex).

The PhD programme is administered by the Faculty of Medicine. Academic staff has cooperation with the Chamber of dentistry in the format of symposia, conferences and workshops. Although in the SER on p.48 one of the goals of the programme is defined as "improvement of capacities in order to support the social and economic development of Kosovo in the direction of a knowledge-based society, the expert team has not seen real cooperation on this level. There was even not a session with external stakeholders to discuss this topic. During the site visit, the expert team has been informed by the management that cooperation with business and private sector is only on an individual basis, not structurally and only with the private sector with specific equipments (too expensive to buy for UP) and (educational) partners in private sector(bachelor of Dentistry) with good facilities to do research. There is no technological transfer.

At faculty level there is an Office with a Coordinator for Science, who is working with central structures for PhD programmes at the UP. The coordinator helps to choose journals for publications, helps with the planning of building and renewing lab infrastructure (molecular sciences)and helps the candidates and professors in writing proposals by applying for grants.

The programme has been developed in 2016 after discussions with a “carefully selected consortium consisted of relevant stakeholders from Austria, Belgium and the United Kingdom”. The current programme is a continuation of this PhD study programme. A revision of the programme each 2 years is not structurally embedded and revision and/or innovation is rather dependent on the individual initiatives of teachers.

The programme seeks actively international recognition of ECTS and degrees consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the

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European Higher Education Area in the field of Medicine (why not dentistry?) as mentioned in the SER. According to the content and especially the format, the teaching and learning activities are rather at bachelor and master level, not at PhD level (see 2.3).

In the SER the expert team is informed about resources in a general way, with normative statements and not with specific actions for implementation of strategic goals. Moreover, there is sometimes no congruence between what is written in the SER and said during the interviews. For example on p.8 the SER says: "The profile of the programme is based on interdisciplinary areas. As such, the program will focus on specific research and enable candidates to undertake in-depth scientific-related work on their own, but also to get professional skills and qualifications related to the future professions."

The expert team has not been informed about the interdisciplinary areas, nor about the strategical actions to start such research.

Furthermore the SER stipulated: " This includes targeted training of PhD candidates in entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer between university and professional environment and vice versa - for the benefit of the society of a whole- especially concerning the economic and social impact of the candidates work." This is in contradiction with what the Expert team has heard from the management team (see above). There was even not a session with the stakeholders during the online site visit.

In the SER often the text of the Standard is repeated, but there is no evidence on the basis on strategy and actions that the standard is met.

In the SER is mentioned that there are "sufficient staff and administrative staff, spatial, physical and financial resources to support the doctoral program in Dentistry. In the SWOT analysis on p 15 the expert team can see that there is:

"Lack of sufficient finances to support all ongoing doctorate projects on Dentistry research"

"Limited Department finances to provide optimal administrative assistance to our programs".

This is obvious in contradiction with each other.



Furthermore the staff members are often also engaged in other programs in the Faculty of Medicine which makes it difficult to see how many % of the staff members are working for the Unit of Dentistry.

Faculty of Medicine has sufficient staff with doctoral degree, with 5 members with research in the field of the programme and enough publications to meet the standard. (international standards are much higher). But what about the unit of Dentistry?

The expert team is informed that sometimes expertise from teachers/professors/researchers is lacking. Although the management team said that international collaboration with USA and Europe is in place, the expert team has not seen a strategical policy document to attract more international researchers or to cooperate more with certain partners, nor the contracts with international partners are not listed or given in the annexes. The SER mentioned that mobility is stimulated, but clearly defined actions are not seen. 1 Tempus project has been realised with research output at high level.

All relevant information about the doctoral programme is published on the website in the official language of Kosovo and in English.

The Faculty of Medicine has a clear strategy for the delivery of its doctoral education.

Good practice: office with coordinator for science

1.1 The institution* has established institutional regulations for doctoral programmes that are either a) part of the existing regulations, but as a separate named section, or b) a free-standing document.

+ (compliant)

1.2 The institution has allocated sufficient human (academic and administrative), spatial, physical and financial resources, specifically to support its doctoral programmes.

- (non compliant)

1.3 The institution has sufficient academic staff with a doctoral degree so that at least 50% of courses at doctoral level are delivered by academic staff from that institution. Further, at least 5 academic staff must have a PhD in the research field of the doctoral programme and have at least 3 papers, as first or corresponding author, published in international relevant publications

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in the last 5 years. Relevance of publications is defined according to international criteria for the particular field of science- indexed in WoS1 and/or SCOPUS.

+ (compliant)

SUPPLEMENTARY

1.4 The institution conducts regular reviews and updating of the programme.

- (non compliant)

1.5 Doctoral education opportunities are shown on the institutional website, in an official language of Kosovo (Albanian language), and in English, and include all relevant information.

+ (compliant)

1.6 The Institution has a clear strategy for the delivery of its doctoral education. If this is embedded in a general institutional strategy, it is explicitly recognised in a separate section.

+ (compliant)

Compliance level:

Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. University of Prishtina has to support centrally much more the different doctoral programmes. Perhaps the idea of a doctoral school should be elaborated with the doctoral study programme more at central level with more generic skills.*
- 2. At the level of the Unit of Dentistry a strategical research plan has to be elaborate, with a clear choice for 1 or 2 strong research group(s) interdisciplinary with basic sciences and with Public Health. Especially in the domain of prevention, much can be done.*
- 3. Internationalisation should be strengthened. Especially on the central level for the practicalities. At dentistry unit with stimulation of cooperation with strong partners from abroad*
- 4. Cooperation with business and the private sector should be strengthened to realise knowledge transfer and technological transfer to build more capacity for society.*



2.2. SELECTION AND ADMISSION CRITERIA

The admission process and procedures of PhD candidates of the Faculty of Medicine are regulated by the statute of UP. General conditions and requirements for the PhD Program in Dentistry are given in the SER, 16.

“Final degree in diploma studies of dentistry(360 ECTS points), Candidates must speak and write fluent English, Candidates who during previous studies have managed to earn high - grade point average(on 8.0), will have priority in selection, When two candidates are of the same level and when accepting students in number is limited, then priority would be the female candidate, for students who have obtained the Diploma in Academic institutions abroad of Kosovo should apply for the process of recognition of diploma at the NARIC of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology(MEST) of Kosovo”.

The number of students per year is limited to 10 as is stipulated in the regulation for Doctoral studies of UP. The SER describes the process of student’s recruitment as transparent and public. The expert team has questions about the admission of other candidates then candidates who are teaching in master studies in Dentistry. The expert team has not seen candidates from other fields in society. This raises the question if admission is open to everyone who fulfills the selection criteria?

The prequalification competitive test consists of 2 parts: level of English language skills (which test? Toeffle?) and level of the methodology of scientific work knowledge and the interview. PhD study according to PhD regulation is full time study and competition of study is minimum 3 years until 5 years according to the SER.

Completion rate is low. During interviews the expert team has heard that only 9 students have finished their PhD study over the last 10 years and that some students are studying part-time or have need of more years to finish the PhD study. Some even more than 7 years! In the opinion of the expert team there is not a clearly defined time for completion of the PhD study. Also the discussion should be opened if full-time students are really full-time students because most of them are working part-time as teachers at UP or sometimes in other private institutions.

2.1 Doctoral candidates must be selected based on a competitive and transparent process.



- (non compliant)

2.2 Applicants for a doctoral programme must have an educational level equivalent to a masters degree.

+ (compliant)

2.2 In the selection process doctoral candidates' potential for research should be assessed.

+ (compliant)

2.3 Applicants must be able to demonstrate a satisfactory working knowledge of English.

+ (compliant)

SUPPLEMENTARY

2.5 Both, full-time and part-time doctoral candidates must have a clearly defined time for completion of their studies.

- (non compliant)

Compliance level:

Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Define an adequate number of candidates for each year. 10 is too much*
- 2. Use an international test for judging the proficiency of english language*
- 3. Open the programme more broad and not only for candidates who are teaching in dentistry programmes*
- 4. Define better what are the criteria for full-time or part-time in order to reflect better the actual situation*



2.3. DOCTORAL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE/CONTENT

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina prepared the SER for the Dentistry Doctoral study programme. The NQF of Kosovo (2020:37) defines that the Doctoral degree is organised according to Bologna 3rd cycle education programme, with EQF reference level 8. It is organised as a full-time study with duration of 3 full years i.e. four years at maximum length. The interviewees stated that the duration could be prolonged up to six years at the request from a PhD candidate.

Kosovo is a young country that strives to provide quality of life, work and education to the citizens. That process involves standardisation of education at all its levels. Therefore, the National Qualification Framework (NQF) sets the main goal aimed at "establishing the credit accumulation and transfer system" (ECTS) according to the Law (03 / L060 Art. 5, 1.6). The education systems and quality of teaching and learning differ in the European countries which brings difficulties for mobility and transfer of students and teaching staff among the countries. In that sense, the ECTS brings comparability of workload and the learning outcomes of the study programmes in Europe. One ECTS credit equals 25-30 hours, according to the NQF (2020). The calculated time for a full academic year is 60 credits. The Dentistry Doctoral study contains, therefore, 180 ECTS spread within 3 consecutive years.

The ET examined the SER thoroughly and noticed that the PhD Dentistry study programme is not entirely compliant with the NQF directives on doctoral degrees. There are incompliances related to the learning outcomes and the ECTS workload presented in the syllabi. Moreover, in several syllabi were data missing.

The NQF (2020: 49) presents descriptors for the Level 8 about individuals who achieve qualifications and they should demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and competencies:

Knowledge

They will have and use highly advanced knowledge in a field of work, study or research field to link different fields, drawing conclusions through critical review of a subject or discipline, by including critical understanding of theories, principles and concepts.

Knowledge and understanding is generated through personal research or related work that contributes to the development of a subject or discipline and provides original and creative knowledge as well as ideas and information on innovations, complex and abstract issues, developing creative and original approaches to problems.

This includes:



- work on very complex innovations and issues as well judging in the absence of complete or consistent data or information;
- the discussion, enhancement or contradiction of professional knowledge and practice within a particular field or the inter-domain connections.

The SER presents the syllabi that offer knowledge at the basic level which is more suitable for the Bachelor or Master study programme level.

The NQF (2020: 49) lists skills that doctoral candidates should achieve by finishing the doctoral degree in Dentistry, which differs from the SER listed ones. “They will be able to use a range of skills, techniques, practices and materials in the subject, discipline or field of work in order to acquire knowledge, ideas, information and innovations on complex and abstract issues as well as developing creative attitudes and skills”. From the array of the NQF skills the learning outcome could be developed such as:

applying a set of standard and specialised research and research methods (eg. synthesis and evaluation) to design and carry out research or development projects, with the aim of solving critical problems and laying down, advancing or challenging professional knowledge or practice; contributing to new knowledge within an educational discipline or field. This may include: reviewing the literature, experimenting and developing other approaches to a range of issues; research papers, critical writing and insights, innovative developments in one or more areas of specialisation or research areas; Conducting a doctoral thesis.

In terms of competences, the graduated PhD students according to the NQF will be:

autonomous and take initiatives for professional and related activities, demonstrating authority, innovative approaches and educational and professional integrity that encompass the highest levels in the context of work, study or research in the relevant field or discipline. They are responsible for their own work and the work of others, demonstrating leadership and originality in dealing with and solving problems. They are able to deal with complex ethical and professional issues, adjudicating new issues unaddressed by current professional and ethical codes or practices.

The NQF offered the list of the level indicators which contain:

systematic expertise in the field of high knowledge specialisation and a capacity for critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas. These qualifications create the ability to conceptualise, design, implement and adapt



substantive research processes. These qualifications also recognize leadership experience in developing new creative approaches that broaden or redefine existing professional knowledge or practice. The study of these qualifications is carried out in higher education institutions.

The SER syllabi and the ones attached as annex have different course titles, some of them are missing. The learning outcomes are at the knowledge level instead of the research one. Transferable skills are poorly presented.

The ET shares their concern on the knowledge, skills and competences presented in the SER as non-compliant to the national legislation, i.e. to the KAA standards for PhD studies, as follows:

3.1 Doctoral programmes must be research-based although they may include course work and other activities that contribute to critical thinking and the development of research skills.

- (non compliant)

3.2 Doctoral programmes must have a time limit of 3 or 4 years for full-time doctoral students and of 7 years for part-time students.

- (non compliant)

3.3 The programme should enable individual research opportunities; courses should not exceed 1/5 of ECTS (36 credits) of total credit hours or 20% of the total workload; programme must develop transferable skills, and provide sufficient training in the methodology, ethics and integrity of research.

- (non compliant)

3.4 The programme should encourage mobility and participation in learning opportunities in other institutions.

+ (compliant)

3.5 The programme must have an established process for monitoring the progress of doctoral candidates.

+ (compliant)

3.6 A doctoral candidate must have a supervisor/s allocated within the first 12 months.

+ (compliant)



3.7 Acceptance of a doctoral research proposal must be subject to clearly defined and transparent procedures.

+ (compliant)

SUPPLEMENTARY

3.8 Doctoral candidates' mentors and members of the doctoral committee should be involved in institutional bodies relevant for doctoral education.

+ (compliant)

3.9 Doctoral candidates should be allowed to take courses outside the institution, as well as afforded opportunities to gain other relevant experience, such as presentations at academic conferences, workshops and other relevant activities

+ (compliant)

3.10 The majority of course work should be based on tutorials, seminars, discussion groups, workshops and individual work rather than predominantly didactic methods of instruction.

- (non compliant)

3.11 There should be evidenced data collection on cohorts of doctoral candidates.

+ (compliant)

3.12* If there is insufficient research capacity the institution is considering different approaches, such as joint programmes, collaborative programmes); a serious endeavour needs to be documented (please, see S 4.5).

n.a.

Compliance level:

Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. All syllabi should be revised and written according to the NQF. Special attention should be paid to proper selection of learning goals and learning outcomes.



2. *The importance of new knowledge gaining and developing partially is connected to literature which should not be outdated.*

3. *Courses are not coherent, there are overlapping among them, they should be redesigned entirely.*

4. *The ET suggests that the Dentistry PhD study programme should cooperate with another well-developed and highly graded Dentistry doctoral programme in the European countries. The suggested grade level of the partner HEI is "fully compliant".*

2.4. RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT CAPACITY

The process of reaccreditation is conducted online, and it was not an easy task for the ET to evaluate the equipment and its availability to the doctoral candidates. Therefore, the ET approximates that the infrastructure and facilities are sufficient for the doctoral study conducting.

The HEI provided evidence that the process of ethical standards' implementation is in function.

4.1 Infrastructure and facilities must be up-to-date and compatible with the area of research of a whole doctoral programme and doctoral research projects.

+ (compliant)

4.2 It must be evident, and clearly documented, that research is performed according to international ethical standards.

+ (compliant)

4.3 An Ethics Committee should be responsible for approving research involving humans and animals. Members must be active researchers, with publications in relevant international journals with no record of any kind of misconduct of research, plagiarism or any other ethical issue, no identified conflict of interest, and committed to data protection.

+ (compliant)



4.4 No supervisor should have more than three doctoral candidates.

+ (compliant)

SUPPLEMENTARY

4.5* In case of a need to up-grade research capacity, a joint doctoral programme with another university, preferably from abroad could be accepted (the whole programme with all the components needs to be documented, following all the applicable standards); other forms of collaboration with other institutions from abroad may also be acceptable.

n.a.

4.6 Taking in to account the field of research, employment opportunities, and its research capacity, the institution should consider the scheduling of enrolment of new cohorts of students.

n.a.

4.7 The institution should support research quality by requesting and reporting on research-paper quality and publication, external research funding, the establishment of research groups, etc.

- (non compliant)

Compliance level:

Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. The research quality should be improved in terms of establishment of the continuous research debate groups, not only as one semester course.

2. The researchers, both PhD candidates and the academic staff supporting them, should have developed an individual annual plan for research, publications and further improvement i.e education. Its implementation should be monitored.



3. *The HEI should find opportunities for PhD candidates to participate in the international academic community for their research skills improvement.*

2.5. SUPERVISION

The interviewees stated that PhDs have a supervisor from their area of research. The ET checked the list of the CVs attached, there are several of them very experienced researchers, yet, not all of them fulfilled the criterion on 3 publications published within the past five years, according to SCOPUS. The HEI provided additional documentation with the publications of the academic staff and the supervisors.

The ET requested a detailed distribution of the academic staff workload. The evidence is not sufficient to support this standard.

The HEI provided the list of the enrolment to the PhD Dentistry study programme with 20-25 candidates from the first to the third year of the study. The ET finds it non compliant with the allowed quota for admission to this study programme.

5.1 A doctoral candidate must have at least one supervisor (two is advisable), covering the research area/topic that is the focus of his/her doctoral research.

+ (compliant)

5.2 Supervisors must be a member of academic staff of the institution, hold a PhD and an approved academic title, be an active researcher, with a minimum of three years' research experience following the award of his/her PhD; he or she must have at least 3 papers published in international relevant publications in the last 5 years (relevance of publications is defined according to international criteria for the particular field of science- indexed in WoS and/or SCOPUS).

+ (compliant)

5.3 Supervisors must have experience in research projects and participation in international academic conferences and workshops relevant to the field.

+ (compliant)



5.4 The number of doctoral candidates per supervisor should be compatible with the overall workload of a supervisor.

- (non compliant)

5.5 Supervisors and doctoral candidates must meet regularly (at the very least monthly) to discuss the candidates' research and monitor progress. These meetings must be documented.

+ (compliant)

5.6 Responsibilities of the institution, supervisor and doctoral student must be set out clearly in a policy document.

+ (compliant)

SUPPLEMENTARY

5.7 The Institution provides professional development opportunities for supervisors.

+ (compliant)

5.8 Participation in international academic networks and similar activities should be documented.

+ (compliant)

Compliance level:

Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *The supervisors should follow the standard regarding the publication within the past five years.*

2. *Each supervisor should attend the workshop specially designed for mentors, at least once in five years. It should be documented and available to the next reaccreditation.*



3. *Supervisors very often participate in the doctoral study as a part-time job. They should provide evidence on the overall workload.*

2.6. ASSESSMENT

The assessment of the University activities is guided by the Central Quality Assurance and Evaluation Commission at the University and all status groups at the University participate in this commission. According to the SER, the Quality Assurance Central Committee and Assessment at the Rectorate develop a five-year plan and an annual action plan for the units, which elaborates the activities undertaken each year. It includes evaluation of the activities of the academic units.

The PhD studies assessment methodology is stipulated in the “Regulation of Doctoral Studies, University of Prishtina (Hasan Prishtina), Nr. Prot. 1/96; Date 24/06/2021”, more specifically in articles 11, 12, 15, 17, 18 and 19.

There are different formularies in place which help the evaluation process such as:

- F1 - Introduction to the doctoral thesis
- F2 - Evaluation of the doctoral thesis
- F3 - Decision on approval of the topic of the doctoral thesis
- F4 - Annual report of the doctoral student
- F5 - Mentor's annual report on doctoral student progress
- F6 - Request for change of topic and / or mentor
- F7 - Request for postponement of public defense of doctoral thesis
- F8 - Instructions for compiling the doctoral thesis
- F9 - Annual report on the study activity
- F10 - Report on the evaluation of doctoral work
- F11 - Protocol and minutes for the defense of doctoral thesis

There is an antiplagiarism software in place, but evidence of its use of every PhD thesis could not be provided to the ET. Moreover, the database of the software is mostly English language and every check would result in a positive thesis assessment. While the requirement to publish a minimum of one article in an international peer-reviewed journal is an efficient system to ensure lack of any kind of misconduct, the article may comprise only one chapter of



the entire thesis, thus not ensuring a comprehensive assessment. The institution's regulations governing the instance of a negative assessment stipulate the procedures upon the acceptance of the thesis and also the returning of the thesis for further completion and changes and in the case of rejection due to its insufficient overall quality (Article 17 (9), (10) ; Article 18 (5), (6)).

6.1 Doctoral candidates are supported and required to publish at least 1 paper as a first or corresponding author in a peer-reviewed journal relevant to the field (indexed in WoS and/or SCOPUS).

+ (compliant)

6.2 Doctoral candidates must confirm that the doctoral thesis is their original work.

- (non compliant)

6.3 Doctoral candidates must submit their thesis to the doctoral committee within the stipulated time frame and participate in an oral public defence.

+ (compliant)

6.4 The institution must have a clearly documented protocol for the assessment process including the composition of the evaluation committee, which should comprise at least three members

+ (compliant)

6.5 The institution must have clear criteria for the assessment of doctoral theses

+ (compliant)

6.6 The institution must have clear regulations governing the instance of a negative assessment.

+ (compliant)

6.7 Institutions must have clear policies and procedures to address any kind of misconduct such as unethical practice, plagiarism, fabrication of data, etc.

+ (compliant)



6.8 All the members of the committee for the evaluation of the public defence must be established authorities in the research field. The committee must have at least one external member from a domestic or international institution.

+ (compliant)

6.9 A supervisor may not serve as a member of the evaluation committee.

+ (compliant)

Compliance level:

Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Enure the antiplagiarism software is used for every PhD thesis and that its database is updated with Albanian medical/dental literature*

2.7. DOCTORAL RESEARCH OUTCOME

The final outcome of the doctoral programme Dentistry is a public defense of PhD thesis. A defined procedure for assessment and public defense in cases where the result may lead to the application and award of a patent is also included in the document "Regulation of Doctoral studies, dated 24/06/2021", and a procedure for the doctoral candidate which does not complete the PhD studies successfully, the institution issuing a certificate for all the courses the PhD student attended during the studies, thus ensuring also the compliance of the supplementary standards 7.3 and 7.4, besides the core ones.

The self-assessment report states an extensive set of competencies acquired by the PhD students at the end of their studies, which might allow them to follow multiple career pathways, but at the moment the ET found that the main and only reason for following a PhD in Dentistry is to be allowed to teach at a higher education institution in Kosovo.

7.1 The final outcome of the doctoral programme is a thesis. There is no singular, stipulated, format for the thesis. However, the copy must be publicly available. This may be on-line, but a hardcopy must be held in the institution's library and elsewhere, as deemed appropriate.



+ (compliant)

7.2 The thesis should reflect original thinking and represent a valuable addition to the knowledge base of the topic

+ (compliant)

7.3 Doctoral programmes should provide a successful candidate with a set of competencies that will provide him, or her, with a choice of career paths.

+ (compliant)

7.4 Where a doctoral candidate does not complete his/her PhD studies successfully the institution may wish to consider issuing a certificate recording the courses he/she attended during the course of study.

+ (compliant)

7.5 There is a defined procedure for the assessment and public defense in cases where the result may lead to the application and award of a patent.

+ (compliant)

Compliance level:

Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. –



3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The overall quality of the self-assessment report is substandard, with not enough evidence to support judgments on teaching and learning and too little data provided, even though the university kindly provided the extra requested documents after the online visit. An effective self-assessment is not easy to achieve and the university should strive to dedicate sufficient time to move from compliance to enhancement.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the doctoral programme *Dentistry, PhD* offered by *University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"* is *Partially compliant* with the standards included in the *KAA Accreditation manual for doctoral programmes* and, therefore, recommends *not to accredit* the study program for its shortcomings.

Subject	Core	Core compliant	Suppl	Suppl compliant
Institutional structure, administrative support and funding	3	2	3	2
Selection and admission criteria	4	3	1	0
Doctoral programme structure/content	7	4	5	3
Research environment capacity	4	4	3	2
Supervision	6	5	2	2
Assessment	9	8	0	0
Doctoral research outcome	3	3	2	2
All	36	<u>29</u>	16	<u>11</u>



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

Expert Team

Chair

(Signature)

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(Print Name)

20.06.2022

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Member

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