



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"
Faculty of Philology
MA in Oriental Cultural Studies

Re-Accreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

June 9, 2022, Zagreb



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1. Context.....	3
1.2. Site visit schedule	4
1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation	4
2. PROGRAM EVALUATION	6
2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration.....	6
2.2. Quality Management.....	7
2.3. Academic Staff	9
2.4. Educational Process Content.....	10
2.5. Students.....	13
2.6. Research.....	14
2.7. Infrastructure and Resources.....	16
3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET	18



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 21 April 2022

Expert Team (ET) members:

- Dr. Vjerran Kursar, Assoc. Prof.

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Mrs. Ilirjane Ademaj Ahmeti
- Mr. Arianit Krasniqi

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-Evaluation Report - Re-accreditation of MA Program Oriental Cultural Studies (30 April 2021)
- KAA Accreditation Manual (2021)
- The Manual for External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions (February 2021)
- Staff CVs
- Syllabi
- Annexes: Study Programme, Plans for the implementation of recommendations, Academic staff scientific work

Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations

- Standards and performance indicators for external quality assurance according to KAA Accreditation Manual (2021)
- Criteria of Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability



1.2. Site visit schedule

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:00 – 09:45	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	Lindita Rugova-Dean Milote Sadiku-Vice dean Avdi Visoka – Vice Dean Isa Memishi – Vice dean
09.50 – 10.35	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	Besnik Loxha – Head of ADO Alban Zeneli-Development officer Emanuel Gjoleka - administration
10:40 – 11:40	Meeting with the heads of the study programme:	Abdulla Rexhepi
11:40 – 12.25	Lunch break (provided at the evaluation site)	
12:25 – 13:10	Meeting with teaching staff	Abdulla Amidi Isa Memishi Liridona Berkolli
13:15 – 14:00	Meeting with students	Qershora Berisha Shkelzen Hoxha
14:05 – 14:50	Meeting with graduates	Zymer Ramadani,



		Fatijona Bajraj
14:55 – 15:40	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	Sadik Mehmeti (Instituti Albanologjik i Prishtinës) Şerafettin Turan (Atashe për arsim në ambasadën e Republikës së Turqisë)
15:40 – 15:50	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
15:50 – 16:00	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	Lindita Rugova-Dean Milote Sadiku-Vice dean Avdi Visoka – Vice Dean Isa Memishi – Vice dean

1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

The Faculty of Philology (hereinafter: Faculty) started to function as an independent, separate institution in 1989 (based on the Law for the establishment of the Faculty of Philology in Prishtina no. 011-83/88, in Prishtina on the 22th of December 1988.), although it has much longer tradition which goes back to the year of 1960, when the Program of Albanian Language and Literature and the Program of Serbo-Croatian Language and Yugoslav Literature were established within what was then Faculty of Philosophy. Today the Faculty operates within the UP and has 8 departments: Department of Albanian Language, Department of Albanian Literature, Department of English Language and Literature, Department of French Language and Literature, Department of Orientalistics, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Department of German Language and Literature, and Department of Journalism. Apart from basic studies, it also has two PhD programs: Linguistics and Literature. The Faculty thus provides study programs in the field of philological sciences, teaching and studying foreign languages, literatures and cultures, as well as journalism.



As stated in the SER, the mission and objectives of the Faculty are in compliance with those determined by the UP and all the programs offered by the Faculty have been drafted based on UP leadership principles, important strategic documents and current regulations (<https://www.uni-pr.edu/inc/doc/PLANI-STRATEGJIK1.pdf>).

The basic principles of the Faculty are mainly defined according to the aim of focusing on the development of young people in the field of humanities and communication sciences (journalism), as well as on the development of professionals such as lecturers of Albanian and foreign languages, translators / interpreters and philologists in various scientific disciplines for the needs of society and its institutions.

The Department of Orientalistics, founded in 1973, operates within the Faculty of Philology. Until 2019, it has offered only BA studies. The MA program in Oriental Cultural Studies was accredited in 2019.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The institutional evaluation consists of 7 subheadings through which the administration, organisation and management of the institution, as well as teaching and research are assessed.

2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

The main mission of the program as stated in the SER is to prepare good professionals in the field of oriental studies. Graduates of the Scientific Master of Oriental Cultural Studies program gain qualifications based on the BA Oriental studies program, who make the majority of the students. Those who do not come from the BA Oriental studies program are expected to have proficiency in one of the major languages taught at the BA Oriental studies program, i.e., Arabic, Persian, and/or Turkish. Upon completion of the MA program, the graduates are able to work in professions related to this qualification or continue the education at the PhD level.

Table 1. Compliance with the standards required by the KAA Accreditation manual in the area Mission, objectives and administration

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.	X	



Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.	X	
Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.	X	
Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.	X	
Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.	X	
Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant 100%

ET recommendations:

None

2.2. Quality Management

Lack of online resources, database and digital library access still represents a big problem for both staff and students. According to the dean, Prof. Dr. Lindita Rugova, however, this issue is understood as a priority and will be solved soon.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No



Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.	X	
Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.	X	
Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.	X	
Standard 2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as of different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs, with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.	X	
Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.	X	
Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.	X	
Standard 2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.	X	
Standard 2.8. The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (eg. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	x	
Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. Subscription to online resources and databases and creation of digital library.



2.3. Academic Staff

The program is taught by four professors from Department of Orientalistics, two professors from Albanian Language Department, one professor from Albanian Literature Department, one professor from German Language and Literature Department, one professor from Faculty of Philosophy and one professor from Institute of Albanology. All full-time and part-time academic staff meets legal requirements for relevant teaching positions. All staff has the primary job at the University of Prishtina. On the other hand, as one of the main challenges the SER underlines difficulties that still prevent staff from full and free academic mobility: visa problems when traveling to the western countries, as well as political turmoil in some countries of the Middle East. This was partially solved via Erasmus and Mevlana exchange programs with European and Turkish universities, which are used by both students and staff.

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



Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	X	
Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties	X	
3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.	X	
Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through selfevaluation, 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.	Not applicable	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

None.

2.4. Educational Process Content

The syllabi of the courses indicate balanced and multi- and inter-disciplinary program, which is performed by professors from Department of Orientalistics, as well as those from other departments and institutions. Additional value of the program is provided by the focus on local, Albanian Oriental cultural heritage. Combination of theoretical and practical knowledge, including work with archival documents and manuscripts, enables students to acquire necessary skills valued both in the scientific research and in the job market.

10



<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 4.1. The study program is modeled 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.	X	



Standard 4.6. The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	X	
Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.	X	
Standard 4.8. Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.	X	
Standard 4.9. Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	X	
Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.	X	
Standard 4.11. If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated 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/organizations/practical training units.	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

None.



2.5. Students

According to the SER, the Program targets candidates who have completed four-year Bachelor of Oriental Studies, while it is also open to candidates who completed BA studies in the fields of Turkology, history, literature, anthropology, sociology and Islamic studies. According to information provided by the staff during interview, an unwritten rule is to accept students coming from other programs under the condition of knowing of Arabic, Persian and/or Turkish language. The fact that more or less all of the students possess a high level linguistic competence provides an ability to work on advanced texts in class. Interviews with representatives of students and alumni confirmed generally high level of linguistic competence and excellence in the field of Oriental Studies. This was also confirmed during interviews with the representatives of employers. A relatively small number of candidates interested in studying MA program in Orientalistics is another issue that has to be addressed by the Department, which has to find a way to make the program more popular and attractive to potential candidates.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 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	
Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	X	
Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	X	
Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	X	
Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	X	



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

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. Because of a relatively small number of candidates interested in the program, Department has to make the program more popular and attractive to potential candidates and the general public as well. This can be done with more public activities of the staff such as public lectures on popular topics, debates and round tables, book launches, Arabic/Persian/Turkish film, arts and literature festivals, etc. The members of Department should popularize their MA program among all eligible students outside their own department by promotional visits, flyers, etc.

2.6. Research

The staff of Department, in cooperation with external researchers, established the Institute for Oriental Studies. It publishes the journal "Oriental Studies". The members of the department are members and associates of several institutes and scientific journals in Kosovo and abroad, such as: Center for Iranian Studies in Ankara, The Center for Iran, Balkan and Central



European Studies in Bulgaria, Turkish International Language, Literature and Folklore Researches Journal, Pearl Magazine in Tirana and Islamic Education in Prishtina. One of the staff members has been awarded the "Translation and International Understanding" award in Qatar for the Arabic-Albanian Dictionary published in 2011. Department organized several conferences and scientific roundtables as well as book promotions related to the relevant field. In conclusion, the staff is involved in rich scientific production, while still unsolved political and diplomatic questions related to the status of Kosovo prevent further advance and international visibility.

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



Standard 6.8. 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 developments in the field.	X	
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:

None.

2.7. Infrastructure and Resources

The basic infrastructural and operational expenses for the program are included in the budget of the University of Prishtina. The budget is determined by the Assembly of Kosovo with the Law on the Budget and dependent on the income that the institution generates. The facilities of the Department of Orientalistics are in solid conditions. The number of offices for teaching staff is not sufficient according to the SER. Another problem is a lack of a leisure space for the staff. This, however, is within the responsibility of the University of Prishtina, and is determined by its budget. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is not adapted to students with special needs and should be paid due attention by the Faculty's and University of Prishtina's administration.

<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 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	
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 specialty disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	X	
Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs: a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign specialty literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or specialty courses of recognized publishers, from the last 10 years; d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for; e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.	X	
Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.		X

Compliance level: Substantially compliant - 83.3%

ET recommendations:



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

1. The faculty has to secure needed infrastructure and facilities for students with special needs.

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The proclaimed mission of the MA program of Oriental Cultural Studies is successfully fulfilled. The department accepted and implemented recommendations of the 2019 reaccreditation expert concerning cooperation of Department with employers and opening of Department to general public for the sake of visibility via public lectures, etc. There is still a space for improvement of this cooperation. The program is improved in theoretical and practical aspects with inclusion of "Postcolonial Theory" and "Ottoman Texts and Documents" classes. The number of staff was increased, which makes the performance of the program more feasible.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Oriental Cultural Studies offered by the Department of Orientalistics, Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" is substantially compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, recommends to accredit the study program for a duration of 5 years with a number of 15 students to be enrolled in the program.

Expert Team

Member

(Signature)

Vjeron Kursar

(Print Name)

June 9, 2022

(Date)