# UNIVERISTY OF PRISHTINA
# FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY


# ACCREDITATION

# STUDY PROGRAMME
# PHILOSOPHY BA


# FINAL REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM


*14 March 2022, Zagreb*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Context

**Date of site visit:** 22 February 2022

**Expert Team (ET) members**

- Prof Pavo Barišić, PhD
- Marko Komšo (student expert)

**Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)**

- Leona Kovaci, Senior Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ilirjane Ademaj, Senior Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation

**Sources of information for the Report**

- Self-Assessment Report Faculty of Philosophy, BA Philosophy 2021
- Staff CVs
- Syllabi

**Requested documents**

- Statute of the Faculty of Philosophy
- Fully written syllabuses of the BA Philosophy
- One BA thesis - excellent quality (in Albanian)
- One BA thesis - marginal pass (in Albanian)
- Exchange agreement for students and stuff with other faculties and universities
- Internship agreement with employers

**Received documents**

- 

**Criteria used for programme evaluation**

KAA Accreditation Manual

### 1.2. Site visit schedule

Programme Accreditation Procedure at University of Pristina Faculty of Philosophy Programme: Philosophy BA

Online Site Visit on 22nd of February 2022

**Expert Team**

- Prof Pavo Barišić, PhD
- Student Expert Marko Komšo

**Coordinators of KAA**

- Leona Kovaçi, Senior Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ilirjane Ademaj, Senior Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation

**Site Visit Programme**

| | |
|---|---|
| 09.00 – 09.45 | Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated |

- Prof. Asoc. Dr. Dashamir Bërxulli – Dean
- Prof. Asoc. Dr. Selim Bezeraj – V/Dean
- Prof. Ass. Dr. Adem Beha- V/Dean
- Prof. Asoc. Dr. Muhamet Qerimi – V/Dean

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

- Besnik Loxha
- Dorajet Imeri
- Lumnije Ahmeti
- Mentor Maka

10:40 – 11:40      Meeting with the heads of the study programme

- Dr. Astrit Salihu,
- Dr. Blerim Latifi,
- Dr. Valon Leci

11:40 – 12.25      Lunch break

12:25 – 13:10          Meeting with teaching staff
- Prof. Ass. Dr. Hasnije Ilazi
- Prof. Ass. Dr. Kristë Shtufi
- Ass. Vlerona Haxholli

13:15 – 14:00          Meeting with students
- Zanë Rexha
- Zjarr Bujari

14:05 – 14:50          Meeting with graduates
- Irma Memetovic
- Anda Krasniqi
- Endrit Grajqevci

14:55 – 15:40          Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
- Afrore Lila
- Nehat Sadiku
- Taulant Gashi

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
- Dr. Dashamir Bërxulli – Dean
- Dr. Selim Bezeraj – V/Dean
- Dr. Adem Beha- V/Dean
- Dr. Muhamet Qerimi – V/Dean
- Dr. Kristë Shtufi
- Dr. Astrit Salihu,
- Dr. Blerim Latifi,
- Dr. Valon Leci

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

The Faculty of Philosophy is the first academic unit of higher education in Kosovo. It was founded in 1960. The mission of Faculty is a proper education of the youth of Kosovo. It educates students to be worthy and useful citizens for the country. The Faculty of Philosophy has been the leader of many vital processes for Kosovo, despite the challenges it faced during its operation.

At the Faculty of Philosophy, there are seven departments:
- Department of History
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Social Work
- Department of Anthropology.

The mission of the Faculty of Philosophy is, through building and strengthening academic staff capacities, enriching the academic tradition with advanced European and international experiences and practices, through expanding cooperation, increasing professionalism, intensifying scientific research, as well as digitalization of administration and all services for students, to become an academic institution at the level of prestigious international universities, with an emphasis on those of the European Union, as well as to be a serious competitor in the academic market, not only in the region but also beyond.

The goals of Faculty of Philosophy are:
- education and upbringing of students in the field of philosophy, sociology, psychology, history, political science, ethnology, archivist and social work;

- theoretical-practical training of students in the above areas to perform the tasks and obligationsfor which they are prepared;
- affirmation and implementation of the best achievements in European and world culture and science in the Kosovar society, culture, science and economy;
- scientific research of social phenomena and processes in Kosovo society and beyond;
- cultivating critical and creative thinking in the field of scientific theory and social practice;
- preparation of human resources, for the application of theoretical and humanistic knowledge, in practical life and their training for competition in relevant fields;
- promoting values and civic democracy to the new generation;
- cooperation in teaching, research and publications with sister institutions at national, regionaland international level;
- creation of professionally capable and morally responsible staff for the exercise of important social, political and educational-scientific roles and functions in society;
- integration in the European Higher Education Area and achieving student and teacher mobility;
- the interconnection and interdisciplinary nature of the fields of study, within the Faculty of Philosophy and in cooperation with other faculties of the University of Pristina;
- the establishment of competent staff capable of solving theoretical and practical problems related to the Kosovar society, solutions that would contribute to the economic, social, democratic, cultural and educational prosperity of the Republic of Kosovo.

Faculty of Philosophy permanently monitors the developments, both in higher education and in the education market in Kosovo. This monitoring is done through a wide range of uses:
- formal and informal meetings with relevant senior decision-making and policy actors;
- taking part in conferences, seminars and roundtables on higher education in Kosovo, in the regionand beyond;
- formal and informal internal academic discussions of the staff of the Faculty of Philosophy;
- invitation for public lectures at the Faculty of Knowledge on Education and other related issues;
- monitoring of prestigious scientific journals for relevant findings to higher education andmonitoring of the daily press for articles and analysis dedicated to higher education;
- monitoring in continuity the developments of other levels of education, in order to adapt and advance curricula, academic materials, teaching methodologies and evaluation.

The Faculty of Philosophy has 11 programmes with valid accreditation, 1 MA programme, as well as 3 programmes at the BA level in the process of accreditation, or re-accreditation.

The Faculty of Philosophy is located on the university campus, close to the National Library of Kosovo, the University Library, the Rectorate of the University of Pristina.

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## 2. PROGRAMME EVALUATION: Philosophy BA

### 2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

The mission of the study programme Philosophy BA is in full harmony with the mission of the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Pristina, stated in its highest legal act – the Statute. Objectives are very well written.

In talking to the heads of the study programme and representatives of employers of graduates and external stakeholders, the expert team noticed that graduates are properly prepared to work in schools as well as in a variety of fields such as media world, politics, civil society. They are also well prepared for continuing MA level studies.

The administrative and academic staff is enthusiastic and ready to implement any recommendations. The management is proactive with the private sector and will send students to do their internships (media houses, schools, etc.). The media house has expressed their willingness to help the management in organizing round tables and discussions and be part of them. (Standard 1.1)

The learning outcomes are at a decent level as far as the expert team opinion is considered. The programme meets well the criteria of the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area. The media house and the school were included, the most respected experts in the field of media will help the faculty with any questions and problems. The academic references and network seem to be elaborated. (Standard 1.2)

The study programme provides a well-defined overarching didactic concept. It also trains to create professional and intellectual capacities, capable of taking civic responsibility on social processes (Standard 1.3).

Typical basic processes are described in the SAR: quality processes, academic processes, application processes for students or teaching applicants are described. During the site visit, the management mentioned several times the importance and value of transparency. (Standard 1.4)

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Code of Ethics is established for academic and administrative staff and students. Continuous evaluation of students and academic staff is an important feature in the implementation of the study programme. During the site visit, the academic staff confirmed that there is no appropriate program for checking graduate theses against plagiarism. (Standard 1.5)

Several review processes and regulation mechanisms are described, which are also responsible for evaluating policies in different time frames. (Standard 1.6).

**Performance indicator**
Performance indicators are well described in the SAR.

| Standard | Compliance | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| *Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.* | X | |
| *Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.* | X | |
| *Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.* | X | |
| *Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.* | X | |
| *Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.* | X | |
| *Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.* | X | |

**Compliance level:** Fully compliant.

**ET recommendations:**
- No further recommendations

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## 2.2. Quality management

The SAR describes in detail quality management organization and processes. During the conversation with the QA members and staff, the expert team was informed that the below listed practises are implemented:
- Quality management is integrated into the life cycle of the programme
- A process for ongoing strategy improvement has been developed
- The department has regular monthly meetings before the regular meetings of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy.
- QA regulations were fragmented
- Quality management staff members received training and will receive further training.
- The Department makes plans for the improvement of its programmes in accordance with the Statute of UP and its accompanying legislation, the Strategy for Development of the Faculty of Philosophy.
- Quality Assessment Questionnaire are going to be mandatory

QA revised comprehensively learning outcomes together with the Faculty. The problem-based teaching and learning approach is strengthened. The Department of Philosophy ensures that it continuously respects all the criteria set by the KAA regarding the quality component, consequently in every accreditation and re-accreditation has respected the recommendations required to achieve the standards by international accreditation experts.

The Faculty of Philosophy has implemented all recommendations that were given to them during the conversation with the expert team.

A specific COVID19 impact evaluation was not conducted. The expert team was informed that the extremely low percentage of students participating in the survey does not show real quality assessment results. Therefore, from this academic year, questionnaires are made mandatory to have more data to collect and analyse.

| Standard | Compliance | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| *Standard 2.1.* All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity. | X | |

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|---|---|---|
| *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. *ET recommends that the data collected through the mandatory questionnaires are implemented and taken very seriously.*
2. *Given that mandatory evaluation questionnaires have only been introduced since this academic year, it is also recommended that a detailed and in-depth analysis of such a procedure be made in several cycles.*
3. *ET recommends training the staff especially the QA staff members*

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## 2.3. Academic staff

The academic staff employed in the Department of Philosophy, within which this programme is implemented, carries out their FT activity in full compliance with the statutory provisions of the. The regular staff that has at least the title of Prof. is engaged for lectures. Ass. Dr or the degree of Dr according to the authorisations of the Faculty Council in certain cases, while for exercise the regular assistant. All academic staff that is engaged in this programme is on a full-time basis and acts in accordance with legal requirements, except for retired Professor Prof. Dr Kadri Metaj.

External staff is recruited for one academic year to hold exercises in some subjects.

The following table is based on SAR, CVs of the faculty staff:

| Permanent staff | | | | Contracts based on commitment - hours per week | | | Contracts above the norm - hours perweek | | Acti./ Admin./ Researc h/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N r | Name Surna me | Sci. deg. | Acad. Titl. | Contract duration | Winter sem. lectures | Summer sem. | Winter sem. lectures | Summer sem. lectures | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1 | Astrit Salihu | Dr. | Prof. Asoc. Dr. | 2020 – 2024 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Holder of the BA program in Philosophy |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Hasnije Ilazi | Dr. | Prof. Ass. Dr. | 9.6.2021, and with one-year automatic extension until re-election in the next competition | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Holder of the MA program in Philosophy |
| 3 | Kristë Shtufi | Dr. | Prof. Ass. Dr. | 23.7.2022 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Head of Department |
| 4 | Blerim Latifi | Dr. | Prof. Ass. Dr. | 1.6.2019, and with one-year automatic extension until re-election in the next competition | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | |
| 5 | Valon Leci | Dr. | Ass. | 1.10.2023 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 2 | Secretary ofthe Department |
| 6 | Vlerona Haxholli | MA | Ass. | 01.10.2021 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 8 | |
| 7 | Kadri Metaj | Dr. | Prof. Dr. retired | Planned for 5 years but elected every year. | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | |

The programme consists of 180 credits. The legal requirement is that for the number of 60 credits, at least one full-time staff member must be employed with a PhD degree. Therefore, a minimum of three full-time staff members holding a PhD must be employed which are

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employed. All full-time academic staff engaged in this programme has completed at least doctoral studies abroad: Astrit Salihu (doctorate in Zagreb, Croatia), Hasnije Ilazi (master and doctorate in Zagreb, Croatia), Kristë Shtufi (all levels of study in Austria); Blerim Latifi (master and doctorate of Tirana, Albania), Valon Leci (doctorate of Tirana, Albania). All academic staff of this program have knowledge of at least English languages

The cooperation within the University of Pristina offers possibilities for staff development. Elements and processes for an academic career are sufficiently described in the SAR. However, the SAR stated, as confirmed in a conversation with the expert team, that more academic staff is needed to carry out and develop this study program to high international educational standards. Therefore, academic staff remains deprived of certain opportunities for further professional development (Standard 3.6).

In the SAR the Faculty of Philosophy describes the typical academic activities sufficiently. These activities could be better portraited in the CV of the staff-faculty members. The lack of knowledge of specific languages such as German, French, where it is known that many great philosophers have written in these languages is a weakness of staff. The ET appreciates and considers a great effort of the staff that is translating foreign literature in their domestic language.

The number of published papers of academic staff could be improved. The reasons for the current situation can be found on several pages. First, pandemic conditions and increased pressure on teachers to teach online should be considered. But on the other hand, the lecturers confirmed in conversation with the expert team that there are not enough funds for the professional development of academic staff (Standard 3.7).

| Standards | 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 | |

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| *Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the administrative instruction on Accreditation.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.* | | X |
| *Standard 3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self- evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.* | X | |
| *Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.* | X | |

**Compliance level:** Fully compliant.

The ET has understanding for the current difficult situation of the institution and the additional pandemic crisis, but we recommend more publishing papers from the staff.

**ET recommendations:**
1. *ET recommends that the staff should be stimulated to publish more.*
2. *Academic staff need to participate more in research by reducing teaching loads.*
3. *The development of academic staff should be enabled through financial support for greater participation in international conferences and scientific events.*

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4.  ET recommends rewarding scientific papers of high international visibility.
5.  ET recommends improvement and standardization of the CVs.

## 2.4. Educational process content

Interdisciplinarity is considered in the BA program in Philosophy, especially derived from the fields of social sciences. Since philosophy and logic are taught in Kosovo in the schools as general gymnasiums and technical schools, but also ethics, civic education, and human rights. The ET encourages further cooperation with business partners such as the media house and school. The study programme is in line with the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area. The programme is organised in three study years and six semesters. Through the designed programme, students manage to get 180 credits, for each semester they get 30 credits.

The programme's focus is clear. The central aspect of the programme is to enable students to teach philosophy, logic and related subjects in schools as well to work in different areas of social life. The study programme has clear qualification objectives for the field philosophy. (Standard 4.1)

The study methods are described in the syllabuses for each course. In general, the programme focuses on problem-solving skills, case studies, project work, problem-based learning, and simulated learning. (Standard 4.2)

The programme's focus provides a logical flow and leads to the development of general and specific learning outcomes in the curriculum. The programme offers elective courses for individual student focus. (Standard 4.3)

Syllabuses of the curriculum are well documented. The structure of the syllabi is standardised and sufficiently described by the faculty staff members. (Standard 4.4)

English skills are not regulated by the Faculty of Philosophy. (Standard 4.5)

Teaching strategies consist of different teaching methods described and customised for the courses and documented in the syllabuses. (Standard 4.7)

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The faculty is planning to use the learnings from the master programme also for the bachelor programme and implement them. Students are required to use also empirical research which is adequate for a bachelor thesis (Standard 4.8)

An overall assessment monitoring is established, which generates for every assessment a report. (Standard 4.9)

The BA program in philosophy does not provide any practical phase. But according to the nature of the study of philosophy, the BA program in philosophy contains seminar papers, homework, exercises, presentations, colloquia, and in some subject's class discussions are organised between groups of students related with practical topics, addressed in lectures (Standard 4.11)

The BA programme in philosophy does not envisage any practical phase. However, for issues of programme implementation and goal achievement, the Department of Philosophy works closely with the Kosovo Philosophers Association, and jointly organises various events, such as World Philosophy Day (Standard 4.12)

**Performance indicator**
Performance indicators are sufficient.

| Standards | Compliance | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| *Standard 4.1. The study program is modelled on qualification objectives. These include subject-related and interdisciplinary aspects as well as the acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies. The aspects refer especially to academic or artistic competencies, to the capability of taking up adequate employment, contributing to the civil society and of developing the students' personality.* | X | |
| *Standard 4.2. The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.* | X | |
| *Standard 4.3. The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the* | X | |

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| *study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.* | | |
| *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 students 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 organizations is monitored through activity reports; students* | X | |

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| *during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.* | | |
| *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:**

1. *ET encourages the Faculty of Philosophy to test the English language of the students during the first and second semester and help them with additional literature in their domestic language if the students' knowledge of the English language is not sufficient.*
2. *ET recommends that funding be provided within the Faculty or University for the updated literature on specific subjects as well as for the translation of key literature into Albanian.*
3. *ET recommends that for the study of philosophy, as one of the basic and oldest studies at the University of Pristina, a doctoral procedure be initiated in order to complete the educational cycle according to the Bologna system.*

### 2.5. Students

The evaluation process has confirmed the presence of information, outside the documents supplied in advance of the visit, that demonstrate institution-wide arrangements for student admissions, rights of representation, student feedback via 'satisfaction surveys', what students can expect during the studies, what is expected of them and what support can be provided if something goes wrong.

At the beginning of each academic year, within the general competition of the University of Pristina for the admission of new students, the competition for this programme will be announced. The competition will contain complete information about the competition, evaluation, and admission procedure in the Bachelor of Philosophy study programme. After the official announcement of the results of the entrance test, students have the right to appeal which are reviewed by the entrance examination commission within the Department of Philosophy.

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The Faculty of Philosophy established different regulations to deal with academic misconduct, including plagiarism and other forms of cheating: Code of Ethics for Academic Staff, Code of Ethics for Students, Code of Ethics for Non-Academic Staff. The Faculty of Philosophy does not have a plagiarism detection software, but they control the paper handed by students very strictly.

| *Standard* | Compliance | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Yes | No |
| *Standard 5.1.* There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when 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 | |

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**Compliance level:** Fully compliant

**ET recommendations:**

1. *The ET recommends that the Faculty of Philosophy incorporates a software for detecting plagiarism such as Academia, which includes the Albanian language.*

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### 6. Research

The Faculty of Philosophy has the Faculty Development Strategy 2018-2023 and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy. Research objectives and the dynamics of the realisation of the activities in the achievement of the objectives are defined with these strategic documents. The expert team encourages the Faculty of Philosophy to develop better ties with other institutions in the field of Philosophy regarding the research. (Standard 6.1)

The University of Pristina has regulated the issue of promotion of teaching staff, through a mandatory requirement for scientific research and their publication in journals with international credibility. This is defined by the Statute of UP, articles 164,165,166,167, 168 and 175,176, 177, and Recommendation of the Senate of UP no.1 / 344 dt. 22/06/2016. The platforms for publishing works are determined by the academic staff of UP, preferring the Scopus platform as the most appreciated. (Standard 6.2, 6.3)

The overview of the scientific publications of the academic staff of the Department of Philosophy for the last 5 years shows that the research results could be increased. Some of the research papers are older than 3, 5 or even more years. The expert team highly recommends publishing research papers frequently and proposes not only to request it from the University of Pristina but also to apply for funds from other sources. Publishing research papers is something that spreads and enhances the knowledge of professors and is also useful for the education of students.

**Performance indicator**
Performance indicators are well described in the SAR.

| Standards | 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 | |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *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:**
1. *ET recommends that the staff publishes more scientific papers*
2. *ET highly recommends establishing a strategy for publishing papers*
3. *ET recommends having a strategy for applying for research funds*

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## 6.1. Infrastructure and resources

It should be mentioned that the evaluation of infrastructure and resources was made based on the information received from the institution via video and those declared by the participants in the meetings during the online accreditation. Also, the ET looked online for extra information regarding the infrastructure and resources.

Management of the Faculty of Philosophy will be in the building of the University of Pristina as the Faculty of Philosophy is part of the University. As noted by the staff and the management of the Faculty of Philosophy the buildings are renovated and painted. The students have told the expert team during the meeting that they have a library at the Faculty of Philosophy and one which is located within a two-minute walk from the faculty. It should be noted that the building of the faculty is suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities.

There is a videoconferencing equipment for streaming video lectures. Adequate computer equipment is available and accessible for teaching, staff and students throughout the institution, and technical support is available for staff and students using information and communications technology

During the meetings with the management, students, and the staff, the ET found out that the institution provides an adequate and well-maintained physical environment for its students and staff. Adequate computer equipment is available and accessible for staff and students throughout the institution, and technical support is available for staff and students using information and communications technology.

| *Standard* | Compliance | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Yes | No |
| *Standard 7.1.* The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account. | X | |

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| *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:<br>a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;<br>b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;<br>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence;<br>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:<br>a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;<br>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;<br>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 recognized publishers, from the last 10 years;<br>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;<br>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: Fully compliant**

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**ET recommendations:**

1. *The ET recommends a bigger library with more literature in the domestic language if possible and applauds the effort of professors who translate literature from the English language.*
2. *The ET recommends increasing support for the acquisition of the uptodate literature in foreign languages as well as subscriptions to international journals.*

## 7. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The ET would like to thank the Dean, the Faculty management, the heads of the study programme, the academic staff, the employers and external stakeholders, the students and the graduates, of the Faculty of Philosophy for the well-prepared online meetings during the on-site visit as well as for their open discussion on all issues raised in the evaluation.

The ET finds that the objectives of the study programme Philosophy BA are well defined and are in full harmony with the mission of the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Pristina. Graduates are properly prepared to work in schools as well as in a variety of fields such as media world, politics, civil society. They are also appropriately educated for continuing MA level studies. The administrative and academic staff is enthusiastic and ready to implement any recommendations. The management is proactive with the private sector and sends students to do the internships in media houses, schools, etc. The learning outcomes are at a decent level as far as the expert team opinion is considered. The programme meets well the criteria of the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area. The academic references and network are well elaborated. The study programme provides a well-defined overarching didactic concept. It also trains to create professional and intellectual capacities, capable of taking civic responsibility on social processes.

In addition to these and other positive achievements, there are some minor shortcomings in the implementation of the study programme, that the expert team points out. The main two

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shortcomings stand out: lack of the teaching staff in general, and insufficient financial support for the research. The ET recommends to the Faculty, University and Government of Kosovo to establish regularly support of the scientific research. It will be crucial for the future development of the study programme to use and concentrate the teaching resources in order to acquire the necessary financial means to tie the academic staff in a sustainable manner. Faculty members who are receiving research funds have to be financially and institutionally awarded for their scientific achievements. They have to be able to take sabbaticals and to devote themselves to their research.

The ET recommends to the Faculty of Philosophy as an important task to further improve the level of the foreign language knowledge by the students participating in the study programme Philosophy. In this respect could be highly recommended to the Faculty of Philosophy to co-operate intensively with the Faculty of Philology to improve the foreign languages competence of students as well as of the teaching staff. It is recommended that every student should be obliged to attend at least one or two courses which are taught in foreign languages during a BA-programme. If every BA-thesis has to include a foreign language summary, such measures would help to improve the language skills.

The ET recommends to the University of Pristina and particularly to the Faculty of Philosophy to provide a budget for the teaching staff to translate major works from their subjects into the Albanian. A certain amount of the annual university budget could be offered to the academic staff as a kind of stimulation for translating significant philosophical books.

The ET recommends that teaching staff should be rewarded for their publications with greater international visibility.

The ET recommends increasing support allocations for organising public events to stimulate public debates on philosophical issues and to promote the study programme of BA Philosophy.

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**Finding and final recommendation**

**The study programme Philosophy BA as such and the given infrastructure as seen in the on-site-visit and in the examination of the documents is fully compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual.**

**The expert team recommends to the KAA to accredit the study programme Philosophy BA for a duration of 5 years and 100 students per year.**

**Expert Team**

**Chair**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Prof Pavo Barišić, PhD** | **14 March 2022** |
| (Signature) | (Print Name) | (Date) |

**Member**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Marko Komšo** | **14 March 2022** |
| (Signature) | (Print Name) | (Date) |

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