



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

*University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
(FAV), Prishtina*

Urban Agriculture, MSc.

Reaccreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

April 03; 2024, Prishtina



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

Programme Accreditation Procedure at UP Faculty of Agriculture	
Programmes:	Plant Production, BSc, 180 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Plant Protection - Fitomedicine, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Pomology and Viticulture, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Urban Agriculture, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation)
Site visit on:	03 April 2024
Expert Team:	Dr. Hans Peter Kaul Dr. Reiner Doluschitz Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert
Coordinators of the KAA:	Iirjana Ademaj Ahmeti, KAA Shkelzen Gërzhaliu, KAA

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-Evaluation Report of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV)*
- *On-site evaluation meeting 03.04.2024*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- *KAA Accreditation Manual*
- *Standards and performance indicators for reaccreditation of MSc programs*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

<i>CL</i>	<i>Compliance level</i>	<i>%</i>
A	Fully compliant	> 90
B	Substantially compliant	70-90
C	Partially compliant	30-70 ¹
D	Non-compliant	< 30
n.a.	not applicable	



¹ 30-60% according KAA Accreditation Manual, corrected to close the gap

Abbreviations

EHEA	European Higher Education Area
ET	Expert team
FAV	Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
HEI	Higher Education Institution
KAA	Kosovo Accreditation Agency
KAA18	KAA Accreditation Manual – 2021
OFQA	Office for Quality Assurance
SER	Self-evaluation report
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UP	University of Prishtina

1.2 Online evaluation meetings schedule

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:00 – 09:40	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	
09.40 – 10.10	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	
10:15 – 11:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Plant Production, BSc, 180 ECTS (room 1) Dr. Hans Peter Kaul Nadia Manzoni	Sali Aliu Gëzim Hodolli Imer Haziri



10:15 – 11:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Plant Protection - Fitomedicine, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 2) Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	Arben Mehmeti Fadil Musa
11:20 – 12:20	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Pomology and Viticulture, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 1) Dr. Hans Peter Kaul	Vahid Avdiu Bedri Dragusha
11:20 – 12:20	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Urban Agriculture, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 2) Dr. Reiner Doluschitz Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert	Mentor Thaqi Muhamet Zogaj
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch break	
13:20 – 14:20	Visiting Facilities	
14:20 – 15:05	Meeting with teaching staff	
15:05 – 15:50	Meeting with students	
15:55 – 16:55	Meeting with graduates and external stakeholders	
16:55 – 17:00	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
17:00 – 17:05	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	

1.3 A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation

The Faculty of Agriculture was founded on August 26, 1973. The aim of this foundation has been the faster development of the agricultural sector in Kosovo by graduating well educated people with superior qualifications in agriculture. By decision of the Senate of University in Prishtina in 1996, the veterinary section was established with the aim of educating professionals in veterinary medicine that would serve animal health, food industry, food security and food safety in general. In 2001, the Senate of the University of Prishtina approved curricula based on the Bologna Declaration for Bachelor Degree. In 2006 the Faculty Council and its academic



staff proposed expanding the Faculty of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV). The proposal became approved by the Senate of the University of Prishtina (UP) and subsequently the Minister of Education, Science and Technology issued an amending Decision no. 883/01-B, on December 2006. The building of Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is located in the suburb area of Prishtina, Fushë-Kosovo road, close to the high school for Agriculture and Economics. Classes are currently being temporarily relocated to the building of a secondary school, as the former building is being converted for other purposes and the new building is not yet ready for occupancy. In 2023 a total of 2239 students (BSc and MSc) graduated according to the report of the Student Services of FAV. Fifty docents and teaching assistants are employed on full time basis, supported by 38 additional academic staff members from other faculties within University of Prishtina and other public universities of Kosovo. The student numbers of the programs under evaluation are marked in bold in the following Tables.

Number of active students at the Bachelor's level in all program of FAV

No.	Study Program	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
1	Business Management in Zootechny (Bsc)	41	20	8
2	Animal Production (Bsc)	0	5	6
3	Plant Production (Bsc)	324	200	179
4	Agriculture Economy (Bsc)	379	266	209
5	Food Technology with Biotechnologji (Bsc)	394	366	325
6	Veterinary medicine	205	187	147
	Total	1340	1044	874



Number of active students at the Master's level in all programs of FAV

No.	Study Program	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
1	Applied Animal Science (Msc)	40	42	37
2	Food Science (Msc)	77	100	82
3	Field Crop and Vegetables (Msc)	40	0	0
4	Plant Science (Msc)	0	0	24
5	Orchards – Vinikulture(Msc)	47	36	31
6	Plant Protection - Phytomedicine (Msc)	37	41	38
7	Agriculture and Food Economy (Msc)	69	50	61
8	Urban Agriculture (Msc)	0	15	24
	Total	310	284	297

The program under evaluation for reaccreditation is a 2-year MSc. study program with 120 ECTS. The number of students on FAV degree programs is generally declining. One important reason for this is the demographic development in Kosovo and the decreasing interest of the young generation in agriculture.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

1 Mission, objectives and administration	CL
<p><i>Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.</i></p> <p>The mission of the study program is in line with the missions of FAV and UP as stated in the SER.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p>	A



<p>The SER claims that this study program is based on the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such study levels, specializing in the field of Agriculture. In addition, this field of study is also in line with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points; 01.1.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that the program has a clearly defined didactic and research-related concept, but the SER fails to make this overarching concept explicit.</p>	C
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Formal policies, guidelines and regulations are established and referenced in the SER. They are made available by the UP-website.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>University statutes and a Code of Ethics are in place and referenced in the SER. The ET trusts that staff and students are acting accordingly.</p> <p>The SER indicates that "...Internal regulations and other acts that regulate relationships between staff and between student and staff as well as research ethics are accessible to everyone on the faculty and university web site (Source: https://www.uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=1,58&s=Rregullore).</p> <p>It can be assumed that staff and students are acting accordingly.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p>	B



It is claimed in the SER that reviews of policies and regulations are monitored on a regular basis. However, there is no fixed schedule for a regular review.	
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. A well-defined overarching didactic and research concept for the study program should be explicitly described in the next SER*
- 2. Formal policies, guidelines and regulations, including internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities should be placed more prominently in the Universities strategic documents and should be communicated publicly, particularly towards members of academic and teaching staff and in relevant cases should be done periodically on a regular basis.*
- 3. The electronic learning-platform SEMS has been used intensively, supported by the restrictions due to the pandemic. Further intensification in a sustainable way is recommended to implement a comprehensive overarching didactic concept.*



2.2. Quality management

2 Quality management	CL
<p><i>Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.</i></p> <p>The SER states: “UA staff will hold regular meetings at certain times each semester and each academic staff reports to the department on the progress of implementing the topics of the course syllabus and when the need arises, discussing topics related to the academic work of the department.”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.</i></p> <p>SER: “The UA staff continuously will evaluate the quality of teaching through anonymous questionnaires that are filled by students and staff at the end of the course and then deals with possible deficiencies that may arise by integrating and improving the infrastructure, methodology and new themes in the planning process for the new semester.”</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Yes. It is indicated in the SER that “...The UA staff will constantly be supporting education quality development through program planning and through accessing support services from other units within the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in coordination with the academic unit within which it operates and hierarchy up to the highest management of the University of Pristina.”</p> <p>The on-site evaluation meetings gave the impression that the internal quality assurance system is functional, with clear responsibilities divided at all institution’s levels. The OFQA is involved in all steps of the design of study programs.</p>	B



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER states that UA staff, in its maximum capacity will follow strictly the syllabi of accredited subjects at the Accreditation Agency and is continuously integrating the new scientific developments in the field of study.</p> <p>No specific information is provided how learning outcomes of students is given attention.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.</i></p> <p>The staff of the study program under reaccreditation will respect the suggestions of international quality assurance experts. The study program UA aim to provide students with the latest scientific and technical knowledge in this field, in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner.</p> <p>The ET trusts that the OFQA is adequate to ensure that standards are met and an improvement in performance is stimulated.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.</i></p> <p>Survey data from students and teaching staff members are systematically collected by questionnaires (s. Standard 2.1, 2.2). Results of the student evaluations are provided immediately after the end of the semester to the teaching staff, however they are not discussed in classroom with the students, nor are they publicly available due to protection of privacy of professors. Also, the ET is informed that the response rate is low and that teaching staff question the validity of questionnaires. All these point to a lack of trust in the evaluation system and room for improvement when it comes to the quality improvement culture at the Faculty.</p> <p>As it has been mentioned during the on-site visit, feedback of employers is collected in meetings with the Advisory Board. However, results are neither publicly available nor presented to the ET.</p>	B



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER states that FAV provides on an annual basis an internal self-evaluation report through the collection of information from the departments in relation to quality in teaching, learning, student engagement in practical teaching, seminar work, extra-curricular learning, and participation in mobility.</p> <p>The discussions with graduates and employers during the on-site visit indicated that the study programs are well matched to the labour market. Further information on the employment rate should be provided. It has to be considered that there are so far very few graduates of this programme. It is to recommend that more thorough graduate tracking should be undertaken as soon as the first generation of graduates finishes their degree.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.8. The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (e.g. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.</i></p> <p>Annual self-evaluation reports are prepared by FAV (s. Standard 2.7).</p> <p>The UA staff in the three-year period reviews the program through its own self-assessment taking into account the discussions at the end of each academic year reflecting the achievements and challenges during the academic year.</p> <p>SWOT analysis is included in the SERs.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.</i></p> <p>The quality assurance processes are regularly evaluated by the KAA and updated according to KAA requirements. The ET trusts that the OFQA is monitored by the UP management.</p> <p>In addition, given the nature of the study, the UA staff continually will update the curricula of relevant subjects with the current scientific literature. In the programs, new subjects related to the current issues in the field of study are constantly included.</p>	A



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Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Additional quality parameters of the study program such as number of applications, enrolment, completion rate, duration of the study and grade overview should be included into the QA mechanism and also provided in the SER.*
- 2. Aggregated results of the course evaluations should be provided to the teaching staff, the FAV management and included in the SER, as well as published for students to see.*
- 3. Office for Quality Assurance should be better staffed on UP and FAV level*
- 4. A thorough graduate tracking system should be put in place as soon as the first generation of graduates finishes their MSc degree and they should be surveyed at different points in time in the future (usually 1 and 5 year after graduation). The results of graduate tracking should feed into the quality assurance processes.*



2.3. Academic staff

Academic staff	CL
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>A complete list of staff, being involved in the study program, including individual CV has been provided to the ET. However, detailed position descriptions and conditions of employment are still missing. However, the ET trusts that such documents of employment are/ will be provided to candidates by UP.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching.</i></p> <p>The ET trusts that academic staff does comply with legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation. The ET does not see itself in a position to check this standard and does not regard this as its task either.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER states that "...all academic staff has primary job lecturing at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary. This can be verified in online staff form at KAA (Kosovo Accreditation Agency)." However, it is not regarded as a task which could/should be fulfilled by the ET to verify, whether this is true for the entire academic staff.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p>	B



As reported and confirmed by the management of FAV during on-site evaluation meeting, this requirement is fulfilled.	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER states that the criteria of Standard 3.5 is met.</p> <p>According to the information provided during on-site visit is fulfilled. A substantial number of permanent teaching staff is available at the faculty and linked to the new study program under accreditation and in addition part-time staff and teaching assistants are engaged temporarily.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that “...The UA staff will continuously support the needs of academic staff for academic development, such as: exchange of teaching, research projects, participation in scientific conferences, etc.”</p> <p>Several teaching staff members participated in various trainings as presented in their CVs in Appendix.</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>According to the information provided during the on-site visit discussions this requirement is generally fulfilled.</p> <p>It is stated in the SER that each academic year, the University of Prishtina through SEMS makes the assessment of the academic staff.</p>	B



<p>It has been confirmed during the on-site-visit-meeting that teaching staff is engaged in student consultations and community service.</p> <p>The community service of the staff involved in the Urban Agriculture MSc stood out and was very highly regarded by the students.</p> <p>The ET assumes that this standard is fulfilled.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>A system of regular evaluation of teaching staff by students is established via the SEMS platform. No information is provided about peer and supervisors' evaluations. The results are visible for the management but are not made publicly available.</p> <p>During the on-site-visit meetings it was also revealed that no feed-back of the survey is provided to the students.</p> <p>The ET strongly recommends that this process in future becomes more transparent.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.</i></p> <p>See Standard 3.8</p> <p>Strategy and procedures for improving the quality of teaching and learning materials are not presented in the SER as an answer to standard 3.9. However, the ET assumes that such strategies are available and applied.</p>	C
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain information about rules concerning retired teachers.</p>	B



In the on-site-discussions it could be clarified that Academic staff, including professors, retire at the age of 65, but they can only teach up to the age of 70. Also, based on the Statute of the UP if the professor is elected "Professor Emeritus" will have the right to teach and engage in scientific work in accordance with his qualifications and the requirements of the special academic unit up to the age of 70. For this period of accreditation in our department is not employed any retired professor.	
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Overall	B
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Specific budget allocation and respective incentives to additional professional development of teaching staff is recommended.*
2. *Even if there are improvements visible compared to earlier evaluations the ET recommends that the staff evaluation should become more transparent, particularly from the viewpoint of feedbacks to students. The results should always be provided to the respective teaching staff as well, with comparisons to other courses/programmes. Staff should reflect on the results of the questionnaire and give feedback to the students*
3. *The communication with job market representatives could be further improved.*
4. *The community engagement of staff and student should be recognized and systematically supported.*

2.4. Educational process content

Educational process content	CL
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER briefly indicates that the qualification objectives of the study program in terms of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies become</p>	B



<p>made available to students. However, the potential for acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies is rather low in the study program under accreditation. Additionally, no respective information is provided about the labor market and it has been mentioned at several points during the on-site evaluation meetings that there is quite particular and specific knowledge and qualified graduates needed in the field of Urban Agriculture. However, it seem to be enough study programs on common agricultural aspects already operational. The ET also explicitly asked for scientific publications in which clear definitions of "Urban Agriculture" in the sense of the proposed study program are given already in previous on-site visits. So far no such specific publications have been provided to the ET.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that the study program is in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education Area and the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such levels of study. Also, this field of study is in compliance with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points 01.1.</p> <p>ET can confirm that the study program comprehensively complies with the Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA.</p> <p>First part of Standard 4.2 concerning compliance with National and EU frameworks is already asked and answered in Standard 1.2.</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p>	B



<p>The curriculum as presented in the SER provides a logical flow of subjects and allows three elective courses and a compulsory internship. The disciplines of this study program create the opportunity for students to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in the field.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>SER indicates that "...Full subject descriptions / syllabuses for each subject will be attached to the Self Evaluation Report for the study program Urban Agriculture. Syllabus for each subject separately regulate issues of the thematic contents, the way of learning and results, the distribution of obligations including the form of continuous evaluation. For further explanations attached are all the syllabi of the subjects of this study program."</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER clearly indicates that the language of instruction will be English. This has been confirmed in the on-site evaluation meeting. However, requested TOEFL levels for admission or any proofs of English language Knowledge are mentioned.</p>	n.a.
<p><i>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.</i></p>	A



<p>Yes, this is comprehensively confirmed in the SER and in the site visit and is particularly true because the class sizes are very small.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Teaching strategies are tailored to each subject, and are explained through syllabuses and professor flexibility based on their experience</p> <p>The ET assumes and trusts that students under special circumstances (illnesses, disabilities, family situation) are treated with appropriate flexibility</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Such mechanisms are developed fairly and objectively, and are suitable for different forms of learning and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of the courses. Mechanisms are based on the Bologna Charter. At the beginning of each semester, professors distribute subject syllabuses through SEMS (UP Platform), in which the mechanisms and forms of evaluation are clearly explained.</p> <p>The ET assumes and trusts that students under special circumstances (illnesses, disabilities, family situation) would be treated with appropriate flexibility.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>According the SER, "... the student grading system is determined on the basis of Article 109 of the Statute of the University "Hasan Prishtina" and is offered in this form:</p>	A



<p><i>10 and 9 (excellent); 8 (very good); 7 (good); 6 (enough); 5 (insufficient).</i> The workload required to achieve a passing grade is consistent, as grades in this study program are evaluated and are built throughout the semester and as such are applied within subject syllabi.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that such regulations are laid down in the statutes of FAV/UP (Statute of the University of Prishtina, Section 115). According to this regulation students have the right to retake an examination.</p>	B
<p><i>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 ECTS 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.</i></p> <p>In the 3rd semester an internship (12 ECTS) and one additional module on problem based learning (PBL,18 ECTS) are offered. The ECTS credits are awarded for the Practice / Exercises part of the course. The part of practice in this study program is covered by practical exercises that are focused on the implementation of the theories taught during lectures. Exercises comprise up to 50 percent of student activity during their assessment and are part of the ECTS credits earned by the courses.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units.</i></p> <p>Cooperation agreements with stakeholders of the labor market are not addressed in the SER. However, stakeholders, employers and alumni mentioned during the on-site-visit</p>	B



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discussion that they would be willing to cooperate with students and teaching staff of the proposed study program. This holds also true for Master-thesis support and supervision. However, the labor market became not completely clear in the discussion.	
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Overall	B
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. A clear definition and common understanding of what 'Urban Agriculture' means in the context of Kosovo must be further developed since it came out during the on-site discussion that a rather broad definition would be needed.*



2.5 Students

General remarks

The specificity of the programme MSc Urban Agriculture is the fact that it is the only English-taught programme in the Faculty.

The timing of the reaccreditation comes three years after the last accreditation meaning that only two generations of students passed through the programme and there is little experience with the graduation from the programme.

While the programme was designed based on the results of an international project between universities abroad and FAV, and taught in English in order to facilitate international mobility of students and staff, there is little evidence of an influx of international students in this programme.

The strength of the programme is the motivation of some of the academic staff to engage students in practical collaborative projects where the students can apply the theory in real-life situations. Some of these projects are with schools or kindergardens in Prishtina. The concern is, however, that these projects rely on individual motivation and initiative of some academic staff and are not backed up by systemic support system of the Faculty.

There is a concern that the proficiency in English of the academic staff is not excellent and that there is room for improvement in that field, as the quality of the learning experience of students depends on the quality of English of the academic staff teaching in the programme.

The temporary infrastructure of the Faculty is inadequate and students are not able to have a fulfilling learning experience in the premises in which they are based temporarily while the new building is on hold.

Students	CL
<i>Standard 5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.</i>	B



<p>Conditions for admission of students are set by the University of Prishtina, which announces the competition for enrolment of students publicly. The procedure is open to all interested students. The SER states that the admission of students for studying at a MSc level at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is based on the success in the admission test and the score earned in graduation test, as prescribed in the UP regulations.</p> <p>The expert team was informed that the admission test for MSc Urban Agriculture differ from the other admission tests in the Faculty in terms of content and it is done in English language, as the programme is delivered in English. There is no test of proficiency in English language.</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The students admitted to the programme possess a high school graduation diploma, as per UP regulation.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.</i></p> <p>The number of students enrolled in the MSc Urban Agriculture is relatively small (a maximum of 20 students per year, which in most cases is not reached), therefore classes are also very small and the ratio of professors to students is low.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.</i></p> <p>The course syllabi are distributed in a timely manner at the beginning of the semester and syllabi contain information about the expectations from students and the evaluation methods. The expert team was not able to assess in detail to what extent the assessment is given promptly and discussed with the students.</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.</i></p> <p>The results are recorded and available to the student and potential employers in the Diploma Supplement. Students during the studying process constantly are evaluated for their academic achievements. The final result of their entire academic appraisal includes the collection of 120 credits and the graduation degree at Master level.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>There are measures in place that allow students to apply for additional exam repetition dates, should they not be able to attend the examinations or should they need to retake exams for justifiable reasons.</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The MSc Urban Agriculture programme is a new programme that has so far only had 4-5 graduates, so the database of students is still relatively small. Nevertheless, the process of monitoring progress and completion rates does not appear to be established or used in internal quality assessment.</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.</i></p> <p>No evidence has been provided to support the claim that there is a software in use at the university to check the originality of the work submitted by students. Since Urban Agriculture is a degree taught entirely in English, there is concern that students could be submitting work drafted by artificial intelligence-powered softwares freely available on the market.</p>	C



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>According to the SER, the rules around student rights and obligations are publicly accessible and equitably enforced. Based on the Statute of UP, the Regulation and the Code of Ethics, the FAV continually shows the rights and obligations of the students. In certain situations, students also use the legal opportunity for academic appeals, respectively, to undergo a specific examination before the members of the commissions set by the academic unit.</p> <p>On the day of the site visit, the students had lecture-free days due to the student union elections taking place, however very few students that the expert team met had voted. Other students expressed support for the work of the student union, suggesting that they feel well represented, supported and that the student voices are heard and taken seriously.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.</i></p> <p>The transfer of students between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is regulated at University level, with Regulation 2/111 of 14.7.2017, which is public on the University web site.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The academic staff publishes materials and information related to the teaching process in the Electronic Management System for Students SEMS, however the expert team was not able to verify to what extent the system is utilised by students and staff for communication and learning processes. The communication seems to run via closed Facebook groups which is not an ideal platform for this purpose. Students</p>	B



report to the expert team that professors are readily available for consultation and feedback, in case required by the students.	
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The Faculty should organise workshops for the staff and students on the awareness raising about dangers of plagiarism and unethical behaviour in the academic setting.*
- 2. Student progress and completion rates should be reported by programme regularly to the quality assurance bodies of the faculty and used in decision-making and curriculum adaptation.*
- 3. Efforts of academic staff and students to get engaged in international research projects and international collaborations with private business and undergo applied research should be systematically encouraged, supported and promoted for the benefit of both staff, students and the Faculty itself.*
- 4. The proficiency of English of academic staff teaching in this degree programme should be ensured and continuously enhanced through language training programmes, to ensure a high level of learning experience.*
- 5. Promote interinstitutional agreements with universities abroad in order to facilitate and encourage international incoming mobility of students from abroad.*



2.6 Research

Research	CL
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that “Financial and logistical support for research in this program is lacking. However, the policies for promoting scientific research within the university are included within the Strategic Education Plan in Kosovo, the National Science Program in the Republic of Kosovo, the Strategy for scientific research and development, etc. The Erasmus plus project BUGI that is currently in implementation will provide many opportunities for the joint research projects of staff and students.”</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER indicates that “...Inclusion of teaching staff in research activities and their performance in relation to academic promotion are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 02.03.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for the recognition of international publication platforms and journals.”</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Yes. Clear policies are established containing definitions and measures. The SER mentions the national legislation.</p> <p>Clear policies for determining and defining what is known as Research are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 03.02.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the recognition of platforms and international journals with peer review.</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.</i></p> <p>Publication track records of some members of the teaching staff are listed in their CVs. Research is performed on locally relevant topics and outcomes are published as conference proceedings and in predominantly regional journals. A number of articles of the teaching staff can be found in international data bases like SCOPUS. Publications on the specific field of Urban Agriculture have not been found in the publication lists.</p> <p>Respective data can be found on the CVs of the academic staff also declared electronically in Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA).</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The publication activity is already addressed in Standard 6.4.</p> <p>The SER confirms that "...The academic staff is consistently committed to publishing its research work in international scientific journals, which are indexed in the platforms recommended by the UP Regulation and the Administrative Instruction (AI) of Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST). Data on these activities of department academic staff are published in their CVs which are also uploaded to the KAA's electronic system."</p>	B
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Research in the scientific context is part of the ongoing research of departmental academic staff and associates, published in journals in accordance with MEST regulations and AI. However, the SER does not provide enough information for this standard.</p>	B



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Each regular staff member has published on average more than two scientific research publications in the last three years. Data on these publications can be found in the academic staff CVs.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.</i></p> <p>The ET trusts that academic and research staff is publishing under the name of UP. Random sampling has been positive.</p>	A
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The ET trusts that the teaching staff is integrating own research outcomes as much as available into teaching as this is the regular way of teaching at an University. However, there is quite substantial potential for increasing quantity and improving quality in this respect.</p>	n.a.
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The ET assumes that regulations about intellectual property are laid down in the regulations of UP, but the SER is not referring to it.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.</i></p> <p>According to the on-site-visit discussions, students' theses are based on the research. The participants stated that there were opportunities for students to participate in research activities.</p> <p>The SER has not provided any additional evidence supporting this standard.</p>	B



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Kosovo Accreditation Agency

Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Each Academic staff member should have developed their own plan of research and teaching activities, implement it and monitor its implementation. The Plan should include no. of paper planned to publish, no. of workshops attendance with presentations and participation per year and the planned trainings for professional advancement. Cumulative plan for the academic staff should be available for the next reaccreditation.*
- 2. Teaching staff should more intensively involve students in the research activities.*
- 3. The ET recommends to present the research objectives for the study program and the research strategy of UP in the SER in more detail.*
- 4. The ET recommends the study plan has carefully to be revised and a completed version comprising four semesters will be presented, showing the research involvement of the students, particularly in Semester 3 (Internship and module PBL) and 4 (Master thesis and respective supervision and consultation).*



2.5. Infrastructure and resources

In terms of infrastructure, FAV is in a critical, ongoing exceptional situation. Lectures are currently being temporarily relocated to the building of a mathematical secondary school, as the former building is being converted for other purposes and the new building is not ready for occupancy. Due to official safety requirements, modifications to the building are necessary. FAV expects the building to be completed and ready for occupation by September 2024. Respective progress became visible to the ET comparing the situations end of Feb. and beginning of Apr. 2024. However, the ET cannot evaluate the standard on the basis of expected future conditions, but solely on the basis of the actual situation as it was found on February 28 and 29, 2024 during the site visit.

7 Infrastructure and resources	CL
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>Premises (D)</u></p> <p>The mathematical secondary school, which serves as emergency accommodation, does not fulfil the requirements of university teaching and research in terms of room layout and technical equipment. The staff is currently accommodated in temporary offices with two to four desks for two to four persons per room as it has been reported at the meetings during the on-site-visit. The laboratories are still at the former location, which means longer journeys through the city between laboratory exercises and lectures. Furthermore, the laboratories are too small in general.</p> <p><u>Human resources (B)</u></p> <p>Permanent teaching staff is available and accomplished by a high number of temporary staff members. The number of permanent staff members should be increased to ensure long-term continuity of the programs.</p> <p><u>Equipment (C)</u></p> <p>In general, the laboratories have basic equipment that is suitable for training students. In some cases, state-of-the-art analysers are available, they were provided by international cooperation programs. A well-equipped computer room for PC-based practicals is available.</p>	C



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain an updated financial plan at the level of the study program. Investment and financial budgets and policies are regulated at higher levels of the management at FAV and UP. A budget plan of FAV in the Annex is copied and pasted from an outdated SER. However, it is indicated in the SER and confirmed during the site visit that budget allocated is sufficient for delivering the study program.</p>	C
<p><i>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:</i></p> <p><i>a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;</i> s. Standard 7.1 (Premises)</p> <p><i>b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;</i> s. Standard 7.1 (Equipment)</p> <p><i>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence;</i> The SER provides information about basic software usually used in higher education institutions.</p> <p><i>d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.</i> UP provides adequate and easily accessible support services through Central University Library with reading rooms and book stock according to the disciplines included in the curriculum. It is not confirmed yet whether FAV still has its own library and where this currently is accommodated. As mentioned by the students at the meetings, there are sufficient desk places in the library for concentrated learning.</p>	C



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>See Standard 7.1</p>	D
<p><i>Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:</i></p> <p><i>a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign speciality literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or speciality courses of recognised publishers, from the last 10 years;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.</i></p> <p>The library situation is only briefly addressed in the SER. The time scheduled for the site visit did not allow to verify the standard of the libraries. Furthermore, the ET does not see it as its task to verify the quality of the library according to the listed in-depth criteria. This would be a task for librarians.</p>	n.a.
<p><i>Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.</i></p> <p>The buildings currently in use are not suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities. Learning resources for students with special needs are not available.</p>	D
<p>Overall</p>	D

Compliance level: Non-compliant



ET recommendations:

1. *Infrastructure has to be improved in a sustainable way, particularly permanent buildings, rooms and laboratories.*
2. *The number of permanent staff members should be increased to ensure long-term continuity of the programs.*
3. *A detailed budget has to be presented for the study program*
4. *Laboratory equipment has to be improved*
5. *Electronic access to scientific literature has to be provided comprehensively (databases like SCOPUS)*

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program M.Sc. Agriculture and Food Economics offered by the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is *substantially compliant* with Standards 1-6, but *non-compliant* with Standard 7 (Infrastructure and resources) as included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends *not to accredit* the study program before the new premises are completed and occupied.



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Kosovo Accreditation Agency

Expert Team

Chair

Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Kaul

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member

Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)