Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo
Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency

UNIVERSITY "UKSHIN HOTI" PRIZREN

FACULTY OF LAW

Master Program

"Democratic Governance and Rule of Law" (LLM)

Accreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

February 2024

KAA | Student Center, 2nd Floor, 10000 Pristina, Kosovo

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: February 8, 2024

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Prof. Dr. Peter Parycek (Ausstria)*
- *Prof. Dr. Johannes Falterbaum (Germany)*
- *Horia Onita, Student Expert (Romania)*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- *Milot Hasangjekaj, KAA Officer*
- *Arianit Krasniqi, KAA Officer*

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-Evaluation Report (SER) submitted by the University of Prizren*
  Including attached documents (CV's Academic Staff, Work Plans 2024, Syllabuses, etc.)
- *Information obtained during the site visit with the management of the faculty, teaching and administrative staff, students, external stakeholders and employers of graduates*
- *Website of University of Prizren*
- *Visits of on-site facilities*
- *Additional documents from the University, sent by KAA on February 12, 2024*

Criteria used for institutional and program evaluation

- *Standards for evaluation as outlined in the Accreditation Manual 2022 of the KAA*

1.2. Site visit schedule

Programme Accreditation Procedure at University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren	
Program:	**Democratic Governance and Rule of Law, LLM, 60 ECTS (Accreditation)**
Site visit on (hybrid):	**08 February 2024**

Expert Team:	Dr. Peter Parycek Dr. Johannes Falterbaum (online) Horia Onita, Student Expert
Coordinators of the KAA:	Milot Hasangjekaj, KAA Officer Arianit Krasniqi, KAA Officer

Site Visit
Programme

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:30 – 10:30	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	Prof.Asoc.Dr. Muharem Faiku, Dean Prof.Asoc.Dr. Halim Bajraktari, Vice Dean Prof.Ass.Dr. Shefki Shtërbani, Support Staff Ass. Milot Krasniqi, Support Staff
10.30 – 11.15	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	MSC. Ramadan Baraliu acting Director of Quality Assurance Office MSC. Nora Rada Head of Quality Assurance and Evaluation Sector Enver Buzhala Quality Assurance Officer in Faculty Blerta Ferati - Head of Student Services Xhevat Kallaba - Head of IT sector - Administrator of SMU Zemira Bresilla - Head of Academic Development Sector Kushtrim Rrakaqi – Head of Research Office
11:15 – 12:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme	Prof.Ass.Dr. Adelina Rakaj
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch break	
13:15 – 13.55	Visiting Facilities	Prof.Asoc.Dr. Muharem Faiku Prof.Ass.Dr. Adelina Rakaj Prof.Ass.Dr. Shefki Shtërbani
13:55 – 14:40	Meeting with teaching staff	Prof.Asoc.Dr. Enver Buçaj Prof.Asoc.Dr. Armend Podvorica
		Prof.Asoc.Dr. Safet Krasniqi Prof.Ass.Dr. Dardan Vuniqi Ass. Driola Susuri PhD Ass. Simeana Beshi PhD Ass. Triumf Sadikaj Ass. Alban Kryeziu (part time)

14:40 – 15:25	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	Artan Sejrani, Representative of Basic Court in Prizren Bekim Blakaj, Representative of The Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo, Blerim Mazrek, Representative of Bar Association of Kosova Fjorda Mujollari, Representative of Free Legal Aid Agency Valbona Puka, Representative of Ombudsperson Institution Ymer Berisha, Representative of Municipality of Prizren.
15:25 – 15:35	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	-
15:35– 15:45	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	Prof.Asoc.Dr. Muharem Faiku, Dean Prof.Asoc.Dr. Halim Bajraktari, Vice Dean Prof.Ass.Dr. Shefki Shtërbani, Support Staff Ass. Milot Krasniqi, Support Staff

1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

The Faculty of Law was established alongside the founding of the University "Ukshin Hoti" in Prizren (henceforth "the University") in 2009, initiated by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The University is governed by the University Statute, officially approved by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo on May 30, 2013. The University operates as a public institution of higher education. The University campus is situated in the city of Prizren, the second –largest city by population in Kosovo, known for its rich heritage, encompassing diverse ethnicities, languages, and cultures.

Currently, in the academic year 2023/2024, the University has about 3000 enrolled students. Students come from various areas, including the Prizren region (Prizren, Suharekë, Rahovec, Malishevë and Dragash), as well as other regions within the Republic of Kosovo and neighbouring countries. The structure of the majority of students is mostly young. Their socio- economic background is generally average. It is worth mentioning that the female gender dominates in terms of gender. This is influenced by the University's accessibility, allowing students in the Prizren region and nearby areas to pursue studies without relocating. The student/professor ratio is 40 for full-time staff and 18 including adjunct staff, which is in line with current trends in Kosovo. The load of practice classes has been significantly increased, including lectures with guest speakers from the business industry.

Regarding the infrastructure, the University campus is located near the City Park of Prizren, which offers students easy access to recreational spaces. The University's infrastructure comprises 5 buildings, 40 classrooms, 3 amphitheatres, 47 offices for academic and administrative staff with a total infrastructural area of approximately 14,820 m². Additionally, the University owns a University Library with a collection of over 71,000 book titles in Albanian, English, Turkish, Bosnian and other languages. The University, within the framework of its financial capacities, has effectively enhanced

the current infrastructure (the old building of the Higher Pedagogical School has been renovated) in order to advance student services (offering services through the provision of a One-Stop-Shop). The University has made significant progress in digitizing its infrastructure, establishing new IT labs, professional labs (biology, chemistry, forestry, etc.). Also, there has been an expansion of the book collection in both the Central Library and faculty libraries, as well as access to new electronic libraries and new recreational spaces, etc.

Since the first academic year in 2010, the Faculty of Law at the University "Ukshin Hoti" (UUHP) Prizren has offered undergraduate studies at the Bachelor's level in the "General Law" program. Currently, this study program is the only program offered by the Faculty of Law, with over 900 graduates and more than 300 active students.

Students enrolled at the Faculty of Law are mainly from the Prizren region (Prizreni, Suhareka, Rahoveci, Malisheva and Dragashi), other regions of the Republic of Kosovo, and neighbouring countries. The goal of the planed master's program is to attract students from other regions of Kosovo and neighbouring countries, since such a program is not offered by other universities within the country.

From its establishment to the present, the Faculty has increased its professional capacities by expanding both full-time academic and administrative staff, as well as enhancing the quality and infrastructural conditions. These improvements have played a significant role in obtaining the reaccreditation of the bachelor's program for a duration of five years, from 2022 to 2027.

 The organizational structure of the Faculty includes the Faculty Council, the Dean, the Vice- Dean, the Head of Teaching, the Faculty Secretary, and the Student Services Officer. The Faculty Council is the main body which consists of academic staff as well as a member from the administration. The Faculty Council is led by the Dean. The competences of the Faculty Council are defined by both the University of Prizren's Statute and the Faculty Councils' work regulations.

The Dean serves as the head of the Faculty and is responsible for the management and daily operations. The Dean's competences and responsibilities are defined by the University's Statute. The Dean is assisted in his work by the Vice-Dean and the Head of Teaching, while administrative tasks and student services are covered by the Faculty Secretary and the Student Services Officer.

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

1.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

The mission statement of the University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren is noted to be very general, a characteristic that could potentially apply to any university globally. There is a notable absence of references to local or specific elements within both the mission statement and vision. This issue recurs in the Self-Evaluation Reports (SER), indicating a general challenge in distinguishing the unique

attributes and commitments of the institution. Nevertheless, the LL.M program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law at the University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren meets Standard 1.1 by aligning with the University's broadly defined mission statement. However, the evaluation reveals a broader institutional challenge of crafting a mission that distinctly reflects the unique attributes and aspirations of the University. Standard 1.1 is fulfilled.

The development of the LL.M program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law has been based on a holistic and inclusive process involving stakeholder consultation, facility planning, and market analysis. This process has identified a demand for a unique program offering, underscoring the program's potential to contribute to legal education and to fill a specific niche in the professional landscape. During the site visit, the active participation of external stakeholders, the Industrial Advisory Board and the Advisory Board of the Law Faculty, in the program's development was confirmed. The expert team continuously questioned the program's employability prospects during subsequent meetings. The final discussion with potential employers positively influenced the expert team, as there was a consistently high demand indicated for potential master's graduates. This feedback underscores the relevance and likely success of the program in meeting the needs of the job market. The comparative analysis of similar programs is appropriate and was a good foundation for learning outcomes and curriculum design. The final program learning outcomes are suitable but too general and could be more specific. Despite this, the program successfully meets Standard 1.2, demonstrating stakeholder engagement and a holistic program design process.

The program's curriculum, with its mix of mandatory and elective courses, is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of democratic governance and the rule of law, supporting both theoretical understanding and practical application. Therefore, didactic and research elements within the program are described but do not create a cohesive, overarching concept; for future development, educational and research components need to be more integrated into a more structured and articulated framework. The Standard 1.4 is partly fulfilled.

Key policies for academic staff recruitment and student enrolment are outlined in specific regulations, such as the Regulation for Master Studies and the Code of Ethics for Students. These documents are integrated into course syllabi and made accessible through the University Management System and website, ensuring transparency and accessibility. The mention of regulations during various site visit meetings and their knowledge of the involved individuals underlines the communication and awareness of these policies within the university. Standard 1.4 is fulfilled.

The Faculty of Law has established ethical guidelines and mechanisms, including a Code of Ethics for staff and students, a Council of Ethics for Scientific Research, and an Anti-Plagiarism System (APS), to ensure ethical conduct in research, teaching, and all academic activities. These initiatives demonstrate a structured approach to fostering academic integrity and ethical behaviour. However, the effectiveness of these policies and mechanisms depends on their implementation. Regular training, awareness promotions, and enforcement are critical for a successful implementation. Overall, Standard 1.5 is fulfilled.

The University has a structured approach to reviewing and updating academic policies annually. The review encompasses strategic planning, program evaluation, and syllabi revision, incorporating

feedback from diverse academic committees or boards such as the Quality Committee, the Faculty Council, and the Senate. This process, which includes an evaluation using Key Performance Indicators and other quality metrics, aims to ensure continuous development of policies. Standard 1.6 is fulfilled.

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: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:
1. *The ET recommends enhancing program cohesion by integrating educational and research components into a structured, articulated framework to improve effectiveness and coherence.*

1.2. Quality Management

The quality assurance of the University of Prizren is regulated through strategic documents in this field, such as the Quality Assurance Regulation and the Regulation for the Academic Staff Performance Evaluation and the Effect of the Evaluation. The University has established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which constitute a matrix of the University's performance. These indicators can be tracked, measured, compared, and analyzed. The University has established the KPIs to set standards and measure progress and competition with other academic institutions locally and internationally measure the performance of the study program. Starting from the summer semester of 2020/21, the University has developed SEVC, an electronic assessment system, which is confidential and anonymous. Additionally, a central database was developed by the end of 2021, providing accessibility for generating reports and quality monitoring assessments. Student questionnaires are available in 3

languages (Albanian, Turkish and Bosnian), thus accommodating all ethnicities enrolled in the University's study programs. This process is facilitated through the University Management System (UMS). Quality assurance at the university level is complemented by two quality assurance mechanisms- the Quality Assurance Office (QAO) and the Central Quality Assurance Commission (CQAC).

At the faculty level, the quality assurance process is evaluated and implemented by the Quality Assurance Committee at the faculty level. The latter is elected by the Faculty Council and consists of 5 members (the quality assurance coordinator, a professor, an assistant, the faculty secretary and a student). Students play a crucial role within the quality assurance body, both in CQAC and at the faculty level.

Based on the Quality Assurance Regulations, the University periodically conducts self- evaluation of study programs and at the institutional level to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks. During this process, all stakeholders are involved. The Self-Evaluation Report is conducted at least once every three years, thus presenting a comprehensive overview of all areas of program development.

There is a plan, which includes the activities throughout the corresponding year, including the evaluation methodology, standards, timing, organizational structures for implementation. The annual action plan is approved by the Senate, which is then available on the University's website. It includes the evaluation activities of the faculties as they develop their respective detailed evaluation plans. Based on the relevant regulations and the activity plan, timely information is provided to academic staff regarding the time and evaluations. Also, planning for performance improvement and quality improvement is an integral aspect of routine planning activities that emerge as a result of performance evaluation.

In the application phase, the faculty applies quality control in relation to the program and consequently evaluates the academic, infrastructural, and financial capacities for the realization of the program. These circumstances have an impact on quality assurance. The design of new programs and the review of existing programs follow the Guidelines for the Design and Review of Study Programs, which systematically regulates this process.

It is to accentuate that the university of Prizren has installed a special Centre for Excellence in Teaching (CET) supporting the whole teaching staff ameliorate the teaching performance individually and continually,

The Self-Evaluation-Report does not give information about the concrete results of the last evaluation period. But asked for additional documents, set by the faculty February 12, the Faculty could offer a document "Summery report of evaluation results for the winter semester 2022/2203" containing 216 (!) pages. Unfortunately, the part "intercollegiate evaluation" is partially only explained in Albanian language. But overall, the report is good understandable and there cannot be droughts the evaluation system works well and differentiated. The results are satisfactory.

The faculty should consider what needs to be done to increase the number of students participating in the evaluation process.

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	
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 recommendation:
1. *The faculty should consider what needs to be done to increase the number of students participating in the evaluation process.*

1.3. Academic Staff

The Self-Evaluation Report (SER) provides a table with the necessary information to assess compliance with Standard 3.1. The provided table provides an overview of position descriptions, conditions of employment, academic and artistic staff qualifications, workload, and contract terms. The table adequately documents the roles and responsibilities of its 14 faculty members, including their qualifications, academic titles, and their workload distribution across teaching, research, consulting, and administrative activities. However, two critical areas require attention: It remains unclear whether all 14 faculty members are employed full-time or if there are part-time positions among them. The

second issue is gender balance; the current faculty composition shows a significant gender imbalance, with only four out of the 14 members being female. This disparity highlights a need for strategic initiatives to promote greater gender diversity within the faculty, which could enhance the program's inclusivity and provide a more balanced educational environment. Overall, Standard 3.1 is fulfilled.

The processes for selecting, appointing, and advancing academic staff are well-documented, transparent, and aligned with the necessary legal frameworks. However, providing more concrete examples and evidence of applying these procedures in practice is advisable to enhance transparency and accountability. This could include anonymised case studies of the recruitment process or statistical data on the outcomes of these procedures. Secondly, regular reviews and updates of the Regulation on the Selection Procedures must be ensured to reflect changes in the legal environment and best practices in academic staffing. Standard 3.2 is fulfilled.

According to the information, the Faculty of Law currently employs a core academic staff, including 9 professors and five assistants. The internal regulation specifies workload limits to ensure that full-time academic staff do not exceed the maximum teaching capacity. This is detailed as follows:
- Full-time teaching positions have a workload of 6+6 hours for lectures and 10+10 hours for practice classes per academic year, spread over two semesters.
- There is an allowance for academic staff to take on additional hours, up to 4 hours per week for lectures and up to 6 hours per week for practice classes.

However, the provided information does not explicitly state whether academic staff are currently adhering to the requirement of not covering more than one full-time and one part-time teaching position within an academic year. It would be beneficial if verifies this Standard. Based on the available information Standard 3.3 is fulfilled.

Based on the information provided regarding Standard 3.4, which requires that at least 50% of the academic staff in the study program be full-time employees and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program, the Faculty of Law appears to exceed this requirement significantly. The Faculty of Law's full-time staff are responsible for covering approximately 85% of the program's hours, which surpasses the 50% threshold mandated by the standard.
The remaining 15% of hours are covered by adjunct professors, which the university engages through cooperation agreements or public calls. Additionally, the Faculty of Law has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Faculty of Law at the University of Tirana. The engagement of visiting professors and experts from the law is also positively noted. During the site meeting, the Expert Team (ET) emphasised a partnership with a European or North American university to enhance the networks, potentially the international standing and the development potential in research and teaching in this progressive topic field. The Faculty of Law not only meets but exceeds the requirements of Standard 3.4.

The Faculty of Law offers a "General Law" Bachelor program with a total of 240 ECTS; this implies the need for at least four full-time staff members with a PhD or equivalent qualification for one study group. For the master's program, which contains 60 ECTS, at least one full-time staff member with a PhD or equivalent qualification should be assigned to comply with the standard. Both programs combined lead to a minimum of 5 staff members with a PhD or equivalent qualification. The current faculty exceeds the standard with 12 faculty members. Even if the Bachelor and Master programs divide the enrolled students into two groups, as mentioned in the SER and during the site visit, the minimum number of 10 is slightly exceeded with 12 staff members. So, the current ratio of students to academic staff members with PhD qualifications at the Faculty of Law adheres to the standard, even with two parallel study groups.

The proposed size of 40 students per group indicates that the Faculty of Law's provision of 12 PhD-qualified staff members is sufficient to meet the required ratio for both full-time and part-time students.

A critical point was raised regarding whether full-time and part-time students could be taught simultaneously. This issue was clarified in a meeting with the academic staff members, who confirmed that by splitting the enrolled students into two groups - 20 in the afternoon and another 20 in the evening - the staff responsible for the additional group would receive extra compensation.

In summary, the Faculty of Law has a robust number of PhD-qualified staff members that fulfil or exceed, depending on the number of parallel groups, the ratio required by Standard 3.5. The staff members have also demonstrated flexibility and a willingness to adapt teaching schedules for part-time students. (Standard 3.5)

Through the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET), the university provides ongoing training focused on enhancing teaching methodologies and research skills. Additionally, the faculty benefits from specialized training in legal pedagogy offered by Ohio Northern University. Workshops that bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application in legal practice further complement this approach; facilitated by collaborations with external experts and organizations. All initiatives together demonstrate the Faculty of Law's commitment to fostering an environment of continuous learning and therefore meet the Standard 3.6.

SER provides information about academic community engagement, availability for consultation with students, and participation in community service as essential activities. Specific examples are missing within the report itself. During the site visit, various examples of active engagement in academic, student, and community affairs were highlighted. These examples include active participation in a range of activities at both regional and federal levels. For future reports, a specification or quantitative representation of who undertakes which activities for the evidence of this standard would be purposeful. All the Faculty of Law demonstrates a commitment to fulfill Standard 3.7.

The Faculty of Law has implemented a structured evaluation system based on the "Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Performance of the Academic Staff and the Effect of the Evaluation." The Faculty of Law's evaluation system seems robust, covering significant aspects of academic staff performance through self-assessment or student feedback. For full compliance, the following issues should be addressed: Firstly, participation rates in student evaluations emerge as a significant concern, mirroring challenges higher education institutions face broadly. The effectiveness of these evaluations depends on high participation rates. So, the SER should cover the current numbers and describe measures to reach high participation rates. Secondly, the mechanisms for feedback implementation should highlight specific quantitative elements and qualitative descriptions, providing a clearer roadmap for how feedback translates into actionable improvements. Thirdly, the distribution and discussion of evaluation reports among all stakeholders represent an area for improvement, which is not described in the SER and not properly established yet. Lastly, the SER should clarify the mechanisms for making the results of these evaluations publicly available. Standard 3.8 is partly fulfilled.

The faculty's systematic and proactive strategies - from data-driven syllabi revisions and continuous pedagogical training to implementing recommendations from the Central Committee for Quality Assurance - illustrate an effective approach to quality enhancement. This successful implementation is attributed to the university's maturity and adherence to legal and internal guidelines. The consistency of information with discussions and inquiries conducted on-site, as well as alignment with the Quality

Management details in the SER report, underscores a robust approach to meeting international evaluation standards. Compliance with Standard 3.9 is evident.

The internal acts of the University (Article 5, paragraph 3 of the Regulation on the Engagement of External Collaborators) permit the engagement of retired professors up to age 70, beyond the general retirement age of 65, which requires approvals from the Faculty Council and the Rector. This policy supports the continued involvement of experienced faculty members in academic activities. Standard 3.10 is fulfilled.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 3.1. Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.	X	
Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.	X	
Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.	X	
Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.	X	
Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	X	
Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.	X	
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
ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends implementing concrete measures to address gender imbalance within the faculty, such as strategic hiring initiatives and mentorship programs aimed at increasing the representation of female faculty members.*
2. *The ET recommends enhancing transparency in recruitment procedures through the documentation of concrete examples and statistical data, along with regular updates to the Regulation on the Selection Procedures to align with current legal standards and best practices.*
3. *The ET recommends providing a quantitative breakdown of faculty and staff responsibilities in future reports to clearly demonstrate compliance with accreditation standards.*
4. *The ET recommends that the Faculty of Law conducts a feasibility study or strategic review to evaluate the benefits of expanding international collaborations, which could contribute to curriculum enhancement and provide broader perspectives in legal education, e.g. partnership with a European or North American university to expand international collaboration, which will strengthen the program's research and teaching capabilities in its progressive fields.*
5. *The ET recommends the SER include detailed participation metrics for student evaluations and describe strategies to achieve high participation rates, ensuring the effectiveness of these evaluations.*
6. *The ET recommends that the process for incorporating student feedback into program improvement be quantitatively and qualitatively articulated, providing a clear implementation roadmap.*
7. *The ET recommends increasing the visibility of evaluation outcomes and considering the expansion of evaluation criteria to include new domains of academic and professional development, in line with Standard 3.8.*

1.4. Educational Process Content

The study program has been designed with the aim of aligning with the program's objectives. This one-year study program, divided into two semesters, with 60 ECTS, comprises 14 courses. Among these, 8 are compulsory, 6 are elective, and the diploma thesis. The first semester consists of 5 courses, while the second semester covers 5 courses and the master's thesis.

The program aims to develop students' knowledge, skills, and competence in the field of democratic governance and the rule of law. This is intended to equip them with in-depth knowledge that they will apply in both public institutions and in the private sector and contribute to the development of a democratic society.

The second- cycle studies offer in-depth knowledge, based on scientific methods and principles. It is indented, that the graduates with this specialized knowledge have the opportunity to join the labour market in many professions, including the court, the prosecutor, the legislative bodies, the municipal administrations, the tax administration, the people's advocate, the advocacy offices, the notary offices and with the private sector.

The study program curriculum

Year I						
Semester I			**Hours/Weeks**			
Nr.	**M/E**	**Subjects**	**L**	**E**	**ECTS**	**Lecturer**
1	M	Comparative Public Administration and Governance	3	2	6	Prof.Ass.Dr.Dardan Vuniqi Ass. Milot Krasniqi
2	M	Comparative Constitutional Law	3	1	5	Adjunct professors according to the MoUs
3	M	Rule of Law and Kosovo	3	2	6	Prof.Ass.Dr. Adelina Rakaj Ass.Triumf Sadikaj
4	M	Dealing with the Past and Building the Future	3	1	5	Prof.Ass.Dr. Shefki Shtërbani

5	E					Prof.Asoc.Dr. Safet Krasniqi
		1. Justification of Judicial Decisions	2	1	4	
		2. Interpretation and Legal Reasoning				Adjunct professors according to the MoUs
		3.Research and Legal Writing				Adjunct professors according to the MoUs
					26 ECTS	

Semestri II

1	M	Comparative Criminal Procedure Law	3	1	5	Prof.Asoc.Dr.Armend Podvorica Ass. Triumf Sadikaj
2	M	Security, Cybercrimes and Rule of Law	3	1	5	Prof.Asoc.Dr. Enver Buçaj
3	M	Public Policy Analysis	3	1	5	Prof.Ass.Dr. Dardan Vuniqi Dr.Sc.Driola Susuri
4	M	Competitiveness and Corruption	3	1	5	Adjunct professors according to the MoUs
5	E	1.Rule of Law and Human Rights	2	1	4	Prof.Asoc.Dr.Halim Bajraktari
		2. Sentence Calculation				Adjunct professors according to the MoUs
		3. Economic Principles of Law				Dr.Sc.Simeana Beshi

5		Master Thesis			10	
		Total ECTS			**60 ECTS**	

The courses included in the study program aim to cover professional training in democratic governance and the rule of law. The allocation of courses into mandatory and elective courses, as well as the distribution of ECTS credits is done in accordance with Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, the Accreditation Standards, and the Guidelines for Designing and Revising the Syllabus.

This process also includes the course syllabus and student's workload. The courses included in the program are related to the program objectives and learning outcomes. The calculation of ECTS in this study program aligns with the required number of hours for the implementation of the program, encompassing both theoretical and practical aspects of the relevant subjects/subjects. The overall program contains 60 ECTS credits. One ECTS is equal to 25 teaching hours.

Regarding ECTS, the master's study program is in full compliance with the new European Higher Education Guidelines as specified in the Bologna Agreement. In this programme, studies last for 1 (one) year, respectively 2 (two) semesters. The first semester has 26 ECTS, while the second semester has 34 ECTS, within the ECTS from the second semester, the diploma has 10 ECTS, which means that studies are completed after the accumulation of 60 ECTS. The number of hours of commitment for an ECTS is 25 study hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours).

There can be droughts, that will be a demand from the labour market as extended as form the faculty expected. As well it is not sure if it is realistic to design a Master Program open for students of law, political science, public administration, security and other related fields (Self-Evaluation-Report, p. 18). For these reasons and regarding that there are many other Master Program in the Republic of Kosova, the Faculty should observe if a program for 40 students is perhaps too much.

It is foreseen that the grogram is carried out completely in Albanian language. For the future of Republic of Kosova it is very important to have very close relations to western European countries. Particularly for a Master program Democratic Governance and Rule of Law it is

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indispensable to work in near cooperation with other western European universities. For these reasons it is to appreciate that a big part of the literature given in the syllabi is international literature in English language.

For the future development of the university, it is indispensable to make efforts to ensure that courses are held in English language. This is certainly a longer process. But right from the start, at least one course should be offered in English language.

Based on the syllabi the external experts could get the conviction that all courses are well structured. There is given a plan for every week of semester, explaining the teaching method, the goals and the learning outcomes.

The Self-Evaluation-Report says that Student evaluation mechanisms are determined by the University Statute and the Regulation for determining the criteria for master's studies. This Regulation defines the passing rate and various forms of evaluation forms. According to Article 106 of the Statute, exams serve as a regular way of evaluating knowledge and can be organized separately for each course or combined for multiple courses in accordance with the study program (committee exam). Exams may be written, oral, both written and oral, and practical. The combined oral and written exams are held within seven (7) days. Exams are evaluated by an examiner or an examination committee. Examinations may be conducted by an examination committee if: the student has a written complaint; is assigned with the study program. The Statute allows the possibility that the procedure of holding the exam is determined by the study program as well as the course syllabus.

Concerning the advised literature, it is important to add much more electronic sources of international journals.

The faculty has already various cooperation with other foreign universities and stakeholders of the labour market in Republic of Kosova.

There is good cooperation with university of Tirana. This is an advantage. But this cannot substitute the need to extend the cooperation with western European universities much more.

Send as additional document the experts received a list of cooperation partners in practice. This list content twelve cooperation partners. It would be desirable to give this cooperations a clear structure and perhaps work out goals and positions for this cooperations.

Regarding that the faculty expect that a significant number of students will be employed at the same time while they are studying (Self-Evaluation-report, p. 45) it is necessary to realize more seriously the consequences. The impression of the external is, that is will not be so easy to divide the course in two parts (regular time and after 4:00 p.m. and Saturday). As well hybrid-

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lessons create problems. There will be the question, if a certain number of students can finish the program in two semesters as foreseen.

For a new Master program, it is a challenge that the teaching staff is not over charged because of other obligations, particularly in Bachelor program. The lineups given by the faculty as additional documents shows, that only one of eleven full-time professors should be charged with more than six lessens at the same time in Bachelor program. So, this seams not to be a problem.

Standard	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 study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.	X	
Standard 4.4. The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.	X	
Standard 4.5. If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.		X

Standard 4.6. The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	**X**	
Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.		**X**
Standard 4.8. Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.	**X**	
Standard 4.9. Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	**X**	
Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or KAA inconsistently assessed.	**X**	
Standard 4.11. If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated ETCS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organisations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.		**X**
Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units. *To be inserted the overview of the program (with all areas to be filled out)*	**X**	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:
1. *The faculty has to observe, if the number of max. 40 study places is adequate.*
2. *Minimum one course should be offered in English language from the start of the Master program.*
3. *The faculty should develop a strategic plan how to realize the main part of the program in Englich language.*

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4. *The faculty has to extend the cooperation with western European universities.*
5. *The advised literature has to be expanded with much more electronic sources for actual, international literature (particularly journals).*
6. *The faculty has to face the challenge that a significant number of students are not available during normal times.*

1.5. Students

The admission processes for the University of Prizren and, conversely, for the Faculty of Law are clear and transparent, underpinned by official regulations of the University enacted based on the legislation of Kosovo. There is an adequate system of dividing the responsibility/competence in organising admission, with several committees which ensure functional links and avoid overlap and potential conflicts of interest. There is a combination of admission criteria based on previous academic records and an exam. Candidates have the possibility to appeal the results, and there is an allocated quota of 12% of places for candidates with a non-majority community background.

For the LLM Democratic Governance and Rule of Law, the condition of entry requires a Bachelor diploma of at least 240 ECTS. This is required due to the length of the programme, which is 60 ECTS, in relation to the requirement of the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area to have 300 ECTS at the end of the master cycle. However, the potential pool of candidates which the faculty wants to attract span beyond the graduates of a Bachelor of Laws. More specifically, the Faculty plans to attract 'graduates who have finished their undergraduate studies in law, political science, public administration, security science, social science, and other related fields.' This may prove difficult for two reasons: firstly, these graduates may have a bachelor's degree carrying 180 ECTS, making them unable to apply for the LLM, or while still being able to apply, they may not have sufficient basic knowledge of law in order to progress normally in the study programme. As such, the ET recommends the creation of alternative routes of entry and progress for students without a legal background or, alternatively, creating a bridge programme for graduates needing 120 ECTS for obtaining a master's degree.

In relation to the flexibility of the study programme, necessary steps have been taken by the Faculty to promote student-centred learning. There are sufficient human and material resources for splitting students into smaller groups. The self-assessment report, verified through the site evaluation, shows adequate classes with capacity for 40 students for lectures and 20 students for seminars. However, as the ET would recommend initiating the programme with fewer students, it may not be necessary to divide students into two groups, but rather divide them into ad-hoc smaller groups for project/research work of teamwork.

In order to facilitate the learning path, the Faculty provides academic advisors and student tutors (from among the academic staff). The consultation hours of the academic staff are

announced at the beginning of the semester and they are allocated in two days per week. Mechanisms for student-peer support should also be recognised and valorised. If faced with non-academic issues related to study progress, the University also provides with a psychologist.

The Faculty analysed the expected profile of the potential students and drew conclusions based on this analysis in order to promote flexibility. As master students would probably work along studies, the Faculty proposes to schedule classes in the afternoon or on Saturdays, or to make use of digital opportunities through hybrid learning. Even though the ET appreciates this approach, we would recommend the creation of specific QA policies for the deployment of hybrid learning methods, as this may prove challenging, especially considering the lingering effect of the not-always-qualitative use of digital learning in emergency during Covid.

Data related to students not progressing in time or in risk of dropout are collected, processed and analysed within the internal quality assurance procedures. In case this occurs, the policy indicates that students would be offered additional support from academic advisors/tutors. Despite the merits, the ET considers this is not quite sufficient, even more so considering that the Faculty acknowledges that many of the potential students would be working, which implies less time for studying in the prescribed timeframe. As such, the ET recommends the creation of a more systemic policy addressing student progress, delays and potential dropouts.

Student rights and obligations are included in the Regulation defining the criteria for master studies. They are presented by the academic staff at the beginning of the academic year and defended by student representatives, which also serve as a contact point for students. In order to promote them in an accessible format, a student handbook has been created. Overall, the ET appreciates the transparency shown in relation to the publication of regulations on the website, including in English. According to university regulations, students have the right to complain the decision issued by the faculty's bodies concerning their rights, obligations, and responsibilities. Such complaints are submitted to the University Senate, within 8 working days after the announcement of the decision, and the University Senate decides upon the complaint.

The exam periods are determined in the university regulation: January term (starts from January 20 to February 15), June term (starts from June 6 to June 30) and September term (starts from September 7 to September 30). There are mechanisms in place to decide extraordinary terms for exam periods. Furthermore, students can request to the Dean to sit the exam ahead of schedule, for reasons related to international mobility. Students can appeal their grading to the Dean within 48 hours of announcement. The appeal covers all types of exams (including oral). For the oral exam, the complaint may require that the exam is repeated.

In order to ensure that the work submitted by students is original, the faculty uses the Electronic Anti-Plagiarism System, applied for both research work within the programme and for the master thesis. A shortcoming of the system is its limitation in covering the Albanian language, the main language of the programme. ET recommends that students have access to the anti-plagiarism software as well. On the preventive side, students are presented the rules related to

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academic conduct both through the presentation of the Code of Ethics and via the course description. Nevertheless, the subject course which would support students to ensure that they are fully aware of, understand and grasp the necessary research skills in order to use rigorous standards, the Research and Legal Writing course, is only elective, the same being the case for the Bachelor of Laws programme of the faculty. As research is a key component of the programme, the ET recommends that the Research and Legal Writing course becomes a compulsory one**.** In order to support research, the Faculty of Law has established, in 2019, its own scientific Legal-Social Journal, "Justiniani II. Students also have good coverage of English books in the syllabi, however the adequate knowledge of English is not ensured (see, for this, a previous recommendation from ET).

In terms of transfer procedures, the internal regulation stipulates that after evaluating the request, the Studies Committee has the authority to accept it based on the similarly of courses/syllabi of at least 50%. Consequently, the committee determines the differential courses that the candidate must undergo. The policy is rather limitative in comparison with European standards, based on the Lisbon Recognition Convention, which require recognition unless substantial differences (not a hard criterion of 50%) are proven in relation to learning outcomes (not course syllabi). As such, the ET recommends that the faculty embraces the European standards and makes the recognition process more flexible.

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 organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	X	
Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	X	
Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	X	
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

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

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

Recommendations:

- The ET recommends the creation of alternative routes of entry and progress for students without a legal background or, alternatively, creating a bridge programme for graduates needing 120 ECTS for obtaining a master's degree.
- The ET recommends the creation of specific QA policies for the deployment of hybrid learning methods.
- The ET recommends the creation of a more systemic policy addressing student progress, delays, and potential dropouts.
- The ET recommends that students have access to the anti-plagiarism software as well.
- The ET recommends that the Research and Legal Writing course becomes a compulsory one.
- The ET recommends that the faculty embraces the European standards and makes the recognition process more flexible.

1.6. Research

The LL.M program has defined research objectives that are aligned with its mission. The SER states that the program focuses on fostering research activities among academic staff and students, aiming for a significant local and international contribution. The report claims that the Faculty of Law's activities align with the University's strategic plan, which focuses on expanding research capacity, promoting internal career advancement, encouraging scientific publications in SCOPUS or Web of Science-indexed journals, and increasing student involvement in research processes. However, the report's specifics of how the faculty actively

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supports these goals remain unclear. This oversight raises concerns about the completeness and transparency of the report. Additionally, the financial underpinning for these initiatives is only superficially presented, lacking detailed information on budget allocations, funding sources, and strategic investments in research infrastructure. The issue of making the "Legal Writing and Research" course mandatory was frequently discussed during the site visit, with consensus in various meetings supporting this proposal. Implementing such a requirement could significantly enhance the University's strategic aim to increase student research engagement. The absence of this mandatory course would represent a missed opportunity to strengthen the University's research culture and strategic objectives. Given that the Expert Team (ET) can only provide recommendations and not enforce mandates, the ET strongly advises making the "Legal Writing and Research" course mandatory from the start of the first program. Additionally, it is recommended that at least one course be taught entirely in English to enhance the program's international appeal and comprehension. Standard 6.1 is partly fulfilled.

The provided information indicates an alignment of the academic staff's activities with the research objectives outlined in the University's and the Faculty's Strategic Plans, the Institutional Action Plan, and the Scientific Research Regulation. The individual annual plans for scientific activities partly evidence this alignment. Research contributions are integral to academic staff evaluations, with a substantial 30% weight given to scientific publications and conference participation. Furthermore, the Faculty has established clear criteria for academic promotion, linking it to research productivity, and outlined mechanisms for financial support for research efforts. These measures collectively indicate a dedication to fostering a research and academic engagement culture. For further development, the University "Ukshin Hoti" and the Faculty of Law should consider broadening its research metrics beyond traditional outputs to include innovation, interdisciplinary work, and policy impact. Strengthening support for early-career researchers through mentorship and collaborative opportunities, alongside enhancing qualitative feedback mechanisms, could foster professional development and research development. Finally, improving transparency and clarity in the research evaluation process could increase fairness and consistency. Standard 6.2 is fulfilled.

University "Ukshin Hoti" and the Faculty of Law established a framework that includes policies, strategic planning, financial incentives, and ethical oversight, intending to promote active participation in defined research activities. However, the extent and depth of evidence provided, particularly regarding the outcomes and impacts of these research activities, are limited. Concrete examples of successful research projects, publications, and external collaborations would prove the research achievements. Overall, the Standard 6.3 is fulfilled.

The University "Ukshin Hoti" stated in the SER that academic staff members have extensive experience in conducting research in the field of law. Based on the provided publication list and the provided CVs, academic staff members have a proven track record of research results on similar topics as their teaching activity. The main issue is the already discussed non-mandatory course "Legal Writing and Research", which is a cornerstone for integrating

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students into research activities. This element could significantly contribute to the research outcome in the respective teaching areas. Standard 6.4, therefore, is fulfilled.

The Faculty of Law demonstrates a commitment to the international dissemination and application of research through journal publications and participation in scientific events. This contributes to the academic and legal communities. However, to further elevate its research impact, the Faculty of Law should explore opportunities to increase its research outputs' visibility through open-access platforms, enhance interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research collaborations, and develop more structured courses for student involvement in research projects. Based on the current activities Standard 6.5 is fulfilled.

The University "Ukshin Hoti" established a Center for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Transfer (CRIKT). This center is an investment in supporting research activities by connecting academic research with the practical needs of the business community. CRIKT's role in promoting research and disseminating research outcomes underscores the commitment to enhancing the research capabilities. Furthermore, CRIKT was awarded by the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo. However, to further strengthen the research impact, the University could explore expanding the scope of CRIKT's activities to include more interdisciplinary projects and increase international collaborations. Additionally, improving the visibility and accessibility of research outcomes can further validate the University's research efforts. The standard is met with the promising establishment of CRIKT. Standard 6.6 is fulfilled.

The professors and full-time assistants of the Law faculty moderately meet the strategic research goals through their scientific publications as first authors, co-authors, or in collaboration with students in international scientific journals. This result is documented by the list of scientific publications in Appendix 6.4.1, which offers an overview of the academic staff's publications. If it is measured as an overall average based on all faculty members and publications, the goal of one publication per staff member within the last three years is met. The goal is partly met if it is measured per person within three years. A quick check of the list makes it obvious that almost every member missed the goal of publishing at least one paper within the last three years. The list is not sorted chronologically, which is quite uncommon. Some of the listed papers offer no publication year. The List of publications needs to be improved for future accreditation processes and the dissemination of the research activities. All in all, the publication goal of the standard "each academic staff member has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication per year for the past three years" is not met, and the publication list needs to be improved. Standard 6.7 is not fulfilled.

The University "Ukshin Hoti" ensures compliance with Standard 6.8 through its policies that mandate academic and research staff to publish their work under the institution's name. This practice is evidenced in almost all publications, which include the professor's name, the University's name, the Faculty of Law's name, and the official email of the institution.

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The University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren has established specific guidelines to ensure academic staff incorporate their research work and publications into their teaching. Academic staff, including professors and assistants, are encouraged to include their scientific work and relevant publications in their course syllabi. The Guide for Drafting and Reviewing Syllabi supports this integration. Based on an analysis of the syllabi, the implementation of the guideline can be confirmed. To further strengthen this integration, the University could consider regular training for academic staff on effective methods for incorporating research into teaching and creating incentives for faculty who successfully integrate their research into their teaching. The Standard 6.9 is fulfilled.

The provided information indicates that the University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren is adhering to Standard 6.10 regarding intellectual property protection and the commercialisation of research. The National Law No. 08/L-205 on Copyright and Related Rights offers a legislative framework to protect the rights of creators, which is mandatory for public institutions and individuals within the Republic of Kosovo. This legal framework ensures that academic staff's scientific work and copyrights are safeguarded. Furthermore, the Center for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Transfer (CRIKT) is set up to facilitate commercialising professional products and services, indicating a move towards operationalising outcomes. The University's intention to define the special aspects related to commercialisation within the framework of CRIKT is a positive step towards creating a structured approach for bringing ideas to the market. Standard 6.10 is met.

The information provided in the SER describes that the University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren is actively engaging students in research projects and scholarly activities. Still, as discussed in Standard 6.1 and 6.4, "Legal Writing and Research" should be mandatory. This is especially true for the Standard 6.11 case. So Standard 6.11 is partly fulfilled.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 6.1. The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.		X
Standard 6.2. Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.	X	
Standard 6.3. Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.	X	

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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 6.9/6.8. 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: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *ET recommends broadening the scope of research metrics to include interdisciplinary work and policy impact, as well as enhancing support for early-career researchers through mentorship programs and collaborative opportunities.*
2. *ET recommends the development of systematic tracking and reporting mechanisms for publications to improve the assessment of faculty publication policies and their contribution to the University's academic goals.*
3. *ET recommends implementing incentives for faculty who actively integrate their research into teaching and developing platforms for sharing best practices among faculty members.*

4. *ET recommends expanding research collaboration and implementing structured programs for technological transfer to enhance the practical application and societal impact of research.*
5. *ET recommends formalizing research opportunities in the curriculum, developing mentorship programs, and conducting research skills workshops to enhance students' engagement and competencies in research activities.*

1.7. Infrastructure and Resources

The Faculty of Law and all the dedicated space for the delivery of the study programme are located in the campus of the University of Prizren. This offers an advantage as all functional services, as well as facilities of the university are easily accessible to the potential students of the study programme.

The Faculty of Law has a space of around 1100 square meters, which includes five classrooms and a University Amphitheatre, as well as a mock courtroom available for students for practice. During the site visit, the ET visited the facilities and confirmed their adequacy in terms of number and required infrastructure. Each classroom has technical equipment for lesson delivery.

The faculty also provides with counselling and psychological services. There is a Career and Alumni Centre which provides guidance to students, as well as employment opportunities. It is commendable that the university deployed a 'one-stop-shop' principle for student interaction, offering services via a dedicated channel. Nevertheless, based also on the feedback received from employers, more work could be done by the Career centre to streamline skills related to soft skills.

The Faculty has a well-functioning IT infrastructure, relevant for both the digitalisation of the administration and for the interaction with students. An IT lab is also available for the study programme. Furthermore, a restaurant for students is available on campus.

In terms of campus safety, the university has ensured compliance with national legislation, including provision of fire extinguishers and a private security company that has been hired for security in campus facilities.

The quality of the infrastructure and resources are evaluated regularly through satisfaction surveys for students. This shows a good perception among students: in 60% of cases students consider that the maintenance of faculty premises is excellent, with only 9% considering it poor or insufficient. Similarly, in 55% of cases students evaluate the classroom conditions for

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learning as excellent, with only 10% assessing them as unsatisfactory. The ET suggests to expand the scope of the surveys for students in order to include not only material elements, but also the quality of interaction (e.g. the quality of services, information provision, interaction with administrative staff).

While the ET welcomes the existing conditions in the Faculty and their short-term sustainability, as well as the ongoing work to create a new building for the Faculty of Law. It also notes, as does the self evaluation report, the lack of a long-term strategical investment plan at the university level regarding enhancing and improving the quality of the infrastructure. Therefore, the ET suggests that at both University and Faculty levels a strategic medium/long-term investment plan in university infrastructure and its quality is devised, in cooperation with stakeholders.

The university library is available for students each working day until 8 pm, while in the Faculty there are dedicated reading rooms that can be used until 11 pm. The Faculty has sufficient room available for reading and studying, however the ET recommends that more computers are available in the library in order to support accessing digital resources.

The Library of the Faculty of Law covers 150 titles in Albanian, and 50 titles in English. There is a list of additional books to be ordered, to ensure the availability of book stocks for the specific requirements of the LLM programme. Through the agreement with the EBSCO electronic library, the University offers access to all academic staff in electronic literature, while for students the access is ensured by the academic staff. The University has also signed an agreement with KREN which allows academic staff and students to use Microsoft products, have access to hardware and software resources, network access, and opportunities to access GEANT (European National Research and Education Networks (NRENs). The ET also confirmed the availability of the subscription to Lexdoks, an online database covering Kosovo's legislation, judicial practices, decisions from the European Court on Human Rights and so on. Overall, the data collected through the quality assurance policies shows a good satisfaction of students with the conditions offered by the library.

The buildings on campus offer ramps that comply with accessibility standards to ensure the accessibility of disabled learners. The ET also confirms the existence of elevators in the buildings. However, while the self-evaluation report mentions the existence of Braille language for disabled individuals, these have not been identified in the buildings.

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	X (0.5)	

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resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.		
Standard 7.2. There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	X	
Standard 7.3. The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years: a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process; b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities; c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilisation licence; d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.	X	
Standard 7.4. The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the speciality disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	X	
Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs: a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign 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; d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for; e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.	X	
Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

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Recommendations:

- The ET suggests expanding the scope of the surveys for students in order to include not only material elements, but also the quality of interaction (e.g. the quality of services, information provision, interaction with administrative staff).
- The ET recommends that more computers are available in the library in order to support accessing digital resources.
- The ET suggests that at both University and Faculty levels a strategic medium/long-term investment plan in university infrastructure and its quality is devised, in cooperation with stakeholders.

2. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

As shown above, the compliance levels per general areas are:

Standard	Compliance level
1. Mission, objectives and administration	Substantially compliant
2. Quality management	Fully compliant
3. Academic staff	Fully compliant
4. Educational process content	Substantially compliant
5. Students	Substantially compliant
6. Research	Substantially compliant
7. Infrastructure and resources	Substantially compliant
Overall compliance	

According to the expert team's evaluation, the "LL.M "Democratic Governance and Rule of Law" is "Substantially compliant" with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, the expert team recommends accrediting the programme for the duration of three years and admitting maximum 40 students to the programme per year.

Expert Team

Chair

Prof. Dr. Peter Parycek, PhD.   24-2-2024

(Signature)   (Print Name)   (Date)

Member

Prof. Dr. Johannes Falterbaum   24-2-2024

(Signature)   (Print Name)   (Date)

Member

Horia Onita   24-2-2024

(Signature)   (Print Name)   (Date)

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