

NAQA Updates on Higher Education Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Ukraine

Dear colleagues,

The Ukrainian higher education quality assurance external system is open to cross-border quality assurance and NAQA ensures its continuous improvement.

Since August 1, 2024, NAQA conducts external quality assurance in accordance with the **new Regulation on accreditation of study programmes** developed by NAQA and adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in July 2024 (<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1013-24#Text>).

According to the Law of Ukraine on Higher Education, Ukrainian higher education institutions (HEIs) may choose an EQAR-registered agency listed in the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 554-p dated July 10, 2019 with the amendments No. 603-p dated June 18, 2024 (<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/554-2019-%D1%80#Text>) to conduct study programme accreditation at their institution. The official decisions (accreditation certificates) of these foreign agencies are still recognised as equivalent to accreditation by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA).

Internationalization of the Ukrainian higher education system and meeting European quality assurance standards are NAQA strategic goals. Therefore, NAQA encourages Ukrainian HEIs to seek foreign accreditation and considers EQAR-registered agencies as representing best practices. You can get acquainted with foreign agencies accreditations that have already been recognised by NAQA on NAQA website (https://en.naqa.gov.ua/?page_id=1747).

Due to the martial law in Ukraine, the Ukrainian higher education quality assurance system faced some challenges and changes. However, in these extremely difficult conditions, we continue to work to ensure a quality of education process.

Therefore, we would like to pay your attention on several issues that should be considered during the cross-border quality assurance processes in Ukraine conducted by foreign agencies.

During the accreditation process of so called **regulated specialties** (study programmes leading to professional qualifications in professions for which additional regulation is required – <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/en/z0502-20?lang=uk#Text>), **site-visits must be conducted in face-to-face or mixed form** (some experts must visit HEI in person).

For other specialties, physical visits of experts are recommended, but not required. In such cases, virtual site-visits still could be conducted using videoconferencing and other technical resources.

NAQA would like to stress that **foreign agencies providing external quality assurance procedures should check if study programme follows Ukrainian national education standards and other national legislation.**

NAQA also encourages **foreign QA agencies to contact and inform NAQA about any procedures conducted for Ukrainian universities.**

In addition to these updates, we would like to highlight that our recommendations mentioned in the letter dated [March 26, 2024](#) remain valid and we expect that foreign agencies follow EQAR's key considerations for cross-border QA, namely:

- contacting the local QA agency, and informing itself of previous external QA reports and decisions concerning the institution;
- any national requirements or criteria should be addressed in the structuring and contents of the report to ensure its recognition if the process is part of the national mandatory QA;
- the agency should ensure the publication of and access to the full report;
- the QA agency and the peer-review experts should be sensitive to cultural and contextual differences.

In order to ensure consistency and high quality cross-border quality assurance NAQA, as always, is ready to provide consultation and advice to foreign colleagues on the Ukrainian higher education system, Ukrainian legislation, and other information on higher education in Ukraine.

Please feel free to contact NAQA regarding cross-border quality assurance in Ukraine via email international@naqa.gov.ua

Looking forward to fruitful collaboration and to joint efforts to enhance the quality of higher education in Ukraine and the whole European Higher Education Area.

Sincerely yours,
NAQA Team