

Temporary order for conducting accreditation examination using video conferencing technology

1. This Temporary Order regulates the conduct of accreditation expertise using video conferencing technology during the accreditation of education programmes by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (hereinafter NAQA). It is adopted within the framework of the implementation by higher education institutions of Order No. 406 of the Ministry of Education and Science of 16 March 2020 'On organisational measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus COVID-19'.
2. The use of technical means of video communication for accreditation expertise shall be carried out for the period of announcement in Ukraine of nationwide or local restrictive measures caused by the epidemiological situation (the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic), in order to reduce personal contact between participants in accreditation examinations while ensuring the timely accreditation of education programmes.
3. The decision to conduct accreditation examinations using technical means of video communication shall be taken by NAQA Head (or the person performing his duties) on the recommendation of NAQA Secretariat based on an analysis of information on the self-assessment of the education programme and other documents submitted by the higher education institution, carried out by the department for accreditation of education programmes.
4. In the case of accreditation expertise using video conferencing technology, the order appointing the expert panel shall: 1) not mention the expert panel's business trip to the higher education institution; 2) determine the period of remote work of the expert group using video conferencing technology.
5. The accreditation review using video conferencing technology means a full review without the experts physically being at the institution.

According to paragraph 9 of the Regulations on the accreditation of education programmes for higher education, the purpose of the on-site expert review is to clarify the facts stated in the self-assessment information, to survey

representatives of interested parties about the education programme and the activities of the higher education institution under this programme, and to formulate recommendations for improving the quality of education activities under this programme. In the case of accreditation assessment using video conferencing technology, the expert panel shall achieve these objectives using remote communication means.

6. To conduct an accreditation review using video conferencing technology, the expert panel shall, in accordance with the general order, agree on an accreditation review programme, which shall include virtual meetings with stakeholders.

The higher education institution shall, in particular, ensure that the persons with whom individual interviews, interviews, focus groups (representatives of the institution's management, education and scientific institutes (faculties), teaching and research staff, students, parents, employers, etc.) are scheduled are available for video conferences at the time specified in the expert panel's work programme. with whom individual interviews, focus groups (representatives of the institution's management, education and scientific institutes (faculties), teaching, scientific and pedagogical staff, representatives of student self-government bodies, students, graduates, employers, etc.) are scheduled.

7. The Department for Work with Experts of NAQA Secretariat provides technical support to expert groups conducting accreditation reviews in accordance with this Temporary Order. In particular, the department provides access to instructions on how to use the Microsoft Teams platform, which is available to all participants in the accreditation process using an account on NAQA's domain (naqa.gov.ua).
8. In the event of application of this Temporary Order, the expenses provided for in the annex to the agreement between the higher education institution and NAQA (cost estimate) for travel and accommodation of experts directly at the higher education institution shall not be paid by the institution and shall not be paid to the experts.