

**Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Nakhchivan State University
Strategic Development and Quality Assurance Department**



QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

Purpose

The primary objective of the Quality Assurance Policy is to align with the professional development environment established within the university and the Strategic Development Plan, facilitating regular discussions across all areas of activity and services (including education, research, management, infrastructure, internationalization, public relations, strategic development, and quality assurance). This involves undertaking improvement works and ensuring education's compliance with state standards, as well as adhering to guidelines for quality assurance in the European higher education area (ESG 2015). These discussions encompass analyses received from structural units and sub-commissions within the Quality Assurance Permanent Commission, aiming to identify and promote improvement methods and procedures.

Main targets

The Quality Assurance Policy has 10 main targets:

1. Ensure accessibility of the Quality Assurance Policy to stakeholders and engage them in its development and implementation.
2. Monitor the effectiveness of processes involved in the design and approval of educational programs at Nakhchivan State University, ensuring their alignment with qualifications in the European higher education system.
3. Contribute to the development of learning resources that effectively motivate students.
4. Monitor the adherence to rules regarding student admission, education, credit recognition, and attestation at Nakhchivan State University, updating them as necessary.
5. Ensure that teachers at Nakhchivan State University possess the necessary competencies.
6. Secure necessary funding for the implementation of education and training processes.
7. Obtain, analyze, and utilize necessary information to ensure the efficient implementation of all activities at Nakhchivan State University.
8. Oversee the publication of clear, accurate, objective, and up-to-date information about all activities at Nakhchivan State University, including educational programs.
9. Conduct continuous monitoring of educational programs.
10. Provide necessary support for the implementation of External Quality Assurance at Nakhchivan State University.

Scope

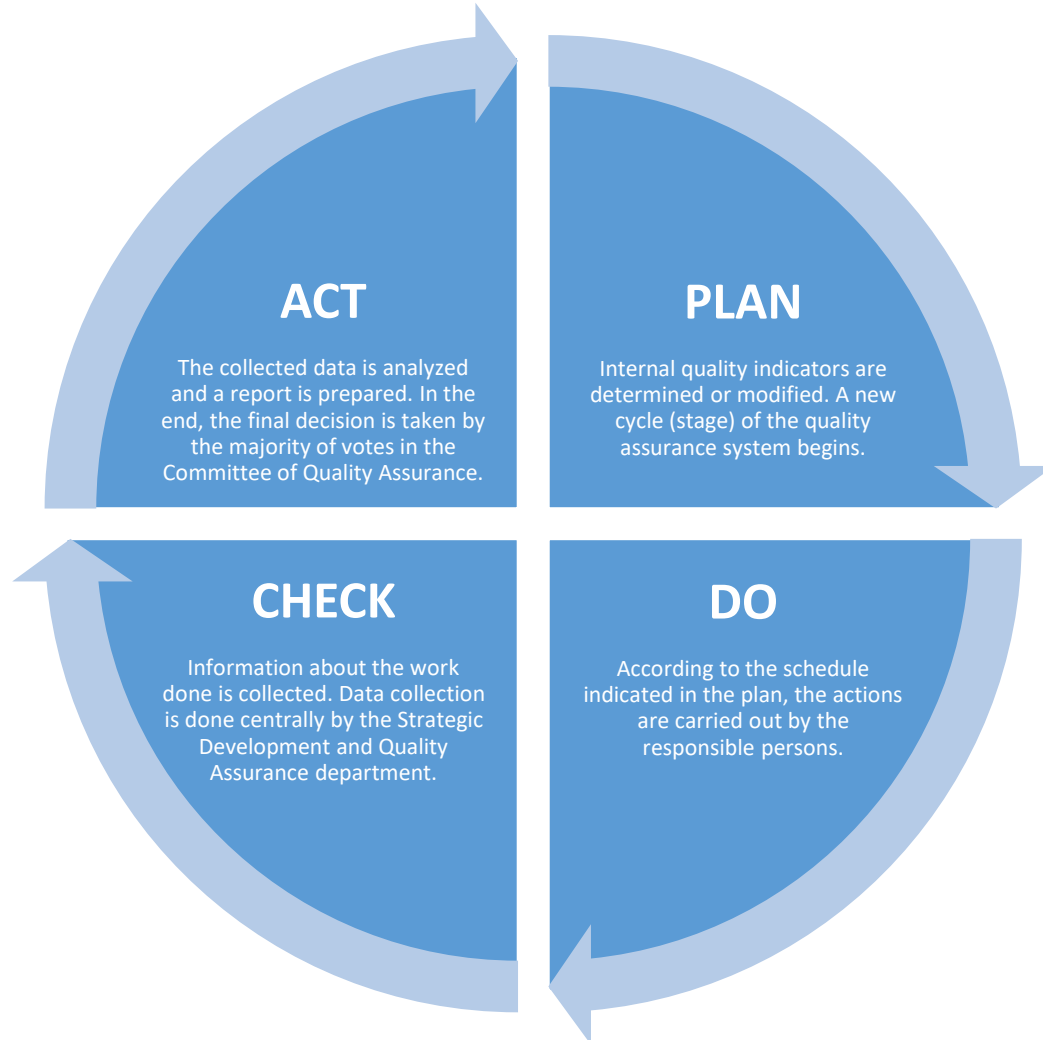
The Quality Assurance Policy encompasses all stakeholders (students, academic staff, university administration, etc.), educational programs, and infrastructure within the university.

Quality assurance system

The Quality Assurance System comprises the Strategic Development and Quality Assurance Department, the Quality Assurance Standing Commission, and sub-commissions operating within faculties.

How the QA system operates in Nakhchivan State University

Quality assurance system follows the periodic PDCA mechanism (Plan, Do, Check, Act).



Criteria for quality assurance

Internal quality assurance is conducted based on seven criteria:

1. Educational programs must align with the mandate of Nakhchivan State University and the Strategic Development Plan.
2. Diplomas obtained upon completion of educational programs should facilitate further education and employment.
3. The learning environment must meet the requirements of academic discipline and quality standards.
4. Scientific activities and research must align with the educational program, and the learning and teaching outcomes should be enriched.
5. Student achievements must align with the standards of the educational program and the Strategic Development Plan of Nakhchivan State University.

6. Students should receive necessary support in career planning related to the educational program.

7. Educational resources must meet the standards set for educational programs.

These criteria serve as the basis for external quality assurance and should be reflected in reports.

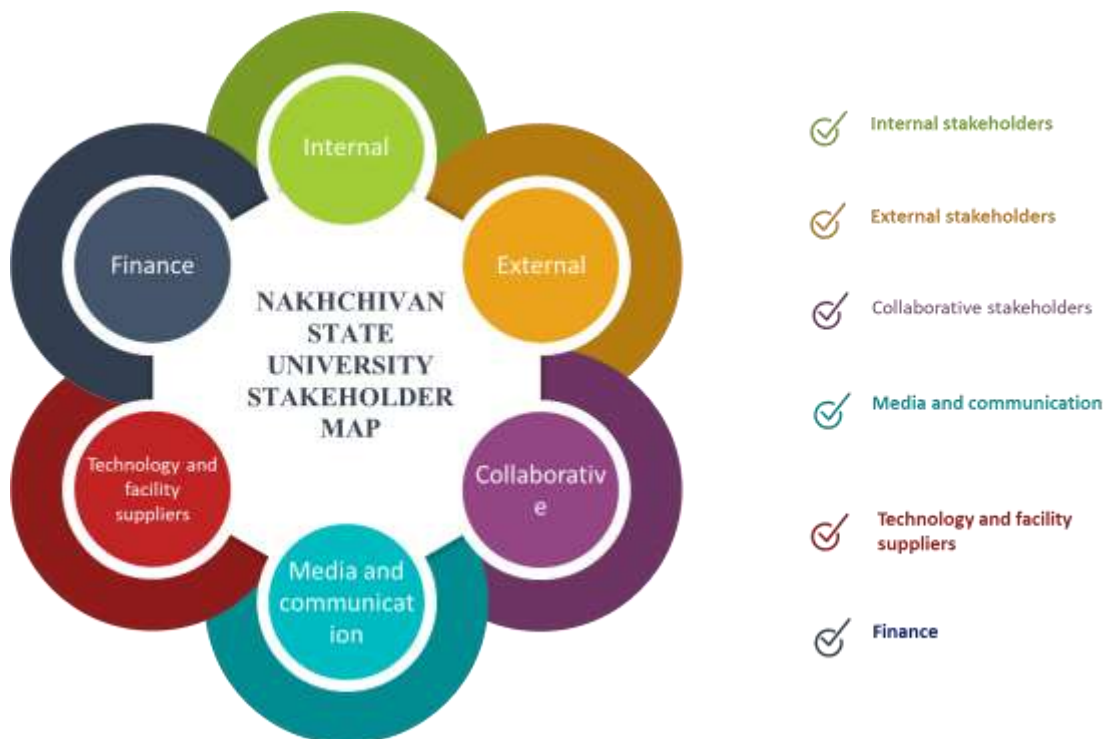
Criteria for external quality assurance







Specialists conducting external quality assurance are selected based on the following criteria:

1. External Quality Assurance must be conducted by individuals from outside the university.
2. Selected specialists should not have any contractual dependencies with Nakhchivan State University nor hold first-degree kinship relationships with its employees, management, or academic staff.
3. Specialists should be chosen from universities with similar size and structure to Nakhchivan State University.
4. They must not have participated in external quality assurance activities held at the university within the last year.

Stakeholder engagement

All stakeholders, including students, academic staff, university management, and staff, have the opportunity to participate in quality assurance. This can be achieved by either being represented in the Quality Assurance Standing Committee or by directly contacting the Strategic Development and Quality Assurance Department.



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Internal stakeholders
 University Scientific Council. Top managers (rector, vicerectors, advisors and deans) . Faculty members. Schools and colleges of the university. Students (international). Graduates and student organizations. Technical staff.
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External stakeholders
 The public. Government entities (Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Finance, Agency for Quality Assurance in Education). Labor market (Public and private institutions). Parents and families of students. Applicants. Non-governmental organizations and public associations. International partners
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Collaborative stakeholders
 Partner universities and institutes. Local industry. Insurance organizations. National and international programs.
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Media and communication
 Local and national media outlets. Social media channels
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Technology and infrastructure suppliers
 IT providers. Facility services
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Finance
 Public financial institutions. Sponsors

Principles

Quality: The university endeavors to uphold excellence across all areas of operation.

Sustainability: The University prioritizes the preservation of ecological balance and advocates for sustainable development.

Academic freedom: The University is dedicated to ensuring the academic, administrative, and student staff's freedom in education, teaching, research, and social activities within the confines of legislative norms.

Social accountability and responsibility: The University promotes social responsibility and collaboration in social projects.

Transparency: The university advocates for transparency in all operational areas and ensures accessibility to stakeholders.

Ethical Compliance: The University is committed to upholding copyright protection in accordance with an accepted code of ethical conduct and fosters respect for dissent.