Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences

Assessment Report

for the Application of

Tishk International University, Erbil, Iraq

for the Accreditation of the Bachelor Study Program "Pharmacy",

Bachelor of Pharmacy

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Decision	**July 25, 2024**

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains such as medicine or psychology. By conducting accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for implementing the quality assurance recommendations made by the AHPGS.

The AHPGS is listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) since 2009. Since 2004, the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS joined the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). In 2009, the AHPGS also became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and since 2012 a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). In 2023, the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) recognized the AHPGS as an agency with recognition status for 10 years.

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria[1]:

1. Program aims and their implementation
2. Structure of the study program
3. Admission and Feasibility
4. Examination System and Transparency
5. Teaching Staff and Material Equipment
6. Quality Assurance

[1] Approved by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission

7. Gender equality and equal opportunities

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the Self-Evaluation Report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfil the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. With this information, the AHPGS produces a summary, which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the accreditation commission of AHPGS. This is done in order to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria valid in Iraq. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. Site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out a site visit at the University. During this visit, discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers, and students. These discussions provide the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies, methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the site visit, the expert group evaluates the fulfillment of the criteria based on the results of the visit and the documents submitted by the HEI. This Assessment Report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the

study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the Assessment Report is made available to the University for the opportunity to issue a response opinion.

The Assessment Report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The accreditation commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the Assessment Report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents build the basis for the decision of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Information about the University

Tishk International University, formerly known as Ishik University, was established in 2008 in Erbil. Since its foundation, it has undergone significant growth and development. Currently, the University accommodates a diverse student body and offers a wide range of study programs across its faculties. In 2014, the University expanded and opened a branch in Sulaimani city. The total number of students at the University in the academic year 2022/2023 was 4,401. The University includes the following faculties and their respective undergraduate programs (SER 3.1.1):

1. Faculty of Engineering
    - Architecture, Interior Design, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Petroleum & Mining Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, Surveying and Geomatics Engineering
2. Faculty of Dentistry
    - Dentistry
3. Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Economics
    - Accounting, Business and Management, Finance and Banking, International Relations and Diplomacy, Entrepreneurship and Marketing
4. Faculty of Education
    - English Language Teaching, Mathematics Education, Biology Education, Physics Education, Education Computer
5. Faculty of Applied Science
    - Information Technology, Medical Analysis
6. Faculty of Pharmacy
    - Pharmacy
7. Faculty of Nursing
    - Nursing
8. Faculty of Law
    - Law

Basic data of the faculty

The Faculty of Pharmacy was founded in 2008. The total number of students for the academic year 2022–2023 was 791. The faculty only offers the Bachelor program in Pharmacy (SER 3.2.1).

3 Overview

3.1 Procedure-related documents

The Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation of the "Pharmacy" and "Dentistry" study programs (hereinafter the SER) of the Tishk International University (hereinafter the University) was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on July 6, 2023. The decision regarding the accreditation of a study program is carried out by the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS. The contract between the Tishk International University and the AHPGS was signed on July 18, 2022.

On December 1, 2023, the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the application for accreditation of the study programs to the University. On the January 4, 2024, the University submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOQ) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The application documentation submitted by the University follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Pharmacy", the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the University are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Specific documents for the study program "Pharmacy"

Annex 01	List of Module descriptions
Annex 02	List of practical activities undertaken in the program
Annex 03	Students complain forms and petition
Annex 04	Instructors' CVs
Annex 05	Specializations and subdepartments of Dentistry
Annex 06	Thesis guidelines and forms
Annex 07	Samples of diploma supplements

Annex 08	Pre-graduation survey and results for 2021-2022
Annex 09	Syllabus evaluation form and result
Annex 10	Contribution of the courses in attaining the Program Learning Outcomes
Annex 11	Curriculum table
Annex 12	Workload calculations
Annex 13	Meeting of Dublin descriptors

Alongside the study-program-specific documents, the following documents pertain to all study program submitted for external evaluation:

Annex A	Examination Procedure
Annex B	Examination Regulation
Annex C	Students Assessment Policy
Annex D	Plagiarism Policy
Annex E	Graduation project Evaluation procedure
Annex F	Students with disabilities inclusion policy
Annex G	Credit transfer Policy
Annex H	Quality Assurance Policy
Annex I	Quality Assurance Procedure
Annex J	Human Resources Policy
Annex K	Process of Academic Promotion
Annex L	Student feedback survey and results for all study programs
Annex M	Regulations on academic publications and incentives
Annex N	Sample Course Syllabus
Annex O	Diploma Supplement

Annex P	Student Data protection policy
Annex Q	Employees data protection policy
Annex R	Library Accreditation Documentation
Annex S	Criteria for the promotion of professors and lecturers
Annex T	University Collaborations
Annex U	Examination Misconduct procedure

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answer to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents build the basis for the present summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard between the AHPGS and the University.

3.2 Structural data of the study program

University	Tishk International University
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacy
Cooperation partner	- Ministry of Health, - Hawler Medical University, - Medical Colleges of Slemani University and Duhok University, - Health Directorate in Erbil, Slemani and Duhok.
Title of the study program	Pharmacy
Degree awarded	Bachelor of Science
Form of studies	Full-time
Language of Studies	English
Period of education	10 semesters, 5 years

Credit Points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	300 CP
Hours/CP	25 Hours/CP
Workload	Theoretical hours: 2,055 hours Lab hours: 1,185 hours Self-study time: 3,310 hours
CP for the graduation project	12 CP
Launch date of the study program	Winter semester 2017
Time of admission	Winter semester
Number of available places on the program	250
Number of enrolled students by now	Year 2021-2022 intake stood at 218 students
Particular enrollment conditions	Intakes are the qualified students successfully completing the High School Baccalaureate certificate normally administered by the Ministry of Education.
Tuition fees	6,800 USD per year

Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

4 Expert Report

The virtual site visit was carried out on May 22, 2024, according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on May 21, 2024, for preliminary talks prior to the virtual site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of

the written evaluation as well as questions that had been raised prior. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the site visit at the University.

During the virtual site visit, experts conducted discussions with the University management, representatives of the Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Pharmacy, the head of the department, and the teaching staff of the program "Pharmacy" as well as with students currently studying in the program and alumni. Furthermore, the University provided a video of the learning premises, such as lecture halls, seminar classrooms, library, and computer classes. Moreover, the experts had the opportunity to see the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories in the video.

In the course of the virtual site visit, the University submitted the following additional documents at the request of the experts:

- samples of the Graduation Projects in Dentistry
- samples of the Graduation Projects in Pharmacy
- Policy of Awarding the Internship with ECTS
- CAD Points details
- New manual of Graduation Project – draft version
- The committee responsible for preparing the manual of Graduation Project

The Assessment Report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below.

4.1 Program aims and their implementation

Summary

The "Pharmacy" program at TIU is comprehensive, spanning major fields such as pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, and pharmaceutical analysis. Established in 2017, the faculty aims to meet labor needs in clinical health science, bridging medical science with chemistry and it is charged with the discovery, production, disposal, safe and effective use, and control of medications and drugs. Graduates are expected to be competent in manufacturing,

compounding, dispensing of medications, conduct patient assessment, identify drug related problems, assess the literature and research resources and much more (SER 1.3.3).

The “Pharmacy” practice at TIU involves the discovery, production, disposal, safe use, and control of medications. Pharmacists require in-depth knowledge of drugs, their mechanisms, side effects, and interactions, along with understanding treatment and pathological processes. The program encompasses traditional roles like compounding and dispensing, as well as modern services such as clinical services and medication safety reviews. Pharmacists are considered experts in drug therapy, optimizing medication use for patient benefit (SER 1.3.3).

The mission of the pharmacy program is to educate students to become pharmacists capable of active roles in drug development, research, and public health. The program focuses on fundamental concepts, knowledge, and skills necessary for pharmacy professionals (SER 1.3.3).

Education objectives include competences in medication manufacturing, accurate patient assessments, identification of drug-related problems, effective communication of health information, and providing evidence-based drug information. Graduates are prepared to optimize patient outcomes through the Pharmacist Patient Care Process in community pharmacy settings (SER 1.3.3).

The faculty actively prepares students for their future careers by tailoring training based on individual interests through counseling sessions. Graduates have diverse career options, including running their own pharmacy stores and working in crucial positions in the pharmaceutical industry. To stay responsive to market needs, the faculty invites industry professionals to conferences and workshops. Additionally, face-to-face meetings with experienced alumni help address current market challenges and provide valuable market exposure. The faculty establishes connections with the market by focusing on last year's graduates, providing training aligned with market demands and employment opportunities. Furthermore, students are encouraged to participate in student exchange programs, fostering connections and engaging with academic and research resources from other

universities to stay updated on developments in research and academia (SER 1.4.1).

Judgement

The experts inquire about the long-term goal of international accreditation of the study program. The University explains that they have a long-lasting experience with international accreditation. According to the higher management, the University is already very high up in the rankings of universities in Kurdistan, but would still like to gain a good international reputation. Many international partnerships were already created, and the University strives to improve the recognition of the study programs in Europe and the world. The international accreditation is also part of the continuous quality improvement process within the University. The experts feel very positive about these goals.

The experts also talk to the University about the ability to continue studying after the Bachelor's degree. The University explains that there is currently no postgraduate program in Pharmacy at TIU. In the future, the University would like to create a Master's degree program in the field of Pharmacy to guarantee their students a consecutive education. The experts support the idea of starting an own postgraduate program.

From the experts' point of view, the Bachelor study program "Pharmacy" focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

According to the explanation of the University and the students, the employability after the graduation is high. Many graduates open their own pharmacy, work in the pharmaceutical industry or seek their second, postgraduate degree at another university or outside of Kurdistan, Iraq.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.2 Structure of the study program

Summary

The program comprises 72 modules, out of which 64 modules are obligatory, and eight modules are elective. There are six to eight modules in total provided for each semester. All modules have to be completed within one semester.

The list of modules offered:

Nr.	Title	Sem.	CP
	Semester 1		
1	General Chemistry	1	6
2	Human Biology & Genetics	1	5
3	Medical Terminology	1	2
4	Advanced English	1	4
5	Kurdology I	1	2
6	Academic Debate and Critical Thinking I	1	3
7	Principles of Pharmaceutical Calculations	1	5
8	Non-technical elective	1	3
	Semester 2		
9	Histology	2	5
10	Analytical Chemistry	2	5
11	Biostatistics & Mathematics	2	3
12	Biophysics	2	3
13	Technical English	2	4
14	Kurdology II	2	2

15	Information Technology	2	3
16	Academic Debate & critical Thinking II	2	2
17	Non-technical elective	2	3
	Semester 3		
18	Organic Chemistry I	3	5
19	Physiology I	3	5
20	Biochemistry I	3	5
21	Physical Pharmacy I	3	5
22	Anatomy	3	6
23	Microbiology I	3	4
	Semester 4		
24	Organic Chemistry II	4	5
25	Physiology II	4	5
26	Physical Pharmacy II	4	4
27	Immunology	4	4
28	Pharmacoeconomics	4	3
29	Biochemistry II	4	5
30	Microbiology II	4	4
	Semester 5		
31	Pharmaceutical Technology I	5	6
32	Pharmacognosy I	5	6
33	Pharmacology I	5	4
34	Pharmaceutical Chemistry I	5	6
35	Pathology	5	5
36	**Technical Elective**	5	3
	Semester 6		

37	Pharmaceutical Technology II	6	5
38	Pharmacognosy II	6	5
39	Pharmaceutical Chemistry II	6	5
40	Pharmacology II	6	5
41	Pharmaceutical Toxicology	6	5
42	Pharmacy Training I	6	2
43	**Technical Elective**	6	3
	Semester 7		
44	Pharmaceutical Technology III	7	5
45	Pharmacognosy III	7	5
46	Therapeutics I	7	5
47	Pharmacy Training II	7	2
48	Pharmacology III	7	5
49	Pharmaceutical Chemistry III	7	5
50	**Technical Elective**	7	3
	Semester 8		
51	Therapeutics II	8	6
52	Biopharmaceutics &Pharmacokinetics	8	5
53	Phytotherapy	8	3
54	Research methodology	8	3
55	Pharmaceutical Chemistry IV	8	3
56	Pharmaceutical Instrumental Analysis	8	4
57	Public health & First Aid	8	3
58	**Technical Elective**	8	3
	Semester 9		
59	Therapeutics III	9	5

60	Industrial Pharmacy I	9	5
61	Clinical Toxicology	9	4
62	Clinical Biochemistry	9	5
63	Patient Assessment & Communication	9	2
64	**Technical Elective**	9	3
65	Graduation Project	9	6
	Semester 10		
66	Industrial Pharmacy II	10	5
67	Cosmetics	10	3
68	Community Pharmacy	10	3
69	Pharmacy Law & ethics	10	2
70	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring	10	4
71	Clinical & Laboratory Training	10	3
72	**Technical Elective**	10	3
73	Graduation Project	10	7
74	**Technical Electives list:**		
	Immunocytochemistry		3
	Safety and LAB operating system		
	Introduction to polymer chemistry		
	Antibiotics & Bioactive compounds		
	Chromatography & isolation techniques in drug analysis		
	Pharmaceutical Analysis I		
	Pharmaceutical Analysis II		
	Self care and OTC products		
	Prodrugs		

	Nutrients Biochemistry		
	Pediatric Drug Therapy		
	Geriatric Drug Therapy		
	Aromatherapy		
	Green chemistry		
	Clinical Pharmacokinetics		
	Validation methods in Drug Analysis		
	Biostatistics in Pharmacy		
	Radiopharmacy		
	Drug Registration (Authorization)		
	Patent in Drugs		
	Total	**10**	**300**

Table 2: Module Overview

The module description covers the following aspects (Annex 1):

- Course name, type, code, language, schedule and hours breakdown (theoretical and/or practical)
- Name of lecturer, email and telephone number, teaching assistant
- Course objectives, learning outcomes and course description
    - Course's contribution to the program's outcomes
- Detailed course content
- Evaluation criteria
- Breakdown of ECTS allocation based on workload

The program spans over five years, covering essential core courses in pharmaceutical sciences, medicine, and basic scientific fields. The curriculum includes practical sessions, internships, and training in therapeutics and assessment. To earn a B.Sc. Degree in Pharmacy, students must complete 300 ECTS or 206 TIU credit hours, along with a 90-day internship in related fields (SER 1.3.3).

The Pharmacy Bachelor program aims to equip students with a comprehensive skill set. By the program's conclusion, students will be able to:

1. Apply fundamental principles of pharmaceutical sciences, biochemistry, physical science, biology, mathematics, and statistics to drug therapy and human health.
2. Illustrate healthcare systems and pharmaceutical manufacturing processes on a national and international scale.
3. Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills in selecting interaction-free drug regimens.
4. Apply patient-centered care, utilizing the best available data, in order to design, adjust, record, execute, and track pharmacotherapy care plans.
5. Effectively apply pharmaceutical knowledge to discover new drugs from natural and chemical resources to treat various diseases.
6. Apply principles of finance, marketing and human resources to manage medication use systems.
7. Utilize and apply legal, ethical and professional responsibilities required by a pharmacist.
8. Relate principles of continuous quality improvement to evaluate pharmacy services and develop outcome indicators.
9. Utilize medication use and intervention effectiveness.
10. Develop research studies in the field of pharmacy.

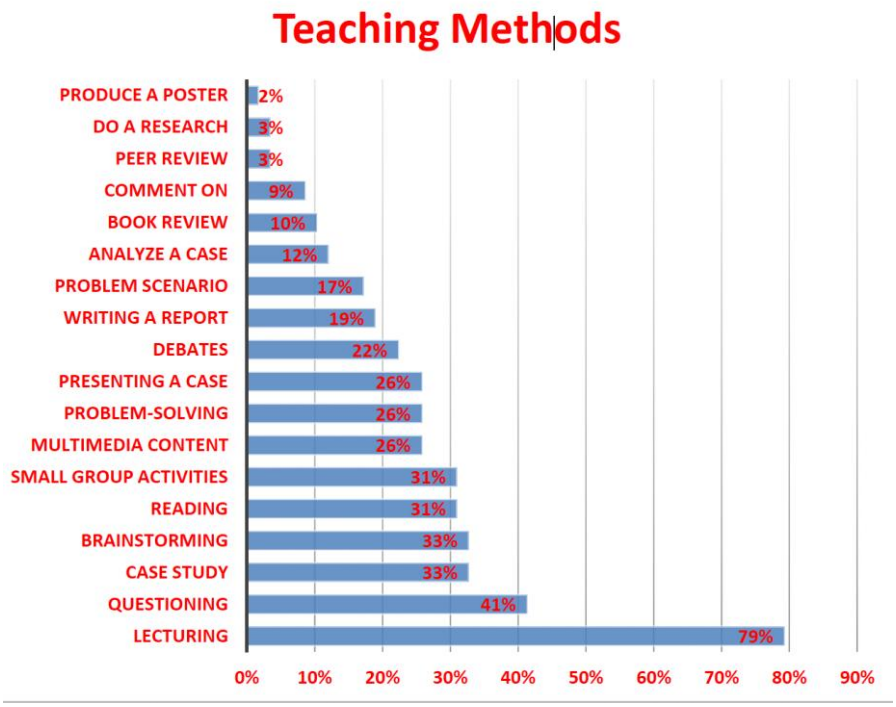
The study program contains many interdisciplinary modules like: Anatomy, Immunology, Pathology, Public Health & First Aid.

The program aligns with the European Higher Education Area qualifications, focusing on knowledge, application, data interpretation, communication, and learning skills (SER 1.3.4).

The primary teaching method is "Lecturing" which is employed in approximately 79% of the courses. The next most prevalent teaching methods are "Questioning" and "Case Study-Based Teaching."

"Questioning" is considered a teaching method that encourages active learning, according to the University. It fosters continuous engagement in the educational process, as students participate in small group discussions, brainstorm ideas, and solve problems. This approach promotes open discussions on specific topics and enhances active learning. Small group teaching and learning further facilitate the development of crucial skills such as communication, critical thinking, teamwork, decision-making, and knowledge retention.

Another widely used teaching method is "Case Study-Based Teaching". This instructional approach involves presenting students with assigned scenarios that require them to observe, analyze, record, implement, conclude, summarize, and react. This method helps students to develop problem-solving skills, utilize analytical tools (both quantitative and qualitative), enhance decision-making abilities, and foster critical thinking. It provides a practical, hands-on approach to learning by addressing real-world situations and challenges (SER 1.2.4).



The Faculty of Pharmacy's internship program aims to strengthen the relationship between students and the local industry. The program helps students to gain hands-on experience with market and service providers. Most of the students complete their compulsory, 14-week internship in a pharmacy store.

The Internship Program process at the University follows these steps:

1. The Academic Department conducts an orientation session before the internship program begins.
2. Students search for internship opportunities.
3. Once a suitable opportunity is found, students proceed to obtain the Internship Application Form from their Department Internship Supervisor. The learning objectives for the internship are defined in collaboration with the supervisor.
4. Students then seek approval from the Host Organization for their internship by submitting the Internship Application Form to their Department Internship Supervisor.
5. In addition, students may need to acquire the "Internship Job Description" from the Host Organization, attaching it to the application form.
6. The Department Internship Supervisor reviews and approves the submitted Internship Application Form.
7. Students commence their internship program.
8. Throughout the internship, students complete weekly reports and secure the Host Organization Supervisor's signature. These reports are sent weekly to their Department Internship Supervisor.
9. The Department Internship Supervisor monitors and assesses the weekly reports, offering feedback and comments to the student.

10. The Department Internship Supervisor schedules regular contact points with the student during the internship to oversee progress, the achievement of learning objectives, and the completion of assignments.

11. Upon completion of the internship, students deliver the Internship Evaluation Form to the Host Organization.

12. The Host Organization Supervisor fills out the evaluation form and submits it directly to the TIU Department. If delivered by the trainee, it should be sealed in a signed and stamped envelope.

13. The Department Internship Supervisor reviews and approves the submitted Evaluation Form (SER 1.2.6).

The educational approach aims to produce pharmacists who meet the requirements of both the Kurdish society and global standards. To achieve this goal, the curriculum of the program has been designed to adapt to local and global changes, aligning with the Bologna Process and European curricula. Simultaneously, it remains consistent with national employment needs. Specifically, the program's curriculum is benchmarked against Turkish universities following European standards, featuring technical and non-technical elective courses and adhering to the workload criteria of the Bologna Process (SER 1.2.8).

The University actively promotes international experiences for students through various means. It organize events like seminars, workshops, and symposiums to enhance intercultural awareness and understanding of cultural differences among students. The University is involved in the DAAD project "Religious Diversity Erbil," fostering understanding of religious diversity through study trips, conferences, and summer schools. An annual international festival at the University promotes language, culture, and social interactions among youth, with participation from consulates, parliament members, students, and staff. The University offers non-technical elective courses that contribute to international exposure.

At the beginning of each academic year, the Scientific Committee of the Pharmacy Faculty proposes project titles and abstracts to students, aligning with market

needs and researchable problems. In the spring semester of the 4th year, students choose project titles during the summer holiday and confirm them at the beginning of the fall semester in the 5th year. Each student's graduation thesis is individually supervised by a lecturer, with each lecturer overseeing three groups of three to four students. An initial thesis jury provides feedback on student progress, guiding their work until the final accomplishment. In the last semester, a grand jury, comprising Tishk lectures and external lecturers, evaluates and grades students' graduation projects (SER 1.2.7).

Judgement

The Bachelor study program "Pharmacy" has a course-based structure and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the courses are embedded within the course catalog.

The combination and succession of the courses of the study program are consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier). It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general.

The experts inquire about the acquisition of credits for the internship. The 14-week internship is compulsory. During this phase of the program, students gain practical experience in pharmacies. The University has recently changed the "Policy of Awarding the Internship with ECTS" to the effect that CP are earned during the internship. The experts consider the awarding of CP during the internship to be essential and welcome the change in the regulation.

The practical hours in the labs are further discussed. The students express a wish for more time in the labs as the number of hours is too low for some tasks. The expert support the students in their wish and recommend expanding the practical parts and hours in the laboratories in the long-term.

The internationalization of the University and the study program is also discussed. The University presents its efforts in signing Memorandums of Understanding with

more than 80 universities. According to the University, there are currently no cooperations or outgoing students in the study program "Pharmacy".

The experts highly recommend expanding the possibilities of going abroad. Besides exchange semesters, shorter periods abroad, for example within the scope of an internship or summer school, could be more attractive and easier to finance for students. Furthermore, the experts recommend finding creative ways of internationalization, for example internationalization from home, online conferences, to include their students in the international scientific community or international guest lecturer.

The experts acknowledge the very detailed course files with its contents and aims, which allows a high level of transparency. In the experts' opinion, the structure of the curriculum seems to make the workload manageable.

The experts inquire about the possibility to study either part-time or in a distant-learning study program. According to the University, distant-learning is not recognized by the Ministry of Education and due to the high load on practical work challenging to organize. Yet, the experts recommend offering a part-time track for the study program if requested by students.

The experts learned that the graduation project is a compulsory element designed to enhance students' research capabilities and innovation. The University therefore provided the new manual for graduation projects. In the experts' opinion, it is a good opportunity to strengthen the research skills of students.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.3 Admission and Feasibility

Summary

Admission to the "Pharmacy" program primarily relies on qualified students who have successfully completed the High School Baccalaureate certificate

administered by the Ministry of Education. The selection of fresh students for each intake is based on weighted average student achievements, overseen by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, with students typically ranging in age from eighteen to twenty.

Admission requirements are based on competitive average marks, determined by results from general examinations conducted by the Ministry of Education for grade 12 students. English language proficiency is also considered, and students may take an English Language Proficiency Exam. The criteria for English proficiency include a combination of high school English language exam scores and TIU proficiency exam scores.

The admission and registration process is managed by Students Affairs (SA), with deadlines and criteria provided by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kurdistan region. Foreign graduates are accepted after equalizing their diplomas through the Central Examinations center in the Ministry of Education's General Directorate.

Graduates from high schools are eligible to enrollment if the graduation rate was at least 90% (SER 1.5.4).

The University has various support mechanisms for students in place. All faculty members must be available for students at least two hours per week. Office hours are listed on the lecturer’s office door and on the course syllabi. Furthermore, TIU implements an integrated and systematic “Academic Advising” service to support students in successfully completing their studies at the University. At the beginning of each academic year, the Head of Department assigns one or two full-time academics as advisers for each cohort. Every adviser has at least one advisory meeting with students per term (having a maximum of five students in the meeting). During the advising session, topics like time planning, preparing for exams, or academic difficulties are discussed (SER 2.5.1).

The Deanery of Student at TIU was established with the purpose of helping the students familiarize with campus life. A diagram of the units and its functions are elaborated in the attached "Dean of Students Handbook".

The Career Building Office assists students in getting acquainted with the business world before graduation and to help them to make a smooth transition into the professional life. The Office also aims to help students build up their career path effectively and providing qualified, self-confident and diligent individuals based on market demands. The Office mainly provides the following services to the TIU Students:

1. Finding job vacancies for students
2. Finding internship opportunities
3. Conducting soft skills building seminars
4. Providing career-related consultancy services

Further information can be found in SER 2.5.2.

Judgement

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements are properly documented and made publicly available. The experts determine the admission procedures and requirements to be appropriate, as they correspond to the standards of the study program.

The experts confirm that the University takes good measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study program despite the high workload. The organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program.

The experts draw attention to the relatively high number of exams to be passed during the study program. The University has established a system of midterm and final exams. According to the students, the period of midterm exams is rather short. The experts recommend extending the examination period to make the number of exams more manageable for the students.

In order to prepare students for the level of difficulty and volume of exams, the type as well as the time of the different examinations is defined and communicated to the students transparently through the course syllabus at the beginning of each course. The students describe a high workload, which, however, can be managed well thanks to good planning and support from TIU.

Although there is a wide range of support services available, students would like more assistance in organizing semesters or short stays abroad. In general, there is a lot of uncertainty about whether exchange programs are possible and how issues such as visa procedures can be handled. The experts recommend appointing a contact person for international issues.

During the round of talks, it became obvious that the teaching staff follows an "open-door-policy". At the beginning of each academic year, the Head of Department assigns one or two full-time academics as advisers for each cohort. Every adviser has at least one advisory meeting with students per term (having maximum 5 students in the meeting). The students highly appreciate the support by the University and its teaching staff.

Students are supported with their registration process, selecting a study program, financial and personal issues and their performance during the semester. If the students have problems besides academic issue, social support is provided by the University. Furthermore, the alumni state that the support after graduation, especially with regard to finding a suitable job or opening a practice, is very positive. The experts find the support services at the University to be excellent and conducive to the health and success of the student body.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.4 Examination system and transparency

Summary

The “Pharmacy” program at TIU has the following types of exams:

- Mid-Term Exams once per academic year
- Final Exams at the end of the academic year
- Make-Up Exams available for students who fail the final exam, they cannot improve the GPA and are only held in summer
- Graduation Make-Up Exams are specifically for graduating students who failed additional exams.

Timing of the exams during the study program:

- First Midterm Examination: 15/16th week of the academic year
- Second Midterm Examination: 24/25th week of the academic year
- Final Examination: 31st to 32nd week of the academic year

The assessment methods are diverse, with lecturers required to use more than three different methods per course. These methods should align with learning outcomes, teaching methods, and course content and provide students with timely and constructive feedback.

Assessment tasks should be proportional to the course's time and credit allocation, with multiple tasks throughout the term. Deadlines are set to minimize student stress, and feedback is essential in the assessment process. The most utilized assessment methods for the 2021-2022 academic year include final examinations, midterm examinations, quizzes, and problem-solving.

Students are allowed to take make-up exams for specific courses. These exams are subject to certain conditions. Students who fail in make-up examinations are subject to specific regulations, refer to Annex B of the general list.

The final grade for a course at TIU is determined by considering all the evaluations throughout the academic year, including midterm exams, quizzes, field studies, assignments, projects, and the final examination. Each course's evaluation system

is communicated by the lecturer during the first week of the semester. The course's achievement grades are submitted and announced as per academic calendar.

Generally, exams and other evaluations during the semester contribute to 60% of the overall grade, with the final exam accounting for the remaining 40%.

The ECT evaluation system complies with the current guidelines of the ECTS Users' Guide which was regulated in Annex G.

The recognition of credits transferred from other universities (domestic and abroad) is regulated according to the requirements of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Annex G.

Judgement

The University uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. The study programs have a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students. From the experts' point of view, the examination serves to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences.

Nevertheless, in the experts' opinion, the study program includes a very high number of exams which causes a high workload not only for students but also for the teaching staff. The transparent information of examination methods and of the examination schedule at the beginning of each term makes the high number of assessments during and at the end of each semester manageable. Thus, the experts conclude that the examinations, although numerous, serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved, and that they are focused on students' knowledge. Nevertheless, as mentioned earlier, it is recommended to extend the examination period (especially of midterm exams) to make the exams more manageable for the students. It is also recommended to diversify the types of exams. A written exam may not always be the best method of testing certain knowledge.

The experts inquire about the possibilities for re-examination. The University states that students who failed an exam can participate in a make-up exam. However, the University also states that a CC is the highest grade that can be achieved in a re-sit. According to the experts, the University must ensure that the full range of grades can be achieved, also in a re-examination. The examination rules must be adapted accordingly.

The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organizations, is appropriate. The University guarantees that students with disabilities or chronic illnesses receive compensation regarding time limits and formal requirements of the study process, as well as all final and course-related performance records.

The University ensures that information about its activities, particularly the programs it offers, is easily accessible to prospective and current students, graduates, other stakeholders, and the public. The published information includes detailed insights into the selection criteria for programs, intended learning outcomes, qualifications awarded, and the procedures employed for teaching, learning, and assessment. Furthermore, pass rates and available learning opportunities to students, as well as graduate employment information, are shared.

Upon graduation, students are awarded a Bachelor graduation diploma, as well as a Diploma Supplement, composed in English.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are partially fulfilled.

The University must ensure that the full range of grades can be achieved, also in a re-examination. The examination rules must be adapted accordingly.

4.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

Summary

The teaching body is composed of full-time and part-time faculty professors and teaching assistants with the following roles (SER 2.1.1):

	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
Professors	0	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Assistant Professors	0	0	2	2	2	3	5	5	6	5
Lecturers	4	1	2	2	1	11	2	7	2	8
Assistant Lecturers	1	1	1	0	2	4	5	1	5	2
Total	10		13		25		27		29	

Full-time Faculty members:

- Teaching role with minimum weekly hours based on academic title.
- Paid for voluntary extra teaching hours.
- Participation in various faculty and department committees.
- Involvement in university-level committees.
- Office hours for student questions.
- Research publication requirement.
- Participation in academic events.

Part-time Faculty members:

- Solely teaching role with hours specified in the contract.
- Office hours for student queries.

Teaching assistants:

- Support lecturers in teaching and research.
- Participation in university, faculty, and department committees.
- Assistance in academic advising.

The student per teacher ratio in the year 2021-2022 is 25 students per teacher (SER 2.1.1). Overall, 19 teachers hold a PhD degree and eight hold a Master's degree.

Continues Academic Development "CAD" is a program whereby faculty members are encouraged to continue knowledge upgrading and building and seek improvement in their subjects and fields of academic specialty. These can be achieved with teachers' participation in a variety of scientific activities, such as seminars, workshops, training courses and conferences (presenting or attending), educational publications, reviewing articles, postgraduate supervision and evaluation, etc.

The Faculty of Pharmacy at TIU offers state-of-the-art facilities, including eight classrooms equipped with smart HD projectors for advanced teaching. Laboratories are well-equipped with sophisticated scientific instruments, allowing students to conduct practical biochemical tests. The University aims to continuously enhance its laboratories and scientific capabilities to become a leading institute in pharmacy education in Kurdistan, Iraq.

TIU provides a proposed pharmacy, Tishk Pharmacy for medicine, and allocates spaces with appropriate interior design for lectures, wide corridors, and indoor resting places. The campus boasts green landscapes and sitting areas. Classroom allocation is planned before each academic year, ensuring accommodation for teaching sessions. Classrooms are equipped with digital projectors, smart boards, or plasma screens, and back doors are available for late students.

TIU prioritizes facility quality for teacher retention and student learning, addressing noise levels by using soundproof materials in classrooms. Indoor air quality is maintained with well-designed ventilation systems, reducing absenteeism and promoting a healthy environment. Classrooms receive natural light through large windows, and air-conditioning facilities ensure an ideal temperature for productive learning sessions. The University's commitment to high-quality facilities reflects its dedication to the well-being and success of students and the faculty.

The Pharmacy Clinic at TIU comprises specialized laboratories designed to provide students with a comprehensive education in various pharmaceutical disciplines:

1. **Pharmaceutics Lab:** This lab is fully equipped with laboratory instruments, facilitating comprehensive education in pharmaceutics. It supports both undergraduate and postgraduate studies, allowing students to utilize available equipment and chemicals.

2. **Pharmacology Lab:** Equipped for studies in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and animal test device experiments, this lab provides all necessary equipment for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

3. **Pharmaceutical Chemistry Lab:** This lab is versatile, allowing for various chemistry field studies, including general chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, and pharmaceutical chemistry. It is well-supplied with an ample quantity of chemicals and devices.

4. **Pharmacognosy Lab:** The Pharmacognosy lab offers students a broad understanding of the natural basis of Pharmacognosy. It ensures an optimal teaching experience with a diverse range of equipment and herbs provided for practical learning.

These specialized labs contribute to the hands-on learning experience at TIU's Faculty of Pharmacy, fostering a dynamic and well-equipped environment for students pursuing both undergraduate and prospective postgraduate studies in pharmacy.

The Library at TIU operates under the direction of the Director of the Library, who reports to the Vice-President for Administrative & Financial Affairs. The library's annual budget is $50,000.

At the start of each academic year, the academic departments compile lists of required textbooks for courses. These lists, after approval by the University Council, are submitted to the Director of the Library for the purchase of the necessary books.

Category	Number
Hardcopy books	7,629
e-books	23,400
Database subscriptions for books	3,800,000
Database subscriptions for journals (IVSL + JSTOR)	18,083
Journals (hard copies)	205 (Scientific) + 452 (others)
e-journals	296
PhD and master theses (hard copies)	193
e-theses	1600
Proceedings	60
Anfal and Halabja documents	56 boxes (each box has around 150 documents)

The library's development became a focus during TIU's accreditation evaluation in the 2018-2019 academic year. The evaluation led to an accreditation status with one precondition: "Improving the Library Resources." Experts recommended several improvements, including extending library hours, increasing the number of workstations and computers, enhancing the scientific literature collection (including international journals), making the database accessible from off-campus, expanding the non-lending collection to establish an open shelves reference library, and organizing events for students on various library-related topics.

Annex R of the general list details the action plans developed in response to these recommendations.

Regarding IT facilities, students have access to well-equipped computer labs with modern PCs. Full-time staff members are provided with desktop computers, printer access, photocopiers, and scanners. The lab computers have software like MS Office and SPSS, while staff computers include MS Office, Office 365, antivirus software, and access to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service.

E-systems support both students and staff. Students can access the SIS (Student Information System) for various purposes, including viewing weekly schedules,

grades, attendance records, and transcripts. Staff members have access to the PIS (Personnel Information System) for recording attendance and assessment data, as well as communicating directly with students.

TIU utilizes e-learning platforms, with SIS/PIS systems integrated into online video telephony platforms for lectures. Lecturers are provided with Pro ZOOM licenses. Open-access computer rooms are available for students, and help services are accessible through academic advisors for students and through the IT Services via the "INET" application for both students and staff.

Internet access is limited to the library and laboratories, but there is campus-wide Wi-Fi connectivity and internet cable connectivity (SER 2.2.7)

Judgement

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the programs and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Overall, the teaching and academic staff at the Tishk International University shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study program they are responsible for. The experts conclude that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the University and the faculty administration. As motivations to teach at TIU the faculty cites the good working environment and the options for staff development. The University informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently, and actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to improve their abilities.

The experts find the amount of human resources allocated to the program to be relatively low. The number of part-time lecturers is high. The University is aware of the difficulty of recruiting qualified teaching staff. The Ministry's requirements regarding the qualifications of teaching staff, especially as “professors” or “assistant professors” are difficult to fulfill. The University also considers hiring international teaching staff, which the experts welcome. Nevertheless, the current teaching staff is well qualified and in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks to execute the study program.

Both the University and the students assure the experts that the lecturers are very present and always approachable despite their part-time positions. The experts recommend and encourage the University to continue investing in the recruitment of additional full-time lecturers.

The University provided the experts with a comprehensive video of the equipment and laboratories. The Faculty of Pharmacy currently has enough laboratories for the number of enrolled students. The skills labs are equipped with all relevant devices. From the experts' point of view, the quality of the laboratories and clinical areas used to train students in the program are sufficient. However, considering that the University is planning to increase the number of students, the laboratories should also be adapted in the long term.

As a whole, it was ascertained by the experts that the Bachelor study program "Pharmacy" has ample teaching facilities at its disposals.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.6 Quality assurance

Summary

Tishk International University (TIU) has established a Quality Assurance Policy, which is published on the website and introduced to newly joined lecturers through orientation sessions. This policy is regularly reviewed and approved by the University Council, ensuring compliance with higher education regulations.

Additionally, there is a Quality Assurance Procedure (Attachment R) that outlines the procedures, tasks, and responsibilities for executing specific processes. Stakeholders, including students, student council members, department heads, and accreditation agencies (such as ZEvA, ASIIN, EFMD), actively participate in the evaluation and feedback process for the policy.

TIU conducts external assessments of selected courses annually. External assessors, who are experts in the field and meet specific criteria, evaluate various aspects of the course quality, including objectives, content, assessment methods, marking, and the overall educational experience (SER 1.6).

- a Syllabus evaluation form can be found in Appendix 6 of Annex H.
- a Class observation form can be found in Appendix 3 of Annex H
- a Continuous academic development form can be found in appendix 2 of Annex H

At the conclusion of each academic year, Tishk International University's faculties select specific courses for external assessment. An external assessor, an academic from outside the university, is appointed to evaluate the work of instructors, including grading and student performance. This assessor must meet certain criteria, such as being from a different university and not teaching in the relevant department, holding a high academic rank like professor or assistant professor, or, in the absence of such candidates, having a PhD and a minimum of ten years of teaching experience. The assessor should also possess expertise in his field and a substantial publication record. The appointment of the external assessor, along with their qualifications and achievements, must be approved by the Director of the Quality Assurance Unit, ideally one month before the course's end. The areas assessed externally include the course content and delivery, student assessment, program outcomes, and academic staff qualifications and professional development activities. The purpose of this external assessment is to evaluate the quality of the course, including its objectives, structure, content, assessment methods, marking process, and the overall educational experience. The documents reviewed by the assessor during the external assessment encompass the course syllabus, assignments, lecture materials, references, quiz and exam questions and answers, grade records, and students' exam papers (SER 1.6.1).

Tishk International University's teaching staff engage in a systematic process of continuous academic development (CAD). This process spans from September 1st to August 31st in each academic year. Faculty members electronically complete CAD forms, providing essential details regarding their scientific activities and

research output. These submissions must be accompanied by valid evidence, which is reviewed electronically by the Quality Assurance Unit (EQA) to confirm the points earned. The Director of Quality Assurance oversees this validation process and subsequently shares the CAD evaluation results with the vice-president of Academic Affairs. Additionally, the CAD evaluation outcomes are presented to both the University Council and the Quality Assurance Committee. The Director of Quality Assurance is responsible for issuing appreciation letters and warning letters to the teaching staff based on their accumulated CAD points. After two successive warning letters, the third instance could lead to the termination of a faculty member's contract. Comprehensive details about this process can be found in the Quality Assurance Policy, issued by the Quality Assurance Unit at Tishk International University (Annex H).

The evaluation of students' feedback at Tishk International University is a structured process. At the beginning of each academic term, the Director of the Database and Survey Office activates the Students Survey link on the SIS System, allowing students to provide feedback on every course. Once the term concludes, the Director of the Database and Survey Office deactivates the link and forwards the survey results to the Director of Quality Assurance. Subsequently, the Director of Quality Assurance assesses these results and compiles a report on the Survey Evaluation, which is then submitted to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs. This report is also presented to both the University Council and the Quality Assurance Committee. The Director of Quality Assurance uses the survey results to determine the distribution of appreciation letters and warning letters to the teaching staff, which is based on student satisfaction averages for their respective courses. In cases where there is widespread dissatisfaction as indicated by the survey, measures such as university-wide workshops, departmental workshops, and discussion debates are recommended to enhance staff performance. Furthermore, repeated low satisfaction scores from the survey could lead to termination from a teaching position.

Survey type	Stakeholders	Processes

Student Feedback results about each course	Students	The students are informed about the average ratio of their feedback for all the courses in the academic term on the University Website and Social Media Platforms. Also, the student representatives are invited to the Quality team meetings twice a year when they get informed about this average formally.
	Staff	Each staff is informed about the Student Feedback for his courses from the PIS System
	Ministry	The Ministry of Higher Education is informed about the average student feedback ratio for each staff by submitting the values to the National Ranking electronic system.
Pre-graduation Survey Results	Students	The student representatives are invited to the Quality team meetings twice a year when they got informed about this average formally.
	Staff	The Head of Department shares the results of this survey with the staff in the departmental meetings
CAD (Continues academic development) Points	Staff	By the end of the academic year, the academic staff are informed about the evaluation results of their teacher portfolio by handing them the quality assurance portfolio
Teacher Portfolio Evaluation results	Staff	By the end of the academic year, the academic staff are informed about the evaluation results of their teacher portfolio by handing them the quality assurance portfolio
Classroom observation	Staff	By face-to-face meeting after the observation at the Head of departments office

The following table shows the available drop-out and graduation rates of the study program Pharmacy for the past three academic years:

Study Programme	Number of Graduates			Drop-Out After One Year (STUDENTS)			Completion in Nominal Time (STUDENTS)			Completion in Overtime (STUDENTS)		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
PHAR	N/A	N/A	81	1	7	4	N/A	N/A	81	N/A	N/A	14

Judgement

From the experts' point of view, the University has a well-structured system of quality assurance spread across all of its units. The University has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in the education process, teaching and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program "Pharmacy".

The University consistently monitors and periodically reviews its programs to ensure alignment with established objectives, responsiveness to the evolving needs of students and society, and the facilitation of continuous program improvement. These systematic reviews are integral to the University's commitment to maintaining the relevance of study programs and fostering a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The evaluation process encompasses various aspects, including the regular examination of program content in light of the latest research in the discipline, consideration of changing societal needs, assessment of student workload, progression, and completion rates, evaluation of the effectiveness of procedures for student assessment, collection of feedback on student expectations, needs, and satisfaction regarding the program, and examination of the suitability of the learning environment and support services for the program's objectives.

The University possesses a robust data collection system and gathers comprehensive data on its study programs and other activities. The information gathered depends, to some extent, on the type and mission of the University. Various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are captured by the institution. A range

of information regarding study programs and activities is consistently captured by the University. Student progression, success rates, and dropout rates are inherent considerations in the analytical processes. With an established feedback mechanism, the University regularly measures student satisfaction with their programs, the learning resources and the available student support. The University also actively tracks and analyzes the career paths of its graduates. The University seamlessly integrates the collected information into its existing internal quality assurance system. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that the perspectives of students and staff are considered in decision-making processes.

Regular program reviews and revisions are conducted, actively involving students and other stakeholders in the process. The information collected from these reviews undergoes analysis, and program adaptations are made to ensure the program is up-to-date. Any actions planned or taken as a result of these reviews are communicated to all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the University ensures the publication of revised program specifications, fostering transparency and keeping stakeholders informed of changes resulting from the systematic review process.

During the site visit, the students confirm that their feedback is taken seriously by the University. Suggestions and adjustments are implemented by the University.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

Summary

The University is committed to ensuring gender equality and equal opportunities for all students enrolled. This commitment is upheld through a dedicated University policy outlined in the student handbook. By adhering to this policy, the University fosters an inclusive environment where every student has the chance to thrive and succeed, regardless of gender or background.

Tishk International University is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities have equal educational opportunities as their peers. The “Pharmacy” program is housed in buildings equipped with special ramps, elevators, and supportive staff to facilitate access for students with disabilities. Various measures are in place to support these students, including adherence to the Disability Standards for Education to promote fairness and prevent discrimination. The University values consultation with students and their associates, typically involving their parents, to assess the impact of disabilities on enrollment, participation, curriculum adjustments, and access to support services. Special accommodations are provided, such as separate exam environments and assistance for students with hand injuries, or special seating arrangements and access to elevators for those with leg injuries. Additionally, tongue-tied students are allowed to present oral presentations in written form. Furthermore, the University's policy for supporting disabled students can be found in Annex F.

Judgement

The University demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social development. Overall, the experts conclude that the University’s actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented transparently.

Decision

From the experts’ point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled. Conclusion

5 Conclusion

Overall, the experts were impressed and highlight the strong commitment and engagement demonstrated by all levels of the University. The study program "Pharmacy" at TIU is attractive and the number of students is increasing.

The University is well-connected in the region and numerous Memorandums of Understanding are already in place. In order to gain a broader international reputation, the internationalization efforts should be expanded and cooperations for student exchange created.

The experts also appreciate the new regulation for awarding the internship with credit points and the compulsory graduation project, which ensures integration of the students into research.

Nevertheless, the university has to change the examination regulations to guarantee that the full range of grades can be achieved, also in re-examinations.

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the virtual site visit, the experts came to the conclusion that the study program "Pharmacy" offered at the Tishk International University in Erbil, Iraq partially fulfills the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS makes a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

Based on these observations, the experts recommend the accreditation of the study program on the following conditions:

- The University must ensure that the full range of grades can be achieved, also in a re-examination. The examination rules must be adapted accordingly.

From the perspective of the experts, these conditions can be fulfilled within twelve months after the announcement of the accreditation decision.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- A part-time track of the study program should be offered, if requested by students.
- The practical parts and hours in the laboratories in the study program should be extended in the long term.
- The examination period for midterm exams should be extended to make the exams more manageable for the students.
- The types of exams should be diversified.
- A contact person for international issues should be appointed to extend the support for students
- The investment in the recruitment of additional full-time lecturers should be extended.
- Additional workshops and/or lectures from international guest lecturers should be offered.

6 Decision of the accreditation commission

Decision of the accreditation commission July 25, 2024

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the University's application, as well as the expert review and the site visit covered in the Assessment Report.

The virtual site visit of the University took place on May 22, 2024, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation procedure is structured according to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS. The Accreditation Criteria are developed by the AHPGS in close accordance with the existing criteria and requirements valid in the Federal Republic of Germany and based on the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group regarding the Assessment Report.

The Bachelor study program requires the obtainment of 300 credit points according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The regulated study period in the program "Pharmacy" is five years. The study program comprises 72 modules, out of which 64 modules are obligatory and eight modules are elective. The language of instruction is English. The Bachelor study program "Pharmacy" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Bachelor of Pharmacy". Admission takes place every winter semester. The first cohort of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2017/2018.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that the Accreditation Criteria are partially fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The Bachelor study program "Pharmacy" is accredited for the duration of five years until September 30, 2029.

Based on the Assessment Report the Accreditation Commission outlines the following conditions:

1. The University must ensure that the full range of grades can be achieved in a re-examination. The examination rules must be adapted accordingly.

The evidence that the formulated conditions have been fulfilled by the study program "Pharmacy" must be provided by July 25, 2025. According to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS, in case of non-fulfillment of the conditions the accreditation of the study program will be revoked.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the Assessment Report.

Decision of the accreditation commission September 25, 2025

On July 20, 2025, Tishk International University (TIU) submitted the following documents:

- Response statement by TIU
- Make-up exam policy
- University Council meeting minutes

Tishk International University revised its make-up exam policy to ensure fair and equitable assessment for students. The students at TIU, who are eligible to take make-up exams shall receive full-range grading based solely on their performance in the exam. The policy applied to all undergraduate students across all faculties and becomes effective on September 01, 2025.

The Accreditation Commission has made the following decision:

With reference to the documents submitted by the Tishk International University, the Accreditation Commission notes that the condition set out in the decision of July 25, 2024 and specified below has been fulfilled:

The University must ensure that the full range of grades can be achieved in a re-examination. The examination rules must be adapted accordingly.

The fulfillment of conditions has been completed.