



# QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

THE POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DECISION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF NAKHCIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY AT THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2023 (PROTOCOL NO: 01), AND REVIEWED ON DECEMBER 2, 2024.



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## **1.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 subcommissions within the Quality Assurance Permanent Commission, aiming to identify and promote improvement methods and procedures.

## **2.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.



### 3.Scope

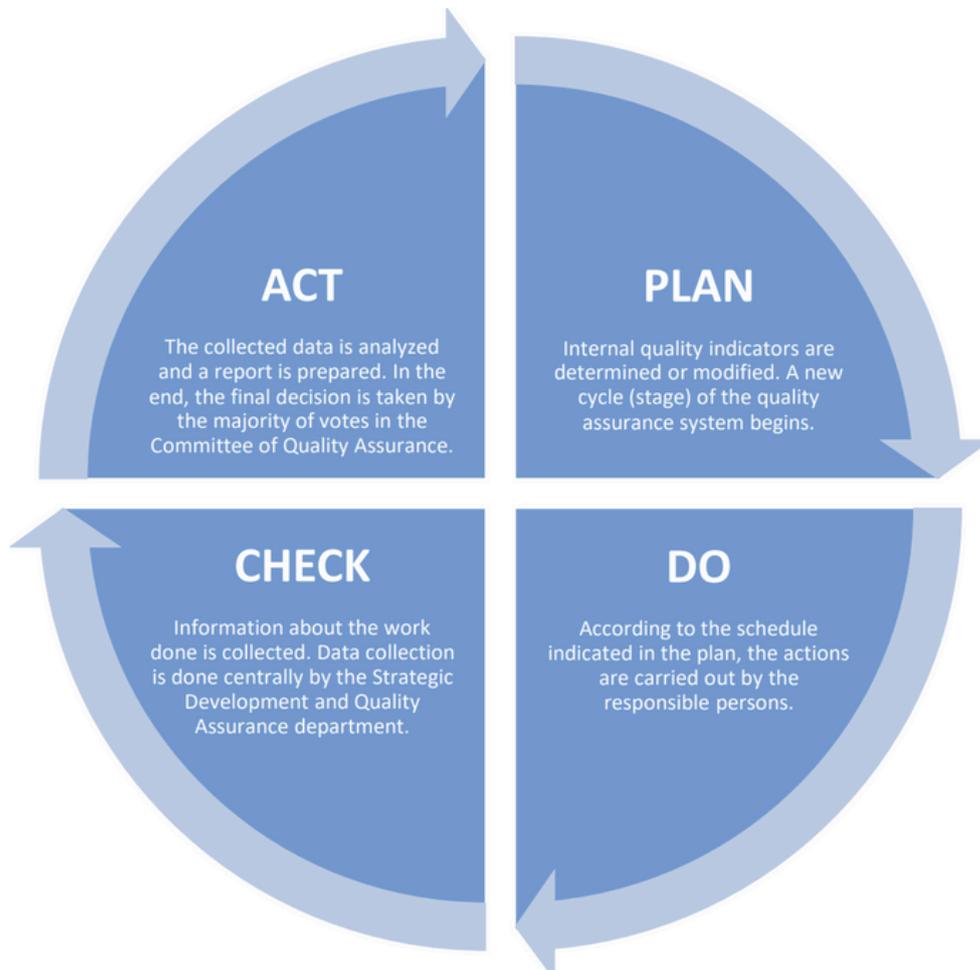
The Quality Assurance Policy encompasses all stakeholders (students, academic staff, university administration, etc.), educational programs, and infrastructure within the university.

### 4.Quality assurance system

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

### 5.How the QA system operates in Nakhchivan State University

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





### **6.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.

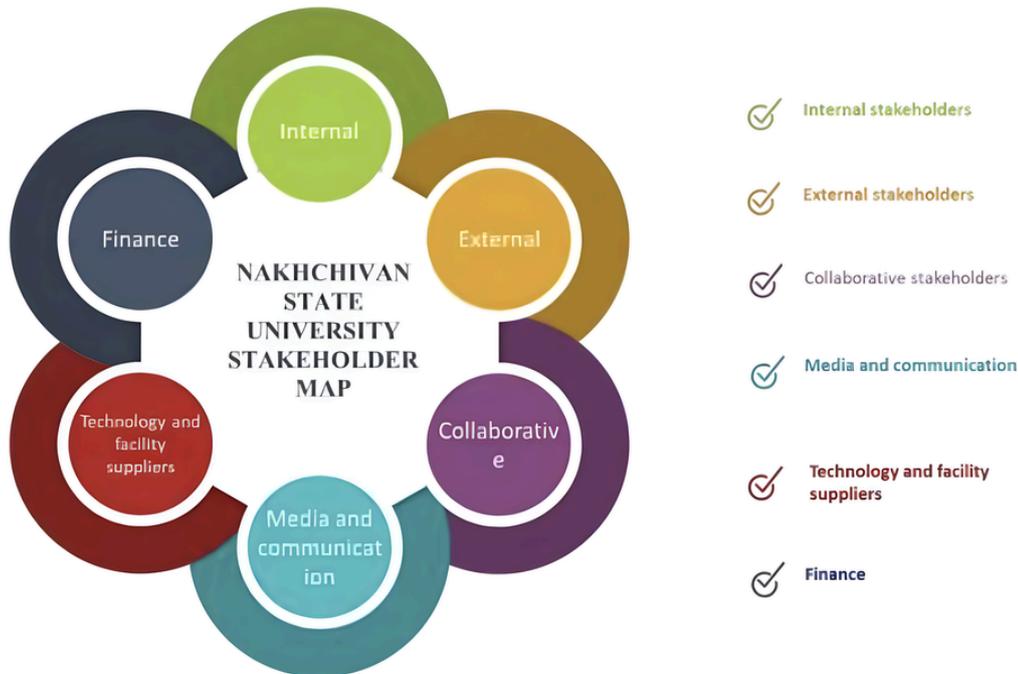
### **7.Criteria for external quality assurance**

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.

### **8.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.



### **Internal Stakeholders:**

The internal stakeholders of the university include the University Scientific Council, top management (the rector, vice-rectors, advisers, and deans), faculty members, schools and colleges within the university structure, students, graduates, student organizations, and technical staff. These groups play a direct role in the governance, academic development, and operational efficiency of the institution.

### **External Stakeholders:**

External stakeholders comprise the general public, government entities, the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, representatives of the labor market (both public and private institutions), parents and families of students, prospective applicants, non-governmental organizations and public associations, as well as international partners. Their engagement ensures alignment between university activities and broader social, economic, and educational objectives.

### **Collaborative Stakeholders:**

Collaborative stakeholders include partner universities and research institutes, local industries, insurance organizations, and participants of national and international programs. These partnerships facilitate academic exchange, joint research initiatives, and the integration of practical knowledge into the educational process.



**Media and Communication Stakeholders:**

This group encompasses local and national media outlets, as well as social media platforms that serve as key channels for promoting the university's image, disseminating information, and enhancing public engagement.

**Technology and Facility Suppliers:**

Technology and infrastructure support are provided by IT service providers and facility management companies, ensuring the university's technological advancement and operational sustainability.

**Financial Stakeholders:**

Financial stakeholders consist of public financial institutions and sponsors that contribute to the university's financial stability, development projects, and research initiatives.

**9.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.