



Sustainable Development Goal 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

The Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Department at the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA) has actively engaged in monitoring and enhancing the quality of education throughout the academic year. This report outlines the key activities, assessments, and improvements made by the department to align with international standards and ensure that ASUCA remains committed to providing high-quality education in the fields of culture and arts.

1. **Monitoring and Evaluation of Educational Programs:** The department conducted comprehensive monitoring of the academic programs within the university, particularly focusing on accreditation preparation. Three educational programs—Actor’s Art, Theatre Studies, and Cinematography—were subjected to intensive review. The monitoring involved assessing outdated course programs and revising them under the supervision of the Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Department. This process aimed to bring the course materials in line with current educational and professional standards.

2. **Exam Monitoring:** The department conducted rigorous assessments of both oral and written exams, evaluating the organization, grading, and alignment of the exams with modern educational standards. Additionally, the department assessed the effectiveness of teaching methods and grading criteria, ensuring that they reflect contemporary pedagogical practices and align with current international educational standards.

3. **Accreditation Preparation:** The department has been integral in preparing ASUCA for accreditation by the Independent Accreditation and Rating Agency (IAAR). The department contributed to the collection and organization of all necessary documents, including academic plans, syllabi, teaching reports, faculty personnel files, and the annual work plans of departments and faculties. These documents were digitized and uploaded to a cloud system for easy access and review.

An essential part of the accreditation process involved preparing a self-analysis report, which was compiled based on the guidelines provided by the IAAR. The report was structured in alignment with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for quality assurance in higher education, covering:

1. Quality Assurance Policy
2. Program Design and Approval
3. Student-Centered Teaching, Learning, and Assessment
4. Student Admission, Progression, Recognition, and Certification
5. Faculty Educational Resources and Student Support

6. Information Management

7. Public Information

8. Program Monitoring and Review

9. Periodic External Quality Assurance Procedures

4. Strategic Planning: The university's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) was a focal point for aligning ASUCA's activities with the long-term objectives of improving education in culture and arts. The department has ensured that the institution's educational offerings meet the evolving demands of the modern labor market by preparing students for various professional fields within the arts and culture industries.

5. Student Satisfaction and Feedback: The department consistently gathers feedback from students to ensure the quality of education is up to standard. In December 2022, a Student Satisfaction Survey was conducted, with 34% (788 out of 2682) of the students providing valuable insights into the challenges and potential solutions related to their education. This feedback has been instrumental in identifying areas for improvement and implementing changes in teaching methods and educational resources.

6. Faculty Satisfaction and Involvement: In April 2023, a Faculty Satisfaction Survey was conducted, with 60% (223 out of 370) of the academic staff participating. The survey results highlighted areas related to the quality of teaching, decision-making in the educational process, and faculty participation in continuous professional development. This information will guide the administration in enhancing faculty engagement and fostering an environment that supports teaching excellence.

7. Administrative Staff and Work Environment: A survey conducted in December and January among administrative staff assessed their overall satisfaction with the work environment, promotion criteria, and involvement in decision-making processes related to the university's quality culture. The results from the survey indicated the importance of fostering better communication and ensuring that administrative staff's input is included in key institutional decisions.

8. Alumni and Labor Market Feedback: The university also places significant emphasis on understanding the needs of the labor market and aligning its academic offerings accordingly. In April 2024, a survey of alumni working in various sectors provided valuable feedback on the employability of graduates. Of the 38 respondents, 65% were women, and 35% were men, with the majority of respondents holding positions in managerial roles. This survey was used to evaluate how well the programs are preparing graduates for the workforce and to inform future curriculum developments.

9. Internal Quality Assurance Mechanisms: The university continuously develops and monitors internal quality assurance mechanisms to ensure that the educational experience meets the highest standards. Regular internal audits, continuous monitoring of teaching quality, and the implementation of corrective actions when necessary contribute to maintaining the university's standards of excellence in education.

10. Recommendations and Improvements: Based on the findings from the surveys, the monitoring activities, and the accreditation preparation, several recommendations were made to further enhance the quality of education at ASUCA:

Curriculum Update: The curriculum should be periodically reviewed and updated to meet the evolving needs of the art and culture industries.

Faculty Development: Continuous professional development programs should be implemented to enhance teaching quality.

Student Support Services: More robust academic, medical, psychological, and social support services should be provided to improve student well-being.

Strengthening Feedback Loops: The university should continue to collect regular feedback from students, faculty, and alumni to ensure continuous improvement.

The Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts has made significant strides in enhancing the quality of education through effective monitoring, continuous feedback, and accreditation preparations. The efforts of the Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Department have ensured that ASUCA is moving towards meeting international education standards, with a focus on providing a student-centered, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment. With ongoing improvements and strategic alignment, ASUCA is well-positioned to contribute to the development of future professionals in culture and the arts, fostering a strong connection between education and the needs of the global labor market.

