



## ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023

# OVERVIEW

This annual report provides a summary of the operations of the Nazarbayev University Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) in the 2022-2023 academic year.

AAC leads the overall direction of accreditation and facilitates data and experience sharing across the University. The Committee's current membership is presented in the Appendix.

AAC EVENTS 2022-2023	
September 28, 2022	AAC Meeting #1
November 8, 2022	ABET Experience Sharing workshop
February 7, 2023	AAC Meeting #2
March 17, 2023	Developing Learning Outcomes workshop

Overall, during the reporting period, the Committee contributed to the NU community's awareness of, and engagement in, accreditation and acceleration of programme accreditation processes across Schools.

## OVERVIEW

### KEY ITEMS ON THE

#### AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors
5. Addressing Generic Accreditation

Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

#### NOTES

#### APPENDIX

# KEY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The main items of the 2022-2023 academic year included:

## 1. Accreditation Progress

Institutional Accreditation:



On June 20, 2023, the Managing Council approved NU's participation in the [International Quality Review \(IQR\)](#) by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA, United Kingdom\)](#).

The IQR process enables institutions to demonstrate that their quality systems meet internationally recognised standards, strengthens global positioning, and drives improvements and excellence. The participating institutions are evaluated against the [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(ESG\)](#).

The [process](#) includes five stages: (1) application, (2) scoping, (3) review, (4) accreditation, and (5) mid-cycle review. Upon successful completion of the IQR, institutions obtain accreditation by the QAA.

The QAA, an independent quality body for higher education in the UK, is one of the world's experts in quality assurance. It conducts quality assessment reviews and develops reference points and guidance for HEIs. The QAA is a full and founding member of [ENQA](#), the membership organisation for higher education quality assurance agencies in Europe. It is included into the [European Quality Assurance Register \(EQAR\)](#). Over 300 higher education providers from across the UK have chosen to be [QAA Members](#) in 2022-23.

### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

##### 1. Accreditation Progress

##### 2. Sharing Good Practice

##### 3. Capacity-Building

##### 4. Grade Descriptors

##### 5. Addressing Generic

Accreditation

Requirements

### EVENTS

- ABET Experience

Sharing Workshop

- Developing Learning

Outcomes Workshop

### NOTES

### APPENDIX

Programme Accreditation:

Accrediting Body	School (Programme)	Current Status (August 2023)
	<b>GSPP</b> (MPP, MPA)	received accreditation in 2019.
		received accreditation without monitoring in July 2023.
	<b>GSB</b> (all programmes)	has an accreditation site visit scheduled for September 14 and 15, 2023. Final documents are due by mid-August 2023.
		the progress report is due on September 15, 2023. The site visit is expected in late 2024/early 2025.
	<b>CPS</b> (EAP)	was accredited in 2020, currently is preparing for reaccreditation (2024).
	<b>GSE</b> (all programmes)	is finalising the application process.
	<b>SEDS<sup>1</sup></b> <b>SMG<sup>2</sup></b> <b>SSH<sup>3</sup></b>	are working on the Continuous Improvement requirements.
	<b>NUSOM</b> (MD)	is finalising the self-assessment report.

OVERVIEW

KEY ITEMS ON THE

AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress

2. Sharing Good Practice

3. Capacity-Building

4. Grade Descriptors

5. Addressing Generic

Accreditation

Requirements

EVENTS

• ABET Experience

Sharing Workshop

• Developing Learning

Outcomes Workshop

NOTES

APPENDIX

<sup>1</sup> BEng in: Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering; Chemical & Materials Eng; Electrical & Computer Eng; Civil & Environmental Eng; BSc in: Robotics Eng; Computer Science.

<sup>2</sup> BSc in: Geology; Petroleum Engineering; Mining Engineering.

<sup>3</sup> STEM programmes - BSc in: Physics; Chemistry; Mathematics; Biological Sciences. Non-STEM programmes are currently in preparation for the self-assessment and consequent external evaluation by the strategic partner UW-Madison.

## 2. Sharing Good Practice

AAC members shared their experiences and lessons learned pertaining to:

- the use of Institutional Research and Analytics (IR&A) data for indirect evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes (LOs);
- the alignment of courses with the programme learning outcomes;
- continuous improvement;
- professional development areas;
- data and information management;
- the compilation of self-evaluation reports.

## 3. Capacity-Building

AAC implemented a range of activities aimed at building the awareness of accreditation requirements amongst the NU community and providing relevant support.

This was fulfilled by means of capacity-building events (workshops) and cascading relevant information within Schools.

## 4. Grade Descriptors

For the purpose of shifting the focus towards the achievement of LOs, AAC members suggested amendments to the grade descriptors for the Common Grading Scale in the Academic Policies and Procedures for Undergraduate Programmes. The draft will be sent to the NU Learning and Teaching Committee for approval.

The members stressed out the importance of aligning assessment rubrics with descriptors, and communicating the achievement of LOs and progress to students.

### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE

#### AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress

2. Sharing Good Practice

3. Capacity-Building

4. Grade Descriptors

5. Addressing Generic

Accreditation

Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience

Sharing Workshop

- Developing Learning

Outcomes Workshop

#### NOTES

#### APPENDIX

## 5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

AAC identified generic accreditation standards and criteria within areas beyond the achievement of LOs and continuous improvement, for consideration by Schools, including the following:

- Mission;
- Diversity, equity and inclusion;
- Faculty governance;
- Societal impact;
- COVID-19 impact;
- Facilities;
- Institutional support and resources;
- Public communication of data and information.

The analysis of generic accreditation requirements and compilation of university-wide information is expected to support Schools in programme accreditation processes and have institutional implications in various academic areas.

### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE

#### AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors

5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

#### NOTES

#### APPENDIX

# EVENTS

## ABET Experience Sharing Workshop



An ABET Experience Sharing Workshop was led by Associate Professor and AAC Member, Dr. Akhan Almagambetov. [ABET](#) (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) is the recognised U.S. accreditor of college and university programmes in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. 13 NU programmes are pursuing ABET accreditation.

An interactive session on the School of Engineering and Digital Sciences's best practice in implementing ABET procedures was followed by the lessons learned from the ABET Accreditation & Assessment Essentials shared by Elmira Tabyldiyeva, Accreditation Manager.

The presentations and practical activities enabled an active discussion of common issues and approaches to accreditation.



### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors
5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

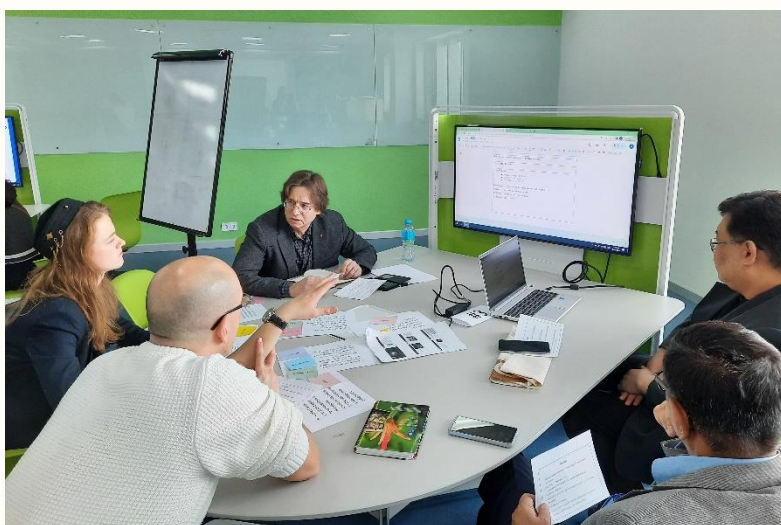
### NOTES

### APPENDIX

## Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

A Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop was delivered by the Institutional Effectiveness team for NU academic staff.

The interactive sessions covered the underpinning principles and benchmarking reference points for the development of learning outcomes. Group activities facilitated the exchange of experience among faculty through joint design of course learning outcomes.



These events contributed to the involvement of the wider NU academic community in accreditation processes.

The Committee plans to continue addressing generic and specific requirements of accrediting bodies and Schools' needs.

### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors
5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

#### NOTES

#### APPENDIX



# NOTES

This report has been submitted to Academic Council for information.

Submitted by:

Duncan Priestley, Chair of the Committee

and

Elmira Tabyldiyeva, Secretary of the Committee

Date:

[ie.nu.edu.kz](http://ie.nu.edu.kz)

[accreditation@nu.edu.kz](mailto:accreditation@nu.edu.kz)

## OVERVIEW

### KEY ITEMS ON THE

#### AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors
5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

## NOTES

## APPENDIX

# APPENDIX

## Membership of the Accreditation Advisory Committee (June 2023)

#	Member	Name and Position
1	Chair	Duncan Priestley, General Director of Institutional Effectiveness
2	Deputy Chair, Graduate School of Business representative	Jenifer Lewis, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs
3	Office of the Provost representative	Appointed by General Director of Institutional Effectiveness
4	Graduate School of Public Policy representative	Riccardo Pelizzo, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs
5	Centre for Preparatory Studies representative	Raquel Reinagel, Senior Teaching Fellow
6	School of Engineering and Digital Science representative	Akhan Almagambetov, Associate Professor
7	School of Sciences and Humanities representative	Anton Desyatnikov, Department Chair
8	School of Medicine representative	Syed Ali, Vice-Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
9	School of Mining and Geosciences representative	Nasser Madani, Associate Professor
10	Graduate School of Education representative	Ali Ait Si Mhamed, Associate Professor
11	Faculty Senate representative	Amoussou Coffi Adoko, Associate Professor
12	Undergraduate student representative	Temirlan Muslimbek, School of Sciences and Humanities
13	Graduate student representative	Gulnur Makulbayeva, Graduate School of Public Policy

### OVERVIEW

#### KEY ITEMS ON THE

#### AGENDA

1. Accreditation Progress
2. Sharing Good Practice
3. Capacity-Building
4. Grade Descriptors
5. Addressing Generic Accreditation Requirements

#### EVENTS

- ABET Experience Sharing Workshop
- Developing Learning Outcomes Workshop

#### NOTES

### APPENDIX