IQAA

INDEPENDENT AGENCY
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION - IQAA

REPORT
ON THE EXTERNAL AUDIT
BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

7005005 Solid-State Electronics

7005005 Radiation Materials Science

Astana, 2026

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LEVEL OF CONFORMITY OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT TO THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 7005005 SOLID-STATE ELECTRONICS FOR EACH STANDARD

Standards	**Indicate the level of compliance of the self-assessment report with the actual state of affairs at the university for each standard**			
	Full compliance	**Significant compliance**	**Partial compliance**	**Non-compliance**
Standard 1 Quality Assurance Policy and Academic Integrity	+			
Standard 2 Curriculum Development, Approval, and Information Management		+		
Standard 3 Student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment		+		
Standard 4 Admissions, Academic Performance, Recognition, and Certification	+			
Standard 5 Faculty	+			
Standard 6 Learning Resources and Student Support		+		
Standard 7 Public Information	+			

LEVEL OF CONFORMITY OF THE SELF-EVALUATION REPORT TO THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 7005005 RADIATION MATERIALS SCIENCE FOR EACH STANDARD

Standards	**Please indicate the extent to which the self-assessment report reflects the actual situation at the university for each standard**			
	Full compliance	**Significant compliance**	**Partial compliance**	**Non-compliance**
Standard 1 Quality Assurance Policy and Academic Integrity	+			
Standard 2 Curriculum Development, Approval, and Information Management		+		
Standard 3 Student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment		+		
Standard 4 Admissions, Academic Performance, Recognition, and Certification	+			
Standard 5 Faculty	+			
Standard 6 Learning Resources and Student Support		+		
Standard 7 Public Information	+			

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CHAPTER 1
CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

Introduction

The external visit of the expert group as part of the international program accreditation procedure to Baku State University took place from March 12 to 13, 2026. The external audit was conducted in accordance with the Program developed by the IQAA agency and agreed upon with the university. All materials necessary for the work of the external expert group (EEG): the visit program, the self-assessment report for program accreditation, the composition of the external expert group, the list of interview participants, the guidelines for organizing and conducting the external evaluation, the expert code of ethics, and the EEG accreditation report template were provided to the members of the expert group prior to the start of their work at the educational institution, which ensured the opportunity for timely preparation for the external evaluation procedure.

The self-assessment report on the educational programs of Baku State University contains a sufficient amount of information presented in accordance with program accreditation standards; it identifies strengths and weaknesses, as well as external threats and opportunities for risk management and the university's further development.

In accordance with the EEG visit program, a visual inspection was conducted, which allowed the members of the expert group to gain a general understanding of the organization of the educational, methodological, and research processes, as well as the material and technical infrastructure, and to assess its compliance with standards. In addition, meetings were held with the university administration, vice-rectors, deans of faculties and department heads, faculty members, representatives of academic schools, undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, and employers. The experts inspected the university's structural units, the academic library, sports, recreational, and medical facilities, dining areas, and the student dormitory.

During the external audit, the experts reviewed the university's regulatory documentation to gain a more detailed understanding of document management, educational and methodological, research, and logistical support, the university's website, its navigation and content, as well as the presentation of the university's educational programs on the website's pages and tabs, in the media, and other electronic resources.

The planned activities for the external visit facilitated a more detailed understanding of the university's structure and its operations, and enabled external experts to conduct an independent assessment of the alignment of the data in the self-assessment report on educational programs with the actual state of affairs at the university and the standards of program accreditation.

Key Characteristics of the University

The full name of the educational institution is Baku State University. Year of founding and establishment: 1919.

The mission of Baku State University is to train highly qualified, competitive in the domestic and international labor markets, and imbued with a patriotic spirit, in the fields of science, education, and engineering and technology, based on the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and innovative research skills in the area of multidisciplinary lifelong education and scientific research in accordance with international standards.

The university conducts educational activities at all levels of higher education, as well as pre-university and continuing education.

In the field of scientific activity, Baku State University conducts fundamental, theoretical-methodological, pedagogical-methodological, and applied scientific research, as well as the implementation of research results into practice and the industrial and innovative development of the country.

The highest governing body of the university is the Academic Council.

The academic structure of Baku State University includes 16 faculties that train specialists in 55 fields at the bachelor's level and in 153 fields at the master's level across various scientific disciplines; 4 institutes; a rich scientific library; 21 scientific, methodological, and practical journals published by the university; and a university clinic that serves the faculty, staff, and students of the university.

Baku State University has a well-developed and functional infrastructure that meets modern standards. The University comprises four academic buildings equipped with lecture halls and computer labs featuring state-of-the-art technical equipment. All University buildings are connected to a single corporate computer network, ensuring their integration into a shared information space. The University library, equipped with electronic reading rooms and providing free Internet access, creates the necessary conditions for the effective organization of students' academic and research activities. The educational television studio provides additional opportunities for implementing innovative forms of organizing the educational process.

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CHAPTER 2

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BY THE EXPERT GROUP

Introduction

The Expert Group conducted an external audit of Baku State University on March 12–13, 2026, to assess the compliance of the educational programs 7005005 "Solid-State Electronics" and 7005005 "Radiation Materials Science" with accreditation standards. The external audit found that BSU possesses a well-developed scientific and educational infrastructure, including 16 faculties, 121 departments, 2 research institutes, 5 research centers, and 21 laboratories. The university implements the "education–science–industry" model, involving students in research projects, international academic mobility, and grant-funded research.

Educational programs cover natural sciences, engineering, agricultural and environmental sciences, economics, law, and the humanities, as well as 12 international dual-degree programs with leading foreign universities, including Anhui University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Holon Institute of Technology, Satbayev University, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, University of Business and International Studies, Lumière Lyon 2 University, and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

The university's internal quality assurance system is integrated into strategic management and guided by ESG principles.

The university views scientific research as one of its key areas of activity. The research strategy for 2021–2030 focuses on integrating science, education, and industry, modernizing research infrastructure, and enhancing the university's international competitiveness.

BSU actively participates in international networks and grant-funded projects (Erasmus+ KA2, Jean Monnet, Japan Foundation) aimed at modernizing higher education and developing academic capacity.

The expert group notes a positive trend in students' academic and research achievements. For example, the average GPA of master's students enrolled in the 7005005 educational program—Radiation Materials Science—during the accreditation period was 94–95, and for the 7005005 educational program—Solid-State Electronics—it was 93–97. The university's interaction with employers is viewed positively. The average employment rate for graduates of the 7005005 educational program—Radiation Materials Science—is 87.5%, and for the 7005005 educational program—Solid-State Electronics—it is 66.7%. The university implements social projects aimed at developing civic engagement among students and staff, as well as their participation in social, cultural, and educational activities. The Student Youth Organization, which has been active since 2005, plays an important role in this by coordinating student clubs and supporting student civic engagement.

The university holds strong positions in international rankings: QS World University Rankings—688th in the world and 15th in West Asia; Times Higher Education—category 1501+; Round University Ranking—825th; UI

GreenMetric—493rd; QS Stars — 5 stars; national H-index ranking — 1st place; Webometrics — 2nd place.

Thus, the results of the external audit indicate that Baku State University demonstrates sustainable development, significant achievements in educational and scientific activities, and is strengthening its position in the international academic community.

The preliminary results of the external audit by the expert group were presented to the university administration on March 13, 2026.

Compliance with program accreditation standards

Standard 1. Quality Assurance Policy and Academic Integrity

Evidence and Analysis:

Implementation of the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science at Baku State University is carried out in accordance with the Policy and Standards for Quality Assurance in Education, approved by a decision of the BSU Academic Council (Minutes No. 2 dated February 23, 2021) and available to all participants in the educational process (https://bdu.info.az/storage/files/1/Keyfiyy%C9%99t%20t%C9%99minat%C4%B1%20siyas%C9%99ti.pdf). The quality assurance policy and standards are a key component of management at BSU and are implemented in conjunction with the University's Strategic Development Plan for 2021–2030, the Academic Policy, and the Internal Quality Assurance Standards. Quality assurance policies and standards form a logical and consistent cycle. This cycle is continuously improved and includes the development of a quality assurance culture in all areas of BSU's activities, at all levels of management from the rector's office to the faculties, departments, and students.

Quality assurance at BSU is based on the principles of compliance with legal requirements, standards, and quality assurance guidelines within the European Higher Education Area. The quality policy is implemented with the support of the university administration and takes into account the requirements and expectations of stakeholders, who are actively involved in the processes of ensuring and improving the quality of higher education. The system is designed to ensure equal and fair opportunities for students, the allocation of responsibilities in accordance with quality standards, and the making of management decisions based on data analysis and reporting. The university creates conditions for improving the internal quality assurance system and developing a culture of quality, implements internal and external control mechanisms, and ensures transparency of activities and access by stakeholders to necessary information.

The expert group has determined that the university administration, faculties, faculty members, and students are involved in the quality assurance process.

The main objective of the quality policy is to train highly qualified specialists who meet international standards, based on the integration of education, science, and industry. The university aligns its educational programs with the needs of the labor market and focuses on developing graduates' ability to apply innovative approaches and solve pressing socio-economic challenges, as confirmed during interviews with employers, students, and graduates.

The BSU administration provides structural units and departments with materials, equipment, educational and methodological resources, and scientific literature; improves the material and technical base of educational programs; encourages the activities of academic staff; and contributes to the enhancement of their professional competence.

The internal quality assurance system is implemented through the activities of collegial governing bodies, including the University's Academic Council and the Academic and Methodological Council. The University's Scientific Council is the highest governing body of BSU (https://bdu.info.az/en/university/scientific-council). The procedure for establishing, the powers, and the functioning of the Scientific Council are defined by relevant regulations approved by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Charter of Baku State University. The Scientific Council hears reports from vice-rectors, deans of faculties, and heads of other structural units, discusses the results of external audits, as well as the results of students' midterm and final evaluations (https://bdu.info.az/en/university/activities-of-the-scientific-council1). The University's Scientific and Methodological Council operates in accordance with the Regulations on the Organization of Scientific Research and Scientific and Methodological Work in Higher Education Institutions, approved by Resolution No. KK-12 of the Board of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 3, 2024. (https://e-qanun.az/framework/57983). The Council's activities are aimed at improving the educational process, enhancing the pedagogical competence of faculty members, developing teaching and methodological support, and introducing modern teaching methods.

The Quality Assurance Center, established by a decision of the Scientific Council on July 11, 2023, and functioning as a structural unit, is responsible for planning, monitoring, analyzing, and developing the internal education quality assurance system at BSU. The Center's activities are aimed at implementing quality policies, fostering a culture of quality, and coordinating processes for the continuous improvement of the university's educational and research activities. The Center monitors the activities of structural units and the implementation of educational programs, conducts satisfaction surveys of stakeholders (students, faculty, and alumni), analyzes the results, and develops recommendations for improving the quality of education. In addition, the Center coordinates institutional and program accreditation processes, conducts self-assessments, analyzes the university's

position in international rankings, and monitors the implementation of recommendations from accreditation agencies.

The university places great emphasis on upholding the principles of academic integrity and ethical standards. The Ethics Committee plays a key role in this process by promoting the principles of transparency, accountability, and academic integrity (https://sdg.bsu.edu.az/ethics-committee). The Committee monitors compliance with ethical codes, reviews inquiries and complaints from students and staff, and takes measures to prevent violations of academic ethics. An open and transparent system is in place for submitting inquiries, allowing students and staff to file complaints through the university's online resources, appeal to the rector via email (https://bdu.info.az/elaqe), or contact the dean of the faculty via email (fizika@bsu.edu.az).

To prevent academic fraud, the university operates an Anti-Plagiarism Commission. Since 2017, BSU has used the StrikePlagiarism system to check academic and educational works for plagiarism; starting in 2024, the system will also be used to detect the use of artificial intelligence in the preparation of academic texts. All research and teaching materials produced by faculty members, doctoral candidates, master's students, and undergraduates undergo mandatory originality checks. Conference proceedings, journal articles, and dissertation research are also subject to these checks.

Written works are checked according to established originality criteria. For example, for master's theses, the permissible level of borrowing is no more than 10%, and the use of artificial intelligence is no more than 20%. Works that do not meet the established requirements are returned for revision or are not admitted for defense. Between 2017 and 2024, the Anti-Plagiarism Commission reviewed 12,884 academic works. During the 2024–2025 academic year, 45 textbooks and monographs, 22 doctoral dissertations, 135 master's theses, 956 master's dissertations, and 987 undergraduate theses were reviewed.

Under the 7005005 educational program—Solid-State Electronics—the Anti-Plagiarism Commission reviewed and approved eight master's theses for final defense, 1 textbook, and 1 monograph (e.g., the analysis report on similarity conducted by the Anti-Plagiarism Commission No. 120/2021 dated November 10, 2021). For the educational program 7005005 – Radiation Materials Science in 2023–2025 The Anti-Plagiarism Commission reviewed six master's theses, which were admitted to defense following the review (e.g., the protocol of the similarity analysis report conducted by the Anti-Plagiarism Commission No. 455/2023 dated April 4, 2023). In some cases, the theses were returned to the authors for revision; however, no cases of rejection during the final defense were recorded during the period under review.

The expert group also notes that the university adheres to the principles of transparency and accuracy of information. Materials posted on the official website, in promotional and informational publications, as well as in materials for prospective

students, are based on factual data and reflect the actual state of educational activities.

An important element of the quality assurance policy is the implementation of the university's anti-corruption policy. In accordance with the decision of the BSU Academic Council, adopted at its meeting on April 13, 2023, Order No. R-47 of May 2, 2023, approved the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2023–2026, aimed at preventing corruption risks, promoting transparency in governance, and strengthening trust between the administration, faculty, and students. As part of the anti-corruption policy, preventive measures are implemented, leadership is made accessible to students and staff, and educational initiatives aimed at fostering an anti-corruption culture are carried out. For example, the Main Anti-Corruption Directorate under the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan organized an Open House for BSU students. During the event, students were provided with detailed information about the department's structure, distribution of responsibilities, and cooperation with investigative agencies (http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bdu_tlblri_n_korrupsiyaya_qar_mbariz_ba_darsind_aq_qap_gn).

In addition, the university actively informs stakeholders about the results of its internal quality assurance system through its official website, informational materials, and academic events. Regular monitoring and analysis of educational outcomes enable the university to improve its quality assurance mechanisms and adapt its educational programs to the changing demands of the labor market and the academic environment.

Overall, the expert group notes that Baku State University has established and operates an internal quality assurance system for education based on the principles of transparency, academic integrity, and institutional accountability, which contributes to the sustainable development of educational programs and the improvement of the quality of professional training. At the same time, despite the university's quality assurance policy and specific mechanisms for engaging with stakeholders, the materials presented reflect more of an informational approach than the systematic involvement of students, graduates, and employers in the processes of its development, implementation, and updating. In particular, the frequency and forms of stakeholder participation, as well as the mechanisms for taking their opinions into account when improving the quality policy and promoting the principles of academic integrity, are not sufficiently described.

Best practices:

The university has established and effectively operates a comprehensive system for ensuring academic integrity, which includes the activities of the Ethics Committee and the Anti-Plagiarism Commission, as well as the use of the specialized StrikePlagiarism system to check research and academic papers. The practice of multi-level verification of written work by students and staff, including the detection of plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence, contributes to maintaining high standards of academic integrity and fostering a culture of quality.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to improve mechanisms for regularly involving stakeholders in the improvement of quality assurance policies for educational programs and to take their suggestions into account when making management decisions.

Level of compliance with Standard 1 – full compliance.

Standard 2. Curriculum Development, Approval, and Information Management

Evidence and Analysis:

At Baku State University, the educational programs 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science have been developed in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Education," the regulatory documents of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Standard and Higher Education Program , approved by resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the mission and the University's Strategic Development Plan for 2021–2030 (https://bdu.info.az/storage/files/1/Strateji%20I%CC%87nkis%CC%A7af%20Plan%C4%B1%202021-2030%20(1).pdf), the institutional Policy and Standards for Ensuring the Quality of Education, the priorities of the national labor market, and the requirements of the Azerbaijan National Qualifications Framework (AzNQF) (https://e-qanun.az/framework/39622).

The objectives and content of the programs 7005005 Radiation Materials Science and 7005005 Solid-State Electronics align with the university's strategic priorities and the quality assurance standards and guidelines of the European Higher Education Area (ESG). The 7005005 Radiation Materials Science program is designed to develop students' competencies, including theoretical knowledge of the structure and properties of materials interacting with radiation, practical skills in analysis and laboratory research, the ability to conduct independent scientific research, critical thinking, and the application of innovative technologies. The educational program 7005005 Solid-State Electronics is designed to train highly

qualified specialists with scientific knowledge, modern technological skills, and innovative thinking, taking into account the country's current and future needs in the fields of electronics, nanotechnology, and semiconductor devices.

The development of educational programs is a multi-stage process carried out in accordance with regulatory documents, state standards, and methodological guidelines of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as with the participation of faculty members, employer representatives, and other stakeholders. The working group being established develops the program content, learning objectives, course modules, and assessment criteria, including practical and research components, after which the program is submitted for approval to the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The total program load is 120 credits, distributed among courses designated by the Ministry of Science and Education (18 credits), required and elective courses (72 credits), an internship (12 credits, including 6 credits allocated to teaching practice and 6 credits to research practice), and the preparation of a master's thesis (18 credits). The program content includes learning outcomes that reflect students' knowledge, skills, and competencies. In 2025, the program content was updated by an average of 30%.

Required and elective courses help students develop academic and professional competencies as well as research skills. The curriculum includes courses recommended by employers and national experts, such as those under Educational Program 7005005 Radiation Materials Science—Radiation Protection of Humans and the Environment, Measurement Methods and Instruments for Nuclear Materials, and others; under OP 7005005 Solid-State Electronics—Theoretical Foundations of Microelectronics, Integrated Circuits, Contact and Surface Phenomena in Solid-State Devices, Fundamentals of Radio Electronics, Fundamentals of Circuit Design, and others, as confirmed by the minutes of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Physics No. 4 dated July 11, 2025. This approach to curriculum development ensures that the content of the educational program, learning outcomes, and academic requirements comply with national regulations and institutional quality assurance procedures, as well as the actual needs of the industry.

The total course load for master's students per academic year is equivalent to 60 credits. The duration of study during the academic year consists of 45 weeks of theoretical instruction, 8 weeks of research and teaching internships, 5 weeks of exam sessions, 12 weeks for thesis preparation and defense, and 14 weeks of vacation. The structure of modules and credits in the educational program corresponds to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), and learning outcomes are linked to the Dublin Descriptors, ensuring the compatibility of accredited educational programs with international standards. After developing and approving the educational program, the university creates a matrix linking the program and its educational activities to the expected learning outcomes.

Course syllabi and corresponding curricula are developed based on the educational program and approved at the faculty level (e.g., Minutes No. 8 of October 1, 2021, of the Academic Council of the Faculty of Physics). A course syllabus is an instructional document that establishes the structure, sequence of competency development, and fundamental principles of instruction. Based on this, the discipline's curriculum is developed, which defines learning objectives, teaching methods, and assessment criteria. It also serves as a guide for instructors and students, ensuring transparency and effective planning of the educational process. The curriculum includes learning outcomes, course content, teaching methods, the assessment system, and a reading list.

Feedback provided to the expert commission by representatives of companies operating in the fields of instrument engineering, microelectronics, and semiconductor manufacturing points to the need to structure the program in a more applied manner, improve practical skills, and strengthen students' readiness to work in real-world production environments. During interviews, employers emphasized the need to strengthen practice-oriented training for master's students, expand the STEM component in educational programs, develop pedagogical competencies—including knowledge of teaching methodologies—and improve experimental skills. At the same time, despite the involvement of employers and other stakeholders in the development of educational programs and the consideration of their recommendations when including specific disciplines, an analysis of the submitted materials and the results of interviews with employers, students, and graduates showed that this work is predominantly fragmented in nature and does not fully reflect systematic interaction. In particular, the regularity of stakeholder involvement, the mechanisms for recording and analyzing their proposals, and their subsequent integration into the structure and content of educational programs are not sufficiently addressed.

During the review of the submitted documentation and interviews with various target groups, the expert group determined that both accredited educational programs provide a balance of theoretical and practical training for master's students. For example, within the framework of educational program 7005005 Radiation Materials Science, courses are offered related to the effects of radiation on materials and radiation protection. The 7005005 Solid-State Electronics program covers semiconductor physics, material properties, and the development of practical skills in working with electronic devices and modeling.

The integration of education, science, and innovation is reflected in the high academic performance of master's students: for the 7005005 program "Radiation Materials Science," performance scores ranged from 90 to 95 points between 2021 and 2025; for the 7005005 "Solid-State Electronics," they range from 93 to 97 points.

Textbooks and study guides are regularly published for the accredited educational programs, and digital educational resources are being developed. For

example, for OP 7005005 Radiation Materials Science, a number of specialized study guides have been developed and published, reflecting modern achievements in the field of nuclear physics and materials science: A.A. Garibov, Practical Physics of Neutrons and Nuclear Reactors, Baku, “Viaz,” 2022, 680 pages; E.M. Huseynov, Interaction of Nanoparticles with Neutrons, Baku, “Viaz,” 2023, 440 pages; A.A. Garibov, Power Nuclear Reactors, Baku, “Viaz,” 2024, 220 pages, S. Abdulvahabova, Physics of Nuclear and Elementary Particles, BSU, Baku, 406 pages, 2023. Teaching materials contribute to the formation of theoretical knowledge, the development of analytical thinking, and practical skills among master’s students.

The educational process is supported by both traditional and digital resources, including those of the Scientific Library, electronic databases, and international scientific platforms (Scopus, Web of Science), which ensures access to up-to-date scientific information. Overall, the resource support for accredited educational programs allows for the effective achievement of the stated learning outcomes and prepares master’s students for scientific and professional activities.

In accordance with the Regulations on Practical Training for Students in Higher and Secondary Specialized Educational Institutions , approved by Resolution No. 221 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 19, 2008, and the Charter on the Implementation of Practical Training for Students in Higher (and Secondary Specialized) Educational Institutions, practical training is organized as an integral part of master’s degree programs. Practical training in the form of internships is conducted at training sites belonging to both the university itself and other enterprises or organizations, as confirmed by Order No. 3-29-45/3-17-209/2025 of March 5, 2025, on the completion of internships. The organization of practical training is carried out with the support of the Internship Coordination Unit of the BSU Department of Academic Affairs, the Faculty of Physics, and the relevant departments. Only master’s students who have successfully completed all theoretical courses are eligible for teaching internships. The teaching internship is usually conducted at the university where the master’s student is enrolled. The research internship is aimed at collecting and applying research results as part of the preparation for the master’s thesis prior to its defense. Master’s students are given the opportunity to conduct experimental work and research in relevant scientific laboratories and partner research institutes, such as the Institute of Radiation Problems of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, with which a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. This gives master’s students access to specialized equipment and research facilities necessary for studying the effects of radiation on materials and other related experimental processes.

The Study and Research Management System (SEMS) is a vital tool for enhancing the effectiveness of the educational process, providing students with round-the-clock access to course materials, assignments, and assessment results. The digital environment facilitates flexible interaction between faculty and students, increasing transparency and the timeliness of feedback.

The educational process is supported by a well-developed ICT infrastructure, including Wi-Fi, computer labs, and online platforms. Master's students in accredited programs reinforce their theoretical knowledge in state-of-the-art laboratories and participate in research activities. The laboratory facilities are equipped with the necessary equipment and are regularly updated, ensuring high-quality practical training.

To improve and develop educational programs and gather feedback, the university conducts a systematic analysis based on student satisfaction surveys, academic performance data, employer feedback, and graduate employment outcomes. Survey results are reviewed at department meetings and by the Faculty's Academic Council. For example, on October 16, 2025, during the fall semester, an anonymous survey on satisfaction with the quality of education was conducted among master's students in accredited educational programs, covering course content, workload, assessment methods, teaching, and practical training. The results showed a high level of satisfaction among master's students: academic support, faculty qualifications, and program structure were rated particularly positively (up to 100% agreement). Based on the survey data, necessary changes are made to the teaching materials, pedagogical approach, and program structure. Based on the survey results, the expert group notes that, overall, the educational programs 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science demonstrate a strong academic foundation, while there remains potential for further development of research activity and expansion of opportunities for professional collaboration.

Overall, the educational programs 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science demonstrate a systematic and regulated approach to development, implementation, and updating that complies with national and international quality standards. Practical training, interaction with employers, and the use of digital tools contribute to the development of research and professional competencies among master's students. At the same time, an analysis of the submitted materials and the results of interviews with employers, students, and graduates showed that stakeholder participation in the development and updating of educational programs is not sufficiently systematic, and the mechanisms for considering and integrating their proposals require further formalization. Furthermore, feedback from employers points to the need to strengthen practice-oriented training, develop experimental skills, and expand the STEM component, indicating that there is potential for further improvement of the content of educational programs.

Comments:

1) Although employers and other stakeholders have been involved in the development of educational programs, their participation remains largely piecemeal;

mechanisms for regular interaction, recording, and analysis of proposals, as well as their systematic integration into the content of educational programs, have not been sufficiently established.

2) The presented materials and interview results indicate the need to further strengthen the practice-oriented focus of the programs, including the development of experimental skills, the expansion of the STEM component, and the enhancement of master's students' readiness for professional work in real-world industrial settings.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to formalize and systematize mechanisms for stakeholder participation in the development and updating of educational programs, including the regularity of interaction, the documentation of proposals, and their consideration when adjusting the content of the educational program.

2) It is recommended to strengthen the practice-oriented component of the programs by expanding laboratory and research training, introducing additional practical modules, and fostering closer integration with industry organizations.

3) It is recommended to expand the content of educational programs by strengthening the STEM component and developing the pedagogical and methodological competencies of master's students.

Level of compliance with Standard 2: significant compliance

Standard 3. Student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment

Evidence and Analysis:

At Baku State University, students enrolled in the 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science programs are regarded as key participants in the educational process and are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of academic activities. The organization of instruction is based on the principles of a student-centered approach, which takes into account students' educational needs, their active participation in the academic environment, and the creation of conditions for the development of research and professional competencies.

This approach is implemented in accordance with international and national regulatory documents, including the principles of the Bologna Process, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), and the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Education." The Rules for Organizing Credit-Based Education in Higher Education Institutions , approved by Resolution No. 348 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 24, 2013, provide for mechanisms to implement student-centered

learning and flexibility in educational pathways. In accordance with the Regulations on the Scientific Council of a State Higher Education Institution (https://e-qanun.az/framework/59258), students are elected to the University's Academic Council (https://bdu.info.az/en/scientific-council/composition-of-the-academic-council-of-bsu).

In accredited educational programs, master's students are not only recipients of knowledge but also active participants in the educational process. Their opinions are taken into account through surveys, focus groups, student council activities, and other feedback mechanisms. To improve the quality of teaching, an anonymous student survey is conducted at the end of each semester, covering the evaluation of course content, teaching methods, the effectiveness of practical sessions, and the level of academic workload (for example, on October 16, 2025, a survey of master's students in accredited educational programs was conducted regarding their satisfaction with the quality of education). Survey results are analyzed at department and faculty meetings and used to improve course content, teaching methods, and assessment methods. For example, the results of the student survey were reviewed at a meeting of the Academic Council (Minutes No. 6 dated October 29, 2025). Among the main problems noted by master's students was the irregular activity of academic advisors for master's theses. The survey also showed that practical skills do not fully correspond to the real labor market.

The university's educational process is focused on fostering students' independence and developing their research skills. The curriculum makes extensive use of laboratory sessions, research projects, practical assignments, and group projects. For example, in the course "Materials Science" (Program Code 7005005) - Solid-State Electronics (instructor Abdinov A., Ph.D. in Physics and Mathematics, Professor), group project work is employed in thematic areas such as Conductive and Magnetic Materials, Semiconductors, Dielectrics, and Nanomaterials. Within the Neutron Physics course (OP 7005005) – Radiation Materials Science (instructor A. Garibov, Ph.D. in Chemistry, Professor) – practical and laboratory sessions are conducted. Observations of classes by members of the expert group revealed that the instructor serves not only as a source of knowledge but also as a mentor and advisor who guides master's students in mastering the course material and completing research tasks. At the same time, in the syllabi of individual disciplines, the description of teaching and learning methods is formal in nature, limited to indicating the type of class or a repetitive list of traditional methods for each topic.

The curricula of the educational programs offer sufficient flexibility and allow students to choose courses in line with their academic interests. The courses contribute to the development of both theoretical knowledge and research skills. For example, in the 2025–2026 academic year, the educational program 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science included such courses as Fundamentals of Protection, Control, and Accounting of Nuclear Materials, Computer Modeling of Reactor Parameters, and others; the 7005005 program—Solid-State Electronics—includes

courses such as Research Analytics, Fundamentals of Nanomaterials and Nanoelectronics, Plasma Technologies in Mass-Production Electronics, and others. The interdisciplinary integration of academic disciplines contributes to the development of comprehensive knowledge in the fields of radiation materials science, nanotechnology, nuclear physics, and applied engineering sciences.

In accordance with the requirements of the credit system, an individual study plan is developed annually for each master's student, based on the program's curriculum and in consultation with the academic advisor (for example, the individual study plan of Naziyova Lale Agagul, a student in Program 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science, 2021-2022 academic year). Master's students have the opportunity to choose courses and instructors, as well as adjust their study plan before the start of the academic year. This approach allows for the consideration of students' individual academic interests and contributes to a more effective organization of the educational process.

The course registration process is organized in a transparent and accessible manner. Information regarding registration rules and deadlines is posted on the faculty's online resources and communicated to students through the Dean's Office. Digital technologies are actively used in the educational process: course materials and assignments are posted in the SEMS electronic system, and simulation software and virtual laboratories are utilized.

Academic support mechanisms are in place for master's students who are struggling with the curriculum. In particular, students can take a summer semester to make up for academic deficiencies, fulfill prerequisites for courses, or improve previously earned grades. This is confirmed by orders regarding the organization of the summer semester at the master's level (for example, Order No. 3-29-45/3-11-820/2024 dated July 30, 2024, on the organization of the summer semester at the master's level for the 2023–2024 academic year). Academic support programs are implemented at the university in accordance with students' individual needs and ensure their successful integration into the educational process. For master's students, faculty consultations are held and support is provided by academic advisors, as confirmed during interviews.

Assessment of learning outcomes is based on the principles of transparency, objectivity, and fairness. The assessment process employs various forms of evaluation, including written exams, oral exams, presentations, project-based assignments, and practical tasks. Assessment criteria are communicated to master's students at the beginning of the course and are outlined in the course syllabi. Assessment of learning outcomes at the master's level is based on a comprehensive approach and includes the results of colloquia, independent assignments, work in seminars and laboratory sessions, as well as final exams. Colloquia and independent assignments are graded on a 10-point scale.

Final exams are typically administered in written form and include tasks designed to assess both the theoretical knowledge and professional competencies of

master's students. The assessment process involves at least two instructors, which helps to increase objectivity and reduce subjectivity in grading. On the exam, master's students can earn a maximum of 50 points, which are then added to the points earned during the semester to form a final grade on a 100-point scale. Information on grading is included in the course syllabi. Assessment criteria are determined in accordance with the State Standard and the higher education program approved by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan (https://e-qanun.az/framework/19531). A master's student who misses an exam for a valid reason is given the opportunity to retake it before the start of the next semester.

The university has an official procedure for reviewing student appeals and complaints. To ensure the transparency of the examination process, the Examination Center and the Appeals Commission are in operation; they review student inquiries regarding the conduct of exams and assessment results (e.g., Order No. 3-29-45/3-1R-66/2025 dated May 27, 2025). Master's students have the right to file an appeal within two days of the announcement of exam results. The hotline and email (imtahanqarargahi@bsu.edu.az) may be used to contact the commission.

Baku State University implements academic mobility programs in accordance with the Regulations on the Organization of Credit-Based Education at the Bachelor's and Master's Levels in Higher Education Institutions and in Basic (Pre-University) Medical Education, approved by Resolution No. 348 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 24, 2013. Master's students have the opportunity to study at partner universities abroad and take individual courses with subsequent recognition of credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Decisions on credit recognition are made by a special commission, taking into account the course content, learning outcomes, and the number of credits. For example, Order No. R-43 of May 31, 2023 established commissions for the recognition of credits earned by undergraduate and master's students who studied at higher education institutions in the Republic and abroad under agreements or international exchange programs for courses they completed during their studies, the recognition of credits previously earned in professional training courses for undergraduate and master's students who were unable to earn the required number of credits within the timeframe established by the BSU educational program, based on an academic transcript. At the same time, neither the documentation nor interviews with master's students confirmed the participation of students in accredited educational programs in external academic mobility programs. During the interviews, master's students expressed a desire for expanded opportunities to participate in external academic mobility programs.

Overall, the expert commission notes that the organization of instruction in the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science is based on the principles of a student-centered approach, ensuring the active participation of master's students in the educational

process, flexibility in academic pathways, transparency in assessment procedures, and continuous improvement in the quality of education.

Comments:

1) Despite the active involvement of master's students in the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science in the educational process, their participation in external academic mobility programs has not been confirmed in documentation or during interviews, which limits opportunities to expand international experience and exchange knowledge.

2) In the syllabi of certain courses, the description of teaching and learning methods is formal in nature, limited to specifying the type of class or a repetitive list of traditional methods, which may reduce the clarity and diversity of the educational process.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to expand opportunities for master's students in the 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science programs to participate in external academic mobility and exchange programs with foreign universities, and to document their participation.

2) It is recommended to update the course syllabi by including a more detailed and diverse description of teaching and learning methods that reflects the practical orientation and interdisciplinary approaches.

Level of compliance with Standard 3 – significant compliance**.**

Standard 4. Student Admission, Academic Performance, Recognition, and Certification

Evidence and Analysis Based on Criteria:

At Baku State University, the processes of admission, academic performance, recognition of learning outcomes, and certification of graduates are carried out in accordance with the current legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and are regulated by internal regulatory documents, ensuring transparency, objectivity, and compliance with international standards.

Admission to master's degree programs is carried out in accordance with Resolution No. 40 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 8, 2017, and is administered centrally through the State Examination Center. Clear and accessible selection criteria have been established, including requirements for undergraduate education (a bachelor's degree in physics, materials science, engineering, or physics education). During the master's admission process,

candidates' logical thinking, foreign language proficiency, and computer science knowledge are assessed. Information on admission rules, program content, and career opportunities is published in open sources (the university's official website, the specialized journal "Magistr," digital platforms, and social media), which confirms the transparency and accessibility of the procedures. Each year, the university coordinates the admission plan for its programs with the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

An analysis of the student body shows stability in enrollment for accredited educational programs. For example, for educational program 7005005—Solid-State Electronics—17 master's students have been admitted over the past five years, with 100% of planned seats filled; for educational program 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science, 10 master's students have been admitted over the past five years, with 100% of planned enrollment slots filled for the 2025–2026 academic year. The data presented indicates the program's popularity and the effectiveness of the university's career guidance and marketing policies.

The internationalization policy is implemented through a systematic admission process for foreign students, governed by the Regulations on the Education of Citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan Abroad, Foreigners and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Azerbaijan, approved by Resolution No. 125 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 1, 2015, as well as international regulations agreed upon by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and supported by the digital platform portal.edu.az. The implementation of a centralized electronic application system ensures transparency of procedures, standardization of requirements, and increased accessibility to education. An additional tool for attracting international students is the national project "Study in Azerbaijan" (https://studyinazerbaijan.edu.az/), aimed at promoting the country's educational opportunities internationally. Foreign citizens also have the opportunity to enroll at Baku State University through intergovernmental scholarship programs, international exchanges, and exams organized by the General Commission on Education (SEC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (https://dim.gov.az/az/fealiyyet/qebul-ve-imtahanlar/magistratura), as well as through transfer from higher education institutions within the country and abroad. Detailed information on the admission process for foreign citizens is available on the university's official website (https://bdu.info.az/qebul-prosesi). Information about the university for international students is also published on the "Study in Azerbaijan" portal (https://studyinazerbaijan.edu.az/ru?activeTab=2).

To ensure students' successful adaptation, a range of activities is implemented, including orientation meetings, mentoring, counseling sessions with academic advisors, and psychological counseling services (https://physics.bdu.info.az/xeberler/bdu-nun-fizika-fakultesinin-i-kurs-telebeleri-ile-gorus, http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bdunun_psixoloji_yardm_sektoru_i_kurs_tlblri_n_tlimlr

_keirib). These mechanisms facilitate the rapid integration of students into the academic environment and align with the principles of student-centered learning.

Academic performance at BSU is monitored on a systematic basis using the university's electronic information system. This system records students' individual academic trajectories, accumulated credits, results of midterm and final assessments, and GPA scores. Academic advisors regularly monitor the progress of master's students, providing timely feedback. Corrective support measures are in place for students with low academic performance, which helps improve the quality of education and reduce academic risks.

Analysis of learning outcomes demonstrates consistently high performance: over the past five years, the academic performance of master's students in programs 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science and 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics has reached 100% in individual semesters, indicating a sufficient level of academic preparation and the effectiveness of the educational programs.

The university operates a comprehensive student support system that includes social, psychological, and academic assistance. The psychological service organizes training sessions on adaptation, stress management, and motivation development; mentoring programs and additional educational activities are implemented for students with high academic potential. Student involvement in research activities is also ensured, which contributes to the deepening of professional competencies.

Procedures for transfer, reinstatement, and granting of academic leave are regulated by the Rules for changing higher education institutions, majors, or forms of study; expulsion from or reinstatement to a higher education institution; and temporary suspension of studies (granting of academic leave) for undergraduate (including basic medical education) and graduate students," approved by Resolution No. KK-02 of February 21, 2024, of the Council of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and are implemented in digital format through the centralized portal.edu.az system. The electronic format for submitting and processing applications increases the transparency and efficiency of administrative processes and ensures a unified approach to managing student academic mobility.

The recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes obtained abroad is carried out by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (AQAE) in accordance with the Rules for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications from Foreign Countries, approved by Decree No. 2306 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated August 18, 2023. Recognition procedures are based on the principles of the Lisbon Convention and include an assessment of the authenticity of documents, the content of the educational program, learning outcomes, and the number of credits. The possibility of full or conditional recognition of qualifications ensures flexibility in educational pathways and promotes the development of academic mobility.

The final assessment of master's students takes the form of a master's thesis defense before a specialized committee, in accordance with the Regulations on the Content, Organization of Master's Education, and Awarding of Master's Degrees, approved by Resolution No. 88 of May 12, 2010, of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. All master's students are provided with academic supervision, while adhering to the requirements for the qualifications of academic advisors and workload limits (no more than 5 master's students per advisor). This ensures the quality of academic support and the individualization of the educational process. The appointment of an academic advisor is carried out by order of the rector in accordance with the Rules for the Content, Organization of Master's Education, and Awarding of Master's Degrees, approved by Resolution No. 88 of May 12, 2010, of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Master's thesis topics and academic advisors are approved by the university rector (e.g., Order No. 3-29-45/3-1T-1401/2024 of December 12, 2024, on the Approval of Master's Thesis Topics and Academic Advisors).

Graduates are awarded the degree of "Master" and receive a state diploma with an appendix containing detailed information on academic performance, courses completed, credits, and academic mobility. Master's diplomas are issued in accordance with the Regulations on the Forms of State Documents on Higher Education at the Bachelor's and Master's Levels and Their Issuance, approved by Resolution No. 82 of April 29, 2010, of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The diploma supplement complies with European requirements (Diploma Supplement), which facilitates the international recognition of qualifications and enhances graduates' competitiveness in the labor market.

Post-graduation support is implemented through interaction with graduates and employers, including conducting surveys, joint events, and adjusting educational programs to meet labor market demands. The data obtained is used to update course content, introduce new modules, and improve teaching methods, ensuring a continuous improvement in the quality of specialist training.

Thus, BSU has established a comprehensive and effectively functioning system for managing the student lifecycle—from admission to employment—based on the principles of transparency, digitalization, academic mobility, and continuous improvement of educational quality.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to expand the use of accumulated statistical data (GPA, final exam results, graduate employment) for systematic analysis and decision-making regarding the improvement of educational programs.

2) It is recommended to formalize and strengthen engagement with graduates, including regular monitoring of career trajectories, to improve the quality of feedback and better address labor market demands.

Level of compliance with Standard 4: full compliance.

Standard 5. Faculty

Evidence and Analysis:

The external audit found that the university's faculty plays a key role in ensuring the quality of the educational process and fostering a research environment. The university implements a systematic approach to human resources management, ensuring transparent selection procedures, compliance with qualification requirements, and favorable conditions for faculty professional growth.

The university's personnel policy is based on the principles of objectivity, transparency, and compliance with current legislation. Procedures for hiring, promotion, and the assignment of duties are regulated by normative documents, including Regulations on the Procedure for Filling Positions of Professors, teaching staff, and department heads in higher education institutions (approved by Order No. 401 of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated August 7, 1996). Positions are generally filled on a competitive basis for a term of five years, which ensures a competitive environment and attracts the most qualified specialists. Competitions are announced publicly; information about vacancies is published in the media and on the university's official website (https://muall_im.edu.az/baki-dovlet-universiteti-vakansiya-elan-edir, http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bdunun_kafedralarnda_bo_olan_vziflri_tutmaq_n_msabiq_elan_edilir). The application period is 30 days. Candidates submit a package of documents (resume, diplomas, list of publications). Candidates' documents undergo a multi-stage review—at the department and Faculty Scientific Council levels—ensuring a comprehensive and objective evaluation. Candidates are evaluated based on their research activities, teaching competencies, work experience, and publication record. The results of the selection committee's work are published and communicated to interested parties.

The qualification requirements for faculty members are strictly differentiated by position and fully comply with national standards. Thus, individuals with a Doctor of Science degree are eligible for the position of professor; candidates with a Candidate of Science or Doctor of Science degree are eligible for the position of associate professor; and requirements regarding work experience and the presence of scientific and methodological publications are established for senior lecturers and lecturers. Faculty members involved in the implementation of the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science possess the necessary academic degrees and titles, as well as specialized training. For example, the courses "Neutron Physics," "Radiation Effects in Solid Materials," "Nuclear Reactor Materials," and "Fundamentals of Nanotechnology

and Nanoelectronics" are taught by specialists in the fields of radiation physics, materials science, and solid-state electronics; the instructors have experience working at relevant scientific institutions, including the Institute of Radiation Problems. Thus, their scientific specialization corresponds to the disciplines they teach, as evidenced by the course content, scientific publications, and work experience at relevant research institutions. Engaging specialists with practical experience, including those from leading scientific organizations, facilitates the integration of theoretical knowledge with practice.

An analysis of the faculty composition over the past five years shows that it has remained relatively stable. For example, the total number of faculty members for the 7005005 educational program—Solid-State Electronics—was 17 in the 2020–2021 academic year, 16 in the 2021–2022 academic year, 15 in the 2022–2023 academic year, 15 in the 2023–2024 academic year, and 17 in the 2024–2025 academic year; the number of professors increased from 3 to 4 for educational program 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science: the total number of faculty members was 17 in the 2020-2021 academic year, 18 in the 2021-2022 academic year, 17 in the 2022-2023 academic year, 22 in the 2023–2024 academic year, and 17 in the 2024–2025 academic year; the number of professors increased from 3 to 4. The observed trend indicates the stability of the faculty's potential; however, it requires constant monitoring to ensure an optimal balance between positions and faculty succession.

The organization of faculty members' work is based on individual work plans, which are developed annually in accordance with the Regulations on the Organization of Research and Methodological Activities in Higher Education Institutions, approved by Resolution No. KK-12 of the Board of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 3, 2024, and are approved by the faculty administration. Faculty members' individual work plans cover teaching, research, methodological, and organizational activities. The implementation of individual plans is monitored throughout the academic year and concludes with the preparation of reports, which ensures the systematic nature and accountability of faculty members' work and promotes the effective allocation of time and resources. During their visit to BSU, members of the expert commission reviewed the reports on the implementation of the individual plans of Abdinov A.Sh., Agayev M.N., Ragimova N.A., and Amirova S.A.

The teaching load of faculty members is regulated based on national standards. According to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 24, 2010, the teaching load is 500 hours per year for full-time faculty and 250 hours for part-time faculty, with at least 60% consisting of classroom instruction, which ensures active interaction between faculty and students. The distribution of the teaching load is carried out taking into account the qualifications of the faculty, their research interests, and the specifics of the

educational program, which contributes to the effective use of human resources and maintains a balance between teaching and research activities.

An important element of the quality assurance system is the involvement of faculty members in the development and improvement of educational programs. Faculty members are actively involved in the development of curricula, the definition of educational objectives and learning outcomes, as well as the implementation of a modular approach to program design. The results of faculty members' scientific research are integrated into the educational process, ensuring the relevance of the curriculum and its practical orientation. For example, the curriculum for educational program 7005005—Radiation Materials Science—includes research components ("Research Project" and "Methods of Scientific Analysis"). The scientific research of Professor Ahmad Abdinov Shahvalad (Program 7005005 – Solid-State Electronics) is devoted to the study of the electrical, optical, and thermal properties of semiconductor materials, which is directly related to the content of the "Materials Science" course; Professor Huseyn Mammadov Mikayil's research focuses on the chemical synthesis of thin films and the study of their electrical properties, which constitutes the main part of the course "Physical Fundamentals of Nanotechnology and Nanoelectronics." Issues regarding the integration of research results are regularly discussed at meetings of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Physics (e.g., Minutes No. 4 dated June 11, 2025). Master's students are involved in research activities through participation in seminars, conferences, and the completion of research projects.

The system for evaluating faculty performance is comprehensive and includes an analysis of teaching, research, methodological, and organizational activities. Various evaluation tools are used, including open classes, peer observations, analysis of annual reports, and the fulfillment of individual plans. Open classes allow for the evaluation of pedagogical approaches, the level of methodological preparation, and the degree of student engagement. Based on the evaluation results, faculty members receive feedback and recommendations for improving their teaching practices. The results of open classes and peer visits are reviewed at department meetings (for example, the minutes of the meeting of the Department of Structure of Matter No. 4 dated November 7, 2024, where Associate Professor T. Bayramova's lecture on "The Theory of the Universe's Nucleus" was discussed).

The university places significant emphasis on developing the professional and pedagogical competencies of its faculty. BSU regularly organizes training sessions, seminars, and professional development events aimed at mastering modern educational technologies and improving digital literacy. For example, a training session on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the teaching and research process (http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bduda_tlim_dayanql_nkiaf_mqsdlrinin_tdris_v_tdqiqat_prosesin_inteqrasiyas). Faculty members also actively participate in seminars organized by the Quality Assurance Center and external events (including those

supported by international publishers such as Elsevier), as well as in scientific conferences and seminars (https://physics.bdu.info.az/ELM%20VE%20%C4%B0NNOVAS%C4%B0YA/seminarlar-1, https://physics.bdu.info.az/xeberler/madde-qurulusu-kafedrasinda-elmi-seminar-kecirilib-1), scientific and international projects (https://bdu.info.az/en/science-and-innovation/scientific-research-projects, https://bdu.info.az/en/collaboration/ international-grant-projects), which contributes to their professional growth and the expansion of their scientific networks. The university hosts the International Conference "Modern Trends in Physics" (https://physics.bdu.info.az/xeberler/bdu-da-fizikada-muasir-trendler-movzusunda-ix-beynelxalq-elmi-konfrans-kecirilir). The departments of the Faculty of Physics approve plans for scientific seminars on an annual basis.

The academic activities of the faculty are characterized by a high level of publication output. During the period under review, the faculty of the 7005005 program—Radiation Materials Science—published 240 scientific articles, 71 of which appeared in journals with an impact factor. The faculty's publications are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science; with a total of 25,913 citations. Faculty members of the 7005005 program—Solid-State Electronics—published 54 articles during the reporting period, 28 of which appeared in journals ranked in the Q1–Q4 quartiles. During the same period, the number of citations for these publications reached 380. A significant number of citations attests to the demand for and recognition of research results. Faculty members of accredited educational programs also publish their scientific results in journals of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), in scientific publications of BSU, and on other national scientific platforms. Publication activity indicators are recorded in annual reports. The university operates an incentive system, including bonuses for publications in Q1–Q4 quartile journals, and creates conditions for faculty participation in international scientific initiatives.

The educational process employs modern interactive teaching methods focused on the active engagement of master's students. Elements of inquiry-based learning, project-based activities, and digital educational technologies are utilized, as confirmed during classroom observations by an expert group and a visual inspection. Such practices contribute to the development of analytical thinking and research skills among master's students. Surveys of master's students confirm a positive assessment of these approaches.

Working conditions for faculty members are showing positive trends. Over the past five years, there has been a steady increase in salaries across all categories of academic staff, which contributes to higher motivation and greater social security for employees. For example, professors' salaries increased from 1,220 AZN in 2021 to 1,660 AZN in 2025, associate professors' salaries from 1,100 to 1,496 AZN, and lecturers' salaries from 760 to 1,066 AZN. The university has implemented mechanisms to monitor work discipline (Decision No. KK-07 of May 15, 2024). In addition, the university fosters a supportive work environment by providing access to academic resources, including journals from Cambridge University Press,

opportunities to participate in grant projects, and support for publication activities. Under an agreement between the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Cambridge University Press, all researchers working in the country will be able to publish their articles free of charge in 422 high-impact hybrid and "gold" open-access journals published by Cambridge University Press.

An additional factor in improving the quality of education is the recruitment of foreign faculty and experts. The university hosts international scientific seminars featuring scholars from the United States, Pakistan, and Moldova (for example, https://physics.bdu.info.az/xeberler/moldovali-alim-bdu-nun-fizika-fakultesinde-elmi-seminar-kecirib, https://physics.bdu.info.az/ xeberler/pakistanin-lahor-universitetinin-professoru-bdu-da-elmi-seminar-kecirib), and master classes and conferences are organized with the participation of faculty members, master's students, and doctoral candidates. Holding international seminars and master classes allows for the integration of advanced international experience into the educational process and contributes to the internationalization of education.

Thus, the university as a whole ensures a high level of compliance with Standard 5. The evidence presented confirms the existence of a transparent personnel policy, a high level of faculty qualifications, a well-developed system of assessment and professional development, as well as the active integration of research activities into the educational process. The approaches implemented contribute to the sustainable assurance of educational quality and the development of the academic environment.

Best practice:

The university has implemented a transparent, multi-tiered system for the selection and evaluation of faculty members, based on competitive procedures and objective criteria. Additionally, the system for integrating research into the educational process functions effectively, as evidenced by the faculty's high publication output and the use of research findings in teaching.

Compliance level for Standard 5 – full compliance.

Standard 6. Learning Resources and Student Support

Evidence and Analysis:

Baku State University has established a modern educational environment and a well-developed student support system. The university has a well-developed material and technical base, including modern classrooms, specialized laboratories, and research centers, which creates favorable conditions for the implementation of the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science. In particular, the Faculty of Physics has 26 teaching

and research laboratories with a total area of 864 m² and 13 classrooms, confirming the adequacy of the infrastructure for conducting classes, laboratory work, and research activities for the educational programs 7005005 - Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science. The laboratories are equipped with safety logs, fire safety regulations, personal protective equipment, first-aid kits, and firefighting equipment. Additional opportunities are provided through access to external research facilities, including the Institute of Radiation Problems of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, where students complete internships and conduct research using specialized equipment (gamma irradiation facilities, radiochemical laboratories). Master's students in the 7005005 - Radiation Materials Science also have the opportunity to conduct laboratory work and master's projects at the Center of Excellence in Research. The Faculty of Physics employs 29 laboratory assistants who assist master's students in working with measuring instruments and equipment and help resolve technical issues. The procedures for working in physics, chemistry, and biology laboratories are governed by the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, approved by the university rector on June 12, 2023.

The university's financial policy is characterized by stability and diversification. Educational programs are funded through the state budget, revenue from tuition-based educational services and research projects, as well as international and national grants. Evidence of the effectiveness of financial management includes the systematic updating of laboratory equipment, the purchase of modern instruments, and the provision of consumables for scientific research. In particular, during the reporting period, modern laboratory equipment and consumables were purchased, which ensured the full fulfillment of educational and scientific objectives. Centralized budget management through the university's financial departments ensures transparency and the targeted use of funds.

Bashkir State University places significant emphasis on the development of information resources. The university's research library (https://bdu.info.az/elm-ve-innovasiya/merkez-haqqinda-elmi-kitabxana), with a collection of over 2.1 million items, provides students and faculty with the necessary educational (653,103 titles), scientific (1,457,161 items), and reference literature. The library consists of four departments and three sections. The library's 11 reading rooms can accommodate more than 500 readers at a time. The electronic library system provides access to more than 13,000 journals and 8,000 e-books, as well as to international databases. Further evidence of the high level of information support is the availability of an electronic catalog and access to digital resources through a unified search system. In accordance with Order No. 161 of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 7, 1971, the university's scientific library holds the status of a methodological center for higher education institutions, which enables it to collaborate with other libraries in the country, exchange literature, and provide methodological support. The university library also collaborates with leading libraries at foreign universities and research institutes. Baku State University, under

the coordination of the Azerbaijan Library and Information Consortium (Az. LIC), a member of the International Consortium EIFL.net (Electronic Information for Libraries), has gained access to the integrated search system "EBSCO Discovery Service" (http://elibrary.bsu.edu.az/?link=ebscosearch). From April 1, 2025, to April 1, 2026, an annual agreement with EBSCOhost is in effect, providing access to more than 11,000 academic journals, including 8,516 peer-reviewed publications.

The university's advanced IT infrastructure includes more than 2,000 computers, of which approximately 500 are used for teaching, as well as specialized centers such as the Azerbaijan-Korea Information Support Center (http://cs.bsu.edu.az/az/content/koreya_mrkzi). The university is fully covered by high-speed internet and Wi-Fi, providing access to educational platforms and digital resources. The university operates a Teaching and Research Management System designed to enhance the efficiency of the educational process. The platform provides access to schedules, curricula, and materials, allows for tracking academic performance, and facilitates interaction between faculty and students. All courses in the 7005005 Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 Radiation Materials Science programs are integrated into the system, which facilitates the use of modern digital resources.

The student support system has proven effectiveness and is implemented through a range of institutional mechanisms. Academic support is provided through mentoring and counseling, as evidenced by regular guidance for students at all stages of their educational program. Career support is provided by the BSU Career and Alumni Relations Center, which annually organizes job fairs (e.g., the "Career Festival," http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bduda_karyera_festivalnn_al_mrasimi) with the participation of employers and government agencies, which facilitates graduate employment.

International academic mobility is supported by the university's relevant departments, which implement programs such as Erasmus+ and others, providing full support to students at all stages of participation. This confirms compliance with the requirements for the internationalization of education.

At the same time, during interviews, master's students noted a lack of awareness regarding opportunities to participate in external academic mobility programs and international scientific conferences, as well as regarding available forms of financial support for participation in international events.

Baku State University (BSU) has a well-developed food service infrastructure, including dining halls and cafes in academic buildings and dormitories with a total capacity of over 800 seats, providing affordable and convenient meals for students and staff. The presence of dining facilities in every building helps students make efficient use of their time and ensures the continuity of the academic process. Food quality and safety are monitored by the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including regular inspections and staff training. The university's social infrastructure also includes sports facilities (https://bdu.info.az/sosial-

fealiyyet/idman-saglamliq-merkezi-1), cultural centers, and spaces for extracurricular activities (http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/eko_mekan). To support students' academic, cultural, and social activities, the university has specialized halls of various capacities (from 30 to 300 seats) for hosting conferences, seminars, and events. The availability of venues such as the Round Hall, lecture halls, and the Student Development Center provides conditions for students' academic and personal development and promotes their active involvement in academic and extracurricular activities.

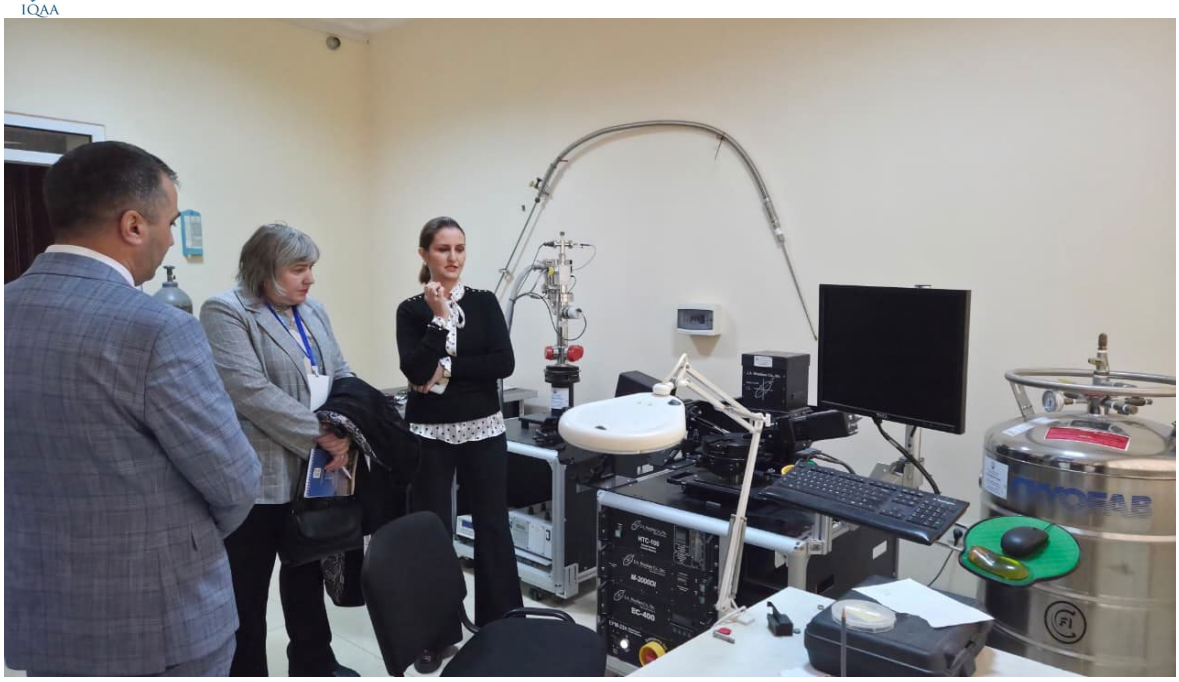
In addition to its educational and research infrastructure, BSU operates training and practical centers in Kuba and Altyagach, which facilitate the development of students' practical skills and the completion of internships.

The Research Institute of Physical Problems was established in 2005 on the basis of the research laboratories of the Faculty of Physics. Since 2019, its structure has included departments of condensed matter physics, theoretical physics, and biophysics. The Institute conducts research in theoretical and experimental physics and regularly organizes international and national scientific conferences (e.g., the International Conference: Days of Dynamics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Summer School on Modern Trends in Quantum Science and Technologies: From Quantum Materials to Quantum Information, 7th International Conference MTP-2021: Modern Trends in Physics, and others). During interviews with master's students, it was noted that theoretical classes predominate within the Faculty of Physics, while a significant portion of practical and laboratory classes are conducted at partner research institutes. In this regard, the master's students expressed a desire to expand the faculty's equipment base. In addition, employers noted a lack of experimental skills among master's students.

Experts' visit to the Laboratory of Optoelectronics and Thin Films

Experts' visit to the Semiconductor Technology Laboratory

Laboratory of Thin Films and Epitaxial Structures



Laboratory of Electrical Engineering and High-Voltage Physics

The university hosts student organizations, including the Student Youth Organization, the Student Union Committee, the Student Scientific Society, and the "BSU Volunteers" organization, which promote the development of students' soft skills and social engagement, help students realize their potential, improve the educational environment, provide financial and social support to students from socially vulnerable groups, and address various social issues faced by students. Within the framework of student organizations, there are the Personal Development Club, the Intellectual Games Club, the Young Talents Club, the Debate Club, the Acting Club, the Music Club, the Art Club, and the Environmental Club, which support the social, cultural, and intellectual development of students.

The university has created modern student spaces, including the "Student Space" with a 24-hour mini-library and eco-friendly energy supply, as well as the Student Development Center, which promotes academic and social interaction among students. Additionally, there is an "Eco-Space" equipped with innovative technologies (aquaponics, a bioreactor, and digital air monitoring), which facilitates the practical application of environmental and scientific approaches.

BSU places special emphasis on student health and well-being. The university operates a student clinic (https://bdu.info.az/sosial-fealiyyet/telebe-poliklinikasi), as well as a specialized psychological assistance sector (https://bdu.info.az/en/ social-life/psychological-assistance-sector), which provides counseling and support on mental health issues. There is also a legal clinic (http://law.bsu.edu.az/az/content/ baki_dvlt_unverstetnn_hquq_klnkasi__325) that provides free legal assistance while helping law students develop practical skills.

Thus, the analysis conducted indicates that the university ensures the availability of sufficient financial, material, technical, informational, and human

resources, and has established a well-developed student support system. The presence of modern infrastructure, broad access to educational and scientific resources, and comprehensive student support confirms that the university's activities largely meet the requirements of Standard 6 and contribute to improving the quality of the educational process. At the same time, during the analysis of educational programs 7005005 – Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 – Radiation Materials Science, as well as interviews with master's students and graduates, revealed that despite the university's modern material, technical, laboratory, and digital infrastructure, students are not always fully aware of opportunities for external academic mobility, participation in international scientific conferences, and available financial support. In addition, master's students, graduates, and employers noted the need to expand the faculty's equipment base to allow for more comprehensive development of experimental skills within the university.

Best practice:

Baku State University has established a comprehensive and well-resourced educational environment, including modern facilities, a developed digital infrastructure, and broad access to international information resources, as well as an effectively functioning system of multi-level student support (academic, career, social, and psychological), which contributes to improving the quality of training and the successful socialization of students.

Comments:

1) Master's students are not always sufficiently informed about opportunities to participate in external academic mobility programs, international scientific conferences, and the availability of financial support for participation in international events.

2) Practical and laboratory training is actively conducted both on the faculty premises and at partner research institutes; however, students have expressed a desire to expand opportunities to work with the faculty's own equipment.

3) Master's students demonstrate a lack of experimental skills, which affects their readiness to work in real-world industrial and research settings.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to better inform students about opportunities for external academic mobility, participation in international scientific events, and available financial support.

2) It is recommended to further develop the laboratory infrastructure of the Faculty of Physics to expand practical opportunities within the university.

3) It is recommended to develop master's students' practical and experimental skills through the integration of applied laboratory courses and project work, while strengthening support for their independent use of educational resources.

Level of compliance with Standard 6: significant compliance.

Standard 7. Public Information

Evidence and Analysis:

Baku State University provides systematic, transparent, and multi-channel information to the public about its educational programs, their content, and implementation results.

Information about educational programs is presented in a structured, accessible, and up-to-date format via the university's official website (https://bdu.info.az/en), the Faculty of Physics (https://physics.bdu.info.az/Tehsil/tedris-laboratoriyalari-1), as well as through digital communication channels (LinkedIn (https://az.linkedin.com/company/bdueduaz), Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/bdu.eduaz1919/), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/bdu_eduaz?igsh=ZjJmenkyeHB5bXY5), YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/@BakuStateUniversity/videos)), and printed materials.

The university's website provides general information about the university's structure, faculties, academic programs, research activities, and news, and also features an English-language version, which helps attract an international audience. In addition, the website is integrated with the university's other digital resources, including the digital library and media resources, which helps expand information channels.

The "University" section of the website provides a comprehensive overview of Baku State University, bringing together historical, organizational, educational, and infrastructure information. The history of the university details its founding, key stages of development, and role in the national education system. The subsections dedicated to Heydar Aliyev and the President of Azerbaijan present information on the support and involvement of the country's leadership in the university's development. Information on the Board of Trustees, the Scientific Council, and the Scientific and Methodological Council outlines the mechanisms of governance, strategic decision-making, and academic leadership at the university. The

"Accreditation," "Quality Assurance," and "Rankings" sections demonstrate educational standards and indicators of compliance with international requirements, while the "Leadership" and "Official Documents" sections ensure transparency in governance. The "Honorary Doctors" and "Alumni" sections provide information about prominent figures associated with the university, highlighting its academic significance and alumni network.

Information about the campus, branches, and educational centers (Gazakh Branch, College of Economics and Humanities, Lyceum for Young Talents, Guba TIRK, Altiajad Educational and Recreational Center) allows users to familiarize themselves with the university's infrastructure, educational and residential resources, as well as the conditions for practice-oriented education. The "Facts and Figures" section clearly presents the university's statistical indicators, while the "Virtual Tour" and "Media Kit" provide interactive access to the campus, photos, and videos, which helps give students, faculty, and the public a more complete and vivid picture of the university.

The "Education" section of BSU's website provides an overview of the education system in Azerbaijan and the regulatory framework, including relevant legislation and documents. Within the university, information is provided on the structure of the educational process, the work of the Center for Educational Organization and Management, the faculties, and the SABAH Center, as well as on the levels of study offered—bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. This approach ensures a transparent and systematic presentation of BSU's educational opportunities for prospective students, current students, and all interested parties.

The "Science and Innovation" section on the BSU website systematically presents science policy and legislation in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the internal organization of the university's scientific activities through the Center for Scientific Work and Innovation and the Information Technology Center. The section provides detailed coverage of the work of research institutes, centers, and laboratories, the scientific library, ongoing projects, the activities of dissertation councils, the Youth Scientific Council, the Student Center for Scientific and Technical Creativity, and the Student Scientific Society. In addition, information is provided on scientific publications, science-related events, and intellectual property issues, demonstrating BSU's comprehensive approach to developing scientific and innovative potential.

The "Social Life" section on the BSU website reflects the university's comprehensive approach to supporting students and developing youth policy, including legislation and initiatives in the field of youth work, social projects, the activities of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Public Relations, as well as the work of the trade union committee. The section provides information on cultural and sports infrastructure—museums, the Heydar Aliyev Museum, the Center for Culture and Creativity, the Sports and Wellness Center, psychological counseling services, as well as the student campus and the university

clinic. In addition, it highlights the university's media content and publishing activities, including the "Baku University" newspaper, BSU TV, and the BSU Publishing House, as well as the work of student organizations, volunteer initiatives, and public councils, which contribute to the formation of an active social and cultural environment.

The "Cooperation" section on the BSU website showcases the university's active external and internal activities, including the work of the International Relations Department, the office and services for international students, as well as support for the international student community. Information is provided on internal cooperation, the university's membership in international organizations, participation in international grant projects, and the hosting of global scientific and educational events. In addition, the section covers dual-degree programs, student exchanges, and the activities of international departments, institutes, and centers, highlighting the university's focus on globalization and strengthening partnerships.

The BSU website's news feed is regularly updated and covers a wide range of topics related to the university's educational, scientific, and social activities. It includes announcements of conferences, seminars, academic and cultural events, publications about the achievements of students and faculty, as well as information on international cooperation. News items are presented in chronological order with brief headlines and links to full articles, making it easy to find relevant information. Special attention is given to covering projects and initiatives that contribute to the development of science, innovation, and student life. The information in the feed is presented in an accessible and structured manner, which increases the transparency of the university's activities and public awareness.

Thus, the university's official website meets the basic requirements for public information by providing up-to-date information on the structure and activities of BSU. At the same time, the university needs to further expand the descriptions of its academic programs, include information on career prospects for graduates, and ensure that information is presented in an integrated manner within a single resource, and ensure that the information on the Azerbaijani and English versions of the university's official website is fully consistent, which will guarantee equal access to up-to-date and comprehensive information for both national and international audiences and enhance the university's transparency and visibility on a global scale.

The coordination of the university's information policy is carried out by a specialized structural unit—the Department of Public Relations and Information (https://bdu.info.az/sosial-fealiyyet/ictimaiyyetle-elaqeler-ve-informasiya-sobesi), which ensures regular content updates, manages the official website and the university's social media presence, and prepares analytical and informational materials. This confirms an institutionalized approach to information dissemination and compliance with the principles of openness and accessibility of information.

Further evidence of transparency and accessibility of information is provided by regular Open House Days (e.g.,

http://bsu.edu.az/az/news/bduda_abituriyentlr_n_aq_qap_gn_keirilir), during which prospective students receive comprehensive information about educational programs, admission requirements, and academic and research infrastructure, and have the opportunity to interact directly with faculty representatives and students. These events help students make informed choices about their educational paths and increase access to higher education.

The university's official newspaper, "Bakı Universiteti" (http://bsu.edu.az/az/content/bak_universiteti_qazeti), plays a significant role in informing the public, serving as a systematic source of information on the university's educational, scientific, and social activities. The newspaper covers the results of scientific research, the development of educational programs, the state of the infrastructure, as well as the achievements of students and faculty, which confirms compliance with the criterion of regularly informing stakeholders.

The university's digital infrastructure plays a vital role in managing and disseminating academic information. The university operates internal electronic systems that facilitate interaction among students, faculty, and administrative units. These systems enable students to access course materials, syllabi, assignments, and information regarding their academic performance throughout the learning process.

The university's publishing activities are carried out through the BSU Publishing House (http://bsu.edu.az/az/content/bdunun_nr_evi), which prepares and publishes educational, scientific, and methodological literature. The availability of modern material and technical resources (approximately 40 pieces of printing equipment) and the steady development of the publishing infrastructure confirm the university's ability to provide informational support for the educational process.

Another important communication channel is the BSU TV media platform (https://bdu.info.az/sosial-fealiyyet/bdu-tv-2), which promptly covers academic, scientific, and public events, promotes the dissemination of information about the university's activities, and simultaneously fulfills an educational function by providing practice-oriented training for students in the media field.

Further evidence of the university's active information policy is its collaboration with national television channels, including "Khazar TV" and "ARB TV," which ensures broad coverage of the university's scientific achievements, educational initiatives, and public activities, contributes to raising the university's profile, and strengthens its reputation in the national and international educational sphere.

Thus, the university ensures the accessibility, completeness, and relevance of information about its educational programs by actively utilizing various communication channels and demonstrating a high level of transparency. The evidence presented demonstrates full compliance with the requirements of Standard 7, although there are specific areas for further improvement.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to further expand the descriptions of educational programs on the website by including information on graduates' career prospects.

2) It is recommended to integrate the information on the Azerbaijani and English versions of the official website and ensure full consistency of content to guarantee equal access to up-to-date information for both national and international audiences.

3) Consider creating a single integrated resource that consolidates all information about the university's educational programs, research activities, and social infrastructure, which will enhance BSU's transparency and visibility on a global level.

Compliance level for Standard 7 – full compliance.

CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSION

Comments and areas for improvement identified by the expert group following the audit:

Standard 1. Quality Assurance Policy and Academic Integrity – Full Compliance

Comments: None

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to improve mechanisms for regularly involving stakeholders in the improvement of quality assurance policies for educational programs and to take their suggestions into account when making management decisions.

Standard 2. Curriculum Development, Approval, and Information Management – Significant Compliance

Comments:

1) Although employers and other stakeholders are involved in the development of educational programs, their participation is largely sporadic; mechanisms for regular interaction, recording, and analysis of suggestions, as well as their systematic integration into the content of educational programs, are not sufficiently developed.

2) The submitted materials and interview results indicate the need to further strengthen the practice-oriented focus of the programs, including the development of experimental skills, the expansion of the STEM component, and the enhancement of master's students' readiness for professional practice in real-world industrial settings.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to formalize and systematize mechanisms for stakeholder participation in the development and updating of educational programs, including the regularity of interaction, the documentation of proposals, and their consideration when adjusting the content of the educational program.

2) It is recommended to strengthen the practice-oriented component of the programs by expanding laboratory and research training, introducing additional practical modules, and fostering closer integration with industry organizations.

3) It is recommended to expand the content of educational programs by strengthening the STEM component and developing the pedagogical and methodological competencies of master's students.

Standard 3. Student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment – significant compliance

Comments:

1) Despite the active involvement of master's students in the educational programs 7005005 – Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 – Radiation Materials Science in the educational process, their participation in external academic mobility programs has not been confirmed in documentation or during interviews, which limits opportunities to expand international experience and knowledge exchange.

2) In the syllabi of certain courses, the description of teaching and learning methods is formal in nature, limited to specifying the type of class or a repetitive list of traditional methods, which may reduce the clarity and diversity of the educational process.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to expand opportunities for master's students in the 7005005 – Solid-State Electronics and 7005005 – Radiation Materials Science programs to participate in external academic mobility and exchange programs with foreign universities, and to document their participation.

2) It is recommended to update course syllabi by including a more detailed and varied description of teaching and learning methods that reflects a practical focus and interdisciplinary approaches.

Standard 4. Standard 4. Student Admission, Academic Performance, Recognition, and Certification – Full Compliance

Comments: None

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to expand the use of accumulated statistical data (GPA, final exam results, graduate employment) for systematic analysis and decision-making regarding the improvement of educational programs.

2) It is recommended to formalize and strengthen engagement with graduates, including regular monitoring of career trajectories, to improve the quality of feedback and take labor market demands into account.

Standard 5. Faculty and Teaching Staff – Full Compliance

Comments: None

Areas for improvement: none

Standard 6. Learning Resources and Student Support – Significant Compliance

Comments:

1) Master's students are not always sufficiently informed about opportunities to participate in external academic mobility programs, international scientific conferences, and the availability of financial support for participation in international events.

2) Practical and laboratory training is actively conducted both on the faculty premises and at partner research institutes; however, students expressed a desire to expand opportunities to work with the faculty's own equipment.

3) Master's students demonstrate a lack of experimental skills, which affects their readiness to work in real-world industrial and research settings.

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to better inform students about opportunities for external academic mobility, participation in international scientific events, and available financial support.

2) It is recommended that the laboratory infrastructure of the Department of Physics be further developed to expand practical opportunities within the university.

3) It is recommended to develop master's students' practical and experimental skills through the integration of applied laboratory courses and project work, while strengthening support for their independent use of educational resources.

Standard 7. Public Information – Full Compliance

Comments: None

Areas for improvement:

1) It is recommended to further expand the description of educational programs on the website to include information on graduates' career prospects.

2) It is recommended to integrate the information on the Azerbaijani and English versions of the official website and ensure full consistency of content to guarantee equal access to up-to-date information for both national and international audiences.

3) Consider creating a single integrated resource that consolidates all information about the university's educational programs, research activities, and

social infrastructure, which will enhance BSU's transparency and visibility on a global level.

Appendix 1

PROGRAM
of the external audit by the IQAA expert group at Baku State University for program accreditation March12-13, 2026

Time	Event	Participants	Location
	Day 1: March 12, 2026		
8:45	Arrival at the university	L, EG, C	EG office
9:00-10:00	Briefing, discussion of organizational issues	L, EG, C	EG office Conference link
10:00-10:45	Interview with the University Rector	L, EG, C,Rector	Rector's Office Conference link
10:45-11:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG Office Conference link
11:00-11:45	Interview with the Vice-Rectors of the University	L, EG, C, Vice-Rectors	Rector's Office Link for the conference
11:45-12:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG office Conference link
12:00-12:45	Interviews with heads of structural divisions	L, EG, C, RSP	EG office Conference link
12:45-13:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG Office Conference link
13:00-14:00	Lunch	L, EG, C	
14:00-14:45	Interview with deans, department heads	L, EG, C, Dean of the faculty, Head of the department	EG office Link for the conference
14:45-15:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG Office Conference link
15:00-15:45	Interview with faculty members of the department on the accredited educational program	L, EG, C, teaching staff of the department	EG office Link for the conference
15:45-16:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG office Link for the conference
16:00-16:45	Interview with employers	L, EG, C, Employers	EG Office Conference link
16:45-17:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG Office Conference link
17:00-18:30	Visual inspection of material, technical, and educational laboratory facilities	L, EG, Heads departments	Academic building Conference link

18:30-18:45	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG office Conference link
Day 2: March 13, 2026			
8:45	Arrival at the University	L, EG, C	Academic Building
9:00-11:00	Academic and scientific support for master's students. Selective attendance at academic exams and practical training bases	L, EG	Academic building Practical training bases
11:00-11:45	Interviews with students	L, EG, C, Students	EG office Conference link
11:45-12:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group	L, EG, C	EG Office Conference link
12:00-13:00	Invitation to department heads at the request of experts.	L, EG, C, department heads	EG Office
13:00-14:00	Lunch	L, EG, C	
14:00-16:00	Preparation of external audit reports. Review of documentation on the accredited educational program. Invitation of individual representatives of the department and structural units at the request of experts.	L, EG, Head of Department, HSU	EG office Link for the conference
16:00-17:00	Exchange of views among members of the external expert group. Preliminary results of the external audit	L, EG, C	EG office Link for the conference
17:00-17:30	Meeting with management to present preliminary results of the external audit	L, EG, C	Rector's Office Conference link

Note: L – Leader of EG, EG – Expert Group, C – Group Coordinator, HSU – Heads of Structural Units

Appendix 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ADDITIONALLY REVIEWED BY THE UNIVERSITY

1. Educational Program
2. Working curriculum of the educational program
3. Course syllabi
4. BSU Policies and Standards for Educational Quality Assurance
5. Policy and System for Internal Quality Assurance in Education
6. Materials from the collegial bodies governing the educational program
7. Materials on the systematic monitoring of student progress
8. Master's Theses
9. University Strategic Development Plan for 2021–2030
10. State Standard and Higher Education Curriculum
11. Regulations on Practical Training for Students in Higher Education Institutions and Specialized Secondary Schools
12. Regulations on the Organization of Research and Methodological Work in Higher Education Institutions
13. Rules for the Organization of Credit-Based Education in Higher Education Institutions
14. Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2023–2026
15. Minutes of the Analysis of the Similarity Report Conducted by the Anti-Plagiarism Commission
16. Regulations on the Scientific Council of a State Higher Education Institution
17. Regulations on the Procedure for Filling Positions of Professors, Faculty Members, and Department Chairs in Higher Education Institutions
18. Plan for Scientific Seminars
19. Certificates of professional development.
20. Analysis of survey results
21. University Orders