Order No. 65/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia

4 May 2011, Tbilisi

On Approval of the Regulation and Fee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Pursuant to Article 3(3)(c) and Article 30 of the Law of Georgia on Education Quality Enhancement and Article 7(1)(f) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education,

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 49/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 24 April 2018 – Website, 24.04.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

1. The Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions shall be approved in accordance with Annex No. 1.

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

2. The Fee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions shall be approved in accordance with Annex No. 2.

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

2^1. The Accreditation Standards for Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions shall be approved in accordance with Annex No. 3 to this Order.

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

2^2. The fee for services rendered by the LEPL – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement in accordance with the "Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions" (Annex No. 1) approved by this Order shall be approved in accordance with Annex No. 4.

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

2^3. The rule and conditions for grouping higher education programs into clusters shall be approved in accordance with Annex No. 5.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

3. This Order shall enter into force upon its publication.

D. Shashkin

Annex No. 1

Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Chapter I – General Provisions

Order No. 20/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 9 March 2015 – Website, 10.03.2015
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 1. Scope of regulation

This Regulation establishes the conditions for meeting the accreditation standards for educational programs of higher education institutions (hereinafter "institutions") (hereinafter "accreditation standards"); the procedure for accreditation, for monitoring compliance with accreditation conditions, and for recognition of accreditation granted by a foreign organization; the rule and procedure for accreditation of a higher education program of a higher education institution operating abroad; the rule and conditions for determining and increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program; and the rules for considering appeals and the powers and rules of operation of the Educational Programs Accreditation Council and the Appeals Council.

Article 2. Purpose and content of accreditation

1. The purpose of accreditation is, by determining the compliance of an institution's educational program with the accreditation standards, to establish systematic self-evaluation at the institution and to promote the development of quality assurance mechanisms, with a view to improving the quality of education.

2. The accreditation standards are:

a) the program's purpose, learning outcomes, and the program's compliance with them;

b) teaching methodology and organization, and adequacy of the evaluation of program attainment;

c) student achievements and individual work with students;

d) provision of teaching resources;

e) opportunities for developing teaching quality.

2^1. Under this Regulation, each accreditation standard is presented broken down into components.

3. Accreditation is a mechanism of external evaluation of the compliance of educational programs with the accreditation standards which, for the purpose of developing the quality of education and through determining compliance with the accreditation standards, promotes the establishment of a systematic self-evaluation process at the institution and the development of education quality assurance mechanisms. Self-evaluation is carried out by the institution in accordance with its own activity evaluation rule, and the institution prepares an accreditation self-evaluation report; external evaluation is carried out by the legal entity of public law – the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (hereinafter the "Center").

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 2[1]. Time limit for correcting a deficiency

1. Within the administrative proceedings provided for by this Regulation, the time limit set by the Center for correcting a deficiency shall be no less than 5 and no more than 15 working days.

2. The running of the time limit set for the administrative proceedings shall be deemed suspended during the time limit set for correcting the deficiency.

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020

Chapter II

(Repealed)

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Chapter III

(Repealed)

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020

Chapter IV – Accreditation Standards for Educational Programs of Institutions

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 13. Accreditation standards for educational programs of institutions

The accreditation standards for educational programs of institutions are defined by Annex No. 3 to this Order.

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 14. (Repealed)

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Article 15. (Repealed)

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Article 16. (Repealed)

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Article 17. (Repealed)

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Article 17[1]. Guide for evaluating the accreditation standards

The guide for evaluating the accreditation standards shall be approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 20/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 9 March 2015 – Website, 10.03.2015

Article 17[2]. Specific features of the accreditation of joint higher education programs

When determining compliance with the accreditation standards of joint higher education programs to be implemented together with a higher education institution(s) recognized under the legislation of a foreign country, the approaches developed by the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) on quality assurance of joint higher education programs shall be taken into account.

Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021

Article 18. Specific features of the accreditation of regulated educational programs

When determining the compliance of a regulated educational program with the accreditation standards, the special requirements established by the subject benchmark shall be taken into account.

Order No. 49/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 February 2012 – Website, 23.02.2012
Order No. 194/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 20 September 2012 – Website, 20.09.2012
Order No. 248/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 17 December 2012 – Website, 18.12.2012
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020

Article 18^1. (Repealed – 17.12.2012, No. 248/N)

Order No. 194/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 20 September 2012 – Website, 20.09.2012
Order No. 248/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 17 December 2012 – Website, 18.12.2012

Chapter V – Rule for Conducting Accreditation

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017

Article 19. Accreditation process

1. The accreditation process includes the following stages:

a) submission of the accreditation application;

b) recognition of the institution as an accreditation applicant (hereinafter "accreditation applicant") for the relevant educational program/cluster of educational programs;

c) establishment of the accreditation expert panel;

d) preliminary study by the accreditation expert panel of the accreditation applicant's self-evaluation report and its attached documentation, and development of the agenda of the accreditation visit;

e) conduct of the accreditation visit;

f) drafting of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel and its submission to the Center;

g) presentation of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the accreditation applicant;

h) submission to the Center by the accreditation applicant of a reasoned position regarding the factual circumstances reflected in the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel;

i) finalization of the conclusion by the accreditation expert panel and its submission to the Center;

j) presentation of the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the accreditation applicant;

k) sending the accreditation application, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, and the reasoned position submitted to the Center by the accreditation applicant on the draft conclusion of the expert panel to the members of the Accreditation Council (hereinafter the "Council");

l) holding an oral hearing on the accreditation matter and adoption of a decision by the Educational Programs Council;

m) publication by the Center of the Council's reasoned decision.

2. The Council's decision on accreditation shall be adopted within 180 calendar days after official submission to the Center of the document confirming payment of the accreditation fee.

3. The accreditation process may be conducted through the electronic quality management system, the rules of management and use of which are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020

Article 19[1]. Preparatory meeting for the accreditation process

1. No later than 1 month before submitting the accreditation application, an institution is entitled to apply to the Center in writing with a request to hold a preparatory meeting for the accreditation process.

2. The preparatory meeting is consultative in nature and concerns:

a) planning and conducting the self-evaluation process;

b) planning and conducting the accreditation visit;

c) explanation of the accreditation standards and procedures.

3. In the case provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center shall be issued determining the Center employee(s) authorized to conduct the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process and on holding the preparatory meeting. The preparatory meeting for the accreditation process may be held remotely, using modern electronic means of communication.

4. In the case provided for by paragraph 3 of this Article, after the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process, the authorized employee of the Center shall draw up a written record reflecting information on the consultation provided. The institution is obliged to facilitate the holding of the preparatory meeting for the accreditation process and the preparation of the relevant record, and to designate an authorized person who will sign the record of the preparatory meeting on behalf of the institution. The record shall be signed on behalf of the Center by the Center employee(s) referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 20. Accreditation application

1. The accreditation application submitted to the Center for the purpose of accrediting an institution's educational program/cluster of educational programs shall be accompanied by:

a) the accreditation self-evaluation report prepared for the educational program/cluster of educational programs and the documentation to be attached to it;

b) a document confirming payment of the fee for reviewing the accreditation application;

c) in the case of submission of a foreign-language educational program, an international agreement or a document issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia confirming consent;

d) in the case of submission of a joint higher education program, the agreement concluded between the institutions implementing the joint higher education program for its implementation and a document confirming that the draft agreement was agreed with the Center.

2. Submission of an accreditation application to the Center for accreditation of a single educational program is permissible if:

a) the institution implements, in the relevant field of study under the "Classification of Fields of Study", an educational program that cannot be grouped with other educational program(s) in accordance with Annex No. 5 to this Order;

b) for the purpose of first accreditation, the institution submits to the Center an accreditation application for an educational program whose cluster is not subject to accreditation in the relevant year;

c) for the purpose of accreditation, the institution submits to the Center an educational program holding conditional accreditation;

d) for the purpose of accreditation, the institution submits to the Center the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program or the Georgian language preparation educational program.

3. One accreditation application submitted to the Center for accreditation of educational programs grouped in a cluster of educational programs shall cover no more than eight educational programs.

4. The rule and conditions for grouping higher education programs into clusters, as provided for by paragraph 3 of this Article, are determined in accordance with Annex No. 5 to this Order.

5. An educational program submitted for accreditation shall, according to its learning outcomes, lead to only one qualification, except where one accreditation application covers:

a) a master's educational program which, according to its learning outcomes, leads to more than one but no more than three qualifications, taking into account the fields of study within the same detailed field of the Classification of Fields of Study, except for a regulated educational program;

b) a teacher training educational program which, according to its learning outcomes, provides for teaching the modules on methods of teaching subjects within the number established by the subject benchmark for teacher training.

6. For each subsequent accreditation of an educational program, in order to ensure continuity of the program's status, an institution submitting an accreditation application to the Center must take into account the time limits established by paragraph 2 of Article 19 and Article 22 of this Regulation in such a way that the 180 calendar days set for the Council to adopt its accreditation decision are devoted to carrying out the accreditation process stages provided for by subparagraphs "c"–"m" of paragraph 1 of Article 19 of this Regulation. Responsibility for the consequences caused by failure to take this into account rests with the institution.

7. An institution is entitled to apply to the Center, for the purpose of accreditation of an educational program, with a request to include an international expert(s) in the accreditation expert panel, which the institution shall indicate in the accreditation self-evaluation report. In the case provided for by this paragraph, the international expert included in the accreditation expert panel shall be designated as chair of the accreditation expert panel.

8. In the case provided for by paragraph 7 of this Article, the institution is obliged either to attach to the accreditation application additionally, or to submit to the Center within a time limit agreed in writing with the Center after submission of the application, an English translation of the completed accreditation self-evaluation report provided for by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article and of those attached documents for which the approved form of the accreditation self-evaluation report specifies a requirement of existence in English.

9. If the institution fails to submit to the Center the documentation provided for by paragraph 8 of this Article, the Center shall establish the accreditation expert panel without including an international expert.

10. The institution is responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the translation of the documentation provided for by paragraph 8 of this Article. If a deficiency relating to the translation is identified during the accreditation process that affects the determination of the compliance of the institution's educational program with the accreditation standards, the Center is entitled to issue an individual administrative-legal act on terminating the administrative proceedings. Otherwise, in the event of a discrepancy between the Georgian and English texts of the documents, the Georgian text shall prevail.

11. Where the accreditation application submits a regulated academic higher education program(s) provided for by Article 75(2) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education (except a teacher training or veterinary training educational program) and/or a doctoral educational program (whether standalone or part of a cluster of educational programs), an international expert with the relevant qualification shall be included in the accreditation expert panel and shall be designated as chair of the accreditation expert panel. Likewise, where the accreditation application submits a joint higher education program planned to be implemented in cooperation with a higher education institution(s) recognized under the legislation of a foreign country, the accreditation expert panel shall include an international expert(s) with the relevant qualification from the implementing country/countries.

12. Where an international expert(s) participate in the accreditation expert panel, the institution is entitled, when submitting the accreditation application to the Center or within a time limit agreed in writing with the Center, to itself submit to the Center, in English, a translation of the completed accreditation self-evaluation report provided for by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article

and of the documentation to be attached to it for which the requirement of translation into English is specified in the approved form of the accreditation self-evaluation report.

13. In the case provided for by paragraph 12 of this Article, the institution is responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the translation of the documentation. If a deficiency relating to the translation is identified during the accreditation process that affects the determination of the compliance of the institution's educational program with the accreditation standards, the Center is entitled to issue an individual administrative-legal act on terminating the administrative proceedings. Otherwise, in the event of a discrepancy between the Georgian and English texts of the documents, the Georgian text shall prevail.

14. Where an international expert(s) participate in the accreditation expert panel, on the basis of the institution's petition, and upon payment of the amount determined by Annex No. 2 to this Order, the Center shall provide an English translation of the completed accreditation self-evaluation report provided for by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article and of those attached documents for which the approved form of the accreditation self-evaluation report specifies a requirement of existence in English.

15. In the case provided for by paragraph 14 of this Article, for the purpose of quality control of the translation service, the Center shall send the translation to the institution. The institution is entitled to inform the Center of its reasoned remarks concerning the translation within 10 (ten) calendar days after receiving this documentation; otherwise, the institution shall be deemed to have no remarks concerning the translation.

[16. For the purpose of re-accreditation of an educational program, the submission of an accreditation application to the Center shall be carried out twice a year – from 1 January through 1 May inclusive, and from 1 September through 1 December inclusive. (To enter into force from 1 January 2023)]

[17. The time limits for submitting an accreditation application to the Center established by paragraph 16 of this Article shall not apply to:

a) accreditation applications submitted to the Center for the first accreditation of an educational program/educational programs included in a cluster of educational programs;

b) accreditation applications submitted for the accreditation of a conditionally accredited educational program. (To enter into force from 1 January 2023)]

18. The documentation provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article may be submitted to the Center through the electronic document circulation system or in material form, in which case the documentation to be attached to the accreditation self-evaluation report shall be submitted to the Center by means of an electronic information carrier.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 21. Self-evaluation

1. The purpose of self-evaluation is to assess the readiness of the educational program/cluster of educational programs to receive accreditation.

2. Self-evaluation is carried out in accordance with the accreditation standards.

3. The results of self-evaluation are reflected in the accreditation self-evaluation report.

4. The forms of the accreditation self-evaluation report for an educational program and for educational programs grouped in a cluster of educational programs are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, which is published publicly.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 22. Recognition as an accreditation applicant

1. The Center shall, within 3 working days – and, in the case of submission of an accreditation application for accreditation of educational programs grouped in a cluster, within 7 working days – verify the compliance of the documentation attached to the accreditation application with the requirements established by paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Regulation.

2. If the institution fails to submit to the Center any of the documents provided for by paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Regulation, the Center shall set a time limit for the institution to correct the deficiency.

3. If the deficiency is corrected within the time limit provided for by paragraph 2 of this Article, the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on recognition as an accreditation applicant; if the deficiency is not corrected within the same time limit, it shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on leaving the application without consideration.

4. The individual administrative-legal act of the Center on recognition as an accreditation applicant shall be issued no later than 20 calendar days after submission of the application or correction of the deficiency.

4^1. Within 15 calendar days after becoming acquainted with the individual administrative-legal act defined by paragraph 4 of this Article, the institution is entitled, where necessary, to submit to the Center, once only, changes concerning the information reflected in the self-evaluation report and/or the attached documents. Moreover, if a change involves the need to replace any document, the institution must submit, together with that document, a written description/explanation of the changes. After the expiry of that time limit, it is impermissible to change the information reflected in the self-evaluation report and the attached documentation.

4^2. Changes made to the self-evaluation report and the attached documentation after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 4^1 of this Article shall not be taken into account.

5. If the accreditation applicant, within 15 calendar days after becoming acquainted with the individual administrative-legal act on recognition as an applicant, does not pay the accreditation fee and within the same time limit does not submit to the Center the document confirming payment of the accreditation fee, the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on terminating the administrative proceedings.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 23. Corps of accreditation experts

1. An accreditation expert may not be an employee of the Center, except where he or she is employed at the Center for a period of less than 3 months to perform a specific volume of expert work.

2. The corps of accreditation experts must include specialists of the relevant fields, taking into account the specifics of the educational programs.

3. The rule for the selection and activity of experts and for the termination of membership of the corps of experts is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Article 24. Establishment of the accreditation expert panel

1. Within 60 calendar days after official submission to the Center of the document confirming payment of the accreditation fee, the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and on the visit to the accreditation-applicant institution.

2. In the case of accreditation of a higher education program, the accreditation expert panel consists of members of the corps of experts – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other higher

education institutions – and a student; it may also include international experts (the participation of an international expert is mandatory in the cases provided for by paragraph 5^1 of Article 20 of this Regulation), employers, and, in the case of a regulated educational program, also representatives of the relevant regulatory body and/or professional association and other persons with the relevant qualification.

[2. The accreditation expert panel consists of members of the corps of experts – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other institutions, an international expert (except for the 60-credit educational programs of Georgian language preparation, teacher training and veterinary training submitted individually in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of this Regulation), and a student; it may also include employers and, in the case of a regulated educational program, also representatives of the relevant regulatory body and/or professional association and other persons with the relevant competence. (To enter into force from 1 January 2023)]

2^1. (Repealed – 07.07.2022, No. 83/N).

2^2. Where the accreditation application submits a joint higher education program planned to be implemented in cooperation with a higher education institution(s) recognized under the legislation of a foreign country, the accreditation expert panel shall include an international expert(s) with the relevant qualification from the implementing country/countries.

3. The accreditation expert panel is headed by the chair of the expert panel. If an international expert is envisaged in the accreditation expert panel, he or she shall be designated as chair of the accreditation expert panel.

4. An accreditation expert is obliged to declare self-recusal if he or she has a conflict of interest with the accreditation-applicant institution in which he or she is to conduct the visit.

5. The accreditation-applicant institution is entitled to submit to the Center a recusal request against the accreditation expert(s) within 2 working days after becoming acquainted with the individual administrative-legal act referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

6. The institution is obliged to substantiate the recusal of the accreditation expert(s). The ground for recusal may be a conflict of interest of the chair and/or a member of the accreditation expert panel.

7. For the purposes of this Regulation, a conflict of interest is deemed to be the existence of circumstances established by the rule for the selection and activity of accreditation experts and termination of membership of the corps of experts and/or by Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

8. The Center shall consider the recusal request within 3 working days. If the recusal request is granted, the Center shall decide on changing the composition of the accreditation expert panel.

9. If the recusal of the accreditation expert(s) is not taken into account, the accreditation expert panel shall continue its work in the same composition.

10. The duration of the visit and the number of members of the accreditation expert panel are determined by the individual administrative-legal act of the Center provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, taking into account the volume and specifics of the work to be performed, in accordance with the rule for the selection and activity of accreditation experts and termination of membership of the corps of experts.

11. In order to ensure that the activities of the accreditation expert panel are effectively conducted within the limits established by legislation and that a uniform approach to evaluation is observed, the Center shall send a Center employee to the visit of the accreditation expert panel.

12. The remuneration of an international expert is determined in accordance with the experts' remuneration rule approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, by the employment contract concluded between the Center and the international expert, and is added to the accreditation fee.

13. The Center shall send the institution an invoice drawn up on the basis of the employment contract concluded with the international expert. If the institution does not pay the amount necessary for the international expert's remuneration within 15 calendar days after receiving the invoice and does not submit a document confirming payment within the same time limit, the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on terminating the administrative proceedings.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 25. Evaluation of the accreditation self-evaluation report

1. The Center shall send each member of the accreditation expert panel the documentation defined by subparagraphs "a", "c" and "d" of paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Regulation after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 5 of Article 24 of this Regulation.

2. The chair of the accreditation expert panel shall ensure the distribution of duties among the members of the panel for the purpose of studying the completed self-evaluation report and the attached documentation and determining their compliance with the accreditation standards.

3. Before conducting the accreditation visit, the accreditation expert panel shall study the completed self-evaluation report and the attached documentation, on the basis of which it develops the visit agenda and agrees it with the Center in advance. In the process of agreeing the visit agenda, the Center takes into account the institution's reasoned opinions. The Center sends the final version of the agenda to the institution.

4. Within the preparatory meeting held before the accreditation visit, the accreditation expert panel determines the additional issues to be studied within the visit for the purpose of drawing up the conclusion.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 26. Accreditation visit

1. During the visit, the chair of the accreditation expert panel shall ensure the distribution of duties among the members of the panel.

2. A member of the accreditation expert panel shall participate in the work of the panel and ensure the performance of the functions provided for by the rule for the selection and activity of accreditation experts and termination of membership of the corps of experts.

3. According to the pre-agreed agenda, an accreditation expert is obliged, within the accreditation visit, to study all issues for drawing up the conclusion, including conducting interviews with interested persons, requesting additional documentation where necessary, conducting a visual inspection and, where necessary, carrying out activities not envisaged by the agenda.

4. (Repealed – 10.09.2020, No. 96/N);

5. The institution is obliged to assist the accreditation expert panel in conducting the accreditation visit and preparing the relevant conclusion, to present to them the documentation necessary for accreditation purposes, and to ensure interviews with the persons requested by the expert panel.

5^1. Where an international expert participates in the accreditation expert panel, the Center shall provide the necessary translation services during the accreditation visit. When selecting an interpreter, the Center must ensure the avoidance of a conflict of interest with the accreditation applicant.

6. On the last day of the visit, the accreditation expert panel shall present its main findings to the accreditation-applicant institution.

7. If the institution obstructs the activities of the accreditation expert panel, the Center is entitled to issue an individual administrative-legal act on terminating the administrative proceedings.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 26[1]. Explanation of the four-level evaluation scale

1. An educational program is evaluated in relation to a component of a standard as "complies with the requirements of the standard" if the educational program fully ensures satisfaction of the requirements of the standard component.

2. An educational program is evaluated in relation to a component of a standard as "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard" if the educational program substantially ensures satisfaction of the requirements of the standard component and the institution is able to demonstrate the relevant results. However, the institution has weaknesses which it is prepared to overcome in the short term (no more than 1 year) and has a plan provided with the relevant resources.

3. An educational program is evaluated in relation to a component of a standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" if the educational program ensures satisfaction of the requirements of the component at a basic level and has such weaknesses that overcoming them requires the mobilization of significant resources. However, the institution is prepared, and has a plan provided with the relevant resources, to overcome the weaknesses in the medium term (more than 1 year but no more than 2 years).

4. An educational program is evaluated in relation to a component of a standard as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard" if the educational program cannot ensure satisfaction of the requirements of the standard component at least at the level defined by paragraph 3 of this Article.

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018

Article 27. Evaluation of compliance with the accreditation standards

1. Compliance with the accreditation standards is evaluated by means of a four-level scale: "complies with the requirements of the standard", "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard", "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" and "does not comply with the requirements of the standard".

2. An educational program "complies with the requirements of the standard" if it is evaluated in relation to no more than one component of that standard as "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard", and in relation to the remaining components as "complies with the requirements of the standard".

3. An educational program "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard" if it is evaluated in relation to no more than one component of that standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" and in relation to no other component is evaluated as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard".

4. An educational program "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" if it is evaluated in relation to more than one component of that standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" and in relation to no other component is evaluated as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard";

5. An educational program "does not comply with the requirements of the standard" if it is evaluated in relation to at least one component of that standard as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard".

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018

Article 27[1]. Preparation of the conclusion

1. As a result of studying the completed self-evaluation report and the attached documentation and of the accreditation visit, a draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel shall be drawn up and submitted to the Center.

2. The draft conclusion describes the compliance of the educational program with the accreditation standards.

3. The Center shall determine the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel with the requirements established by the individual administrative-legal acts of the

Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 and paragraph 9 of this Article. If compliance is established, the draft conclusion shall be sent to the institution.

4. Where necessary, in order to ensure the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, the draft conclusion shall be returned to the accreditation expert panel.

5. Within 5 working days after becoming acquainted with the draft conclusion on an educational program – or, in the case of a cluster of educational programs, within 10 working days – the accreditation applicant shall submit to the Center in writing a reasoned position regarding the factual circumstances set out in the draft conclusion, which shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

6. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article, after becoming acquainted with it – or, if no reasoned position is submitted, after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article – the expert panel shall finalize the conclusion and submit it to the Center.

6^1. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article, the conclusion formulated by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on the arguments for the expert panel's acceptance or non-acceptance of the reasoned position.

7. Where an international expert participates in the expert panel, the Center shall provide the translation services necessary for the draft conclusion of the expert panel and for finalizing the conclusion. In the event of a discrepancy between the Georgian and English texts of these documents, the Georgian text shall prevail.

8. The Center shall send the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the institution.

9. The forms of the accreditation expert panel conclusion for an educational program and for a cluster of educational programs, and the requirements established for them, are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^2. Oral hearing

1. The Council shall adopt its decision on accreditation on the basis of studying the accreditation documentation, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, and the reasoned position submitted by the institution on the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, and on the basis of holding an oral hearing.

2. The Council session shall be convened by the Chair of the Council or the Director of the Center.

3. The interested party shall be notified of the oral hearing no less than 7 calendar days before it is held. The interested party participating in the administrative proceedings is entitled to participate in the oral hearing.

4. The session shall be chaired by the Chair of the Council, in his or her absence by the Deputy Chair, and in the absence of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair, by a Council member determined by the majority of those present. If the Secretary of the Council is unable to perform his or her duties, the functions shall be performed by one of the Council members on the instruction of the chair of the session.

5. The session is competent if more than half of the full membership of the Council, but no fewer than 3 members, attend. If invited members of the Council participate, the Council is competent if more than half of the full membership, but no fewer than ¾ of the invited members, attend. A Council member who has declared self-recusal and/or is recused in relation to the matter under consideration shall not be counted in the number provided for by this paragraph.

6. The Council session is public. The chair of the session is entitled to declare the session closed in cases provided for by legislation.

7. Members of the accreditation expert panel participate in the oral hearing, and representatives of the Center and/or other interested persons are entitled to participate in the consideration of the matter with the consent of the chair of the session.

8. By decision of the Council, other experts of the relevant field, members of professional organizations, specialists of the field and other persons may be invited to the oral hearing.

9. The chair of the session is obliged to ensure the examination of circumstances of importance to the case at the oral hearing.

10. The interested party participating in the administrative proceedings has the right to file a motion concerning the examination of circumstances of importance to the case.

11. When adopting a decision at the oral hearing, any document of the accreditation applicant that was prepared after the accreditation visit shall not be taken into account.

12. The minutes of the Council session shall be drawn up within 10 working days after the session, signed by the Chair of the Council and the Secretary of the Council. On the basis of the minutes of the Council session, an individual administrative-legal act shall be issued, signed by the Chair of the Council and the Secretary of the Council.

13. The functions and duties of Council members provided for by this Regulation may also be performed remotely or semi-remotely using modern electronic means of communication (where such possibility exists).

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^3. Composition of the Council

1. The term of office of permanent members of the Council is one year, and the term of office of invited members of the Council is two years. Council members shall be remunerated (paid an honorarium) for their work from the Center's own income. The rule and amount of remuneration (payment of honorarium) of Council members shall be determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center. Council members shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia upon the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

1^1. The Council consists of permanent members and invited members. Invited members participate in the Council's activities only where the accreditation application submitted by the institution specifies the regulated academic higher education program provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education (hereinafter the "Diploma Medical Doctor educational program"). Invited members of the Council have the right to vote.

1^2. When selecting candidates for invited members of the Council, the requirements and criteria established by the World Federation for Medical Education regarding the composition of the Council shall be taken into account.

2. When the Council adopts a decision, depending on the specifics of the field, no more than 2 persons determined by the Chair of the Council may participate with advisory vote, the rule and amount of remuneration (payment of honorarium) for whose work shall be determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center. Invited persons shall be remunerated (paid an honorarium) for their work from the Center's own income.

3. The powers of a Council member may be terminated early on the initiative of the Prime Minister of Georgia or:

a) on the basis of a personal application;

b) when a judgment of conviction issued against him or her by a court enters into legal force;

c) if he or she is recognized by a court as a person with limited legal capacity or as a recipient of support, unless otherwise determined by the court's decision;

d) in the event of systematic failure to attend sessions, if this hinders the Council's activities;

e) in the event of violation of the norms provided for by Article 27^4 of this Regulation;

f) taking into account the petition of the Center / on its own initiative, on the basis of the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

4. Early termination of the powers of a Council member shall be confirmed by an individual administrative-legal act of the Prime Minister of Georgia. In the event of early termination of powers, the Prime Minister of Georgia, upon the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, shall appoint a new member within one month for the remaining term of office of the member whose powers were terminated.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^4. Rules and principles of the Council's activity

1. In performing his or her functions, a Council member must be independent, objective and impartial.

2. A Council member must maintain neutrality in any situation and must not come under the influence of interested parties, regardless of their status.

3. A Council member must not disclose, or use for personal interest, information and/or documentation obtained in the course of performing official duties.

4. A Council member must be oriented toward cooperation and must not seek to present himself or herself in a privileged position; he or she must not publicly question the competence of an expert, a representative of the institution, a Council member or an Appeals Council member, regardless of whether he or she agrees with their position.

5. A Council member is obliged, before the consideration of the matter begins, to declare a conflict of interest with the institution and self-recusal. A conflict of interest is deemed to be the existence of the circumstances established by Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

5^1. Where a conflict of interest provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article exists, the Council member shall not participate in the consideration of the matter at the Council session, in the adoption of the decision or in voting.

5^2. A Council member provided for by paragraph 5^1 of this Article is not authorized to present at the Council session the position of the interested party – the institution.

6. Organizational and financial support for the Council's work is provided by the Secretariat of the Accreditation Council (hereinafter the "Secretariat"), whose function is performed by the Center. The composition of the Secretariat is determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

7. The Secretariat shall send to Council members, 7 calendar days before the oral hearing, the agenda of the session and the following documentation:

a) the accreditation applicant's completed self-evaluation report and the documentation attached to it;

b) the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel;

c) the reasoned position submitted by the accreditation applicant on the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel.

8. Before the oral hearing, in order to fully study and assess all circumstances of essential importance to the matter under consideration, each Council member is obliged to study in advance the documentation defined by paragraph 7 of this Article. A Council member is entitled to request additional documentation in connection with the matter under consideration, and in order to study it the Council is entitled to postpone consideration of the matter, taking into account the remaining time limits of the administrative proceedings.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27[5]. Decisions related to accreditation

1. The Council shall adopt one of the following decisions:

a) on accreditation;

b) on conditional accreditation;

c) on refusal of accreditation;

d) on revocation of accreditation.

2. The Council shall adopt its decision by no fewer than 3/4 of the members present at the session. Moreover, where invited members of the Council participate, the Council shall adopt its decision by no fewer than 3/4 of the members present at the session, of which the votes of invited members must constitute no fewer than 3/4 of the invited members present.

2[1]. The Council shall adopt the decision provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article by secret ballot. Moreover, the minutes of the Council session ensure the publicity of the voting results.

3. In the case of adopting the decision provided for by subparagraphs "a" and "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council is entitled to give recommendations to the accreditation applicant.

3[1]. Where, together with the decision provided for by subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council adopts a decision on checking (monitoring) the fulfillment of accreditation conditions, the institution must, within 15 calendar days after receiving the written notice sent by the Center no less than one month before the monitoring visit, submit to the Center a document confirming payment of the fee established for checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions. If the fee is not paid within this time limit, upon the submission of the Center the Council shall consider the issue of revoking the accreditation of the relevant educational program.

3[2]. If the decision provided for by subparagraph "c" or "d" of paragraph 1 of this Article is adopted during the academic year, the Council is entitled, upon the petition of the relevant institution and taking into account the legitimate interests of students, for the purpose of continuity of the educational process and regardless of the remaining period of accreditation, to decide that students complete the current academic year in the relevant educational program in accredited mode, and to indicate as the date of entry into force of the decision on revocation of accreditation or refusal of re-accreditation a date no later than the end of the current academic year.

3[3]. In relation to the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program, when the permanent and invited members of the Council adopt the decision provided for by subparagraph "a" or "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council, within the maximum number of student places established for the institution, determines in accordance with the rule established by this Regulation the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program for the duration of accreditation.

4. A Council member is not entitled to abstain from voting.

5. The Council is obliged to substantiate the decision it adopts.

6. The decision provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article shall be published on the Center's website within 10 working days after adoption. Together with the publication of the decision, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel shall be published on the Center's website.

7. The decision provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article enters into force on the day of publication on the Center's website.

7[1]. For the purpose of continuity of accreditation of an educational program, in each subsequent accreditation of the educational program, the decision provided for by subparagraphs "a" and "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article shall specify the start of the accreditation period (date of entry into force of the decision), which, upon the institution's petition, may be set as the day following the end of the current accreditation period remaining from the day the decision enters into force, or as a specific date before the end of the current accreditation remaining from the day the decision enters into force.

7[2]. If, for reasons independent of the institution, the decision provided for by subparagraphs "a" and "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article is not adopted within the time limit provided for by paragraph 2 of

Article 19 of this Regulation, upon the institution's petition the start of the accreditation period (date of entry into force of the decision) may be set in a manner different from paragraph 7^1 of this Article.

8. Upon expiry of authorization or revocation of authorization, accreditation shall be revoked.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^6. Decision on accreditation or conditional accreditation

1. In the case of the first and each subsequent accreditation of an educational program, if, in evaluating the compliance of the educational program with the accreditation standards, the Council has:

a) evaluated it in relation to all standards as "complies with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on accreditation;

b) evaluated it in relation to at least one standard as "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard" and in relation to no standard evaluates it as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" or "does not comply with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on accreditation and shall set for the institution a time limit for submitting a report on the fulfillment of the recommendations received, which shall be reflected in the minutes of the Council session;

b^1) evaluated it in relation to the standard provided for by subparagraph "a" or "d" of paragraph 2 of Article 2 of this Regulation as "substantially complies with the requirements of the standard" and in relation to no standard evaluates it as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" or "does not comply with the requirements of the standard", and the substantial compliance with the standard results from the evaluation of no more than one component of the same standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on accreditation and shall apply to the Center with a petition for monitoring at the institution in accordance with the rule established by this Regulation (within no more than 2 years), which shall be reflected in the minutes of the Council session;

c) evaluated it in relation to at least one standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard" and in relation to no standard evaluates it as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on conditional accreditation;

d) evaluated it in relation to at least one standard as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on refusal of accreditation.

1^1. In the case of subsequent accreditation of an educational program holding conditional accreditation, if the Council has evaluated the educational program in relation to at least one accreditation standard as "partially complies with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall adopt a decision on refusal of accreditation.

2. The time limit for submitting the report provided for by subparagraph "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article set by the Council shall not exceed the time limit provided for by paragraph 2 of Article 26^1 of this Regulation. The running of the time limit for submitting the report begins on the day the decision provided for by subparagraph "b" of paragraph 1 of this Article enters into force, and the final date for submitting the report shall be specified in the same decision.

2^1. The form of the report on the fulfillment of the Council's recommendations is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

2^2. The report conforming to the form provided for by paragraph 2^1 of this Article, submitted by the institution, must be accompanied by a document confirming payment of the report fee.

2^3. The Center shall, within 3 working days, verify the compliance of the report submitted by the institution with the requirements provided for by paragraphs 2^1 and 2^2 of this Article.

2^4. If the institution fails to submit to the Center the relevant report under paragraph 2^1 of this Article or a document to be attached to it, the Center shall set a time limit for the institution to correct the deficiency.

2^5. The report submitted by the institution in accordance with the rule established by paragraph 2^1 of this Article shall be studied by a member of the corps of accreditation experts who is an expert of the relevant field.

2^6. At the request of the expert provided for by paragraph 2^5 of this Article, the Center is entitled to request the relevant documentation from the institution.

2^7. As a result of studying the report and, where necessary, the documentation provided for by paragraph 2^6 of this Article, the expert shall draw up a conclusion.

2^8. The form of the conclusion on the report submitted by the institution on the fulfillment of the Council's recommendations is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

2^9. The Center shall determine the formal compliance of the conclusion drawn up by the expert with the form provided for by paragraph 2^8 of this Article. Where necessary, in order to ensure formal compliance, the conclusion shall be returned to the expert.

2^{10}. Taking into account paragraphs 2^7–2^9 of this Article, the conclusion drawn up by the expert shall be submitted to the Council and also to the relevant institution for information.

2^{11}. The report submitted by the educational institution and the expert's conclusion shall be considered at the relevant Council session. The Council is entitled to take note of the report or to apply to the Center with a petition for checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions and for monitoring at the educational institution, which shall be reflected in the minutes of the Council session.

2^{12}. The decision provided for by paragraph 2^{11} of this Article shall be adopted within 90 calendar days after the institution submits the report.

3. The accreditation period of an educational program is 7 years. For an educational program submitted to the Center for accreditation during the calendar year in which the educational programs classified in the field of study of that program are not subject to repeat accreditation, accreditation shall be granted until the next accreditation deadline of the educational programs classified in the field of study of that educational program.

4. The conditional accreditation period of an educational program is no more than 4 years. For an educational program submitted to the Center for accreditation during the calendar year in which the educational programs classified in the field of study of that program are not subject to repeat accreditation, conditional accreditation shall be granted until the next accreditation deadline of the educational programs classified in the field of study of that educational program, but for no more than 4 years. A decision on conditional accreditation may not be adopted twice in a row.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^7. Accreditation of joint higher education programs

1. In order to implement a joint higher education program provided for by Article 49^1(1) and (2) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, an agreement shall be concluded between the institutions implementing it, which determines the content and forms of implementation of the joint higher education program. The draft agreement provided for by this paragraph must be agreed with the Center.

2. The form for agreeing the draft agreement provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. The draft agreement for the purpose of implementing the joint higher education program provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article must be submitted before the submission of the accreditation

application and must be accompanied by a document confirming payment of the fee for agreeing the draft agreement.

4. If the draft agreement is agreed, the institution, together with the accreditation application for the joint educational program provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article and the documents provided for by paragraph 1 of Article 20 of this Regulation, must also submit the document on agreement of the draft agreement with the Center in accordance with the form provided for by paragraph 2 of this Article, and the agreement concluded taking into account the agreed draft.

5. Accreditation of the joint higher education program provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article shall be carried out in accordance with the rule established by this Regulation.

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020

Article 27^8. Legal consequences of refusal of accreditation, revocation of accreditation or expiry of the accreditation period

1. In the event of refusal of accreditation or revocation of accreditation of an institution's educational program:

a) the institution shall be restricted in its right to admit students / school-leavers / master's candidates / doctoral candidates to the educational program and to the Georgian language preparation educational program for which accreditation was refused, accreditation was revoked or the accreditation period expired;

b) a student who studies with state funding in an accredited educational program is entitled, in accordance with paragraph 3^2 of Article 27^5 of this Regulation, for the period set by the Council (where such a period exists), to continue studying in the same educational program and receive state funding, or to use the right of mobility, transfer to another accredited higher education program and transfer the remaining amount of state funding allocated to him or her to that educational program;

c) the status of a student who studies with state funding in an accredited educational program shall be suspended, in accordance with paragraph 3^2 of Article 27^5 of this Regulation, from the expiry of the time limit set by the Council (where such a time limit exists), for 5 years from the entry into force of the Council's decision on refusal of accreditation or revocation of accreditation, and he or she is entitled to use the right of mobility;

d) a school-leaver who has successfully passed the Unified National Examinations and, according to the ranking document approved by the LEPL – National Assessment and Examinations Center, has gained the right to enroll in the educational program or the Georgian language preparation educational program, is entitled to use the right of mobility;

e) a master's candidate who has been included in the ranking document by master's examination coefficients is entitled to use the right of mobility.

2. In the event of expiry of the accreditation period of an educational program or the Georgian language preparation educational program, on the basis of the institution's reasoned petition and the Council's decision, a student has the right to continue studying in the same educational program until the end of the current academic semester and receive state funding. For 5 years after the end of the current academic semester, the student's status shall be suspended and he or she is entitled to use the right of mobility.

Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27^9. Determining the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program

1. The basis for determining the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is the number of places indicated in the accreditation application submitted by the institution to the Center, or in the application on increasing the maximum number of student places.

2. The maximum number of student places indicated by the institution in the application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article must be based on the institution's and the educational program's methodology for determining the maximum number of student places, which takes into account the requirements of the relevant subject benchmark, the specifics of the educational program, human resources, and the resources of the institution, practice facilities, and laboratory and clinical bases.

3. The Council shall consider the application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article in accordance with the rule established by this Regulation and, taking into account the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel and the opinions of other interested persons, shall adopt the relevant decision at the session by no fewer than 3/4 of the members present, of which the votes of invited members must constitute no fewer than 3/4 of the invited members present.

4. The Council is entitled to agree to the institution's request or to reduce the maximum number of student places requested by it. The Council is obliged to substantiate its decision.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 27[10]. Increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program

1. An institution is entitled, within the maximum number of student places established for it by the Authorization Council, to submit to the Center a written application on increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program.

2. The form of the written application on increasing the maximum number of student places to be submitted to the Center is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, which is published publicly.

3. Within the administrative proceedings provided for by this Article, the Director of the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and the visit to the institution.

4. The accreditation expert panel consists of members of the corps of experts – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other institutions and a student; it may also include employers, as well as representatives of the relevant regulatory body and/or professional association and other persons with the relevant competence.

5. Taking into account the study of the application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article and the documentation attached to it, the institution's and the educational program's methodology for determining the maximum number of student places, the requirements of the relevant subject benchmark, the specifics of the educational program, human resources, and the resources of the institution, practice facilities, and laboratory and clinical bases, a draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel shall be drawn up as a result of the visit and submitted to the Center.

6. The Center shall determine the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel with the requirements established by the individual administrative-legal acts of the Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 and paragraph 14 of this Article. If compliance is established, the draft conclusion shall be sent to the institution. Where necessary, in order to ensure the formal compliance of the draft conclusion, the draft conclusion shall be returned to the accreditation expert panel.

7. Within 5 working days after becoming acquainted with the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, the institution shall submit to the Center in writing a reasoned position regarding the factual circumstances set out in the draft conclusion, which shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

8. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 7 of this Article, after becoming acquainted with it – or, if no reasoned position is submitted, after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 7 of this Article – the accreditation expert panel shall finalize the conclusion and submit it to the Center.

9. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 7 of this Article, the conclusion formulated by the accreditation expert panel shall include information on the arguments for the expert panel's acceptance or non-acceptance of the reasoned position.

10. The Center shall send the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the institution and the Council.

11. The decision on increasing the maximum number of student places shall be adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 27^9 of this Regulation.

12. The decision on increasing, or refusing to increase, the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program shall be adopted within 90 calendar days after submission to the Center of the written application on increasing the number of student places.

13. Exceeding the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is grounds for revocation of accreditation of that program, except in the case of exceeding the maximum number of student places upon restoration of student status.

14. On the initiative of the Center, on the basis of checking the accreditation conditions in accordance with Article 31 of this Regulation, the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program may be reduced in accordance with a Council decision.

15. The form of the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel on increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28. Recognition of accreditation granted by a foreign organization

1. Accreditation of a higher education program, including a joint higher education program, developed in compliance with the requirements of the legislation of Georgia may be carried out by a foreign organization with the relevant competence recognized by the Center.

2. For the purposes provided for by this Article, the Center recognizes accreditation granted by an organization that operates on the territory of European Union member states, is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), and that has such authority in accordance with the rule established by the legislation of the relevant country. The higher education institution shall provide the Center with preliminary information on the selected organization and the educational program (including the program title, the qualification(s) to be awarded, the components of the program, the number of credits, and the distribution of credits).

2^1. For the purposes provided for by this Article, in the case of the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program, the Center recognizes accreditation granted by an organization that operates on the territory of European Union member states, is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), that has such authority in accordance with the rule established by the legislation of the relevant country, and that has obtained recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). The institution shall provide the Center with preliminary information on the selected organization and the educational program.

3. In the cases provided for by paragraphs 2 and 2^1 of this Article, recognition shall be carried out on the basis of the submission by the institution to the Center of the relevant application, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel established by the foreign organization, and the decision adopted by the foreign organization on the accreditation of the educational program.

4. For the purposes provided for by this Article, the Center is also entitled to recognize accreditation granted by an organization operating on the territory of the United States of America that has such authority in accordance with the rule established by the relevant legislation.

5. For the purpose of recognition of accreditation granted by the organization provided for by paragraph 4 of this Article, the institution applies to this organization with an accreditation application on the basis of prior consent given by the Center. The Center's prior consent shall be given if the external evaluation mechanism used by the organization is, from the quality assurance perspective, compatible with the accreditation standards and procedures in force at the national level. Otherwise, the Center shall refuse recognition of the accreditation granted by the organization indicated by the institution.

6. The basis for commencing the proceedings provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article is the submission by the institution to the Center of a written application and a document confirming payment of the fee for reviewing this application. The written application provided for by this paragraph shall be submitted to the Center no less than 30 calendar days before applying to the organization provided for by paragraph 4 of this Article. The submitted application must contain information on the relevant educational program (including the title, the qualification(s) to be awarded, the components of the program, the number of credits, and the distribution of credits), as well as information on the status and authority of the organization carrying out accreditation, and on the accreditation standards and procedures.

7. In the case provided for by paragraph 4 of this Article, recognition shall be carried out on the basis of the submission by the institution to the Center of the relevant application, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel established by the foreign organization, and the decision adopted by the foreign organization on the accreditation of the educational program.

8. Apart from the cases provided for by paragraphs 2, 2^1 and 4 of this Article, the Center is entitled to recognize accreditation granted by a foreign organization if the external evaluation mechanism used by this organization is, from the quality assurance perspective, compatible with the accreditation standards and procedures in force at the national level, and a provision on such recognition is made by an international agreement. Before the conclusion of the international agreement, on the basis of the application of the structure responsible for preparing the draft of this agreement, the Center shall ensure determination of the compatibility of the foreign organization's external evaluation mechanisms with the accreditation standards and procedures in force at the national level.

9. In the case provided for by paragraph 8 of this Article, recognition shall be carried out on the basis of the submission by the institution to the Center of the relevant application, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel established by the foreign organization, and the decision adopted by the foreign organization on the accreditation of the educational program. The submitted application must contain information on the relevant educational program (including the title, the qualification(s) to be awarded, the duration of the program, the components of the program, the number of credits, the distribution of credits, and the qualification to be awarded).

10. The Center's decision on recognition of accreditation shall be adopted no later than 30 calendar days after submission of the documentation provided for by paragraphs 3, 7 and 9 of this Article. If a period of more than 30 calendar days is necessary to establish circumstances of essential importance to the case, the Center is entitled, at the commencement of the administrative proceedings, to decide to extend that time limit to 60 calendar days.

11. The institution is obliged to inform the Center of any change in the decision on accreditation granted by the foreign organization provided for by this Article.

12. By prior agreement with the foreign organization provided for by paragraphs 2, 2^1, 4 and 8 of this Article, the Center is entitled to check the conditions of accreditation granted by the foreign organization through unplanned monitoring in accordance with the rule established by this Regulation. The conclusion of the accreditation expert panel shall be sent to the relevant foreign organization and the institution.

13. The institution is obliged to inform the Center of information on the results of checking the accreditation conditions by the foreign organization.

14. The form of the application on recognition of accreditation granted by a foreign organization, provided for by this Article, is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018

Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Chapter VI[1] – Powers and Rules of Operation of the Appeals Council

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016

Article 28[1]. Composition of the Appeals Council

1. The decisions provided for by paragraph 1 of Article 27[5] of this Regulation may be appealed by the institution to the Appeals Council within one month after becoming acquainted with them, in accordance with the rule established by legislation. The appeal submitted by the institution to the Center must be accompanied by a document confirming payment of the fee for the admissibility of the appeal.

2. Members of the Appeals Council shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia upon the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The term of office of the Appeals Council is two years. A member of the Appeals Council may not be a public servant, a member of the Authorization Council or a member of the Council.

3. Members of the Appeals Council shall be remunerated (paid an honorarium) for their work from the Center's own income. The rule and amount of remuneration (payment of honorarium) for the work of the Appeals Council shall be determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

4. The Appeals Council is functionally independent of institutions and state bodies.

5. The powers of a member of the Appeals Council may be terminated early on the initiative of the Prime Minister of Georgia or:

a) on the basis of a personal application;

b) when a judgment of conviction issued against him or her by a court enters into legal force;

c) in the event he or she is recognized by a court as legally incapable;

d) in the event of systematic failure to attend sessions, if this hinders the activities of the Appeals Council;

e) in the event of an action incompatible with the exercise of the powers of a member of the Appeals Council;

f) in the event of working in a structural unit of an institution that systematically carries out quality management assurance;

g) taking into account the petition of the Center / on its own initiative, on the basis of the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

6. Early termination of the powers of a member of the Appeals Council shall be confirmed by an individual administrative-legal act of the Prime Minister of Georgia. In the event of early termination of powers, the Prime Minister of Georgia, upon the submission of the Ministry, shall appoint a new member within one month for the remaining term of office of the member whose powers were terminated.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28[2]. Rules of operation of the Appeals Council

1. In performing his or her functions, a member of the Appeals Council must be independent, objective and impartial.

2. A member of the Appeals Council must maintain neutrality in any situation and must not come under the influence of interested parties, regardless of their status.

3. A member of the Appeals Council must not disclose, or use for personal interest, information and/or documentation obtained in the course of performing official duties.

4. A member of the Appeals Council must be oriented toward cooperation and must not seek to present himself or herself in a privileged position; he or she must not publicly question the competence of an expert, a Council member or another member of the Appeals Council, regardless of whether he or she agrees with their position.

5. A member of the Appeals Council is obliged, before the consideration of the matter begins, to declare a conflict of interest with the institution and self-recusal. A conflict of interest is deemed to be the existence of the circumstances established by Article 92 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

5^1. Where a conflict of interest provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article exists, the member of the Appeals Council shall not participate in the consideration of the matter at the Appeals Council session, in the adoption of the decision or in voting.

5^2. A member of the Appeals Council provided for by paragraph 5^1 of this Article is not authorized to present at the Appeals Council session the position of the interested party – the institution.

6. Organizational and financial support for the work of the Appeals Council is provided by the Secretariat of the Appeals Council (hereinafter the "Secretariat"), whose function is performed by the Center. The composition of the Secretariat is determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

7. The Secretariat shall send to members of the Appeals Council, no less than 7 calendar days before the oral hearing, the following documentation:

a) the appeal and the documentation attached to it;

b) the accreditation documentation;

c) the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel and the accreditation applicant's opinions on it (where such exist);

d) the contested decision.

8. (Repealed – 31.01.2018, No. 09/N).

9. Before the oral hearing, in order to fully study and assess all circumstances of essential importance to the matter under consideration, each member of the Appeals Council is obliged to study in advance the documentation defined by paragraph 7 of this Article. A member of the Appeals Council is entitled to request the provision of other documentation in connection with the matter under consideration.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28^3. Appeal

1. The appeal must be drawn up in writing and must state:

a) the address to the Appeals Council;

b) the identity/name, address and contact information of the person submitting the appeal;

c) the name of the Council whose decision is being appealed;

d) the title of the contested decision;

e) the claim;

f) the circumstances on which the claim is based;

g) the list of documentation attached to the appeal, if any document is attached to the appeal.

2. The Appeals Council shall not consider the appeal if:

a) the contested decision is under court proceedings;

b) the appeal was submitted by an unauthorized person;

c) the time limit for submitting the appeal established by paragraph 1 of Article 28^1 of this Regulation has expired;

d) consideration of the requested matter exceeds the limits of the powers of the Appeals Council.

3. The Appeals Council shall adopt the decision on accepting the appeal or refusing to consider it within 10 working days after submission of the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Council shall be formalized by the signature of the Chair of the Appeals Council.

4. (Repealed – 31.01.2018, No. 09/N).

5. Within 10 calendar days after the decision of the Appeals Council on accepting the appeal enters into legal force, the institution must submit to the Center a document confirming payment of the fee for considering the appeal. If the document confirming payment of the fee for considering the appeal is not submitted within this time limit, upon the petition of the Center the Appeals Council shall adopt a decision on leaving the appeal without consideration.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28^4. Time limit for considering the appeal

The Appeals Council shall consider the appeal and adopt the relevant decision within 60 calendar days after receiving the appeal.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021

Article 28^5. Oral hearing

1. The Appeals Council shall adopt its decision on the basis of studying the appeal, the accreditation documentation, the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, the accreditation applicant's opinions on the conclusion of the expert panel (where such exist), and the Council's decision, and on the basis of holding an oral hearing.

2. The session of the Appeals Council shall be convened by the Chair of the Appeals Council.

3. The interested party shall be notified of the oral hearing no less than 7 calendar days before it is held. The interested party is entitled to participate in the oral hearing.

4. The session shall be chaired by the Chair of the Appeals Council, in his or her absence by the Deputy Chair, and in the absence of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair, by a member of the Council determined by the majority of those present. If the Secretary of the Appeals Council is unable to perform his or her duties, the functions shall be performed by one of the members of the Appeals Council on the instruction of the chair of the session.

5. The session is competent if more than half of the full membership of the Appeals Council, but no fewer than 3 members, attend. A member of the Appeals Council who has declared self-recusal and/or is recused in relation to the matter under consideration shall not be counted in this number.

6. The session of the Appeals Council is public. The chair of the session is entitled to declare the session closed in cases provided for by legislation.

7. Experts who are members of the accreditation expert panel, as well as representatives of the Center, are entitled to attend the oral hearing, and by decision of the chair of the session to participate in the oral hearing.

8. By decision of the Appeals Council, another person may be invited to the oral hearing.

9. When the Appeals Council adopts a decision, depending on the specifics of the field, a person determined by the Appeals Council may participate with advisory vote.

10. The chair of the session is obliged to ensure the examination of circumstances of importance to the case at the oral hearing.

11. The interested party has the right to file a motion concerning the examination of circumstances of importance to the case, to give the Appeals Council oral or written explanations, to present additional evidence, to substantiate his or her claim, or to refute the data, opinions or evidence on which the contested decision was based.

12. At the oral hearing the Appeals Council shall consider only the documentation that was prepared before the adoption of the contested decision.

13. The minutes of the session of the Appeals Council shall be drawn up within 10 working days after the session, signed by the Chair of the Appeals Council and the Secretary of the Appeals Council. On the basis of the minutes of the session of the Appeals Council, an individual administrative-legal act shall be issued, signed by the Chair of the Appeals Council and the Secretary of the Appeals Council.

14. The functions and duties of members of the Appeals Council provided for by this Regulation may also be performed remotely or semi-remotely using modern electronic means of communication (where such possibility exists).

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28^6. Participation of the Council that adopted the contested decision in proceedings related to the appeal

1. If the Appeals Council accepts the appeal, the appeal and copies of the documents attached to it shall be sent through the Secretariat to the Council that adopted the contested decision.

2. The Council that adopted the contested decision is entitled, within 10 working days after receiving a copy of the appeal, to submit to the Appeals Council its own written opinion on the appeal.

3. In the administrative proceedings related to the appeal, the Council that adopted the contested decision enjoys the same rights as those granted to the interested party participating in the administrative proceedings.

4. In the administrative proceedings, including at the oral hearing, the Council that adopted the contested decision must be represented by the Chair of that Council or, with his or her consent, by another member of the Council.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28^7. Decisions of the Appeals Council

1. The Appeals Council reviews the contested decision from the standpoint of lawfulness and expediency.

2. The Appeals Council shall adopt one of the following decisions by a majority of the members present at the session:

a) on upholding the decision of the Council;

b) on returning the matter to the Council for reconsideration.

2^1. The Appeals Council shall adopt the decision provided for by paragraph 2 of this Article by secret ballot. Moreover, the minutes of the session of the Appeals Council ensure the publicity of the voting results.

3. A member of the Appeals Council is not entitled to abstain from voting.

4. The Appeals Council is obliged to substantiate the decision it adopts.

5. The decision of the Appeals Council shall be published on the Center's website within 10 working days after adoption.

6. Appealing the Council's decision to the Appeals Council does not suspend the effect of that decision.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 28^8. Legal consequences of the decision of the Appeals Council

1. If the Appeals Council adopts a decision to uphold the Council's decision, the interested party is entitled to appeal that decision to a court in accordance with the rule and within the time limit established by legislation.

2. If the Appeals Council adopts a decision to return the matter to the Council for reconsideration, the relevant Council shall consider the matter in accordance with the rule established by Articles 27^2 and 27^5 of this Regulation and shall adopt a decision within the time limit established by legislation.

3. If the Appeals Council adopts a decision to return the matter to the Council for reconsideration, the Council shall, within 45 calendar days after publication on the Center's website of the decision and the minutes of the session of the Appeals Council, adopt a decision on the basis of the documentation provided for by paragraph 1 of Article 27^2 of this Regulation, the Council's contested decision, and the consideration of the decision of the Appeals Council and holding of an oral hearing.

4. An institution may appeal a decision related to accreditation in accordance with the rule defined by this Chapter only once.

Order No. 121/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 September 2016 – Website, 16.09.2016
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Chapter VI – Checking Accreditation Conditions

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017

Article 29. Submission of the accreditation self-evaluation report

1. For the purpose of checking the accreditation conditions, an institution that implements an accredited program is obliged to submit a self-evaluation report to the Center no less than once every three years. The time limits for submitting the self-evaluation report are determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

2. The self-evaluation report of an educational program/cluster of educational programs may be submitted through the electronic document circulation system or in material form, in which case the accreditation self-evaluation report and the documentation to be attached to it shall be submitted to the Center by means of an electronic information carrier.

3. Submission of the self-evaluation report is not mandatory for the following educational programs:

a) that was granted conditional accreditation;

b) that was granted accreditation or conditional accreditation for a period of no more than 4 years;

c) that was granted accreditation and in relation to which, on the basis of the Council's petition under subparagraph "b^1" of paragraph 1 of Article 27^6 of this Regulation or under Article 31, a check of accreditation conditions was carried out;

d) that holds accreditation granted by a foreign organization recognized by the Center and in relation to which the Center has recognized the accreditation granted to that program;

e) that was granted accreditation on the basis of the accreditation standards for educational programs of institutions in force before the entry into force of the "Accreditation Standards for Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions" provided for by Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 "On Amending Order No. 65/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 4 May 2011 'On Approval of the Regulation and Fee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions'";

f) in relation to which, during the self-evaluation report submission period specified in the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, administrative proceedings are ongoing in connection with an accreditation application.

4. The forms of the self-evaluation report of an educational program and of a cluster of educational programs are approved by the Director of the Center by an individual administrative-legal act.

5. The Center shall, within 3 working days, verify the compliance of the self-evaluation report submitted by the institution concerning an educational program with the requirements provided for by paragraphs 2–4 of this Article.

5[1]. The Center shall, within 7 working days, verify the compliance of the self-evaluation report submitted by the institution concerning a cluster of educational programs with the requirements provided for by paragraphs 2–4 of this Article.

6. For the purpose of studying the self-evaluation report, the Director of the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and the evaluation of the self-evaluation report.

7. The accreditation expert panel established for the purpose of studying the self-evaluation report consists of members of the corps of experts – members of administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other higher education institutions; it may also include a student, an employer and, in the case of a regulated educational program, also representatives of the relevant regulatory body and/or professional association and other persons with the relevant qualification.

8. At the request of the accreditation expert panel, the Center is entitled to request the relevant documentation from the institution.

9. As a result of studying the self-evaluation report and, where necessary, the documentation provided for by paragraph 8 of this Article, the accreditation expert panel shall draw up a draft conclusion.

10. The Center shall determine the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel with the requirements established by the individual administrative-legal acts of the Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 and paragraph 18 of this Article. If compliance is established, the draft conclusion shall be sent to the institution.

11. Where necessary, in order to ensure the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, the draft conclusion shall be returned to the accreditation expert panel.

12. Within 5 working days after becoming acquainted with the draft conclusion – or, in the case of a cluster of educational programs, within 10 working days – the institution shall submit to the Center in writing a reasoned position regarding the factual circumstances set out in the draft conclusion, which shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

13. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 12 of this Article, after becoming acquainted with it – or, if no reasoned position is submitted, after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 12 of this Article – the expert panel shall finalize the conclusion and submit it to the Center.

14. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 12 of this Article, the conclusion formulated by the expert panel shall include information on the arguments for the expert panel's acceptance or non-acceptance of the reasoned position.

15. The Center shall send the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the institution within 90 calendar days after the issuance of the individual administrative-legal act of the Center provided for by paragraph 6 of this Article.

16. The results of the evaluation of the self-evaluation report provided for by this Article are used by the Center to promote the establishment of systematic self-evaluation, the development of internal quality assurance mechanisms, and the planning of developmental and supportive measures based on the needs of institutions, within the institution and the educational program/cluster of educational programs.

17. Failure to submit the self-evaluation report provided for by this Article within the established time limits may serve as grounds for checking the accreditation conditions of the educational program in accordance with Article 31 of this Regulation.

18. The forms of the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel for an educational program and for a cluster of educational programs, and the requirements established for them, are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017

Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 30. Changes made by an institution during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of an educational program

1. In the event of a change, during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of an educational program, of the program's title, the prerequisite(s) for admission to the program, the learning outcome(s), and/or the place of implementation of the educational program (except for the case provided for by paragraph 2 of this Article), and/or the structure of the educational program (a change – addition and/or removal – of the components of the main field of study and of the number of credits assigned to it by no less than 30%, which does not change the learning outcomes of the educational program, and/or addition and/or removal of a concentration), the institution is obliged to inform the Center in writing within 30 calendar days after the change is made and to submit the changed educational program, as well as the reason for the changes and the relevant act issued by it.

2. A change, during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of an educational program, of the language of instruction and/or the title of the qualification to be awarded in the educational program, a merger of educational programs existing in accredited/conditional accreditation mode, or a division of an educational program (except for the case provided for by paragraph 3 of this Article), as well as, during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of a regulated educational program provided for by Article 75 of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, a change of the place(s) of implementation of the educational program – the municipality/municipalities – is impermissible. In the event of a change provided for by this paragraph, the educational program(s) shall be considered a new program(s), the right to implement which the institution must obtain in accordance with the rule established by legislation.

2^1. A change made, during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of a joint higher education program, to the agreement concluded on the implementation of the joint higher education program, which provides for termination/suspension of the agreement by any institution implementing the joint higher education program, shall cause the higher education program to be considered a new program, the right to implement which the institution must obtain in accordance with the rule established by legislation.

3. A change, during the accreditation/conditional accreditation period of an educational program, of the title of the qualification to be awarded in the educational program, and/or a division of educational programs existing in accreditation/conditional accreditation mode, is permissible if it relates to bringing the program into compliance with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classification of Fields of Study, or with the subject benchmark in connection with a change made to the existing subject benchmark. In such a case, the educational program(s) shall not be considered a new program(s) and shall continue to operate in accredited mode for the remaining accreditation period determined for the program in force before the change of the title of the qualification to be awarded provided for by this paragraph and/or before the division of the educational program existing in accreditation/conditional accreditation mode.

4. If bringing a program into compliance with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classification of Fields of Study results in the division of an educational program into two or more educational programs, the institution is obliged, within the same calendar year, to bring the divided educational programs, regardless of their detailed field codes, into compliance with the National Qualifications Framework and the Classification of Fields of Study.

5. In the event of the changes provided for by paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article being made, as well as in the event of failure to perform the obligation provided for by the same paragraphs, the Center is entitled to check the accreditation conditions by means of monitoring.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017
Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018
Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 31. Checking accreditation conditions through monitoring

1. Checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions is carried out through planned and/or unplanned monitoring.

2. Planned monitoring is carried out upon the petition of the Council and/or on the initiative of the Center.

3. The methodology for drawing up the planned monitoring plan and the criteria for selecting educational programs are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

4. The annual plan for planned monitoring of educational programs is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, which shall be sent to the relevant institution within 10 working days after issuance.

5. Unplanned monitoring is carried out upon the petition of the Council, on the basis of a complaint submitted to the Center in connection with the fulfillment of the accreditation standards for educational programs, and/or on the initiative of the Center.

6. The complaint provided for by paragraph 5 of this Article may be submitted to the Center by an interested person (legal representative, student, academic, invited, scientific or administrative staff, and others) who considers that the standards defined by this Regulation are being violated. Moreover, the form of the complaint and the methodology for drawing up and considering the complaint are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

7. For the purpose of checking the fulfillment of the accreditation conditions of an educational program or of educational programs grouped in a cluster of educational programs, when carrying out planned and/or unplanned monitoring, the Center is entitled to request the relevant documentation/information from the institution and/or to issue an individual administrative-legal act on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and/or on a planned and/or unplanned monitoring visit to the institution.

8. If the Center requests the relevant documentation/information from the institution and, as a result of studying the documentation/information, an additional need for checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions is identified, the Center shall issue an individual administrative-legal act on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and on carrying out planned and/or unplanned monitoring by means of a visit and/or study of documentation; otherwise, upon the petition of the Center, the Council shall terminate the administrative proceedings commenced on monitoring.

9. In the case of checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions through planned and/or unplanned monitoring, the accreditation expert panel consists of members of the corps of experts – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other institutions. Also, taking into account the scope and content of monitoring, the expert panel may include a student, an employer and, in the case of a regulated educational program, also a representative of the relevant regulatory body and/or professional association and other persons with the relevant qualification.

10. The accreditation expert panel is headed by the chair of the expert panel.

11. The individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and on carrying out planned monitoring at the institution by means of a visit and/or study of documentation shall be presented to the institution no less than 10 working days before the commencement of the visit/evaluation process.

12. The individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center on the establishment of the accreditation expert panel and on carrying out unplanned monitoring at the institution by means of a visit and/or study of documentation shall be presented to the institution directly at the commencement of the visit/evaluation process, or no less than 5 calendar days before the commencement of the visit/evaluation process.

13. The matters of self-recusal and/or recusal of the accreditation expert(s) are regulated in accordance with paragraphs 4–9 of Article 24 of this Regulation. The institution's exercise of the right of recusal shall not obstruct carrying out the visit.

14. In the event of establishment of the accreditation expert panel, a draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel shall be drawn up and submitted to the Center.

15. The Center shall determine the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel with the requirements established by the individual administrative-legal acts of the Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 and paragraph 9 of Article 27^1. If compliance is established, the draft conclusion shall be sent to the institution.

16. Where necessary, in order to ensure the formal compliance of the draft conclusion of the accreditation expert panel, the draft conclusion shall be returned to the accreditation expert panel.

17. Within 5 working days after becoming acquainted with the draft conclusion – or, in the case of a cluster of educational programs, within 10 working days – the institution shall submit to the Center in writing a reasoned position regarding the factual circumstances set out in the draft conclusion, which shall be sent to the expert panel and the Council.

18. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 17 of this Article, after becoming acquainted with it – or, if no reasoned position is submitted, after the expiry of the time limit provided for by paragraph 17 of this Article – the expert panel shall finalize the conclusion and submit it to the Center.

19. In the case of submission of the reasoned position provided for by paragraph 17 of this Article, the conclusion formulated by the expert panel shall include information on the arguments for the expert panel's acceptance or non-acceptance of the reasoned position.

20. The Center shall send the conclusion of the accreditation expert panel to the institution.

21. As a result of checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions, the Council is entitled to adopt a decision on revoking the accreditation/conditional accreditation of the educational program if, in evaluating the compliance of the educational program with the accreditation standards, the Council has evaluated it in relation to at least one standard as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard".

22. In the event a violation is identified, the Council is entitled, taking into account the remaining time limits of the administrative proceedings, to set for the institution a time limit of no more than 60 days to correct the deficiency, except where it is obvious that this will not produce a result.

23. If, after the expiry of the time limit set on the basis of paragraph 22 of this Article, it is established as a result of checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions that none of the recommendations has been fulfilled by the institution, the Council is entitled to adopt a decision on revoking the accreditation/conditional accreditation.

24. If, after the expiry of the time limit set on the basis of paragraph 22 of this Article, it is established as a result of checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions that part of the recommendations has been fulfilled by the institution and, at the same time, no standard is evaluated as "does not comply with the requirements of the standard", the Council shall set for the institution a time limit for submitting a report on the fulfillment of the remaining recommendations or shall apply to the Center with a petition for monitoring. The rule for submitting and considering the report provided for by this paragraph is determined in accordance with paragraphs $2–2^{12}$ of Article 27^6 of this Regulation.

25. If it is established as a result of checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions that all recommendations have been fulfilled by the institution, the Council shall adopt a decision on terminating the administrative proceedings related to monitoring.

26. In the event of applying to the Center with a petition on checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions, the Council shall determine the period of carrying out monitoring, the form of carrying out monitoring and the scope of monitoring.

27. The relevant decision of the Council shall be adopted within 90 calendar days after the issuance of the order of the Director of the Center on checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions by the institution. The running of this time limit shall be deemed suspended during the time limit set by the Council for correcting the deficiency.

Order No. 144/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 August 2017 – Website, 23.08.2017

Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 January 2018 – Website, 01.02.2018

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018

Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 31[1]. Rule for considering complaints related to the accreditation process

1. An institution and/or another interested party participating in the accreditation process is entitled to submit to the Center a complaint in connection with the accreditation process, within 10 calendar days after the occurrence of a specific circumstance during that process or after the end of the process, if the requirements established by this Regulation, by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this Regulation, by the "Code of Ethics of Authorization and Accreditation Experts" approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, and/or by the internal regulations of the Center are violated by an employee(s) of the Center and/or a member(s) of the accreditation expert panel.

2. A complaint submitted against a member(s) of the accreditation expert panel shall be considered in accordance with the rule established by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center provided for by paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this Regulation.

3. A complaint submitted against an employee(s) of the Center shall be considered in accordance with the rule established by the internal regulations of the Center.

4. The form of the complaint provided for by this Article and the methodology for drawing up and considering the complaint are approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 31[2]. International accreditation of educational programs of higher education institutions operating abroad

1. International accreditation and checking of conditions of an educational program of a higher education institution operating abroad shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures established by this Article. Matters not regulated by this Article are governed by the relevant articles of this Order.

2. A higher education institution operating abroad shall inform the Center in writing, no less than 2 months before submitting the accreditation application, of its wish to commence the accreditation process for the educational program.

3. A higher education institution operating abroad is entitled to apply to the Center in writing with a request to hold a consultative meeting for the accreditation process, which concerns:

a) the international accreditation process;

b) preparation of the accreditation application and planning and carrying out of the self-evaluation process;

c) planning and carrying out of the accreditation visit;

d) explanation of the accreditation standards and subject benchmarks.

4. The fee for the consultative meeting and for accreditation is determined by Annex No. 4 to this Order.

5. In order to find information on the higher education system, subject benchmarks, and the standards and procedures for quality assurance of higher education operating in a foreign country, the Center is entitled to contact the organization(s) responsible for external quality assurance of higher education operating in the country of the higher education institution.

6. The accreditation application submitted by a higher education institution operating abroad and the documentation attached to it must be submitted to the Center in English. The Center shall provide a Georgian translation of those documents for which the requirement of existence in Georgian is specified in the approved form of the accreditation self-evaluation report to be completed by the higher education institution operating abroad.

7. At the stage of recognition of a higher education institution operating abroad as an accreditation applicant, a contract shall be concluded between the Center and the institution, which determines the rights and obligations of the parties, and the costs related to the translation of the accreditation

documentation, the business trip of the members of the accreditation expert panel and of the representative(s) of the Center, and the accreditation fee.

8. When evaluating a higher education program of a higher education institution operating abroad, the participation in the panel of an expert representing the country in which the international accreditation-applicant institution operates is mandatory. This expert shall be determined on the basis of consultation with the organization responsible for external quality assurance of higher education in the institution's country.

9. In the case of accreditation of an educational program of a higher education institution operating abroad, the accreditation expert panel consists of members of the corps of experts – administrative/academic/scientific/invited staff of other educational institutions and a student, an international expert and an employer; in the case of a regulated educational program, representatives of the regulatory body and/or professional association from the relevant country and other persons with the relevant competence may also participate.

10. When the Educational Programs Council considers an educational program of a higher education institution operating abroad, no more than 2 international experts determined by the Chair of the Council may participate with advisory vote, the rule and amount of remuneration (payment of honorarium) for whose work shall be determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center. Invited persons shall be remunerated (paid an honorarium) for their work from the Center's own income.

11. Where the accreditation application submits the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program, in the evaluation process the Center shall take into account the subject benchmark of higher education in medicine approved by the Director of the Center, the standards of the World Federation for Medical Education on basic medical education, and also the main requirements of the subject benchmark in force in the country of the accreditation-applicant institution (where such exists).

12. The Council's decision related to an educational program of a higher education institution operating abroad and the relevant part of the minutes of the Council session shall be issued in Georgian and English.

13. A higher education institution operating abroad is entitled to submit in English an appeal against the decision of the Educational Programs Council.

14. The decision of the Appeals Council concerning an educational program of a higher education institution operating abroad and the relevant part of the minutes of the Council session shall be issued in Georgian and English.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Chapter VII – Transitional Provisions

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020

Article 32. Accreditation, at the transitional stage, of programs developed on the basis of Order No. 120/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 10 December 2010 "On Approval of the National Qualifications Framework"

1. In order to ensure the continuous implementation of an educational program developed on the basis of Order No. 120/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 10 December 2010 "On Approval of the National Qualifications Framework" and operating in authorized/accredited mode as of 5 October 2018, the accreditation application for the relevant educational program may be submitted to the Center until 29 February 2020 inclusive.

2. The educational program reflected in the accreditation application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article may, according to its learning outcomes, lead to more than one but no more than three qualifications (except for regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation and doctoral educational programs).

3. The educational program reflected in the accreditation application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article must be brought into compliance with the "National Qualifications Framework" and the

"Classification of Fields of Study" approved by Order No. 69/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 April 2019 within the time limit determined by that Order.

Article 33. Rule for the implementation of certain legal relations provided for by the Regulation during the transitional period

1. During the transitional period, the functions and duties of accreditation experts, Council members and Appeals Council members provided for by this Regulation may be performed remotely, using modern electronic means of communication (where such possibility exists), except for the functions and duties to be performed by accreditation experts before the Council session within proceedings related to the implementation of a regulated medical academic higher education program.

1^1. During the transitional period, within the administrative proceedings related to the accreditation of the regulated academic higher education program provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, the functions and duties of accreditation experts of higher education programs provided for by this Regulation may be performed semi-remotely, which means evaluation by accreditation experts (except the international expert) of the material resources, clinical bases and laboratories of the institution by carrying out an on-site visit. Moreover, this also means viewing by the international expert of the institution's material resources, clinical bases and laboratories remotely, using modern electronic means of communication, which must be technically ensured by the accreditation applicant.

2. The period before the elimination of the threat of the spread of the novel coronavirus shall be considered the transitional period.

Order No. 37/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 18 March 2020 – Website, 19.03.2020
Order No. 17/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 15 March 2021 – Website, 16.03.2021

Article 34. Consideration of reports on the fulfillment of recommendations issued by the Council

The consideration of a report on the fulfillment of recommendations issued by the Council, submitted by an institution before 30 January 2020, shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations in force for the period of submission of the report.

Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 35. Re-accreditation of educational programs and suspension of the time limit of administrative proceedings

1. The current accreditation period of a higher education program (except for an educational program accredited in 2011–2012) whose current accreditation period expires in 2020 shall be extended until 31 December 2020 inclusive.

2. The current accreditation period of the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program (except for an educational program accredited in 2011–2012) whose current accreditation period expires in 2020 shall be extended until 1 July 2021.

3. This Article shall not apply to an educational program in relation to which, before the entry into force of Law of Georgia No. 6284-IIs of 12 June 2020 "On Amendments to the Law of Georgia on Education Quality Enhancement", the Council adopted the relevant decision, and/or whose current accreditation period expired before the entry into force of that Law and in relation to whose accreditation no administrative proceedings are ongoing at the Center.

Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020

Article 36. Period of effect of the regulation related to the participation of an international expert in the accreditation expert panel in certain cases

From 1 January 2023, paragraph 11 of Article 20 shall be repealed.

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Annex No. 2

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Fee for the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions

Article 1. Amount of the accreditation fee

1. The fee for reviewing an accreditation application is GEL 200 for one educational program, GEL 400 for 2–3 programs, GEL 600 for 4–6 programs, and GEL 800 for 7–8 programs.

2. The fee for reviewing an accreditation application submitted by a higher education institution operating abroad is GEL 600 for 1–2 programs, GEL 900 for 3–4 programs, and GEL 1,100 for 5–8 programs.

3. The fee for reviewing an application on increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is GEL 200.

4. The accreditation fee includes: the actual administrative costs related to the administrative proceedings (salary, office, and costs related to holding the Council session); the costs of remuneration of accreditation experts; the costs of services related to checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions of the educational program during the accreditation period; the cost of simultaneous interpretation during the visit; and the corresponding amount to be transferred to the State Budget of Georgia from the Center's own income.

5. The amount of the fee for accreditation of an educational program (except regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation, veterinary training and doctoral educational programs) / accreditation of educational programs included in a cluster is:

a) in the case of one educational program, GEL 6,239, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 7,759;

b) in the case of two educational programs, GEL 8,904, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 10,672;

c) in the case of three educational programs, GEL 13,162, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 16,027;

d) in the case of four educational programs, GEL 16,319, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 19,252;

e) in the case of five educational programs, GEL 18,106, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 21,502;

f) in the case of six educational programs, GEL 19,973, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 23,537;

g) in the case of seven educational programs, GEL 25,006, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 30,619;

h) in the case of eight educational programs, GEL 28,095, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 34,722.

6. The amount of the fee for accreditation of a regulated educational program (except the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program), as well as of a doctoral educational program / accreditation of educational programs included in a cluster is:

a) in the case of one educational program, GEL 9,362, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 10,670;

b) in the case of two educational programs, GEL 11,760, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 13,316;

c) in the case of three educational programs, GEL 16,345, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 18,849;

d) in the case of four educational programs, GEL 19,549, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 22,491;

e) in the case of five educational programs, GEL 21,123, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 24,157;

f) in the case of six educational programs, GEL 22,767, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 25,970;

g) in the case of seven educational programs, GEL 28,750, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 33,853;

h) in the case of eight educational programs, GEL 31,617, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 37,733.

7. The amount of the fee for accreditation of the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is GEL 12,573, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 14,093.

8. The amount of the fee for accreditation of the Georgian language preparation educational program is GEL 4,795, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 6,315.

9. The amount of the fee for accreditation of a teacher training educational program (60-credit) / accreditation of educational programs included in a cluster is:

a) in the case of one educational program, GEL 5,573, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 7,093;

b) in the case of two educational programs, GEL 8,415, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 10,183;

c) in the case of three educational programs, GEL 12,162, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 15,027;

d) in the case of four educational programs, GEL 13,986, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 16,919;

e) in the case of five educational programs, GEL 16,773, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 20,168;

f) in the case of six educational programs, GEL 18,528, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 22,093;

g) in the case of seven educational programs, GEL 23,339, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 28,953;

h) in the case of eight educational programs, GEL 26,317, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 32,944.

10. The amount of the fee for accreditation of a veterinary training educational program (60-credit) is GEL 5,573, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 7,093.

11. The fee for increasing the maximum number of student places in the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program is GEL 6,328, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 8,134.

12. The fee for accreditation of educational programs of a higher education institution operating abroad is:

a) in the case of one and/or two educational programs, GEL 35,376;

b) in the case of three and/or four educational programs, GEL 55,634;

c) in the case of five, six, seven and/or eight educational programs, GEL 89,244.

13. The fee for consultation services provided by the Center to a higher education institution operating abroad is GEL 7,500.

14. If one master's educational program, according to its learning outcomes, leads to more than one but no more than three qualifications within one detailed field of the Classification of Fields of Study (except for a regulated educational program), its accreditation fee increases by 20% of the fee established for an educational program by paragraph 5 of this Article (GEL 7,944, and where a business trip is necessary, GEL 9,253) for each subsequent qualification.

15. If the educational programs included in a cluster (except regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation and veterinary training educational programs) include a doctoral-level educational program, the amount of the accreditation fee shall be calculated using paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Article.

16. The fee for studying the report on the fulfillment of the recommendations of the Educational Programs Accreditation Council is:

a) in the case of an educational program (except regulated, teacher training, Georgian language preparation, veterinary training and doctoral educational programs), GEL 1,627;

b) in the case of a regulated educational program (except the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program), as well as a doctoral educational program, GEL 2,016;

c) in the case of the Diploma Medical Doctor educational program, GEL 2,549;

d) in the case of the Georgian language preparation educational program, GEL 1,494;

e) in the case of a teacher training (60-credit) educational program, GEL 1,655;

f) in the case of a veterinary training educational program, GEL 2,016.

17. The fee for checking the fulfillment of accreditation conditions is 38% of the relevant fee provided for by paragraphs 5–10, 12 and 15 of this Article.

18. The fee for the admissibility of consideration of an appeal is GEL 200, and the fee for the admissibility of consideration of an appeal submitted by a higher education institution operating abroad is GEL 500. The fee for considering an appeal is GEL 2,777.

19. The fee for agreeing the draft agreement to be concluded between institutions for the purpose of implementing a joint higher education program is GEL 480.

20. The fees provided for by this Article shall be paid by non-cash payment, by deposit to the bank account of the Center. The fees provided for by this Article shall not be refunded to the applicant, except in the case provided for by paragraph 21 of this Article.

21. The fee for accreditation of educational programs / accreditation of a cluster of programs shall be refunded in full if the educational institution requests termination of the administrative proceedings before the establishment of the accreditation expert panel.

22. The fee for translating into English the documentation submitted for accreditation by the Center is calculated according to the number of pages to be translated, and the amount shall be determined for the educational institution in accordance with the invoice sent by the Center. The cost of translating one page is GEL 30.

Annex No. 3

Order No. 96/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 10 September 2020 – Website, 11.09.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

(Attached as a file. Note: the text of this Annex was not included in the PDF provided and is therefore not translated here.)

Annex No. 4

Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 28 March 2018 – Website, 29.03.2018

Fee for Services Provided by the LEPL – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement in Accordance with the "Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programs of Higher Education Institutions" (Annex No. 1) Approved by This Order

Order No. 14/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia of 29 January 2020 – Website, 29.01.2020
Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

Article 1. Fee for reviewing the written application submitted by a higher education institution to the Center for the issuance of prior consent from the LEPL – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (hereinafter the "Center") to apply with an accreditation application to an organization operating on the territory of the United States of America, for the purpose of recognition of accreditation granted by that organization

1. The fee for reviewing the written application submitted by a higher education institution to the Center for the issuance of prior consent from the Center to apply with an accreditation application to an organization operating on the territory of the United States of America, for the purpose of recognition of accreditation granted by that organization, is GEL 1,000 (including value added tax).

2. The fee provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article shall be paid by non-cash payment, by deposit to the bank account of the Center. The paid fee is refunded to the applicant only if he or she requests termination of the administrative proceedings commenced on the basis of the application provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article within 5 working days after submission of the application.

Article 2. Remuneration of an international expert participating in the accreditation process of a higher education program

1. Where an international expert participates in the accreditation process of a higher education program, the higher education institution shall pay the amount necessary for the remuneration of the international expert.

2. The amount provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined in accordance with the invoice sent by the Center, which is drawn up on the basis of the employment contract concluded between the Center and the international expert.

3. The fee provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article shall be paid by non-cash payment, by deposit to the bank account of the Center.

Annex No. 5

Order No. 83/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 July 2022 – Website, 08.07.2022

(Attached as a file. Note: the text of this Annex was not included in the PDF provided and is therefore not translated here.)