AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Quality Assurance Policy

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1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Quality assurance is a fundamental obligation of higher education institutions and a core driver of institutional credibility, competitiveness, and societal impact. As a public higher education institution, Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter “AzTU”) operates within a national and international framework that requires systematic assurance and continuous enhancement of educational, research, and administrative quality.

AzTU regards quality as a shared institutional responsibility embedded in all academic, research, managerial, and support activities. The University’s mission to train creative, competent, and highly qualified graduates capable of competing nationally and internationally is directly dependent on the effectiveness of its quality assurance system.

The purpose of this Quality Assurance Policy (hereinafter the “Policy”) is to establish a coherent institutional framework that:

- defines principles and standards governing quality assurance and enhancement;
- ensures accountability, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making;
- supports continuous improvement across teaching, learning, research, management, and services; and
- aligns institutional activities with strategic objectives, labour market needs, and international standards.

AzTU further affirms its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by embedding sustainability, inclusivity, social responsibility, and transparency within its quality management system.

1.1. Legislative and Strategic Context

This Policy is developed in accordance with:

- the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- national legislation governing education, science, and public administration;
- state higher education and quality assurance regulations;
- AzTU’s Charter and Strategic Development Plan; and
- relevant international quality assurance frameworks and best practices in higher education, including the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015).

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms are defined to ensure consistent understanding and implementation:

- **Quality Assurance (QA):** A systematic and continuous process of planning, monitoring, evaluation, and improvement aimed at ensuring that academic, research, and administrative activities meet defined standards and objectives.

- **Quality Culture:** A shared institutional mindset that promotes accountability, excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement across all University activities.
- **Continuous Improvement:** An ongoing process of enhancing performance and outcomes through evaluation, feedback, and evidence-based actions.
- **Stakeholders:** Internal and external parties with an interest in or influence on AzTU's activities, including students, staff, employers, alumni, partners, and society.
- **Institutional Accreditation:** An external evaluation process assessing the overall effectiveness of the University's quality assurance system.
- **Programme Accreditation:** An external evaluation process assessing the academic quality, relevance, and outcomes of individual educational programmes.

3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all academic, research, and administrative activities of Azerbaijan Technical University.

It is binding on:

- academic and administrative staff;
- students at all levels of study;
- researchers and doctoral candidates;
- visiting scholars and external experts involved in University activities; and
- all faculties, departments, centres, and structural units of AzTU.

The Policy applies across all physical and digital environments, including classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, libraries, online learning platforms, academic publications, and collaborative partnerships.

This Policy operates alongside national legislation and AzTU's internal regulations and does not replace statutory requirements or accreditation obligations.

4. GOVERNANCE

Quality assurance governance at AzTU is integrated into the University's leadership and decision-making structures to ensure institutional accountability and effectiveness.

- **Rector and Academic Council:** Provide strategic leadership, approve quality objectives, indicators, and major quality-related decisions, and ensure institutional accountability.
- **Quality Assurance Department (Operational Lead):** Coordinate implementation of this Policy, support internal evaluations, collect and analyse performance data, and prepare reports for governance bodies.
- **Faculties, Departments, and Structural Units:** Implement quality assurance processes within their areas, ensure compliance with institutional standards, and contribute to continuous improvement initiatives.
- **Academic and Administrative Staff:** Maintain and enhance quality within their professional responsibilities in accordance with job descriptions, competencies, and ethical standards.

- **Students and External Stakeholders:** Participate actively in quality assurance through feedback mechanisms, consultations, evaluations, and advisory roles.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PRINCIPLES, RISK AREAS, AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

This section establishes the core principles and institutional standards guiding quality assurance at AzTU.

5.1. Quality Culture and Institutional Responsibility

AzTU promotes a quality culture based on shared responsibility, transparency, and continuous improvement. Quality assurance is embedded in planning, implementation, evaluation, and review processes across the University.

5.2. Academic Quality and Curriculum Integrity

Educational programmes are designed, reviewed, and updated to reflect scientific progress, labour market needs, and international standards. The University promotes innovative teaching methods, digital learning solutions, and the application of recognised frameworks such as CDIO in engineering education.

5.3. Research Quality and Innovation Standards

Research activities are aligned with institutional priorities and supported by appropriate infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international partnerships. Quality, integrity, and societal impact are key evaluation criteria.

5.4. Stakeholder Engagement and Employability

AzTU maintains structured engagement with employers, industry partners, alumni, and society. Graduate employability, career development, and stakeholder feedback are systematically monitored and used to enhance learning outcomes and curricula.

5.5. Resource Management, Sustainability, and Support Services

The University ensures the effective and transparent use of financial, human, physical, and digital resources. Sustainability, energy efficiency, safety, and environmental responsibility are increasingly integrated into quality planning and evaluation.

5.6. Internal and External Quality Evaluation

AzTU conducts regular internal evaluations and participates in external accreditation and quality assurance processes. Findings are documented, analysed, and used to inform corrective and preventive actions.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is implemented through integration into AzTU’s strategic planning, academic management, and operational processes.

Supporting regulations, procedures, and guidelines define detailed requirements for curriculum review, evaluation cycles, stakeholder feedback, data management, and accreditation processes.

7. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Quality performance is monitored through indicators approved by university management and the Academic Council, including:

- student academic progress and achievement;
- graduate employment and career outcomes;
- programme and curriculum evaluation results;
- research output and publication quality;
- service effectiveness and resource utilisation;
- financial management efficiency; and
- student and staff satisfaction.

Data are systematically collected, analysed, and benchmarked against national and international standards. Monitoring outcomes inform decision-making and continuous improvement actions.

8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed every two years or earlier where legislative, strategic, or institutional changes occur.

Reviews are evidence-based and incorporate monitoring results, stakeholder feedback, and international best practices. Any revisions are approved by the Rectorate. Procedural updates are implemented through supporting internal instruments.

AZTU

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

