



External evaluation report for:

SINOLOGY STUDY PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA

Number: 1/01-04-1-255- 9/22

Date: June 26, 2022

Dates of visit: June 16 and 17, 2022.

Location: Faculty of Philology, University of Banja Luka

Review Panel :

Asst. Prof. Ana M. Jovanović, PhD, representative of the academic community, chairman,

Prof. Zoran Skrobanović, PhD, representative of the academic community, member ,

Marina Novković, representative of economy and practice, member and

Vesna Kosmajac, student representative, member.

Coordinator :

Tatjana Radaković, ma

External evaluation criteria for the purpose of initial accreditation: Standards for initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs (AVORS, 2021), Rulebook on initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs of Republika Srpska (AVORS, 2021), Instructions for preparation of documentation for initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs (AVORS, 2021),

CONTENT

- 1.0 Application
- 1.1 Information about the process of initial accreditation
- 1.2 Higher education institution data
- 1.3 Application information
- 2.0 External evaluation
- 2.1 Previous activities
- 2.2 On-site visit to higher education institution
- 3.0 Assessment of fulfillment of the standards requirements
- 3.1 Quality assessment by individual standards.....
- 3. 2 Final expert opinion _.....

1.0 Application

1.1 Information about initial accreditation process

The Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka submitted the application for the initial accreditation of the Sinology study program to the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society of the Republic of Srpska (hereinafter the Ministry). After reviewing the submitted documentation and concluding that the application was valid, the Ministry requested the opinion of the Council for Higher Education of the Republika Srpska (hereinafter: the Council). After obtaining a positive opinion of the Council, the Ministry submitted to the Agency for Higher Education of Republika Srpska (hereinafter: the Agency) a request for external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation of the Sinology study program, Faculty of Philology, University of Banja Luka, which was received on May 26, 2022 and registered under protocol number 1/01-04-1-255/22. The Director of the Agency appointed Jugoslav Vuk Tepić, PhD, as the coordinator of the external evaluation procedure for the purpose of initial accreditation by Decision No. 1/01-04-1-255-2/22 from May 26, 2022. Considering that, for legitimate reasons, Jugoslav Vuk Tepić, PhD, was prevented from coordinating the external evaluation procedure for the purpose of initial accreditation, the Director of the Agency appointed Tatjana Radaković, ma, as the coordinator of the procedure. On May 27, 2022, the Agency signed a contract with the University of Banja Luka for external evaluation services for the purpose of initial accreditation of the Sinology study program under number 1/01-04-1-255-2/22. The Review Panel for external evaluation of the Sinology study program was appointed from the List of reviewers of the Agency by the Decision on the appointment of the Review Panel number 1/01-04-1-255-3/22 from May 26, 2022. After concluding the contract with the members of the Review Panel, all of them were individually provided with documentation, data for logging into the Agency's information system where a checklist was set up in which the members of the Review Panel entered all preliminary findings and observations and thus prepared for a visit to the Faculty of Philology. The Review Panel held its first joint meeting on May 30, 2022, when all members of the Panel had the opportunity to discuss the preliminary findings and to agree on the date of the visit, June 16 and 17, 2022.

The Review Panel analyzed the submitted documentation, performed an external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation by an on-site visit to the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka in the agreed period, June 16 and 17, 2022. The day before the start of the visit, June 15, 2022, another meeting of the Review Panel was held and during that meeting the details of the visit were agreed upon. On the first day of the visit, the Review Panel spoke with the management of the Faculty of Philology, the head of the study program Sinology, and the academic and non-academic staff of the study program. This was followed by a tour of the premises and

facilities of the Faculty of Philology, which will be used to operate the Sinology study program. On the second day of the visit, June 17, 2022, the Review Panel presented a preliminary report to the management of the Faculty of Philology, without announcing the outcome of the external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation and without the possibility of commenting on the preliminary report by the representatives of the Faculty of Philology.

On June 20, 2022 the Review Panel made the Final Report number 1/01-04-1-255-9/22 on external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation. In the Final Report the Review Panel expressed the opinion that the Sinology study program should be issued a licence to operate.

1.2 Data on the higher education institution

Information about the higher education institution:	
Name, address and e-mail address of the institution	Faculty of Philology , University of Banja Luka Bulevar vojvode Petra Bojovića 1A 78000 Banja Luka info.philological @ flf.unibl.org
Web address	flf.unibl.org
Name, number and date of the founding act	Decision of the Steering Committee of the University of Banja Luka, no. 05-1147- XI -4.4 / 09 from March , 2009.
Tax Identification Number (PIB)	4401017720162
Registration number assigned by the Republic od Srpska Institute of Statistics	01040251
Name, surname and address (name and headquarters) of the founder	Government of Republic of Srpska, Trg republike Srpske no. 1, Banja Luka University of Banja Luka, Bulevar vojvode Petra Bojovića , Banja Luka

Number and date of the decision on the appointment of the person authorized to represent	Decision on the appointment of the Dean no. 01 / 04-2.1878-1 / 20 dated 25.8.2020. years
Number and date of the licence to operate the higher education institution	Faculty of Philology, prof. Biljana Babic, PhD, Dean
Number and date of the licence to operate outside the headquarters	051 / 340-120
Visiting organizational units and responsible persons	Faculty of Philology, Department of Sinology
Contact person (for the on-site visit)	Igor Simanović
Phone number	065783661

1.3 Application information

Study program applied for accreditation		
Name of the study program :	Level of study	Name (s) of exit qualifications
SINOLOGY	FIRST CYCLE OF STUDIES	BACHELOR IN SINOLOGY

2.0 External evaluation

2.1 Previous activities

Reviewers's reports on study program :

R. no.	Study program	Number of Review Report
1.	Sinology	1/01-04-1-255- 9/22

2.2 On-site visit to higher education institution

The Review Panel analyzed the submitted documentation, performed an external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation by an on-site visit to the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka in the agreed period, June 16 and 17, 2022. The day before the start of the visit, June 15, 2022, another meeting of the Review Panel was held and during that meeting the details of the visit were agreed upon. On the first day of the visit, the Review Panel spoke with the management of the Faculty of Philology, the head of the Sinology, study program and the academic and non-academic staff of the study program. This was followed by a tour of the premises and facilities of the Faculty of Philology which will be used to operate the Sinology study program. On the second day of the visit, June 17, 2022, the Review Panel presented a preliminary report to the management of the Faculty of Philology, without announcing the outcome of the external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation and without the possibility of commenting on the preliminary report by the representatives of the Faculty of Philology.

On June 20, 2022 the Review Panel made the Final Report number 1/01-04-1-255-9/22 on external evaluation for the purpose of initial accreditation. In the Final Report the Review Panel expressed the opinion that the Sinology study program should be issued a licence to operate.

3.0 Assessment of fulfillment of standards requirements

The level of fulfillment of the standards requirements	Description	Criteria for the assessment of the requirements fulfillment level
I	Requirements not met	There is no evidence or there is incomplete and /or inadequate evidence of requirements fulfilment
II	The requirements have been partially fulfilled	The requirements were partially met
III	The requirements have been fully met	The requirements were fully met

3.1 Quality assessment by individual standards

STANDARD 1. Goals and core tasks of the higher education institution

The reasons for the establishment of a higher education institution are harmonized with the Network of Higher Education Institutions and other strategic documents in the field of higher education, needs and priorities of the development of society, the improvement of the qualification structure, the development of the profession and science and the existence of conditions for higher education. The higher education institution has adopted the core activities and tasks in accordance with the goals of higher education established by law.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5.

Strengths: As a higher education institution that has been successfully teaching other six study programs of the first cycle of studies, six study programs within the second cycle of studies, and two programs in the third cycle of studies, the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka, according to its goals and tasks fully meets the strategic goals of the higher education institution. The attached study for the initial accreditation of the study program Sinology is also in accordance with the strategy, goals and tasks of the

higher education institution, as well as with the requirements of the labor market. The Confucius Institute's long experience in the field in Banja Luka showed the need for sinologists because various business entities contacted the Institute and asked for interpreters for the Chinese language.

Weaknesses:

No written evidence was presented on the conducted labor market analysis in the form of interviews and meetings with business entities.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 2. Internal quality assurance mechanisms

The higher education institution adopts a quality assurance strategy that contains the core elements of the internal quality assurance system.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 2.1, 2.2.

Strengths: Quality assurance standards are met and the quality assurance structure, processes, procedures, and resources are clearly stated. The mechanisms for ensuring and evaluating the quality of the Sinology study program are the same as for other study programs offered at the Faculty of Philology, and in that sense, the same mechanisms will be applied in the Sinology study program and their effects will be monitored.

Weaknesses:

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 3. Organization of a higher education institution

The founder of a higher education institution has temporary bodies that perform the activities necessary to obtain a licence to operate. The organizational structure and management system ensure the achievement of goals and accomplishment of the tasks of the higher education institution.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 3.1, 3.2.

Strengths: Evidence for adopted acts, curricula as well as other documentation for initial accreditation is attached. Among other things, in accordance with guideline 3.2., The Study provides a detailed overview of the Sinology study program by year and module, with a total of 41 compulsory and 18 elective modules. Out of 41 compulsory modules, 16 are modules in Chinese language, six in culture and two in Chinese literature, while the rest are modules in methodology, English language, informatics, etc. In addition, a list of professional and general education elective modules is attached .

Weaknesses :**REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :**

III

STANDARD 4. Studies

The activity of higher education is realized through academic and applied studies. Academic study prepares students for work in science, art and higher education, in the real and public sector, and to develop and apply scientific, artistic and professional achievements. Applied study provides students with an appropriate level of knowledge and skills that enables them to perform professional occupations and enables them to be directly involved in the work process.

The content of qualifications and diplomas of certain types and levels of studies correspond to the character and goals of study programs. The description of the qualifications of each study program must be precisely defined and corresponds to a certain level of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The study programs of a higher education institution are in accordance with the core tasks and goals and serve their fulfillment.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 4.1, 4.2.

Strengths: The Sinology study program is fully compliant with the basic quality standards of the institution. In general, it is well conceived, it represents (to a greater or lesser extent) all aspects of the Chinese language, literature and culture, as necessary prerequisites for a good mastery of the Chinese language and

detailed acquaintance with Chinese culture in all its forms. Also, the Faculty is able to provide students with appropriate internships during their studies.

Weaknesses: Limitations were noticed in terms of syllabuses, namely: inadequate literature for Chinese language modules 1-4, insufficient representation of Chinese literature and insufficient number of classes in Chinese literature modules 1 and Chinese literature 2, but also the need to introduce classical Chinese modules. The reviewers gave suggestions for supplementing the literature and better structuring of the above modules, which were sent to the competent authorities at the Faculty of Philology. They were assured that they are already working on eliminating these shortcomings, and that the reviewers' proposals for improving of the study program in the above aspects will be adopted. In that sense, we positively evaluate the efforts of the authorities at the Faculty of Philology to make the Sinology study program even better and more useful for future students. It was suggested to the authorities that a certain number of hours of translation practical classes should be set aside within the module Modern Chinese or Chinese.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 5. Scientific research work

The higher education institution that offers academic studies has organized and planned scientific-research work.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.

Strengths: There are internet links that testify to the internationally recognized results in scientific research, as well as clear plans for future scientific research. From the attached links, it can be seen that an exceptionally high-quality teaching staff with a large number of published monographs and scientific papers will participate in the teaching.

Weaknesses: Even though the participation of extremely professional teaching staff in their fields has been announced for the Sinology study program, there are certain shortcomings in the form of an insufficient number of papers dealing with the narrow professional field, ie. Sinology. Only one lecturer is engaged in this research.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 6. Academic staff

The higher education institution provides the necessary number of competent lecturers and associates so as to ensure the quality of the study programs.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8.

Strengths: Appropriate documents and data on lecturers engaged in the proposed study program are provided, ie. employment contracts, decisions on the promotion to the title of the lecturers at the Faculty of Philology, University of Banja Luka, as well as visiting lecturers from abroad. By inspecting the submitted documentation, the Review Panel determined that the hired lecturers have the appropriate academic titles and competencies required for teaching in Sinology study program. During the external evaluation procedure two more contracts were signed by lecturers from Slovenia who will be engaged in the study program, which reduces the workload of originally hired lecturers. The procedures for hiring associates (one assistant and one senior assistant) are in progress and the management at the Faculty of Philology informed the Review Panel about this in official letter which is available in the archives of the Agency. A lecturer from China was hired to teach eight hours weekly.

Weaknesses: It was initially noticed that the workload of individual teachers in professional, sinological modules (especially language) is higher than allowed, however, by hiring two additional lecturers and two assistants, the problem of workload will be completely solved.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 7. Non-academic staff

The higher education institution provides non-academic staff whose professional work ensures the successful implementation of study programs, as well as the core tasks and goals of the higher education institution.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3.

Strengths : Non-teaching staff with a total of eighteen employees (faculty secretary, two teaching assistants, head of the library, two librarians, head of the student service, two officers for student affairs, bookkeeping

officer, officer for second and third cycle studies, four cleaners, handyman, courier driver, telephone exchange worker and one IT administrator) fully satisfies the needs of the smooth functioning of the institution. The attached documentation contains all the necessary information (contracts) on the appropriate engagement of non-teaching staff.

Weaknesses : _

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 8. Students

The higher education institution determines the requirements for student enrollment, in accordance with the core tasks of the higher education institution.

The higher education institution provides the necessary conditions for students to successfully master the study programs.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5.

Strengths: Clear documentation on competition procedures and requirements for student enrollment is provided as well as evidence of the compliance of the number of students with the spatial and technical-technological conditions of the higher education institution. Admission to the Sinology study program at the first cycle of studies is done in accordance with Articles 31, 32 and 33 of the Statute of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka. We believe that the number of students planned to enroll in the Sinology study program is well grounded for the conditions at the Faculty and the real needs of the labour market. In addition, the Faculty is fully adapted to students with disabilities in terms of access to classrooms and elevators.

Weaknesses:

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 9. Facilities and equipment

Higher education institution provides facilities and equipment necessary for quality teaching. Standards for facilities and equipment are set by fields of education.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12.

Strengths: Three classrooms for teaching the Sinology study program, as stated in the Study, are located at the Faculty of Political Sciences, which also houses the Confucius Institute, which will provide all the equipment necessary for teaching this program. Based on the attached internet links and documents, we conclude that all standards regarding the facilities and equipment necessary for quality teaching have been met, which we were convinced of during the visit to the above facility. A special compliment for the "outdoor classroom" which, combining the style of the Chinese garden and auditorium, allows students to experience aspects of Chinese culture that put the connection with nature in the foreground, and on the other hand represents a well-designed space for guest lectures and other teaching and extracurricular activities.

Weaknesses :

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 10. Library, textbooks and IT support

The higher education institution has an appropriate library equipped with the necessary textbooks for teaching and IT services that it uses in order to fulfill the core tasks .

Guidelines for the application of standards: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7.

Strengths: Facilities at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka, equipment, internet coverage, library and library materials as well as the attached documents testify that the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka meets all standards regarding library stock, textbooks and IT support necessary for quality teaching. More literature from the People's Republic of China was ordered, which will complete the library stock and enable students to learn from the most relevant sources. Also, literature in

Slovenian will be translated into Serbian. Funds have already been approved and translators provided for the translations.

Weaknesses: Insight into the submitted documentation revealed certain shortcomings in terms of literature for certain modules in the Sinology study program. In the letter that arrived in response to our objections, the authorities at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka pointed out that they have already started the process of eliminating these shortcomings.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL :

III

STANDARD 1 1. Funds

The higher education institution provides sufficient financial resources for its operations, and for the continuation and completion of studies in case the higher education institution shuts down or particular study program stops operating.

Guidelines for the application of standards: 11.1, 11.2, 11.3.

Strengths : The Sinology study program will be financed from 1) funds of the Republic of Srpska (only for hiring of one teacher and two associates necessary for quality teaching of the curriculum) and 2) from the funds of the Confucius Institute which is an integral part of the University of Banja Luka, and through the partner University of Education and Technology in Tianjin. Teaching equipment, foreign lecturers, scholarships for student training as well as literature in Chinese or about the People's Republic of China, which is an integral part of the library fund of the Confucius Institute in Banja Luka, are provided by the Chinese Ministry of Education through the above-mentioned partner university from the People's Republic of China. In that sense, we believe that the standards are met regarding the financial aspect of the proposed study program.

Weak pages :

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL:

III

3.2 Final expert opinion

After reviewing the complete submitted documentation, visiting the higher education institution and analyzing all documents, procedures and plans for the study program, and conducting the evaluation procedure, the following level of fulfillment of the requirements of the standard for initial accreditation of the study program was determined:

STANDARDS	FULFILLMENT LEVEL
1. Goals and core tasks of the higher education institution	III
2. Internal quality assurance mechanisms	III
3. Organization of the higher education institution	III
4. Studies	III
5. Scientific-research work	III
6. Academic staff	III
7. Non-academic staff	III
8. Students	III
9. Facilities and equipment	III
10. Library, textbooks and IT support	III
11. Funds	III

Based on the overall assessment of the level of fulfillment of the standards for initial accreditation for the Sinology study program (first cycle), the Review Panel gives a final expert opinion to the Agency to **make a recommendation for issuing a licence** for operation of the Sinology study program (first cycle) at the Faculty of Philology, University of Banja Luka, in accordance with the Rulebook on initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs.

Members of the Review Panel :

Asst. Prof. Ana M. Jovanović, PhD
president, representative of the academic community _____

Prof. Zoran Skrobanović, PhD
member, representative of the academic community _____

Marina Novković, member,
representative of economy and practice _____

Vesna Kosmajac, member,
student representative _____