

Accreditation procedure

The independent accreditation procedure begins with submitting the application and the package of documents of a higher educational institution to the selected quality assessment agency.

At the second stage of the accreditation process, the higher educational institution conducts self-evaluation according to the criteria and indicators developed by an independent agency. Each independent international agency has its own list of indicators to be evaluated. Conducting self-evaluation and drawing up a Self-Evaluation Report is especially useful for the higher educational institution, as at this stage, one can identify one's own strengths and weaknesses of the organisation of an educational process, the gaps in monitoring learning outcomes, as well as understand the expediency of keeping in touch with graduates and employers.

After completing the report, the higher educational institution sends it for consideration to an independent quality assessment agency which determines the expediency of visiting the higher educational institution by an expert panel on the basis of the results of examination of the documents submitted for consideration. The visit of an accreditation board is aimed at determining the compliance of the study programmes and/or academic activities of the higher educational institution with the quality standards of higher education.

According to the results of the visit of the accreditation board, the experts draw a conclusion which includes not only comments and criticism, but also practical recommendations on the improvement. According to the results of all stages of the independent assessment the independent agency makes a decision on whether to award the accreditation certificate which confirms the compliance of the applicant educational institution with the determined quality standards of higher education or not.

The ECBE's accreditation process for programmes in business education also includes the gradual passage of several stages of assessment according to various criteria and indicators. The duration of these stages depends on both an institution which wants to undergo the certification process, namely its efforts in collecting, analysing and preparing documents for accreditation and on the unbiased regulatory procedures of an accreditation agency.

Preparation for accreditation of the MBA programme of the IBS of Alfred Nobel University began in 2012. It should be noted that one of the ECBE's obligatory criteria is membership of an applicant institution in international organisations and keeping sustainable international contacts with the global educational community that was not an obstacle for Alfred Nobel University.

In spring 2012 the University submitted the application form in accordance with the requirements of the ECBE, which showed the general information of the University's activities, its licences and accreditations for providing educational services, the number of students, graduates and academic staff, as well as international contacts and programmes.

After receiving a positive response on compliance with the basic criteria and the possibility of passing the procedure of international accreditation procedure at ECBE, Alfred Nobel University

started working on the second stage of the accreditation process which provided for preparing a Self-Evaluation Report.

It is the longest and labour-consuming stage of the accreditation process.

The preparation of the Self-Evaluation Report consists of the evaluation of facilities for the provision of educational services, the number of campuses, the dynamics of the student body, the analysis of the University's organisational structure, and the department responsible for implementing a programme, etc.

To summarise, the Self-Evaluation Report provides for the review of each organisational level of an educational institution which takes part in the process. This means the assessment of each organisational level responsible for or which can influence the education quality of a programme.

The completed Self-Evaluation Report is sent to the ECBE and undergoes an expert examination by the ECBE's commissioners who are intended to analyse the characteristics of training according to a certain programme, the compliance with the ECBE's basic standards and the expediency of the visit of the Council's expert panel for further check of the programme for compliance with the international standards.

According to the accreditation procedure at the European Council for Business Education, the third stage provides for an on-site visit to the University by the ECBE's expert panel.

From 27 to 31 January 2013 the accreditation committee of the European Council for Business Education (ECBE) paid an official visit to Alfred Nobel University, during which the Committee met the MBA degree-seeking students of the 1st and 2nd years of study, the graduates of the MBA programme of the previous years, teachers and employees of the University and the IBS.

According to the results of the meetings held, the accreditation committee decided to recommend the award of the ECBE's international accreditation to the MBA programme of Alfred Nobel University.

The Commissioners also drew conclusions and made recommendations on the opportunities for further development and improvement of the education quality of the business programmes.

According to the results of each stage of the accreditation process passed by Alfred Nobel University, the Board of Directors of the ECBE decided to accredit the MBA programme.