

Institutional Accreditation Decision

Estonian Aviation Academy

05/02/2014

The Quality Assessment Council of the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency has decided to accredit the Estonian Aviation Academy for seven years on the following condition:

By 05.02.2015 the Estonian Aviation Academy must submit to the Council:

- an action plan for obtaining resources for research and development activities, containing, inter alia, means to increase the visibility of the research and development activities of the institution of higher education both nationally and internationally; and
- an overview of means to increase the motivation of lecturers to participate in research and development activities.

Assessment Committee

Johann Schneider - Chairman	Expert and consultant on higher education policy (Germany)
Eeva-Liisa Antikainen	Vice President, Humak University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
Jonas Stankunas	Director, Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania)
Vadims Stroitelevs	LGS – Latvian Air Navigation Services (Latvia)
Tanel Joala	Student, Tallinn University of Applied Sciences

Component assessment

Organisational management and performance	Conforms with requirements
Teaching and learning	Conforms with requirements

Research, development and/or other creative activities Partly conforms with requirements

Serving society Conforms with requirements

Strengths, areas for improvement and recommendations

Organisational management and performance

Strengths:

- *The Estonian Aviation Academy has an appropriate management structure and all of the fields of activity of the educational institution are regulated by clear and transparent regulations.*
- *The educational institution focuses especially on developing management competence, using the services of a specialised training company, which indicates the awareness of the institution of higher education of the importance of this field.*
- *All interest groups are skilfully involved in the development process of the development plan of the institution of higher education at its various levels. The development plan is based on a thorough SWOT analysis, resulting in the institution of higher education determining the strengths and areas for improvement of various sub-specialties, which are taken into consideration when planning future activities.*
- *The institution of higher education is very active in matters regarding quality and attempts to integrate external and international requirements set for certain sub-specialties into its internal quality assurance system.*
- *The institution enjoys successful study-related cooperation with the University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology and the Estonian University of Life Sciences, which can be deemed good practice and which is useful for all of the parties involved.*
- *The Estonian Aviation Academy has developed a communication strategy to increase public awareness of the institution and increase its popularity, to find more capable prospective students and to improve its organisational culture and internal communication.*
- *The institution provides its staff with many opportunities for self-improvement.*
- *The learning environment of the institution is up to date (excellent in parts) and conforms to requirements.*
- *The institution has increased revenue received from business operations.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *A problem is matching external quality requirements set for internationally certified units with the quality assurance system of the institution.*
- *International mobility of lecturers must be increased. Poor proficiency in foreign languages among certain lecturers is also a problem.*

Teaching and learning

Strengths:

- *The activities of the institution conform to international professional standards and regulations, which create the prerequisites for graduates from the educational institutions being competitive within the country as well as internationally.*
- *Study programme development is producing results and the graduates from the institution have a high level of proficiency. The graduates are valued on the labour market and enjoy a high rate of employment.*
- *The institution takes differences in students' prior knowledge into account in a flexible manner, offering suitable courses to balance this out.*
- *The institution successfully applies a system for the consideration of prior studies and work experience with which the students are satisfied.*
- *The institution has created a comprehensive support system, one goal of which is to reduce the number of drop-outs.*
- *The institution has an open and free atmosphere, which is supportive of students. Regular questionnaires provide staff and the management of the institution with the feedback necessary for improvements. The results of feedback questionnaires indicate that the satisfaction of students with the educational institution has increased.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *The educational institution must establish clear rules for the conditions on which students which special needs can study at the institution of higher education.*
- *Considering the international nature of aviation, the institution must actively increase the mobility of students.*

Research, development and/or other creative activities

Strengths:

- *The institution of higher education supports the participation of lecturers and administrative workers in national and international councils and working groups. Such activities create fertile soil for research and development activities.*

- *The institution enjoys a good balance between academic instructors and external specialists/practical instructors, ensuring the professional level of instruction and quality of student papers, motivating students and leading to positive graduation results.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *The institution has no separate funds for research and development. There is also no specific strategy for obtaining external resources for applied research and other research and development.*
- *The institution must find opportunities to motivate employees in the field of research and development, and cooperate more closely with international research and development networks and universities in the region.*
- *In order to obtain resources for research and development, cooperation with employers must be intensified and the achievements of the institution must be made more visible in Estonia and abroad.*
- *The final papers of the students from the institution should be more analytical and reflect the independent thinking of the authors more. The papers must focus more on research in their content.*

Serving society

Strengths:

- *The institution has enabled possibilities for the use of its infrastructure in the public interest.*
- *The institution has strategic goals and clear action plans for the popularisation of its main activities.*
- *The in-service training conducted by the institution conforms to the needs of the sector and to national and international aviation standards. The volume of in-service training is increasing.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *The institution should consider more options to provide training on the international aviation market to increase revenue from business operations.*

Further information:

Self-Evaluation Report

Assessment Report