

BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY



REPORT ON SDG 4

QUALITY EDUCATION



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ABSTRACT

Baku State University (BSU), the largest and oldest university in Azerbaijan, is dedicated to promoting quality education and inclusivity. The university provides extensive resources, including libraries, TV studios, museums, and research centers. BSU collaborates with various academic institutions, fostering intellectual exchange and knowledge dissemination. The university also engages in volunteerism and outreach activities, contributing to the community. However, there is a need for executive education programs. BSU upholds policies against discrimination and promotes equality, ensuring accessibility to all, regardless of individual characteristics. In summary, BSU plays a significant role in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 4 in Azerbaijan.

Baku State University has been institutionally accredited for a period of 5 (five) years by the decision of the Accreditation Council of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated June 8, 2023, and the corresponding order of the Chairperson of the Management Board of the Education Quality Assurance Agency (TKTA).

Additionally, the Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA) accredited 6 graduate programmes (Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Chemistry of High Molecular Compounds, Petrochemistry) of Baku State University. According to the decision of the Accreditation Council of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 20, 2023, and the corresponding order of the Chairman of the Management Board of the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, the results of international program accreditations were officially recognized for state accreditation.

Quality Assurance Center, including two Units (Monitoring, Analyze and Accreditation Unit and Training, Methodological Support and Development Unit), were established with the decision of Scientific Council in July, 2023, and the respective Center is responsible for two directions: enhancement (providing training and methodological support for academic and administrative staff regarding quality assurance) and accountability (monitoring, and organizing local (institutional and programme accreditation) and international (programme accreditation) accreditation with the coordination of the respective structures and faculties.

USED DATA

Interdisciplinary policies of BSU:

1. Anti-harassment and Anti-discrimination Policy.
2. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

Legislative acts

1. [Accreditation Rules of Educational Institutions.](#)
2. [Institutional and Programme Accreditation Criteria for higher education institutions](#)

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

CURRENT SITUATION

As being the oldest and biggest university of the country BSU has a lot of facilities in different areas such as libraries, own TV and Radio studio, laboratories, museums etc. Scientific library of Baku State University is one of the rich university libraries of the republic which is the cultural and spiritual center of students and professors, exchanges information both with republican higher school libraries and with 49 universities and international publishing houses of 21 countries.

The University also has TV channel providing different type of programs for everyone. It operates in 3 languages: Azerbaijani, English, and Russian.

Five museums are functioning at Baku State University (BSU):

- Heydar Aliyev museum
- History museum of BSU
- Minerals museum
- Evolution museum
- Museum of archeology and ethnography

Museums of BSU play an important role in the public life of the University, as well as in teaching and research activities.

Scientific-research centers and laboratories provides free access not only to BSU students and staff, but also to all highly-qualified researchers and talented students of the country.

The University on its website provides online access to some textbooks published by the university faculties. To expand access to printed copies of some textbooks and books written by university teachers, they are available at the National Library of Azerbaijan.

A significant number of distinguished professors and academics from the country are part of the faculty at BSU. The university regularly organizes a wide range of lectures, master classes, and educational events in addition to its regular curriculum, primarily for its students. Additionally, the university occasionally hosts public events, including master classes, conferences, debate clubs, and intellectual competitions. These ad-hoc public events serve as platforms for the exchange of ideas, knowledge dissemination, and intellectual discourse, benefitting both the university and the wider public.

Baku State University (BSU) has arranged professional development programs aimed at enhancing teaching quality, unlocking the potential of its academic staff, engaging the younger generation in the teaching, and learning processes, and mastering cutting-edge scientific and methodological approaches, aligning with its strategic development plan.

Unfortunately, there are not any executive education programmes - short courses or vocational training for people who are not attending the university. The volunteering movement at Baku State University (BSU) is expanding year by year. The "BSU Volunteers" organization, which has been operating since 2019, currently unites around 1000 student volunteers. Since 2020, the organization has implemented several successful projects, expanded the volunteering movement at BSU, and actively participated in the organization of social and cultural-mass events together with student organizations.

Faculty and students from Baku State University organized a sequence of lectures for students at the "Young talents" lyceum, focusing on subjects connected to sustainable development goals. The topics that garnered the most attention included lectures on bioeconomy, sustainable economic growth, and "career planning in the face of the new challenges of the century."

The University closely cooperates not only with its lyceum and college, but also with other public schools.

In accordance with our Anti-harassment and Anti-discrimination policy, as well as our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy, we are committed to ensuring that all educational activities are available to every individual, without any discrimination based

on factors such as ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. We firmly believe that all our programs and events should be accessible and open to everyone, regardless of any distinguishing characteristics.

As a university, our primary objective is to uphold the principles of equal rights and inclusiveness. We provide resources, opportunities, and recognition to every member of our diverse community, ensuring that they have an equitable chance to pursue education, engage in activities, and thrive in an environment that respects and values the individuality of each person.

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Academic performance of academic staff is evaluated on frequently basis with the respective Monitoring Committee with the set criteria. Additionally, Performance of different structures, faculties and departments are assessed considering their responsibilities set by Strategic Plan and legislation alignment by Quality Assurance Center. Career Unit collects data frequently from Alumni and employability ratio is

analyzing. Questionnaires among different stakeholders (students, academic staff, administrative staff, alumni, labor market etc.) are conducted by Quality Assurance Center.

11 dual degree programs are being conducted with the cooperation of different Universities from USA, Israil, Kazakhstan, Turkey etc. This facilitates to update teaching materials, curriculum and syllabi considering international practices. Additionally, academic staff updates syllabi and their content by taking changing labor market demand into consideration.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings from the provided information about Baku State University (BSU) in the context of its commitment to Quality Education and Sustainable Development Goal 4 include:

Rich Academic Resources	BSU offers an array of academic facilities, including well-equipped libraries, TV and radio studios, museums, and scientific research centers, which contribute to a diverse and enriching educational environment.
International Collaboration	The university's Scientific Library maintains connections with both national and international academic institutions, enhancing access to global knowledge resources.
Multilingual Education	BSU operates a TV channel in Azerbaijani, English, and Russian, ensuring that educational content is accessible to a broad and diverse audience.
Educational Outreach	The university actively engages in educational outreach by organizing lectures, master classes, and public events, creating opportunities for knowledge dissemination and intellectual discourse.

Volunteerism

The "BSU Volunteers" organization demonstrates BSU's commitment to social engagement, with around 1000 student volunteers actively participating in social and cultural projects.

Collaboration with External Institutions

BSU collaborates with external institutions, such as the "Young Talents" lyceum and public schools, to share knowledge and contribute to educational development beyond its campus.

Inclusivity and Diversity

The university upholds policies against harassment and discrimination, ensuring that its educational programs are accessible and open to all, regardless of factors such as ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender.

Room for Improvement

While BSU excels in various aspects of quality education and community engagement, the absence of executive education programs or vocational training for non-university attendees is a notable gap

In summary, Baku State University's commitment to quality education is evident through its extensive resources, international collaboration, educational outreach, and inclusive policies. However, there is room for improvement in terms of offering executive education programs to further expand its educational impact.

FUTURE GOALS

To further enhance its commitment to quality education and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 4, Baku State University (BSU) can consider the following future steps: By taking these future steps, Baku State University can continue to improve the quality of education it provides and contribute to the broader goals of sustainable development and inclusivity.

