

On Amendments to Order No. 629 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 1, 2016, "On Approval of Requirements for Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education and Rules for Recognizing Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education, Including Foreign"

Order of the Acting Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 11, 2025, No. 302. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on June 18, 2025, No. 36296

I ORDER:

1. The following amendments shall be made to Order No. 629 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 1, 2016, "On Approval of Requirements for Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education and the Rules for Recognizing Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education, Including Foreign" (registered in the Register of State Registration of Regulatory Legal Acts under No. 14438):

The requirements for accreditation bodies in higher and postgraduate education, approved by this order, shall be set out in a new version in accordance with Appendix 1 to this order;

The rules for recognizing accreditation bodies in higher and postgraduate education, including foreign ones, approved by the said order, shall be set out in a new version in accordance with Appendix 2 to this order.

2. The Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in accordance with the procedure established by law, shall ensure:

- 1) state registration of this order with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- 2) posting of this order on the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan after its official publication.

3. Oversight of the implementation of this order shall be assigned to the supervising Vice Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

4. This order shall come into effect ten calendar days after the date of its first official publication.
Acting

Minister of Science
and Higher Education

of the Republic of Kazakhstan, G. Kobenova

Appendix 1 to the Order of the
Acting
Minister of Science
and Higher Education
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
dated June 11, 2025, No. 302
Appendix 1 to the Order of the
Minister of Education and Science
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Requirements for an accreditation body in higher and postgraduate education

1. Be a legal entity.
2. Be a member of the registers and/or associations of accreditation bodies of the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (hereinafter referred to as OECD), including the European Quality Assurance Register (The European Quality Assurance Register), and/or be a full member of two or more associations (networks) of accreditation bodies.
3. Have the resources necessary to fulfill its obligations to accredit higher and/or postgraduate education organizations (hereinafter referred to as HPE) and their educational programs:
 - 1) An information system (website) providing the necessary accreditation information to users in three languages (Kazakh, Russian, and English). For foreign accreditation bodies, it is sufficient to have a website page in English providing information on the accreditation of Kazakhstani higher education institutions;
 - 2) at least three (3) full-time employees holding a doctorate in science or candidate of science and/or a PhD/doctorate in the relevant field;
 - 3) a system for continuing education in quality assurance for invited experts, staff, and students.
4. Have on the expert committee experts holding a doctorate in science or candidate of science and/or a PhD/doctorate in the relevant field and/or representatives of the professional community with experience in institutional and specialized accreditation or in the field of specialist training of the accredited higher education institution.

Kazakhstani accreditation bodies include one (1) or more (1) foreign expert on the expert committee. The number of Kazakhstani experts participating in accreditation conducted by a foreign accreditation body shall not exceed 25% (twenty-five percent).

The expert committee shall include representatives from among senior-year students who hold a certificate of advanced training in institutional and/or specialized accreditation of higher education institutions. The educational level of the students included in the expert committee:

 - 1) corresponds to the profile (cluster) of the educational program being accredited;
 - 2) is not lower than the level of education for which specialized accreditation is being conducted.
5. Have standards (regulations) for the accreditation of higher and postgraduate education that establish requirements for the accreditation procedure in accordance with international standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher and postgraduate education in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The standards take into account the specifics of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of higher and postgraduate education, including the standard for pedagogical education and requirements for higher and postgraduate educational programs in the form of online learning.
6. Accreditation procedures require an offline visit to the accredited higher and postgraduate educational institution for at least three (3) days for institutional accreditation and at least two (2) days for specialized accreditation, with the participation of at least four (4) experts per cluster.

This requirement does not apply during a state of emergency of natural or man-made origin, or during restrictive measures, including quarantine, in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
7. Have a development program and/or organizational strategy developed taking into account strategic and programmatic documents in the field of higher and postgraduate education.
8. Have the following information published in the information system (website) of the accreditation body:

- 1) on the accreditation of the higher and postgraduate education institution and/or educational program (accreditation certificate, external audit reports), including decisions on the postponement and extension of accreditation periods made during a state of emergency of a natural or man-made nature, or restrictive measures, including quarantine in the Republic of Kazakhstan (no later than thirty working days from the date of the decision);
 - 2) annual analytical information on the main results of the accreditation body's activities;
 - 3) on the system for advanced training in quality assurance for experts, employees, and students involved in the accreditation body;
 - 4) standards (regulations) for accreditation of higher and postgraduate education;
 - 5) the development program and/or strategy of the accreditation body (approved for publication – for foreign bodies);
 - 6) the areas of personnel training for which the accreditation body accredits educational programs;
 - 7) documents on the internal quality assurance of the accreditation body;
 - 8) an automated service (Registry) for searching data on institutional and specialized accreditation.
9. Be registered in the information system of the authorized body in the field of science and higher education, the "Unified Platform for Higher Education," to enter data on institutional and specialized accreditation conducted by the accreditation body.

Appendix 2 to the Order of the
Acting
Minister of Science
and Higher Education
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
dated June 11, 2025, No. 302
Appendix 2 to the Order of the
Minister of Education and Science
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
dated November 1, 2016, No. 629

Rules for the Recognition of Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education, Including Foreign

Chapter 1. General Provisions

1. These Rules for the Recognition of Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education, Including Foreign (hereinafter referred to as the Rules), have been developed in accordance with subparagraph 19) of paragraph 15 of the Regulation on the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, approved by Resolution No. 580 of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated August 19, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation on the Ministry) and define the procedure for recognizing accreditation bodies, including foreign ones.

2. The following concepts are used in these Rules:

- 1) accreditation body – a legal entity that conducts institutional and/or specialized (program) accreditation of higher and/or postgraduate education organizations based on accreditation standards (regulations);

- 2) Accreditation standards (regulations) – documents of the accreditation body establishing requirements for the accreditation procedure;
- 3) Register of Accredited Organizations of Higher and/or Postgraduate Education (hereinafter referred to as Register 2) – a list of accredited organizations of higher and/or postgraduate education;
- 4) Authorized body in the field of science and higher education (hereinafter referred to as the authorized body) – the central executive body of the Republic of Kazakhstan implementing management and intersectoral coordination in the field of higher and postgraduate education;
- 5) Accreditation of organizations of higher and postgraduate education – the procedure for recognizing the compliance of educational services with established accreditation standards (regulations) by the accreditation body in order to provide objective information on their quality and confirm the existence of effective mechanisms for its improvement;
- 6) The Register of Recognized Accreditation Bodies in Higher and Postgraduate Education (hereinafter referred to as Register 1) is a list of national and foreign accreditation bodies compiled by the authorized body in the field of science and higher education and included in the registers and/or associations of accreditation bodies of the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (hereinafter referred to as OECD);
- 7) The Register of Accredited Educational Programs of Higher and/or Postgraduate Education Institutions (hereinafter referred to as Register 3) is a list of accredited educational programs (specialties) of higher and/or postgraduate education institutions;
- 8) Institutional accreditation – the procedure for assessing the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance processes in higher and/or postgraduate education institutions by the accreditation body in accordance with their declared status and established accreditation standards (regulations);
- 9) Specialized (program) accreditation – the procedure for assessing the quality of individual educational programs implemented by higher and/or postgraduate education institutions;
- 10) The Republican Accreditation Council – a decision-making body on the activities of accreditation bodies;
- 11) The Working Body of the Republican Accreditation Council (hereinafter referred to as the Working Body) – a structural subdivision of the authorized body that ensures the activities of the Council and maintains Register 1 (in the form in Appendix 1 to these Rules), Register 2 (in the form in Appendix 2 to these Rules), and Register 3 (in the form in Appendix 3 to these Rules) in the Unified Platform for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the EHEA);
- 12) information system of the authorized body – the Unified Platform for Higher Education.

Chapter 2. The procedure for recognition of accreditation bodies in the field of higher and postgraduate education, including foreign ones

3. The accreditation body in the field of higher and postgraduate education, including foreign ones, in order to confirm its compliance with the Requirements for the accreditation body in the field of higher and postgraduate education, approved by this order (hereinafter referred to as the Requirements), submits the following documents to the working body through the EHEA:

- 1) application in the form in accordance with Appendix 4 to the Rules;
- 2) notarized copies of constituent documents. When submitting documents in foreign languages, their notarized translation into Kazakh or Russian is required;
- 3) a document confirming the inclusion of the accreditation body in the registers and (or) associations of accreditation bodies of OECD member states, or a link to the website on which the accreditation body included in the European Quality Assurance Register (hereinafter referred to

as EQAR) is presented, and (or) full membership in 2 (two) or more associations (networks) of accreditation bodies;

4) documents confirming the availability of available resources specified in paragraph 3 of the Requirements;

5) list of experts corresponding to paragraph 4 of the Requirements;

6) standards (regulations) for accreditation of the accreditation body, establishing requirements for the accreditation procedure;

7) development program and (or) strategy of the accreditation body.

Documents submitted to the EHEA are signed with an electronic (digital) signature of the legal representative of the accreditation body.

4. The working body, within 5 (five) working days, checks with the EHEA the completeness of the submitted documents of the accreditation body in accordance with paragraph 3 of these Rules. When the accreditation body submits a complete package of documents, the Working Body in the EHEA accepts the documents.

5. In case of incompleteness of the documents specified in paragraph 3 of these Rules, the Working Body sends the documents submitted to the EHEA for revision. Revision is carried out within 5 (five) working days.

6. After the Working Body accepts the documents of the accreditation body submitted for recognition, they are submitted for consideration to the Republican Accreditation Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council). Documents of the accreditation body for recognition are reviewed by the Council for compliance with the Requirements.

The Council is formed from among representatives of the authorized body, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken", a public association, an association of legal entities, foreign and Kazakh experts. The quantitative composition of the Council includes at least 9 (nine) members. The composition of the Council is approved by order of the head of the authorized body.

A meeting of the Council is held with a quorum of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the total number of members.

Council decisions are considered adopted if the majority of those present at the Council meeting vote for them. In case of equality of votes of those present at a meeting of the Council, the vote of the Chairman of the Council is decisive.

The minutes of the Council's decision are drawn up and signed by the chairman and secretary of the Council.

7. An accreditation body that has accredited educational programs of at least 2 (two) higher and/or postgraduate education institutions (hereinafter referred to as HPIs) included in one of the academic rankings - top 200 ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities), top 300 THE (Times Higher Education), top 300 QS World University Rankings, U.S. News and World Report, Global Score of 65 (sixty-five) - is recognized automatically based on the decision of the Council. For branches of foreign higher education institutions and foreign educational institutions to operate in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Council automatically recognizes the accreditation of the foreign higher education institution obtained in its country of registration by its decision. This requires that the foreign higher education institution be included in the top 250 international academic rankings (ARWU Academic Ranking of World Universities), THE (Times Higher Education), QS World University Rankings, and/or the top 100 national rankings of OECD and/or BRICS countries.

8. The period for reviewing documents for recognition by the accreditation body is 30 (thirty) business days from the date of acceptance of the documents specified in paragraph 3 of these Rules.

9. Based on the review of the accreditation body's documents for compliance with the Requirements, the Council makes one of the following decisions:

- 1) to recognize the accreditation body;
- 2) on refusal to recognize the accreditation body.

The Council's decision is reflected in the EHEA.

10. The authorized body, based on the Council's decision, issues an order recognizing the accreditation body for a period of 5 (five) years and includes it in Register 1.

The accreditation body shall submit an annual activity report in the format specified in Appendix 5 to the Rules to the Working Body by January 31 of the year following the reporting year. The report shall be reviewed at a meeting of the Council.

11. The following are grounds for exclusion of an accreditation body from Register 1:

- 1) an application by the accreditation body for voluntary termination of activities, reorganization, or liquidation, or exclusion from Register 1;
- 2) expiration of the accreditation body's recognition in Register 1;
- 3) exclusion of the accreditation body from the registers and/or associations of OECD accreditation bodies, including EQAR, and/or full membership in associations (networks) of accreditation bodies;
- 4) failure to comply with paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Council's Requirements and Decisions;
- 5) discovery of inaccurate or distorted data submitted to the authorized body based on the results of accreditation of educational organizations and educational programs in the annual report on the accreditation body's activities for the past period;
- 6) revocation of the license to conduct educational activities and/or license annexes in two (2) or more higher education institutions accredited by the accreditation body;
- 7) establishment of affiliation between the accreditation body and the accredited higher education institution;
- 8) Conducting accreditation of higher professional education institutions and/or educational programs without attendance, except during a state of emergency of a natural or man-made nature, or restrictive measures, including quarantine, in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Exclusion of an accreditation body from Register 1 is carried out based on a decision of the Council.

12. The working body, based on decisions of the Council and the authorized body, makes changes and additions to Register 1 through the EHEA system.

13. Accreditation bodies included in Register 1 shall ensure timely updating of data on completed institutional and specialized accreditation in Registers 2 and 3 through the EHEA system within 10 (ten) business days from the date of the decision to accredit the higher professional education institution or educational program. In cases of reorganization of a private educational institution through division/spin-off/merger/acquisition/transformation, the accreditation body reissues the institutional and/or specialized accreditation certificate for the given private educational institution (these private educational institutions) to the newly created private educational institutions as a result of the division/spin-off/merger/acquisition/transformation, which are the legal successors, with the accreditation terms remaining unchanged within 10 (ten) business days.

In Registers 2 and 3, the accreditation body posts a link to a video recording of the accreditation board meetings where decisions on accreditation are made within 5 (five) business days. The link to the video recording is available in the system for 1 (one) year.