

Accreditation Report

Altinbas University

“Jewelry Design” (B.A.)

I Procedure

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Attendance by ACQUIN office: Dr. Jasmine Rudolph

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The **Assessment Report** of the peer-review experts is **based on** the self-assessment report of the Higher Education Institution (HEI) and extensive discussions with the HEI management, deans and/or heads of the departments, heads of study programme(s), lecturers, staff representatives, students, and alumni.

The basis of the **Assessment Criteria** is part 1 of the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG) in the current official version. At the same time the national context, particularly the national regulations regarding the establishment of study programmes, are taken into account.

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II Introduction

The experts would like to thank the representatives of the Altinbas University as well as students that they have taken part in the discussions and willingly shared information and their views during the site visit. The discussions are valuable not only for the assessment of the institution, but also for a better understanding of the legal and sociocultural context of the local higher education system.

Evaluation basis for the peer-review experts is the self-assessment report of the Altinbas University as well as intensive discussions during the site visit with the HEI management, deans and/or heads of the departments, heads of the study programme, study programme coordinators, teachers, lecturers, administrative staff, students, and graduates.

Main objective of the accreditation procedure is to assess the quality of the study programmes and compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG). The ESG standards are applied as main assessment criteria in the international accreditation procedure.

A group of experts was set up, which ensured that all areas relevant to the accreditation procedure (e.g. legal, structural, social etc. aspects) as well as the ESG were considered. The peer-review experts include professors, representatives of the professional practice and the student representative. A certificate with the ACQUIN seal is awarded upon accreditation of the study programme.

1 Short profile of HEI

Founded under the name "Istanbul Kemerburgaz University" by Mehmet Altinbas Education and Culture Foundation in 2008, the University had its name changed to Altinbas University in 2017 and it now relentlessly proceeds towards the future. Having welcomed its first students in the academic year 2011/12, Altinbas University grew into an international research university showing its breakthrough progress within a period of ten years. Home to 9 Undergraduate Schools, 1 Institute of Graduate Studies, 3 Vocational Schools as of the academic year 2017-2018, Altinbas University is currently offering 26 bachelor's degree programmes, 11 associate degree programmes, 60 master's degree programmes and 13 PhD degree programmes. Out of the 11,952 students studying at Altinbas University, 5.348 are students from 97 different countries. Currently, our teaching staff consists of 415 employees while our administrative staff comprises 289 employee.

2 General information on the study programme(s)

Location	Altinbas University “Jewelry Design” (B.A.)
Date of introduction	The department was established in academic year 2011-2012 and produced its first graduates in academic year 2014-2015
Faculty/ department	School of Fine Arts and Design
Standard period of study (semesters)	4 years
Number of ECTS credits	240
Number of study places	13-20 per year
Number of students currently enrolled	49 (not including the students of intake 2023 who have just finished the Foundation Year and not been officially admitted to the programme yet)
Average number of graduates per year	7 students/year (in the last 5 years)
Admission requirements	Student's acceptance is based on the results of examinations centered on student admission into associate and undergraduate programs in Turkey under the regulations of the Higher Education Institution. The Student Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM) places the students in their chosen departments according to the scores of the candidates on the elective examination and the contributions of the high school scores. The acceptance commission decision and the students who speak Turkish are placed in the division.
Form of study	Full-Time
Tuition fee	Scholarship for Turkish students, 8500 \$ for international students per year

III Implementation and assessment of the criteria

1 ESG Standard 1.1: Policy for quality assurance

Institutions should have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management. Internal stakeholders should develop and implement this policy through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders.

1.1 Implementation

Curricula of all degree programs at Altinbas University have been designed in compliance with the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Turkey. The framework mentioned here is the one that is guaranteed to be completed by Bologna Process countries in an effort to increase the transparency, recognition, and mobility in higher education systems of these countries in accordance with the objectives of Lisbon Strategy published in 2000 by European Union (EU) and with the objectives of Bologna Process in which Turkey was included as a member in 2001. Driven by a practice-oriented, learner-centred approach and a strong sense of responsibility for making unique contributions to society, we are growing into an innovative and solution-focused University that provides freedom of learning and research while constantly updating itself to meet the evolving needs of Turkey as well as of the World. To produce graduates capable of meeting the needs of the Jewelry design industry in nationally and internationally competitive markets and excel with their professional competence, aesthetic appreciation, contemporary creativity and innovativeness. The fundamental values of the university are Scientificity, Student-Oriented Approach, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, dynamism, Social Responsibility and Objectivity, Internationalization, Good Administration and Transparency. The values that Altinbas University is committed to apply in all its activities have been set forth in its University Constitution. Based upon the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, European Convention on Human Rights, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as the principles of rights and freedoms stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, the Constitution of Altinbas University has entered into force in 2016 and it aims to ensure the common set of values that have reached the present day by evolving across generations over the course of human history are properly implemented in Altinbas University. The objectives set forth in the Constitution of that Altinbas University aim to: internalize the manner of interaction among our stakeholders by developing and improving it as part of the core values we have adopted. Moreover the Altinbas University wants to ensure the rights of all members of our university based on equality, freedom, and mutual responsibility. The Altinbas University wants to establish and enhance an efficient and harmonious work environment through modern management principles.

Its mission and vision statements are specific to Altinbas University, and they guide the University through creating a sustainable future for itself. Altinbas University has adopted a specific quality assurance policy prepared after consultation with the stakeholders. This policy is known and shared by all employees of the University. The policy document is simple and realistic, and it outlines the sustainable quality assurance system. The management style of the quality assurance system, its organization, basic mechanisms, central setup and its availability to all faculty and staff has also been explained in this document. Altinbas University has also developed quality policies on education (including distance learning), research and development, contributing to society, management system and internationalization policies.

The implementation of these policy statements has brought tangible results and improving impacts on the University's current practices. Altinbas University's Jewelry's Department Quality Assurance policy consists in addition to the policy of the Altinbas University of the following principles: Providing sustainable improvement based a strong start and taking in the protection and development of health with the principle of social sensitivity. The Jewelry Department contributes to the promotion and harmony between the cultures and adapts all development in educational sciences. The Jewelry Department cooperates with the university-industry and takes part in multinational research projects. Moreover the Jewelry Department hat its own Quality Policy and provides scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of training programmes as well as ensures the sustainability of national and international accreditations. This Policy ensures the organization of Quality Management System and takes care about the involvement of external stakeholders. It secures that ensure that all persons involved in academic and administrative activities are competent and act professionally and ethically.

The goals and objectives in the fields of education, research, social responsibility etc. are included in the strategic plan. The "University Quality Assurance System" has been prepared to evaluate whether the objectives have been achieved and to examine whether all the activities of the university have developed and maintained their continuity. In the quality assurance system, to evaluate the activities in all areas, quality indicators have been determined that will allow the evaluation of all stages of process, output (efficiency) and result (quality of output), and it is planned to measure the performance of the university in all activity areas and different stages, based on the quality assurance system and existing resources.

1.2 Assessment

Altinbas University has a successful quality assurance policy. This formulates high quality standards stating that Altinbas University is committed to excellence in research and teaching. In doing so, it has a publicly accessible and well thought-out quality assurance strategy that is part of its strategic management.

With the help of appropriate structures and processes, this strategy is always developed by internal stakeholders and implemented continuously and appropriately with the involvement of external stakeholders. All relevant bodies are also appropriately involved in the process of further developing quality assurance and the coordination processes of the various bodies were presented in the discussion groups. Altinbas University has made it its central task to develop a quality culture that applies universally at all levels of the university, is accepted by all university members and is constantly reviewed and further developed. In the opinion of the review panel, the university has a very good formal quality assurance policy in which all control loops are closed, interlock very well and work together:

This quality policy highlights three points: (1) the general objectives, (2) the quality philosophy of the university and (3) the institutional framework. Thus, the quality policy covers all areas relevant to quality assurance.

The expert group therefore concludes that Altinbas University has developed a quality assurance policy aimed at continuous improvement of the educational process, research activities and implementation of innovative projects. This policy is based on the mission, vision and values of Altinbas University. In doing so, the quality policy of the national education laws and regulations is reflected in the internal documents and process descriptions of Altinbas University.

The academic policy document, which reflects the development strategy and other regulatory documents, is known to the entire staff of the university and is applied on a daily basis.

In addition to the main policy, the Department of Jewelry Design has its own Quality Policy, which aims to ensure that all those involved in academic and administrative activities are competent and act professionally and ethically, that they are vigilant for academic and design fraud, and that they combat and eliminate intolerance of any kind or discrimination against students or staff. In the opinion of the review panel, this is particularly positive and reflects the Jewelry Design Department's special understanding of quality.

The relationship between lecturers and students is also characterised by mutual respect and trust; a basis that enables constructive discussions.

In the opinion of the expert group, adequate quality assurance measures have been defined for the further development of the degree programmes and are carried out regularly. The selected evaluation instruments do justice to the challenges and pedagogical demands of the study programmes.

Overall, the impression is that the quality policy and the associated quality management system of Altinbas University are fundamentally suitable for ensuring and further developing the quality of the study programmes examined here.

1.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

2 ESG Standard 1.2: Design and approval of programmes

Institutions should have processes for the design and approval of their programmes. The programmes should be designed so that they meet the objectives set for them, including the intended learning outcomes. The qualification resulting from a programme should be clearly specified and communicated, and refer to the correct level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, to the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.

2.1 Implementation

The Bachelor's degree programme in Jewelry Design (JD) was launched in academic year 2011- 2012. The department produced its first graduates in academic year 2014-2015. The programme offers education at the undergraduate level. The Department of Jewelry Design at the School of Fine Arts and Design at Altinbas University aims to shape its students into innovative and entrepreneurial Jewelry designers equipped with the knowledge and communication skills required by the industry. The Jewelry Design Department is proud to preserve the historically important Jewelry tradition and blend it with current design trends.

Taught and trained by the leading academics and professionals in the field, students at the Department of Jewelry Design are equipped with the skills and competencies that meet with the requirements of the industry. While preparing our curriculum, we have used the structures developed by Altinbas University, designed to mould each department into world class providers to high education. Our faculty aim and our student oriented teaching system to enable students to discover their own creative processes. In line with the courses in our curriculum, it is ensured that students develop competence in the design, production, sale and management of Jewelry. With ERASMUS agreements, the university encourages the students to study abroad and develop an international perspective on life.

In January 2023 of academic year 2022-2023, JD department will join an ERASMUS programme with the Dean of the School of Fine Arts and Design, Head of JD Department and two JD Research Assistants. Lecturers will plan workshops for the students of "Accademia di Belle Arti L'Aquila" in Italy and Research Assistants will participate in Bachelor courses in Training Programme.

All student can apply to ERASMUS programme: JD department is committed to encourage all students to participate in this programme. In addition to the studio and laboratory facilities available at our department, a CO-OP education model shaped in line with the framework of our contemporary education model is also offered to students. The Co-Op programme has

become a major part of our curriculum as it ensures that students are easily integrated into business life. Our graduates, who are strongly taught and trained in Jewelry making and Jewelry design by our expert academic staff, will most certainly have a wide range of job opportunities in the sector.

Starting with the next academic year, 30% of the academic programmes will be offered in English and the remaining 70% will be offered in Turkish. With this change, newly enrolled international students will be required to have proficiency both in English and Turkish while newly enrolled national students will be required to have proficiency in English language. Also as of the next academic year, newly hired academic staff will be required to have proficiency in English and the current academic staff who will teach English courses will be required to take an English proficiency test.

The duration of studies in the Jewelry design programme is four years, consisting of two semesters every academic year, 16 weeks each semester. A student must have a GPA of at least 2.00 in order to complete his / her studies and obtain a diploma. For the final grade students who cannot achieve a GPA of 2.00 despite having passed all of their courses, they are entitled to a single course exam, which can provide a GPA of 2.00 out of the last four semesters in order to raise the GPA. Those who cannot achieve a 2.00 grade point average by single course examination are allowed to take midterm, final exam, or make-up exam among the last four semester courses. Students use these exam rights during the semester exam period when the courses are offered. Students who wish to participate in this exam are informed at the beginning of the semester, during the registration renewal process, for which courses they will be attending exams. In order to be eligible for graduation, necessary to students must pass all of the courses of 240 ECTS in total and have a GPA of at least 2.00 out of 4.00 and must also undertake and successfully complete an internship. Students who complete the programme by meeting the graduation requirements may apply to Art and Design Master Programmes.

Student admission to associate and undergraduate programmes in Turkey is regulated and governed by the Turkish Council of Higher Education. The Student Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM) places students in study programmes they have chosen based on their score in central placement test. The Department of JD also admits candidates according to the scores they have obtained in the student selection test administered by the ÖSYM, as well as their high school marks and GPA.

The study programme design and approval processes at Altinbas University are constantly monitored and reviewed. All academic units including JD Department have uploaded the course information packages to <http://ects.altinbas.edu.tr/>. The enrolment rate is around 85%.

The programmers' compliance level with the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Turkey (NQF-HETR) is also available on the website.

Graduates of this program work as jewelry designers. Graduates are trained for these fields of activity, equipped with the necessary basic and specialized knowledge in the field of Jewelry design and skills such as communication, foreign language and teamwork.

The Department of JD has revised its Curriculum for academic year 2022-2023, prepared new course information packages and revised the information packages for adopted courses. All learning outcomes are revised. The Department maintains a fine balance between electives and uses alternative methods in student assessment and evaluation to improve students' academic performance.

The University's new strategic plan also involves the establishment of a 'Learning Centre' accordingly, the staff have already begun making efforts to meet this objective.

In the curriculum, students get the basic skills in Basic Art Jewelry Design I-VI, Education, Luxury Jewelry Branding, Metal Applications, Portfolio Design, Computer Aided Design, Design Ethics, Quality Control of Stone and Jewelry, Drawing, English, History of Arts, history of the Republic of Turkey etc. In addition, the curriculum has a large elective area in which business skills can currently still be acquired as an elective.

However, the title of the study programme will be changed in the future to emphasize the business competencies in its design. The title then should be "Jewelry, Design and Management" (B.A.).

2.2 Assessment

The National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Turkey has been taken into account in the development of curricula for all AU degree programmes. In order to increase transparency, recognition and mobility in the higher education systems of these countries, in line with the objectives of the Bologna Process, which Turkey joined in 2001, and the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy published by the European Union (EU) in 2000, the framework mentioned here is the one guaranteed to be filled in by the Bologna Process countries.

Altinbas University's overall strategy sets the direction for the institution and its goals, and the study programmes support the strategy by preparing students for careers that promote the university's goals. At Altinbas University, programme design and approval processes are continuously reviewed and evaluated. At <http://ects.altinbas.edu.tr>, all academic departments, including the JD Department, have submitted their course information packages.

Based on the descriptions on the website, it is also clear how closely the programmes correspond to the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Turkey (NQF-HETR).

The Jewelry Design (B.A.) programme has a four-year duration, divided into two 16-week semesters per academic year. In order to successfully complete the programme and receive a diploma, students must achieve a grade point average of at least 2.00. Students in the graduating class who have passed all courses but do not achieve a grade point average of 2.00 are eligible to take an examination that may result in a grade point average of 2.00 from the last four semesters to improve their grade point average. An intermediate, final or make-up examination from one of the last four semester courses may be taken by students who cannot achieve a grade point average of 2.00 with the single course examination. A midterm, final or make-up examination from one of the last four semester courses may be taken by students who cannot achieve a grade point average of 2.00 with the single course examination. During the semester examination period in which the courses are offered, students make use of this examination right. When re-registering at the beginning of the semester, students who wish to take this examination will be informed for which courses they will take the examination. Students must successfully complete an internship and all 240 ECTS in order to graduate. They must also have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 out of 4.00.

The internship requirements of the JD Department are subject to the guidelines of the Internship Policy for Students of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design.

Altinbas University students may also choose from a CO-OP educational model that focuses on the modern approach to education in addition to the studio and laboratory resources provided by the department. The Co-Op programme has become a significant part of the curriculum as it enables students to transition smoothly into the workforce. Graduates who receive intensive training in Jewelry design and making from knowledgeable faculty undoubtedly have access to a wide range of career options in the industry.

Altinbas University also introduces university PR activities and career fairs. Every summer, Campus Days are held, where prospective students and their families have the opportunity to tour the campus and talk to faculty and students. In addition, prospective students can make appointments to meet professors and deans in person during office hours.

The development of study programmes at Altinbas University is fundamentally oriented towards the strategic goals of the university. The presented and described information about the study program "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) and its design give the expert group a sufficient and clear insight into the study contents, the credits, the qualification of the staff and the qualification of the students. The concise answers to all questions posed by the review group were able

to give the impression of a very well planned and structured course of study. The workload in the individual courses of the study program was clearly presented.

In the spirit of further development of the Jewelry Design (B.A.) program, faculty have revised the content of the curriculum. The JD department has implemented a new curriculum to meet the demands of today's world and the jewelry industry. To discuss possible changes to the curriculum, assess the needs of the industry, and determine if the new curriculum meets those needs, the opinions of external stakeholders were considered. Their labor market-specific advice was then incorporated into the new curriculum as courses were determined. As a result, the curriculum and associated learning objectives were updated for the 2022-2023 academic year. The expert panel gave the new curriculum a very high rating, and underpinned

The Learning Outcomes have been editorially revised and are in line with international European standards. The fact that the program will be offered as an international degree program in English underlines this assessment.

The basics of scientific work are now presented in a binding manner in the curriculum with regard to writing the Bachelor's thesis and are taught in a transparent manner. Students must be able to apply scientific methods at the end of their studies. Such academic training is crucial for the preparation of the bachelor thesis.

The title of the study program and the contents of the study program have been brought into line: The new title of the program is now "Jewelry Design and Management" (B.A.) and, in addition to the artistic-creative training, the curriculum also features business skills, so that students acquire competencies for various fields of work after graduation. Of course, the cohorts who started the study of pure "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) will also finish it this way. There is grandfathering here.

Students express interest in learning English and having international experiences, and the university ensures some mobility opportunities for students. The expert group recommends supporting the international mobility efforts of the students and the department. Currently, the language proficiency of students and faculty needs improvement and should be systematically addressed by the university. Currently, some students are concerned that learning English could extend the duration of their studies to five years, which could be a problem. The curriculum should allow English language learning without wasting time and include internationalization emphasis. To improve the teaching and learning experience for students and prepare them for the international university environment, the JD should consider diversifying its learning and teaching offerings. Program assessment methods should be better aligned with learning and teaching, and this constructive alignment should be an ongoing focus.

In addition to classroom instruction and experiential learning in the studio, other forms of learning such as research and collaboration could be strengthened. Contemporary aesthetic discourses on sustainability, recycling, ethics, and digitization should also be incorporated into the curriculum to meet the changing needs of the jewelry industry. This content should be increasingly incorporated into the curriculum and learning outcomes.

The expert group also recommends an excursion course as an elective, where students organize weekly excursions to relevant places themselves, such as visiting trade fairs, jewelry exhibitions or museums. This course provides students with a valuable opportunity to learn about the jewelry industry and related fields outside of the university. It gives them first-hand insight into the professional and artistic world. By participating in these field trips, students can expand their network, meet potential employers or gain inspiration for their designs, and learn about different styles and techniques that they can incorporate into their work. In addition, field trips can help students develop transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, and time management. For example, they will need to collaborate and communicate effectively to organize the logistics of the trip, manage their time effectively, and be accountable for their learning during the field trip.

Finally, the program should take into account the diversity of students' needs and approaches to jewelry design, such as introducing more flexible learning paths, peer-to-peer learning, exchanges between cohorts, and closer connections with alumni. Most importantly, the expert recommended that students be given their own studio/workspace at the university where they can continuously work, experiment, and realize their projects. Such independent projects in their "own" studio will encourage collaboration with students from other cohorts and courses, thus training their teamwork skills, which in turn will promote peer-to-peer learning and cross-cohort exchange.

Program assessment methods should be better aligned with learning and teaching, and this constructive alignment should be an ongoing focus.

2.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

3 ESG Standard 1.3: Student-centred learning, teaching, and assessment

Institutions should ensure that the programmes are delivered in a way that encourages students to take an active role in creating the learning process, and that the assessment of students reflects this approach

3.1 Implementation

Altinbas University believes that the student is the heart of the learning process. The students with diverse backgrounds in the Jewelry Design programme comes from Jewelry various vocational and technical high schools, with experience in other fields as well. Altinbas University Department of JD uses student-centred teaching methods. The teaching methods used by the department are regularly updated in accordance with changes in formal education practices. All courses included in the curriculum have been revised with a performance- and learning-oriented innovative approach. To increase student motivation, the Department has adopted a project-, presentation- and Studio Based learning. Project-based learning student guidelines (are drawn up by the teaching staff and provided to students at beginning of each semester. The deadline for the completion of projects is the end of the semester. Every week the instructor of the project course checks the student

progress and gives feedback to students about their designs. After all projects are completed, the instructor reviews the projects to see the preparations match the guidelines and assesses the projects based on creativity and originality. Students, whose projects meet the requirements set forth in the guidelines, are awarded a passing grade.

Jewelry Company Protocol is drawn up by the legal department of the University and provided to students at the beginning of each semester. The deadline for creating a design and giving a presentation on it is determined by the Jewelry Company. Every week the instructor of the course checks the design progress and reviews students' designs. After all projects are completed, the instructor checks whether the outcome of the project comply with the guidelines and assesses the projects based on creativity and originality. After the completion of the projects, students must prepare their presentations and submit them to the managers of the partner Jewelry companies. Students whose projects and presentations are all acceptable and compatible with the guidelines, are given satisfactory grades.

Group courses include studio-based assignments (practical open-ended courses in the laboratory). These practical's encourage students to make their own designs and then to test these and draw conclusions. Altinbas University Jewelry Design department invested in modern studios with a variety of new machinery, tools, and equipment to provide the students the opportunity to have a first-hand experience with production technology, quality control, precise manufacturing, product design and development. Practical work facilitates classroom learning to reach the module objectives. Students solve complex problems more easily by actually "engaging" in the activity itself. Also, for the Jewelry Design courses, students learn computer aided design. They attend the laboratory courses to learn the how to make designs using a software (Matrix) and can use the software and the laboratory for their own projects.

The teaching method is focused on a learning experience that makes students more active and interactive in classroom. All learning types are student-centred, competency-based, process and performance-oriented, and driven by a case/practice-based approach that is suitable for the nature of the learning type. The focus is placed on deep learning, student interest, motivation, and engagement rather than knowledge transfer. In the Jewelry Design department, formal education is enriched with technological instruments and approaches such as project-based learning and full student engagement. Student participation in research is supported by our curriculum, which encourages to use engaging instructional methods, and approaches. The implementation and monitoring of all these processes and the introduction of the necessary improvements are regularly reviewed. In line with the University's student-centred educational approach, the teaching method used by the JD department is focused on active student participation, learning by engaging in direct application of skills and theories, creating time for individual and group activities to test out the new skills or knowledge students have gained through the course of the lesson. All courses offered online due to the pandemic have been recorded and saved on UZEM's server (<https://uzem.altinbas.edu.tr/course/index.php>). Students who have attended online classes can always visit this website to watch the recorded courses to support their classroom learning.

The teaching methods used by the Jewelry Design Department are regularly updated in accordance with the changes in formal and distance education.

University-Industry Cooperation

Internship and CO-operative Education

The provisions of the School of Fine Arts and Design Internship Directive for Students apply to internships required by the JD department. In addition to the studio and laboratory facilities available at our department, a CO-OP education model shaped in line with the framework of our contemporary education model is also offered to students. The Co-Op programme has become a major part of our curriculum as it ensures that students are easily integrated into business life. Our graduates, who are strongly taught and trained in Jewelry making and Jewelry design by our expert academic staff, will most certainly have a wide range of job opportunities in the sector. By the beginning of academic year 2022-2023, the department of JD is to sign contracts with leading companies in the sector.

Exhibitions and Sectoral Fairs

Gayrettepe Campus hosts a permanent exhibition where students' designs and projects are always on display. The works displayed at the exhibition are replaced with new ones every semester. Exhibit's showcase is in the foremost entrance of the campus overlooking the main street and reaches out all the way to the studio on the ground level. Also, every year important

representatives from the Jewelry and gold sectors are invited to this exhibit for a special gala event, which enables students to get acquainted with the leading figures from the Jewelry & gold industry and to develop professional and/or social contacts through networking even before their graduation.

Istanbul Jewelry Show is a major trade fair that assembles all Jewelry and gold sector representatives as well as vital wholesale & retail customers and individuals who are interested in Jewelry. The Show is held twice a year in March and October at the CNR Expo Centre – largest exhibition centre in whole Eurasia. During the fair, all Jewelry brands both local and international showcase their products and designs, private designer events are held and interested NGOs and universities also participate as visitors. JD Department takes part in both fairs every year where it exhibits student designs at its expo booth. Such trade shows provide both students and faculty with the opportunity to interact and network with the Jewelry sector reps and to keep themselves up to date with the latest advancements and trends in the industry.

Competition

The JD Department supports and encourages students to participate in the Jewelry design competitions. The Department conducts its own competitions and keep student updated with the upcoming competitions in the Jewelry sector. Competitions a great way for students to gain experience in the sector as well as to achieve reputation, prestige, national and international recognition, publicity, scholarships and even job offers.

Student Assessment

Student assessment and evaluation system at Altinbas University is defined by internal regulations and guidelines, which were amended during the pandemic and made more adaptive to students' online learning needs.

For example, all student assessment methods and criteria that are still actively used in Altinbas University have been determined during that period and published in English and Turkish on the University intranet called 'Alyans.' Altinbas University Regulation on Associate-Undergraduate Degree Education and Assessment

The JD Department employs a project-based approach in student assessment, which is carried out in accordance with the requirements of face-to-face learning. Also, the Jewelry Design Department has conducted student assessments in line with the requirements of the pandemic conditions. All instructional arrangements were planned and successfully put into practice in line with the required health measures. All courses in the programme curriculum were offered as hybrid classes, blending in-person learning with online instructions. The courses are available online for students who could not attend the face-to-face lessons. The hours and breaks were rearranged for the studio classes, and all hygiene and health requirements were met.

Theoretical classes were held online and made accessible to students. Assessment methods were rearranged in a manner to ensure that student performance and homework assignments have a larger share in grading. Starting from this academic year, the department will go on the education 100% face to face since the system is still ready to use in any pandemic situation.

Student-centred assessment is carried out based on student competence and performance. The opportunities for students to express themselves are diversified as much as possible. In the Department, the continuity of student assessment is ensured by multiple exam methods such as process-oriented (formative) assignments, projects, and portfolios. The Department uses exam methods that match the course learning outcomes.

JD Department administers different forms of exams such as written exams (closed book or open book), oral exams, final projects, and presentations. The grade management is electronically done via the SIS (Student Information System). Exams are held twice a semester. Exam plans are communicated to students at the beginning of each semester. If students are absent from exams due to illness, they must prove it by providing a medical certificate.

The certificate must be handed or sent to the head of department and must prove how the illness has affected the student's ability to participate in the exam. The head of department shall decide whether the reasons provided by the student are valid and acceptable. If the head of department accepts the student's reason or reasons for failing to attend the examination, the F mark given to student will not be counted towards to the number of attempts in exam. Special exams and instructional arrangements are designed and provided to students with disabilities. The exam system is fair and transparent. The details about the coursework examination (forms and deadlines; registration and admission; pass and repetition; failure and withdrawal; additional examinations; alternative arrangements and legal protection periods), organization (examiners and assessors; proof reading rules; and fraud and breach), evaluation and recognition (including inspection) and theses and completion of examination are stipulated in the Altinbas University Regulation on Associate and Undergraduate Degree Education and Assessment.

Students can retake an exam for a certain course twice. They can rewrite their Bachelor thesis (which JD department lecturers creates detailed guideline for Bachelor thesis students. Failing a course three times or the thesis twice leads to the termination of the student's studies by the University. The exams of all courses are administered at least twice per semester. About two weeks after a module is taught, the first exam is held. The second exam will be held at the beginning of the coming semester.

3.2 Assessment

The planning of the study programme "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) enables a reliable course of study for the students. The students particularly praise the communication with the lecturers and feel well advised. The students show a very high level of satisfaction with their degree programme. The individual supervision, advice and support provided to students certainly contributes to this. Overall, sufficient resources are available for individual supervision, counselling and support. In the event of complaints, both teachers and students know who to contact.

The forms of teaching and learning offered are also assessed as appropriate. Overall, it can be stated that the teaching methods used promote student-centred learning and are generally varied.

The examination system is organised appropriately. Information about the examination modalities (e.g. registration and deregistration, type of examination, etc.) is communicated to the students in good time. Students take positive note of the good distribution of examinations in terms of time, which indicates efficient examination organisation. The examination load and the examination density are described as positive by the students. The examination regulations are in place. The examinations are designed in such a way that they correspond to the learning objectives. The examination formats used in the degree programmes allow for a good and fair examination of the different knowledge areas and teaching skills.

Overall, sufficient different examination formats are used that adequately cover the different competences and skills. The examination load and acceptance of the examination formats is also based here on the good communication culture and the close supervisory relationship between lecturers and students.

During the On Site visit, the students assessed the course workload as fair. They have various opportunities for practical learning supported by the university, such as internships (Co-Op programme) and attending exhibitions and industry fairs. We welcome such initiatives and recommend strengthening them in the future. Four aspects should to be improved:

The examination regulations and grading criteria are published and easily accessible to students. The program offers project-, presentation-, and studio-based learning and laboratory courses using software such as Matrix. Regarding exams, the students mentioned that they have two weeks for mid and final exams. The types of exams are regulated by the Ministry of Education, with the same exams used in all universities. It would be ideal if some less focused and more continuous assessment types could be included to lower the pressure, such as regular Portfolio presentations.

It was positively by the experts that the students mentioned that project courses end with a project that matches perfectly, and exams can be repeated in the summer or after one year.

The programme also utilizes national and international competitions as a form of professional assessment.

In summary, the “Jewelry Design” (B.A.) programme at Altinbas University demonstrates a solid commitment to student-centred learning, teaching, and assessment. However, it could benefit from incorporating more contemporary themes into the curriculum, providing more opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and Studio inter-cohort exchange, offering a more transparent and structured approach to achieving the intended learning outcomes.

3.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

4 ESG Standard 1.4: Student admission, progression, recognition, and certification

Institutions should consistently apply pre-defined and published regulations covering all phases of the student “life cycle”, e.g. student admission, progression, recognition and certification.

4.1 Implementation

Student admission to associate and undergraduate programmes in Turkey is regulated and governed by the Turkish Council of Higher Education. Higher education system in Turkey is managed by the Council of Higher Education (CoHE, Yükseköğretim Kurulu-YÖK) which is an autonomous public body responsible for the planning, coordination, governance, and supervision of higher education within the provisions set forth in the Constitution of the Turkish Republic and the Higher Education Law. Both state and non-profit foundation universities are founded by law and subjected to the Higher Education Law and to the regulations enacted in accordance with it. The registration, examinations and evaluation procedures at Altinbas University are carried out according to Higher Education Law and Regulations put by Higher Education Council (YÖKAK).

The Student Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM) places students in study programmes they have chosen based on their score in central placement test. The admission to undergraduate programs for the applicants who have Turkish citizenship and received their education entirely in Turkey or in Northern Cyprus relies on the legal regulations within the framework of the Higher Education Act (No. 2547) dated 4 November 1981 and on the regulations and decisions of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). The procedure consists of nationwide university entrance examinations, which are two staged, held once a year and administered by the Students Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM/ SSPC). The first stage is the Basic Qualifications Exam (BQE, TYT in Turkish). Altinbas University evaluating Students by this exam and their points from maximum to minimum. 2021 Minimum Entrance point 227,54087

/500 for Jewelry Design Department. The placement of the candidates in a higher education institution is finally based on composition of first stage exam of the university entrance examinations and their high school grade point averages, calculated by the SSPC.

The Department of JD also admits candidates according to the scores they have obtained in the student selection test administered by the ÖSYM, as well as their high school marks and GPA. Recognition of prior learning is one of the most important features of the Turkish Education System. Candidates are accepted to the university based on their score in the ÖSYS exam and must also present a high school diploma in order to enrol. Newly enrolled students, if successful and international, they must enter the Turkish language proficiency exam administered by Altinbas University or they need to submit a TÖMER B2 certificate to prove they are proficient in Turkish. Candidates who hold an associate degree can be placed in a BA program based on their scores in Vertical Transfer Exam (DGS) administered by the Student Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM). Such candidates' previous grades awarded by their former institutions are transferred to their new programme of study. The courses in their new programme are determined based on the credits of the transferred courses, Altinbas University admits students via inter and intra-university transfer between identical academic programmes with reference to "Altinbas University Regulation on Associate-Undergraduate Degree Education And Assessment", and to the candidates' score earned in the central placement exam administered by ÖSYM. Following the same rules and regulations, students can enrol in double major and minor programs on condition that they meet the requirements. The duration of studies in the Jewelry design programme is four years, consisting of two semesters every academic year, 16 weeks each semester. A student must have a GPA of at least 2.00 in order to successfully complete his / her studies and obtain a diploma. For the final grade students who cannot achieve a GPA of 2.00 despite having passed all of their courses, they are entitled to a single course exam, which can provide a GPA of 2.00 out of the last four semesters in order to raise the GPA. Those who cannot achieve a 2.00 grade point average by single course examination are allowed to take midterm, final exam, or make-up exam among the last four semester courses. Students use these exam rights during the semester exam period when the courses are offered. Students who wish to participate in this exam are informed at the beginning of the semester, during the registration renewal process, for which courses they will be attending exams. In order to be eligible for graduation, necessary to students must pass all of the courses of 240 ECTS in total and have a GPA of at least 2.00 out of 4.00 and must also undertake and successfully complete an internship. Students who complete the programme by meeting the graduation requirements may apply to Art and Design Master Programmes.

All other applicants (two citizenships, education abroad etc.) are considered as international students who must prove that they have completed their secondary education in a high school

or similar institution in which the education is equivalent to education at Turkish high schools. Altinbas University has announced eligible diplomas, certificates and exams for admission as an international student on its web site.

The admission procedure of national students is highly transparent and objective as the process is regulated by CoHE, and placement exams are conducted centrally in Turkey by SSPC. The results of placement exams are announced via the internet page of SSPC. Below is a sample score report for the national placement exam, showing the correct and incorrect answers from each exam and each field together with student's ranking and scores.

International students can track their application status via the university web site. Prospective students of Altinbas University can find more information about admission requirements via the web site as well. International students can find detailed information on admission requirements at the web site of Altinbas University International Office. Both websites provide detailed information on the university, degree programs, admission requirements and life at campuses. There are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sections and students who have further questions are encouraged to call the university's call centre and/or fill out online contact forms to reach counselling on admissions. Altinbas University also attends career fairs and university PR events throughout the year. Campus Days are organized every summer, where prospective students and their families have the chance to visit campuses, meet professors and current students. Prospective students are also welcomed to take appointments from professors and deans to meet with them personally during their office hours.

The student progress is monitored closely using the newly implemented online Information Management System sis.altinbas.edu.tr (SIS) to support students throughout their studies in different areas, for example, The International Office reports to the ASA Office regularly informs students of available exchange opportunities and funding options to cover their stay and studies abroad.

So far, the Department of JD has produced five international graduates vis-à-vis eight international students currently enrolled in the programme. By completing the accreditation process and promoting our accredited status, we project that national and international student enrolment rate will increase by at least 50%.

For each course, students are required to take the final exam aside from the midterm exams and other coursework. At least one midterm exam is given per semester. Quizzes may be given without prior announcement. Final exams are held according to the schedule announced by the university. The final grades are determined by the instructors by considering the score in the final exam, the scores in the midterm exams, and the coursework and class attendance within the semester. Students who could not attend final exams due to a valid reason are given

make up exams. Final grades are expressed as letter grades. Letter grades are AA, BA, BB, CB, CC, DC, DD, F, which are over 4 with the value of AA being 4.00, BA being 3.50, BB being 3.00, CB being 2.50, CC being 2.00, DC being 1.50, DD being 1.00, and F being 0.00. Performance level of students are determined by calculating the semester grade point average and the cumulative grade point average. Credit points earned by the student from a course is calculated by multiplying the credit hours of the course and the value of the final letter grade. For repeated courses, the last grade is taken into account. All grades are shown in the student transcript. Students with a minimum cumulative grade point average and a minimum semester grade point average are considered to have satisfactorily passed their courses. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00-3.49 are awarded honour student status and those with 3.50-4.00 are awarded high honour status. Students with a cumulative grade point average and a semester grade point average below 2.00 are placed in unsatisfactory status. Students in unsatisfactory status who are in their second or higher semesters with a cumulative grade point average below 1.80 can only repeat courses until they attain a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.80.

To graduate from this programme, students must have a GPA of at least 2.00 out of 4.00 and must be successful by completing a minimum credit of 240 ECTS credits and earning at least a D grade from all courses. Students are required to undertake and complete an internship by the specified deadline.

4.2 Assessment

The Turkish Council of Higher Education is responsible for regulating and controlling the admission of students to associate and undergraduate degree programmes in Turkey. Based on the results of the central placement test, the Student Selection and Placement Centre (OSYM) assigns students to the degree programmes of their choice. In addition to school grades and grade point average, the JD Department also admits applicants based on their performance in the Student Selection Test conducted by OSYM. Applicants are admitted based on their performance in the OSYS test and must also submit proof of high school graduation for enrolment. If successful and from abroad, newly enrolled students must pass the Turkish language proficiency test administered by Altinbas University or provide a TOMER B2 certificate as proof of their Turkish language proficiency. Based on their performance in the Vertical Transfer Examination (DGS) conducted by the Centre for Student Selection and Placement (OSYM), applicants with an associate degree may be admitted to a BA programme. The previous marks obtained by these candidates at their previous institutions will be carried over to the current programme.

Altinbas University admission requirements are clearly defined and all admission process transparent. To assist students as they pursue their studies in many fields, the recently implemented online Information Management System (SIS) closely monitors student progress. The study requirements are therefore clearly defined and can also be viewed transparently by applicants on the university's website. The website in question is easy to find and very clearly laid out. The university has a suitable procedure for recording relevant information on the course of studies and taking action where necessary. The review panel assesses the admission procedure as transparently described and well thought-out. At the beginning of their studies, students are sufficiently informed about the course of their studies and all opportunities to participate in university life. Upon completion of their studies, graduates therefore receive meaningful and transparent documents showing the qualifications and learning outcomes acquired. In addition, Altinbas University has sufficient procedures in place to collect information on students' progress.

Overall, it can be said that Altinbas University has transparent enrolment procedures, records and monitors student development, and issues sufficiently meaningful graduation certificates that demonstrate the qualifications acquired in the programme.

4.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

5 ESG Standard 1.5: Teaching staff

Institutions should assure themselves of the competence of their teachers. They should apply fair and transparent processes for the recruitment and development of the staff

5.1 Implementation

Quality assurance principles provide the framework for competencies of academic staff. The staff of the Altinbas University therefore is competent to design and deliver a coherent teaching and learning curriculum. The teaching staff applies a range of teaching and learning methods and select most appropriate assessment methods to achieve the expected learning outcomes as well as develop and use a variety of instructional media. They monitor and evaluate their own teaching performance and evaluate courses they deliver and reflect upon their own teaching practices. The teaching staff conducts research and provide services to benefit stakeholders.

Altinbas University regards its teaching staff as one of the most important learning resources. Therefore, staff development at Altinbas University is aimed to attract, maintain, and retain a high-quality teaching workforce. Altinbas University offers several opportunities and develops support mechanisms to help its teaching staff further develop their professional and teaching

skills in order to meet the quality standards. The teaching staff recruited by Altinbas University, both faculty and adjunct lecturers have met certain criteria to ensure the teaching effectiveness. However, they still need to develop necessary skills and experience to communicate their knowledge and understanding effectively to students and other throughout their careers.

The teaching staff should be prepared for increasingly multicultural classrooms at AU, teaching students with diverse learning needs, effective use of information and communication technologies for teaching and more engagement in evaluative and accountability frameworks. Therefore, faculty, departments of SQM and HR were involved in a variety of activities to encourage and facilitate the teaching staff 's needs of development on teaching and professional skills. Academic Performance System and staff satisfaction surveys are tools used for this purpose.

The Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Office is responsible for supporting faculty members to maintain and develop their academic competence base. To this end, the Office has organized several trainings on quality assurance and ISO 9001:2015 certification.

The Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Office is also responsible for assisting teaching staff with their accreditation process and preparing evaluation reports on the process stages.

Since 2011, two full Professors, one Associate Professor, two Lecturers, two Research Assistants, and one Laboratory Technician have been members of the Jewelry design faculty, performing teaching, research, and administrative tasks. The lecturers and the Laboratory Technician have majored in a wide range of fields including history of art, basic art education, 3D design, Jewelry design, Jewelry production, Jewelry marketing etc. Many of our lecturers have decades of working experience in industry and/or academia. General info on the programme is available at the website of the study programme.

Department of Jewelry Design follows the Strategic Plan of the AU to ensure the use of studentcentred education methods and starting from Academic year 2022-2023 the department will offer at least three trainings to its teaching staff. The Jewelry design and Jewelry making courses at JD department are developed using educational methods and technological innovations blended with traditional techniques. Accordingly, our 3D Design courses aim to provide students with the necessary skill and ability to make 3D designs in computer environment hence grow a unique and innovative perspective. Students' designs are printed out as products from 3D printing machines, enabling students to learn design and production processes using innovative methods. Students are encouraged to incorporate the latest technological advances into their production and design practices, especially in their in-project courses and graduation project courses.

5.2 Assessment

Altinbas University has developed a very convincing human resources development programme. Candidate selection and staff development are clearly regulated at Altinbas University and meet European standards. This includes good equipment, continuing education opportunities, financial support for cooperations and a good supervision ratio between students and lecturers. These favorable conditions are reflected in the high quality of teaching. The students' satisfaction with their lecturers is very high. The students confirm the good quality of the teaching and the very good competences of the lecturers. The academic and artistic qualifications of the teaching staff are beyond question in every respect. Teaching is thus assured from a professional point of view. The ratio of teachers to students is very good, which is also appreciated by the students. In the discussions with lecturers and students, the impression was confirmed that the supervision ratio is very good, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The students confirmed very good supervision by the lecturers. All lecturers are very well qualified according to the evaluation group. The students describe the situation in class and the contact with the lecturers as extremely pleasant and motivating.

All teachers are perceived and supported in their concerns by the university management. However, the expert group recommends that the teaching staff should be obliged to offer language courses in English in order to attract more foreign, non-Turkish speaking students: As part of the internationalization strategy, the acquisition of English language skills should therefore be promoted: More English-speaking lecturers should teach courses and all teaching staff and administrative staff should be offered opportunities for language acquisition. In addition, care should be taken in appointment procedures to ensure that potential applicants have a very good command of English.

5.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

6 ESG Standard 1.6: Learning resources and student support

Institutions should have appropriate funding for learning and teaching activities and ensure that adequate and readily accessible learning resources and student support are provided.

6.1 Implementation

The Jewelry Design Department moved from Altinbas University Mahmutbey Technology Campus to Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus in June 2018. Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus, The Department currently has two Jewelry manufacturing studios, a computer aided Jewelry design laboratory and joint drawing classrooms at Gayrettepe Campus.

The new campus is far ahead of the old campus in quantity and quality and provides adequate facilities for the large number of students and staff currently enrolled or employed. Altinbas University Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus has space for all kinds of additional educational activities and collaborations and establishes all promising partnerships and manages so much available space. Our campus and workshops offer many new options to our students and are open to visitors.

The Jewelry design studio, which is located on the ground floor of the campus building, has undergone the necessary examinations before starting the settlement and receives daylight from 3 different facades, It offers a unique working and production environment in Turkey with the ease of transportation and the opportunities it offers to the students. The workshop covers an area of 120 m², large enough for 24 people to work at the same time. In the workshop, it provides many machines and facilities that are important for Jewelry production such as Jewelry tables, welding table, tube welding and hydrosome welding, polishing engines, cylinders.

Equipped with all the necessary tools and shelves for students, the studio wit is located on the B1 floor and has a capacity of 24 people.

At Altinbas University Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus, the lecturers teach at classrooms equipped with the necessary audio/visual installations and can get support from the Security and Administrative Affairs Office of the University if they or students need any additional equipment. The Department's laboratory and studios are fully equipped to meet the needs of lecturers and students. Located on the ground floor of the building and bringing a lively ambiance to this learning environment, a student cafeteria is available at Altinbas University Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus. Food service is available between the hours of 11:45 and 15:00 in the dining hall located on the B-4 floor. There are vending machines selling snacks and drinks on various locations of the campus. A canteen with a terrace on the 1st floor of the campus is currently under construction and was launched in September 2022. Altinbas University Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus is in a central urban area with cafes, restaurants and stores selling basic goods. AU offers shuttle services to students who do not own a car. Bus, underground and metrobus stops are conveniently located near the campus. AU Gayrettepe Social Sciences Campus offers easily accessible campus facilities centrally located in Sisli, Istanbul. Since Altinbas University operates the campus in rental facilities, the responsibility for technical infrastructure and building maintenance rests with Altinbas University. Facility management is committed to providing a customer friendly service and usually resolves issues raised by Altinbas University staff within an acceptable time frame.

With the new campus, AU will have facilities of world class quality. Lecturers teach in classrooms offering with the latest presentation and communication equipment to deliver up-to-date, interactive teaching. Specific laboratories are available for each academic subject and are

equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Lecturers and management staff have enough of-fices and meeting rooms, providing ideal working conditions for everyone. The library offers a lively atmosphere with many different spaces for individual and group study. Separate Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) networks for guests, students, and Faculty always provide high-speed connectivity throughout the campus. At Altinbas University, there is a certain number of dormitories available separately for male and female students. These dormitories are located on the Mahmutbey Campus and are designed to provide students with a clean, comfortable, safe, and civilized environment. Several kitchens are available at the dormitories for preparing meals and there are well-ventilated living spaces on each floor for dining, meeting, and communal events. Also, there are indoor and outdoor meeting areas on the ground floor of the dormitory buildings. Altinbas University dormitories offers laundry and ironing services to its residents. The music room and gym are available to students free of charge. Altinbas University Dormi-tories are a safe and enjoyable living environment with 24/7 security and available staff.

The Student Affairs Office is the main point of contact for students when it comes to student support.

AU includes sub-units working in collaboration with the Student Affairs Office such as Interna-tional Office, Student Counselling and Services. Throughout their studies at Altinbas Univer-sity, the Student Affairs Office assists students with any questions or concerns they may have about academic and administrative matters. From admission to full-time AU student status, the Student Affairs Office guides students through the process by checking their applications, providing feedback when documents are missing, and finally by issuing them their student cards. Also, the Student Affairs Office organizes the dormitories and ensures that each student is provided with suitable accommodation when requested. The Student Affairs Office makes sure that each student has strong individual supports' that the entire application and registra-tion process can be handled effectively and harmoniously.

Student Affairs Office holds an orientation event for undergraduate students at the beginning of each semester. The orientation includes a general introduction of the university and the degree programmes. The Student Affairs Office is responsible for promoting the master's pro-grammes, but sometimes these promotions can be run individually by the respective pro-gramme.

Student Affairs Office provides students with all kinds of official documents they might need during their studies. Students can drop by the Office to get them during office hours. Docu-ments provide by the Student Affairs Office range from transfer requests to official documents proving students' relationship with the University. The templates can be downloaded from the University's website or can be physically picked up at the Student Affairs Office. In case that academic advisors are Lecturers and Assistants, but when students have questions about

general arrangements or processes, they can always contact the Student Affairs Office between the hours of 09:00-11:45 and 12:30-16:00. Altinbas University offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities and the Student Affairs Office is responsible for communicating these to students. One of the strong points of AU is the advantages it offers to its students through the scholarships it provides.

The Career Development Office at Altinbas University provides students with advice and information on their future career goals, while sharing with them insights about the skills and abilities that employers seek. The Career Development Office offers various workshops (e.g., CV writing) and often shares job and internship opportunities with students. The Office is currently working to create more formats, including constant exchange with alumni. Overall, university-industry cooperation should be enhanced, and it must be made sure that more students undertake work placements in the future.

From Academic Clubs (such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Club) to Sports Clubs (e.g., Sailing Club) and Entertainment Clubs (e.g. Music Club), students at AU can currently join one of the 53 Student Clubs. Having a club member experience is an important asset in a student's life, therefore all students at Altinbas University are encouraged to participate in student activities from day one. The diversity of student activities is one of AU's strengths and helps students find opportunities to balance out their academic work and social time. AU is proud to have a very active and engaged student community. Using the multinational structure of AU to the highest advantage of students is a fundamental element of the institutional support available at AU. The university both encourages student exchange as part of the ERASMUS programmes and cooperates with universities outside Europe through MoUs and Student Exchange agreements. AU is constantly looking for new exchange partners to expand the mobility opportunities by focusing on finding the most suitable offers for different students. The Secretary General's Office at the University employs an international officer and a director of the International Office.

With the aim of being a research-oriented university, not only academic staff, but also students studying at Altinbas University are encouraged to conduct research. There are various activities that students can participate in to satisfy their passion for research and gradually step into the scientific community. Our department has initiated a joint project with "Altinbas Mücevherat," one of the most important brands operating in Turkey's Jewelry sector. As part of the project, Jewelry design students created designs for the Altinbas brand and "Altinbas Mücevherat" purchased these designs from students by paying the necessary royalties and introduced a new and special collection for sale, inspired by these designs. This project helped students gain the experience of working as a designer for one of the leading companies in Turkish Jewelry industry. The Department of Jewelry Design expects students to have a strong

educational background, accordingly priority was given to students with high quality skills when recruiting team members for this project. The University encourages its faculty to be more involved in student research activities and inspire students to participate in research through mentoring, brainstorming, permission to use workshop equipment whenever they need, recruitment to various projects, and financial support for conference presentations.

Altinbas University libraries are on the way to build a state-of-the-art library to become the academic centre of modern infrastructure with rich information resources, user-centred services and to meet the diverse needs of its users in learning, teaching, and research. The overall goal is not only to support the sustainable development of Altinbas University but also to serve as a model for other higher education institutions. The library areas, which are spread over 4 different settlements and cover a total area of 3234.02 m², are well equipped with equipment such as RFID technologies and smart copiers for management and security control. The library is designed to be flexible to meet a variety of demands and functional purposes, from the quiet space of research to the open space for discussion. There is also high-quality furniture with aesthetic appeal and harmony with the overall library decor to provide flexibility and multifunctionality for study and research. Currently, the library, which includes 82879 printed books and 440955 e-books, which are textbooks and reference books, serves to adapt the various needs of all Altinbas University disciplines. There are subject-specific and multidisciplinary databases (including journals and e-books) such as Access Pharmacy, ProQuest, Cochrane Library, Complete Anatomy, Ebscohost, embase, Health Research Premium Collection, Hein Online, which can be accessed from anywhere and anytime via the library website.

The library is also open to cooperation with other libraries. It is a member of the ILL (Interlibrary Loan and Documentation) system, so they can request books available in other libraries through our library. The library has an agreement with Turnitin, one of the world's leading software that brings together students and educators on the same platform, ensuring the authenticity of documents, and enabling educators to grade these documents.

Altinbas University library is also a member of the Feedback Studio package. Feedback Studio is a similarity check and feedback service that reduces the time spent on manual grading and feedback processes and protects the institution's reputation. Instructors can drag-and-drop standard or customized comments directly onto student work, while rules provide students with guidance on scoring scales and increase consistency. The authenticate program, which was implemented to detect plagiarism in academic studies (excluding student assignments), has been put into service by ULAKBİM for faculty members and Altinbas has an agreement with ULAKBİM as well. iThenticate's repository includes academic databases, journals, and publications, and more than 17 billion web pages. As of now, only those with a doctorate or higher

degree at universities are allowed to use the iThenticate plagiarism checker. The library provides support and advice for any questions regarding books and study rooms. The library's web page is designed to keep the resources in one place for convenient browsing. In particular, the library has an Instagram account to make library services, resources and facilities known to AU students and faculty. In line with Altinbas University's goal of being a leading research institution, the library puts great effort into creating a comprehensive portfolio of Research Support Services.

With its 13-person team, the Office of Information Technology oversees the management of Altinbas University's technological systems, the maintenance of digital infrastructure and the functionality of the systems in general.

The Information Technology Office plays an integral role in the organization. The Office installs and maintains computer infrastructure, performs software updates, monitors running systems and data stores, assists new users with computer and software issues, etc. High-speed wireless networks are accessible in buildings and public places on all campuses, available in all classrooms, lab rooms, student residences and dormitories, and recreational facilities such as the new gym, dining area, and open air.

The IT Office steps in when AU students and faculty need access to computer systems or need troubleshooting assistance, The Information Technology Office is responsible for the creation of websites serving inside or outside the university with the help of external companies and their technical infrastructures. When there is a request for a website at the university, appropriate infrastructure systems are created by evaluating many parameters such as how the page will be positioned, what technical features it will have, and the number of requests. After the creation of the web pages, the requesting unit is contacted, and training is given about the administration of the relevant website. After this process, the content of the website is managed by the relevant unit. The Information Technology Office continues to provide the infrastructure and technical support for the University websites. In this context, the main website of the university (<https://altinbas.edu.tr>) is managed by the Institutional Reputation and Stakeholder Relations Management Office.

The IT Office also purchases licensing for different units. The unit that requests the licensing decides which application (student, staff, laboratory, or all) will be installed. For example, the following licenses that are currently used throughout the university: Microsoft Office 365, Adobe CC, SPSS, MATLAB, Rhino, Solid Works, Sketchup, Ansys, AutoCAD, Adobe Connect, Zoom, Z-Brush, Matrix. AU Information Technology Office provides authentication, security and system services that enhance student learning experience

6.2 Assessment

The resources of the study programme "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) can be rated as very good. The modern and technically excellent equipment is suitable for providing students with a sound education. The implementation of the study programme "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) is thus sufficiently ensured. The expert group assesses all material, financial and personnel resources as completely sufficient to achieve the qualification goals of the study programme "Jewelry Design" (B.A.).

The ratio between the number of students and the teaching materials and rooms is appropriate and both campuses have the necessary conditions to enable a smooth daily study routine. To cater to the diverse needs of the students, the Altinbas University makes great efforts.

Libraries and seminar rooms are well digitalized and geared towards student-centred learning. Therefore, the facilities and equipment are adequate to support the effective implementation of the programme objective and learning success in every way. Altinbas University is also well equipped for digital teaching.

Teaching staff and students had good knowledge and skills in using all physical and spatial resources.

From the discussion with the student representatives, it became clear that the information base of the students about the study-related services of Altinbas University is very good. The building, rooms and technical equipment can be described as exemplary. The library offers students extensive support in finding information and using the available technology. However, the expert group recommends that a material library should be introduced in order to be able to explore the haptic conditions of materials.

Furthermore, interdisciplinarity should be intensified within different cohorts and beyond with other study programmes at Altinbas University: students should be provided with a workspace in which they can work creatively and realize their own interdisciplinary projects with students across cohorts and courses, thus practicing their teamwork skills. Such independent projects in their "own" Studio will foster collaboration with students across cohorts and courses, thus practising their teamwork skills, thereby adding peer-to-peer learning and inter-cohort exchange.

The scope and qualification of the non-academic administrative staff can be described as very good. Another positive aspect is that the administrative staff have the opportunity for individual further training.

The needs of the student body are also adequately addressed. Learning and teaching methods are good overall, combining modern equipment and conventional methods well.

Internal quality assurance takes physical resources into account in its evaluation culture and regularly solicits feedback from students. Thus, the needs of a heterogeneous student body are taken into account in every respect.

6.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

7 ESG Standard 1.7: Information management

Institutions should ensure that they collect, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of their programmes and other activities.

7.1 Implementation

In academic year 2020-2021, the University has initiated its plan to perform all processes using its own software, in line with its digital transformation goal in the strategic plan. A digitalisation policy has been created to govern all IT processes. The University possesses the following information related items: Alumni Information System, Online Enrolment Cancellation System, Online Undergraduate Transfer Application System, Online Dormitory Application System, Online Information Inventory System, Online License Tracking System, Online Library Reservation System, Online CEC Certification System, HES Code Tracking System, Online Thesis Management System, Online Event Tracking System.

With the introduction of these systems, the use of paper documents has been reduced, work processes and the control of these processes have been accelerated, and data accuracy has been improved. These systems have also been significantly helpful in terms of offering in-person and online trainings to internal stakeholders. Users have been provided with user manuals of online systems that are most essential for the uninterrupted continuation of work and learning processes. Overall IT services at the University have been developed tremendously. Alyans (the University intranet), EDMS, Project Server, Qlik Sense, the University website, Performance Evaluation System are among other systems and software that used by Altinbas University to obtain, record, update and share institutional information (performance indicators, regulations, guidelines, evaluation reports).

In order to achieve all its goals under a well-organised plan and a well-strategized approach, in addition to the implementation of strategic management, Altinbas University also takes into account the change management used several in areas such as internationalisation, digital transformation. All stages of strategic management, including mission, vision, SWOT analysis, goals and objectives setting, etc. have each been an integral part of the University's strategic plan since 2016. When digital transformation and internationalisation became a necessity in

higher education, all our strategic plan- related efforts have been rearranged and integrated with our change management approach in order to ensure that this transformation is properly achieved.

In 2021, Altinbas University has also gone through several changes in terms of organisational structure. In addition to new research centres, new administrative offices were created. Especially with the increasing need to keep in constant touch with alumni, a separate office has been established to deal with this need.

In 2020, a project was launched in order to improve the staff performance evaluation system and to update its software for this purpose, to turn the staff goals into SMART goals as well as to help perfect the strategic goals. Started as a preliminary effort in July 2021, the project was be fully implemented in September 2022. As part of the project, RACI charts and a KPI library have also been created, determining the responsibilities of each position in each academic unit. Altinbas University arranges Faculty-President and Staff-President meetings each term to gather feedback from staff about administration and organisational structure. This feedback is used by the University Administration to identify whether there any areas that need improving. The Results of the Employee Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2021 and the improvements were implemented accordingly.

During their studies at Altinbas University, all students can follow their exam results and graduation status on SIS. Also, they might apply for termination of studies or temporary withdrawal from studies. Students who have committed a gross disciplinary offence or who have failed to meet the requirements for graduation will be subject to expulsion from the university. An official decision will be made, and Student Affairs will update the information on SIS.

7.2 Assessment

In line with its goal of digital transformation in the Strategic Plan, the Altinbas University has started implementing its plan to run all procedures with its own software from the academic year 2020-2021. The management of all IT processes is governed by a digitalisation policy. Alumni Information System, Enrolment Cancellation System, Transfer Application System, Residence Application System, Information Inventory System, Inventory System, Licence Tracking System, Library Reservation System, CEC Certification System, HES Code Tracking System, Thesis Management System, Online Event Tracking System.

Since the introduction of these systems, the use of paper documents has decreased, work processes and their management have been accelerated and data accuracy has increased. The ability to offer both face-to-face and online training to internal stakeholders has also greatly

benefited from these solutions. User manuals for the online platforms, which are most necessary for the uninterrupted continuation of work and learning activities, have been made available to users. The university's overall IT services have expanded significantly.

Other systems and programmes used by Altınbaş University to obtain, collect, update and disseminate institutional information (performance indicators, regulations, guidelines, assessment reports, etc.) include EDMS, Project Server, Qlik Sense and Alyans (the University's intranet).

The University's homepage should be updated to transparently illustrate the attractiveness of the Jewelry Design (B.A.) degree programme: Here, the expert group recommends clearly highlighting the industrial partnerships and cooperations with employers such as universities. Due to its specific history, Altınbaş University has very good contacts to potential, very interesting employers for students and provides valuable contacts here already during the study programme, which the expert group clearly sees as a unique selling point of the study programme.

This visibility can be achieved, for example, by setting up a separate section on the homepage, in which the existing partnerships and cooperations of the university are presented, as well as all industry-specific events and opportunities in which students can participate.

In order to increase further described visibility of the Jewelry programme and to get in touch with prospective students, the use of social media channels should be expanded. The university should set up accounts on popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram and post regular updates about the Jewelry programme, collaboration with industry partners and student success stories. This can help build an online community around the programme, attract prospective students and provide a platform for engagement and discussion.

7.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

8 ESG Standard 1.8: Public information

Institutions should publish information about their activities, including programmes, which is clear, accurate, objective, up-to date and readily accessible.

8.1 Implementation

AU has commissioned several units to make information or data on the University readily accessible to the public. The University website is the main instrument that is used to announce all Altınbaş University related details to our internal and external stakeholders. Information on

student admission, scholarships and tuition fee, international student services and activities are available on the website. For further information is a student portal and all announcements are available on the website as well as all qualifications, teaching, learning and assessment procedures (exam regulations) for each programme and the accreditation status of all programmes. The University's intranet system is also actively used for sharing announcements and other posts. Furthermore, the University is using an Electronic Information and Document Management System for official correspondence. The university's registered email address is used for correspondence with external stakeholders. The collaboration between Altinbas University and other organizations are handled by Corporate Communication and Reputation Management Office, who is responsible for informing all stakeholders of the University's new deals and agreements via digital communication channels. The University has an active call centre designed to ensure that all stakeholders can easily contact the university and get the information they need. Through the CRM system, we monitor whether the callers have been provided with complete and adequate information. Overall, Altinbas University uses printed media, its social media accounts, and its website to inform the public

8.2 Assessment

Altinbas University has taken the initiative to make information and data about the university easily accessible to the public by commissioning a number of units for this purpose. As the primary medium for informing both internal and external stakeholders of all Altinbas University-related information, the university website serves as a vital tool for disseminating news, updates, and resources about the university and its various programs, initiatives, and activities. With a user-friendly interface and comprehensive content, the website provides a central hub for anyone seeking information about Altinbas University, its faculty and staff, its research and academic programs, and the many resources and services it offers to its students and the wider community.

All necessary Information is available on specific websites.

Altinbas University has established a robust communication system that utilizes various digital platforms to ensure seamless and efficient information flow both internally and externally. The university's intranet system serves as a crucial platform for posting notices, announcements, and other essential content that needs to be communicated to the university's faculty, staff, and students. In addition to this, the university's official correspondence is managed using an electronic information and document management system, which enables the efficient and secure management of university documents and other important information.

To communicate with external stakeholders, Altinbas University utilizes its official email address, which ensures that all communication with third parties is conducted in a professional

and structured manner. The Corporate Communication and Reputation Management Office is responsible for overseeing and managing the university's digital communication channels, ensuring that all interested parties are informed about the university's new transactions and agreements. This office is also responsible for managing collaborations between Altinbas University and other organizations, ensuring that all communications are clear, concise, and accurate, and that all stakeholders are kept informed and up-to-date with the latest developments. Overall, Altinbas University's communication system is designed to be comprehensive, efficient, and effective, enabling the university to communicate with all relevant parties in a timely and organized manner.

As part of its commitment to ensuring that all interested parties can easily access the information they require, Altinbas University operates a call center that is specifically set up to handle inquiries from the public. This call center is staffed by trained professionals who are well-versed in the university's programs, services, and activities, and who can provide accurate and timely information to callers. Additionally, the call center staff keeps track of whether the callers have received enough and complete information using a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, which allows them to log and track inquiries and ensure that all requests are handled efficiently and effectively.

Aside from the call center, Altinbas University also employs a range of other communication channels to inform the public about its programs and services. The university website is a central hub for information, providing detailed and up-to-date information on all aspects of the university, including its history, mission, academic programs, research initiatives, and student life. The university also maintains active social media profiles on popular platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, where it regularly posts updates, news, and other relevant information. Finally, the university uses printed materials, such as brochures, flyers, and newsletters, to disseminate information to interested parties who may not have access to digital communication channels.

Overall, Altinbas University uses a variety of communication channels to ensure that the public is informed about the study programme “Jewelry Design” (B.A.), services, and activities, and that all inquiries and requests are handled promptly and professionally.

8.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

9 ESG Standard 1.9: On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes

Institutions should monitor and periodically review their programmes to ensure that they achieve the objectives set for them and respond to the needs of students and society. These reviews should lead to continuous improvement of the programme. Any action planned or taken as a result should be communicated to all those concerned.

9.1 Implementation

Altinbas University follows a learning outcome-based model. Accordingly, ensuring students' academic achievement is of vital importance to the University. For this reason, Altinbas University considers that the learning objectives and the projected student achievement stated in the course information packages shall not be any different from each other, in terms of in-person and online learning. However, some changes have been made to both learning models to guarantee the learning outcomes. For example, in distance learning model, the weight of homework assignments has been increased, and instant surveys or quizzes have been integrated to the lesson plans.

After completion of each final exam, professors are asked to fill out a 'Final Exam Analysis Form' including a table and answer key designed to identify which questions assessed which student learning outcomes. This form helps us determine whether learning outcomes have been achieved or not.

The quality assurance efforts at Altinbas University started in 2016 with strategic management and SWOT analysis, developing a vision and mission statement and strategic planning. However, in line with the ever-changing needs, internationalization, digital transformation, and accreditation goals too were added to the future strategies of Altinbas University, and the new strategic plan was rearranged in a manner to cover both the YÖKAK (THEQC-The Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey) standards and our strategies. These efforts are an example of our institutional transformation capacity. Our mission and vision statements, values and university outputs are also being revised with a participatory approach to fully adapt to this transformation. Altinbas University's practices for the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System have been underway for four years. ISO activities, which were initially covering only administrative units, were expanded in 2021 with the addition of all academic units. The Altinbas University has undergone an online inspection of its Administrative and Academic activities by the NISSERT Certification Body to renew its certification for quality higher education. Findings obtained from the inspection were reviewed and necessary corrective actions were taken. All documents drawn up for the implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 standard in all administrative and academic units are available for all users in Alyans/Documents/ISO 9001 folder on the University intranet.

The Altinbas University has the necessary quality management related documents and for the expert group provided and demonstrated the Quality Management Handbook. The Quality Handbook includes procedure templates, flowcharts, and process flows, also job description templates.

Using the PDCA model, the University monitors whether each unit's strategic plan has met its respective strategic objectives. In our PDCA cycles, based on the calendar year, it has been planned which processes and mechanisms will be activated, and the flow charts have been determined. Roles and responsibilities were defined, and past practices were reviewed. Also, documentation evidencing, that other quality cycles (those are not based on a calendar year) equally involve all layers, has been provided. The University's strategic goals and action plans have been determined according to a SWOT analysis conducted before the launch of the faculty's 5-year strategic plan. Key performance indicators were also set forth in the strategic plan. At the end of each academic year, the Faculty Quality Committee draws up a PDCA conversion table and submits it to the University Quality Committee.

At Altinbas University the Quality Committee plays a major role in the preparation, monitoring and reporting of Internal Evaluation Reports, Strategic Planning, and other quality activities. Currently, the Committees continues to evaluate and rearrange the suggestions received regarding the revision of the mission and vision statements, as well as the examination of the SWOT analysis results, which are all included in the preparations of the new strategic plan. Department of Jewelry Design follows the Strategic Plan of the AU to ensure the use of student-centred education methods and starting from Academic year 2022-2023 the department will offer at least three trainings to its teaching staff. To support students' academic development, our department will introduce a graduate mentor-mentee programme by the end of 2024. To improve and expand CO-OP education activities, our head of department is committed to increase the number of CO-OP agreements. To accommodate the University's internalization and accreditation strategies, the curriculum of the Jewelry Design Department has been revised for the new academic year and accreditation process is envisaged to be completed in academic year 2022-2023.

Evaluation by students, mostly in the form of verbal and daily feedback, is encouraged throughout the academic year, A formal evaluation, on the other hand, is carried by means of surveys at the end of each semester to gather more accurate and realistic feedback.

Youth Quality Club was created in order to enable students to participate in decision-making processes within the University and take an active role in quality improvement activities for the dissemination of quality culture. Three members of the Youth Quality Club have participated in the YÖKAK Quality Ambassador seminars to help the club's activities progress effectively at the University.

Besides academic and administrative staff, Strategic Plan Follow-up, and Quality Assurance Commission also has a student representative. JD department aims to increase student satisfaction ratio up to 90% and is planning to further improve its curriculum, academic staff, also to complete the accreditation process successfully and start more collaborations with national and international universities and companies operating in the Jewelry sector, while working to increase internship opportunities and job positions in the industry (sales, production, etc.) To monitor the internal stakeholder satisfaction, Altinbas University has established a Student Satisfaction Committee was established in January 2019. According to the decision issued at the University Senate meeting of 7.12.2021, the Committee has been divided into three sub-committees as Student, Employee and Stakeholder Satisfaction Committees Members of the Student Satisfaction Committee are selected by the University Senate, and they may consist of staff and faculty members. The president of the Student Council is a member of the committee.

The ombudsman is a natural member of the committee. The committee convenes on scheduled meetings to discuss student requests and grievances as well as the issues that concern the university in general. The Committee reviews the feedback provided by the Ombudsman and makes decisions accordingly. The decisions are communicated to the relevant units and the President's Office so they can be put into effect throughout the University.

The aim of the Student Satisfaction Committee is to monitor and support the activities of the Student Ombudsman's Office and to deal effectively with the student requests and complaints. The Committee makes decisions by considering the matters that concern students, in other words, students are the focal point in the Committee's decision-making process.

A "strategic plan monitoring and quality assurance commission" has been established to maintain and monitor the quality assurance. The Commission consists of the University President, Vice President, Secretary General, the Head of the Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Office, other commission members (members assigned by the University Senate, one representative from each academic unit specialised in a different discipline), and a student representative. The Strategic Plan Monitoring and Quality Assurance Commission prepares a strategic plan and an annual internal evaluation report that is integrated with the performance review programme and activity report, covering all of the education-learning and research activities and the administrative services AU completes its internal evaluation in January-March each year and sends the Evaluation Report to the Higher Education Quality Board for information purposes by the end of April. The internal evaluation is run to measure the quality of the university's academic units and research centres, its educational and research activities, and administrative services. The quality improvement efforts are also assessed over the course of the evaluation process. The internal evaluation report measures like for example

Efforts made by faculty and staff to attain the measurable goals, the performance indicators related to these goals and their periodic review.

External evaluation is carried out by the Higher Education Quality Board at least once every five years as part of a periodical institutional external evaluation process. External evaluation is made in accordance with the calendar prepared by the Higher Education Quality Board. The evaluation is performed by external evaluators recognized or assigned by the Higher Education Quality Board or by independent institutions that have been authorized by the Higher Education Quality Board for a Quality Evaluation Registration Certificate. External evaluation service for accreditation at the unit/programme level is performed by a national or international independent institution holding the Quality Assessment Registration Certificate and is limited to the unit/programme.

9.2 Assessment

It has been positive to see that Altinbas University's "Jewelry Design" (B.A.) programme has a solid commitment to quality improvement, as demonstrated by its adherence to the ESG 1.1 and 1.9 standards. The university's formal quality policy and regular monitoring of the program ensure that it is continually improved and adapted to meet the needs of students and the Jewelry industry.

The fact that students can voice their needs and complaints to the head of the Jewelry Department and those are followed through to the rector is a positive sign of the university's commitment to transparency and openness. It became evident during the site visit that the monitoring and review initiatives helped the programme meet the needs and expectations of students and industry stakeholders in Turkey, which has a high demand for skilled Jewelry designers. By regularly monitoring and reviewing the programme, the university has demonstrated that it can identify issues and problems that need improvement and take steps to address them. In the past, this led to curricula adaptations and similar changes. Hence it is realistic that the university can reach its goal of 90 % satisfaction among its Jewelry design students and a similarly positive evaluation of its industry partners.

The regular faculty meetings with students present and regular quality surveys provide a formal mechanism for continuous feedback and review, further reinforcing the university's commitment to regular monitoring and review. The installation of a Youth Quality Club and Student Satisfaction Committee are two significant initiatives that demonstrate the university's focus on quality and ensuring student satisfaction.

The quality management ensures very well that the general quality assurance measures and instruments of Altinbas University are constantly up-to-date and transparent.

The Altinbas University fulfils all obligatory aspects of external quality assurance: the various organisational units and levels are adequately set up and were explained in detail in the discussions with the university. Both the internal and external quality assurance measures of Altinbas University take into account all legal requirements and benefit from each other to effectively advance the quality development of the study programme.

The internal and external quality assurance mechanisms for the continuous development of the programme are well developed and the cyclical functioning of the quality assessment of this programme is effective. The quality of the surveys and the processing of the results can be rated as very good. The coherence between external and internal quality assurance is well structured.

In conclusion, the university has appropriate informal and formal structures and processes in place, including a decentralized and central Quality Management office, a curricula committee responsible for changes to the curriculum, and the national YÖKAK that checks quality every year. The positive feedback from students and industry stakeholders indicates the effectiveness of these efforts and the university's commitment to providing a quality Jewelry design education that meets the needs of its students, the industry, and society.

Overall, Altinbas University's "Jewelry Design" (B.A) programme is a good example of how adherence to the ESG standards can lead to a high-quality, student-centred programme that is continually improved and adapted to meet the needs of students and society.

9.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

10 ESG Standard 1.10: Cyclical external quality assurance

Institutions should undergo external quality assurance in line with the ESG on a cyclical basis
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10.1 Implementation

Altinbas University employs accreditation as external quality assurance in line with the ESG on a cyclical basis. Altinbas University maintains its efforts to obtain accreditation for multiple degree programmes. The related objectives are also included in the University's strategic plan and all academic units are expected to complete the accreditation processes in 2024. School of Law (LLB Dual Degree Turkish and German Law with Universität zu Köln), School of Pharmacy, Departments of Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering from the School of Engineering and Architecture are among the academic units that have completed the accreditation requirements.

After obtaining the accreditation for its undergraduate programme, the JD department will endeavour to receive accreditation for its post-graduate programme, while working to continue to meet the standards for the next accreditation cycles of the undergraduate programme, which is in five years from now.

10.2 Assessment

The external quality assurance processes in place for the Jewelry Design program at Altinbas University are appropriate and cover different organizational levels and status groups of the institution. The study programme has a formal quality policy continually monitored by YÖKAK, and there is lots of informal communication with the industry.

The quality assurance process at Altinbas University considers the relevant Turkish legal frame-work for private universities, ensuring that the program meets the standards set forth by the Ministry. Furthermore, the university has several international partners, which further ensure that the university's programmes are being held to a high (international) standard.

The Altinbas University has developed a quality framework that provides for the cyclical review of all study programmes based on a detailed survey instrument. The specific objectives of this review are initiated by an agreement between the programme management and the university's quality management. Quality Management at the Rectorate level is responsible for confirming compliance with procedural standards and for monitoring.

The quality assurance process we experienced during the site visit serves to confirm the internal QS improvements by Altinbas University. They demonstrated formal mechanisms for continuous feedback and review (See 1.9). The Universities Quality Assurance is transparent, providing both the university and the public with information on the quality of the university's activities. However, this quality assurance information and reports could need to communicate on the website of the university effectively to ensure transparency, openness and accessibility not only for staff and students, but also for employers and other interested parties.

Overall, the external quality assurance process for the Jewelry Design programme at Altinbas University is effective. The commitment to transparency and continuous improvement became evident during the one site visit. While there is always room for optimization, it was positive to experience that both the university leadership and faculty have demonstrated motivation and commitment to cooperate very strongly. The expert group is confident the Altinbas University will continue to engage in external initiatives and build structures to develop their quality assurance further.

10.3 Conclusion

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

IV Recommendation to the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN

1 **Assessment of compliance the Standards and Guidelines in the Higher European Area (ESG) in the actual official version**

The study programme „Jewelry Design“ (B.A.) was assessed on the basis of the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG).

The expert group concludes that the **ESG standards** 1.1 (Policy for quality assurance), **ESG standards** 1.2 (Design and approval of programmes), 1.3 (Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment), 1.4 (Student admission, progression, recognition and certification), 1.5 (Teaching staff), 1.6 (Learning resources and student support), 1.7 (Information management), 1.8 (Public information), 1.9 (On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes) and 1.10 (Cyclical external quality assurance) are fulfilled.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

Standard 1.1 Policy for quality assurance: Universities have a publicly accessible quality assurance strategy, which is part of their strategic management. This strategy is developed and implemented by internal stakeholder representatives through appropriate structures and processes, involving external stakeholders.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.2 Design and approval of programmes: Universities have procedures for the design and approval of their courses. The courses are designed in such a way that their objectives, including the desired learning outcomes, can be achieved. The qualification obtained during a degree program is clearly defined and communicated; it refers to the corresponding level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, the qualifications framework for the European Higher Education Area.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.3 Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment: Universities ensure that the courses offered are carried out in such a way as to encourage students to play an active role in the design of the learning process and that this approach is also taken into account when assessing students / examinations.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification: Universities ensure that the courses offered are carried out in such a way as to encourage students to play

an active role in the design of the learning process and that this approach is also taken into account when assessing students / examinations.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.5 Teaching staff: Universities ensure the competence of their teachers. They use fair and transparent procedures for the recruitment and further training of their employees.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.6 Learning resources and student support: The university has adequate funding to finance study and teaching and ensure that there is always a sufficient and readily available range of learning and support available for their studies.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.7 Information management: Universities ensure that they collect, analyze and use the relevant data relevant to the successful conduct of studies and other activities.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.8 Public information: Universities publish easily understandable, correct, objective, up-to-date and well-accessible information about their activities and courses of study.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.9 On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes: Universities are constantly monitoring their courses and regularly reviewing them to ensure that they achieve the goals set and meet the needs of students and society. The tests lead to a continuous improvement of the courses. All affected parties will be informed about any measures planned or resulting from this.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

Standard 1.10 Cyclical external quality assurance: Universities regularly undergo external quality assurance procedures in accordance with the ESG.

The criterion is **fulfilled**.

2 Accreditation Recommendation

The peer-review experts recommend an accreditation with recommendations:

Recommendations

1. **With regard to the development of the study program, teaching content regarding contemporary aesthetic discourses, sustainability, recycling, ethics and digitalization should be increased in the curriculum and the learning outcomes.**
2. **As part of the internationalization strategy, the acquisition of English language skills should be promoted: More English-speaking lecturers should teach courses and all teaching staff and administrative staff should be offered opportunities for language acquisition. In addition, care should be taken in appointment procedures to ensure that potential applicants have a very good command of English.**
3. **the homepage should be made more transparent and more social media channels should be used: Existing cooperations and the very good networks of the university with the Jewelry job market should be emphatically communicated to prospective students.**
4. **students should be provided with a workspace in which they can work creatively and realize their own interdisciplinary projects with students across cohorts and courses, thus practicing their teamwork skills.**
5. **A material library should be introduced.**
6. **An excursion course, e.g. trade fair, jewelry exhibition, should be offered in the elective course, thus taking advantage of the university's excellent networks to bring students together with potential employers.**

V Decisions of the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN

Based on the evaluation report of the expert group and the statements of the Higher Education Institutions the Accreditation Commission of ACQUIN makes on the 19 June 2023 the following decisions unanimously:

The study programme “Jewelry Design” (B.A.) (new title: “Jewelry Design and Management” (B.A.)) is accredited without any conditions.

The accreditation is valid until 30. September 2029.

The following recommendations are given for the further development of the study programme:

- With regard to the development of the study program, teaching content regarding contemporary aesthetic discourses, sustainability, recycling, ethics and digitalization should be increased in the curriculum and the learning outcomes.
- As part of the internationalization strategy, the acquisition of English language skills should be promoted: More English-speaking lecturers should teach courses and all teaching staff and administrative staff should be offered opportunities for language acquisition. In addition, care should be taken in appointment procedures to ensure that potential applicants have a very good command of English.
- The homepage should be made more transparent and more social media channels should be used: Existing cooperations and the very good networks of the university with the Jewelry job market should be emphatically communicated to prospective students.
- students should be provided with a workspace in which they can work creatively and realize their own interdisciplinary projects with students across cohorts and courses, thus practicing their teamwork skills.
- A material library should be introduced.

An excursion course, e.g. trade fair, jewelry exhibition, should be offered in the elective course, thus taking advantage of the university's excellent networks to bring students together with potential employers.