

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIA

“VERITAS” Project: Structural Development of the Third Cycle Based on Salzburg Principles

ROAD MAP for PhD Education

I. Introduction

The National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA) functions under the regulations set by the respective state agencies (i.e. Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia (MoES), Supreme Certifying Commission (SCC), as well as National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance (ANQA).

This road map is based on the Armenian principles of PhD education development, which will be implemented for “Architecture” and “Geodesy and cartography” specialisations. The present document is designed to facilitate the reforms in the PhD education in NUACA, as well as to modernise the current PhD programmes of NUACA in “Architecture” and “Geodesy and Cartography”.

A strategic plan for the above-mentioned PhD programmes has been developed in accordance with the road map principles, which in its turn is considered to serve as recommendations to MoES and SSC concerning administrative and legislative reforms in Armenian PhD education, which are now inline with law of education and regulations of MoES.

The road map and the strategic plan are developed in accordance with the Bologna Agreement of “Doctoral Programs for the European Knowledge Society” (Salzburg 3-5 February 2005, i.e. 10 basic principles for the third cycle education, which were developed giving the platform for foundation for reforms in the higher education field).

II. General Principles

The road map is developed based on the following general principles:

- Salzburg principals are highly prioritised and the ten principles of modern higher education are acknowledged as comprehensive preconditions for PhD education development. It is expected that these objectives will be reflected within the next strategic plan of NUACA.
- In accordance with the Salzburg principles, the University will attract additional funds and resources in addition to state financing.

- NUACA ensures transparent procedures for all processes of the PhD education (from admission to completion of programmes). This is reflected in all regulative documents and in practical operations.
- NUACA provides methodical, technical and financial support to PhD students for their research, publishing activities, and through promotion of PhD student participation in scientific events (local and international seminars, scientific workshops, completion tests).

III. Aims and Objectives

This road map and the strategic plan aim at improving the PhD education towards internationally competitive standards and generating added-value for the country and for society benefits. The specific objectives of the road map include implementation of reforms in: i) PhD education, ii) research; iii) organisational and procedural services.

The reforms in the above mentioned fields will provide, for each student, individual depth of experience and competence in “Architecture” and “Geodesy and cartography” specializations; perception of the nature and logic of the field chosen as a whole; sufficient strength in basic science to allow continued self-education after completion of the formal training and thus to keep in the forefront of changing fields; and the motivation to serve their field productively through a long career.

IV. Activities

Towards the above mentioned goals, the following activities are envisaged:

No	Activities	Deadline for implementation	Outcome	Responsibility
1. Reforms in PhD education				
a)	Clarify introduction of the credit system for PhD programmes.	01.04.2016	A clear credit system for PhD programme is introduced, based on relevant legislation of the Republic of Armenia.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education
b)	Clarify cooperation and collaboration between faculties, chairs and department for PhD education.	31.12.2015	Cooperation arrangement is formed among the department of postgraduate professional education, chairs and faculties	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education
c)	Organise teaching in foreign languages in order to promote internalisation of PhD education.	31.08.2016	Lectures, which are being conducted in foreign languages for PhD students are reviewed and number of lectures in foreign language is expanded too, as per credit system.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Chairs and lecturers

d)	Regularly update educational programmes, based on feedbacks	01.04.2016	Questioners developed to outreach all stakeholders.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Quality Unit.
e)	Implement a pilot programme based on reforms in PhD education.	31.07.2016	Pilot programmes developed for “Architecture” and “Geodesy, including mapping and cadastre” specialisations.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. S.Tovmasyan, Faculty head for Architecture. 4. E.Harutyunyan, A.Aloyan. 5. V.Margaryan, Chair of Geodesy Engineering

2. Reforms in research

a)	Provide adequate support to researchers for conducting their research works, through issuing agreements with other entities (local or international), delivering financial assistance and publishing research findings.	31.12.2015 31.08.2016 ^p .	- Reviewed agreement between PhD student and the University, which reflects concrete services and support for PhD students. - PhD student room /office/ is dedicated, based at University campus.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. N.Pirumyan, Research sector. 4. T.Hakobyan, Department for International Relations 5. Legal department
b)	Implement joint research programmes, both at local and international levels.	Ongoing	A system for joint research developed	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. N.Pirumyan, Research sector. 4. T.Hakobyan, Department for International Relations
c)	Include findings of research works in seminars for students, methodical and educational materials, teaching programmes.	01.04.2016	See point 1.a, considering inputs in teaching programmes from the conducted research	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Chairs 4. Supervisors and PhD students

3. Reforms in organisational and procedural services

a)	Issue tripartite agreements (supervisor, university, PhD student) instead of currently used bilateral arrangement.	30.06.2016	Agreement form developed	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education
----	--	------------	--------------------------	--

				3. Legal department
b)	In accordance with SSC requirement for supervisors, set internal (university) requirements.	31.08.2016	Training for supervisors conducted.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education
c)	Clarify procedures related how work plan for PhD student is developed, implemented and certified (separate paragraph in agreement).	See point 3.a	See point 3.a	See point 3.a
d)	Pre-examination: in accordance with SCC requirements, develop university requirements.	31.08.2016	University requirements for pre-examination, based on relevant legislation	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Faculties 4. Scientific committee chief and secretary
e)	Completion and submission: in accordance with SCC requirements, develop university requirements.	See point 3.d	See point 3.d	See point 3.d
f)	Create possibilities for dissertation defence in online mode, and facilitate online discussions among stakeholders before defence meetings.	31.08.2016	Special procedures are developed for online examination event.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Scientific committee chief and secretary
g)	Establish normative frameworks for joint supervision procedures.	31.08.2016	Special regulations about supervisor assignment developed.	1. Y.Safaryan, Vice-Rector for Scientific Works 2. H.Sahakyan, Head of Department for Postgraduate Professional Education 3. Faculties and chairs, 4. Scientific committee
4. Institutional reforms				
a)	Conduct institutional reforms within the department for PhD education	31.08.2016	Confirmed - new name, - new organisation chart (structure), - staff.	1.Rectorate 2. Scientific Council

All above mentioned Activities are envisaged to be completed by the end of the project (October, 2016)¹.

¹ The development and implementation of the pilot programs are one of the main activities of the present Road Map. To pilot the PhD programs the necessary support from the administration of NUACA will be assured.

V. Criteria and Evaluation of PhD Programme

Criteria and evaluation of PhD Programme are explained within the strategic plan, which provides prerequisites, requirements and criteria for admission, implementation and completion of PhD programmes.