



Pázmány Péter Catholic University

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

2024–2027

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I. Introduction

In autumn 2019, a new quality management system was introduced at Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU), the operation and development of which has remained a crucial task in the life of the institution ever since. The Quality Enhancement Programme (QEP) for the period 2020-2023 was adopted by the University Council (UC) in its resolution No. 22/2020. (IV.29.). The review of the programme and the definition of new directions that arose in the meantime – taking into account the recommendations included in the HAC accreditation report – took place in 2022, which was approved by the UC in its resolution No. 23/2022. (VI.16.).

The purpose of this document is to define the medium-term development directions for the new rectorial cycle – in line with the university's strategic objectives for the period 2021-2030 – which it considers necessary to achieve and implement. These guidelines were determined based on the provisions set out in the mission statement and quality policy issued in November 2019. We intend to establish the implementation of medium-term objectives, their breakdown into actions and tasks, their participants, the deadline for implementation, and the indicators for measuring them within the annual quality objectives in the future. The 'responsibles' assigned to the defined guidelines contribute to the implementation by coordinating the areas to be developed.

The main direction of the University's internal quality assurance continues to be provided by the HAC's current institutional accreditation model [European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ENQA ESG, 2015)], which greatly assists in achieving strategic goals and improving educational and training outcomes.

Our quality enhancement programme was compiled along the 10 standards and guidelines of the ESG for higher education institutions – keeping the PDCA principle in mind – but we also took into account the recommendations contained in the 2020 institutional accreditation procedure report.

Availability of documents providing background to the QEP:

- [PPCU Quality Assurance Regulation](#)
- PPCU Strategy 2021–2030 adopted
- PPCU Institutional Development Plan 2021–2025
- PPCU HAC report 20210326
- [ESG Standards and Guidelines 2015](#)

II. Objectives and tasks

Standard (ESG 1.1): Quality policy

Institutions should have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management. Internal stakeholders [i.e. students, academic staff, and non-academic staff] should develop and implement this policy through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders [users, employers, partners].

Based on the ESG guidelines, quality management activities are driven by two fundamental goals: accountability (quality assurance) and enhancement (quality enhancement). Together, these serve the development of a quality culture permeating every member of the organisation.

The university leadership, in order to ensure that the ESG standards and guidelines can truly prevail and simultaneously characterise the institution's activities in the long term, commits itself to operating a quality-conscious management.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Keeping tasks related to the quality management system in continuous focus, monitoring and evaluating its operation, and utilising its results in leadership work.	Chair of UQAC
2.	Embedding quality culture through internal communication. Deepening the institutional interpretation of ESG standards and disseminating this throughout the institution's entire organisational system (academic and non-academic staff).	Chair of UQAC
3.	Faculty quality objectives should align with university objectives and tasks, meaning that faculty goals – where possible – connect to university goals. Efforts should be made to ensure faculties cooperate in achieving university objectives.	Chair of UQAC
4.	Implementing trend analyses of university surveys, evaluating the analyses, and utilising the results during managerial decision-making.	Chair of UQAC

No.	Objective	Responsible
5.	Integrating conclusions drawn from faculty evaluations and utilisation of areas systematically monitored by the university (student evaluation of teaching, student satisfaction, graduate career tracking, etc.) into the annual quality enhancement reporting process of the faculties.	Chair of UQAC
6.	Encouraging student representation in the University Quality Assurance Committee.	Chair of UQAC

Standard (ESG 1.2) (ESG 1.9): Design and approval of programmes – continuous monitoring and periodic review 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. (ESG 1.2)

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. (ESG 1.9)

When evaluating its programme offerings, PPCU strives to provide its students with valuable, up-to-date knowledge, modern thinking, and a competitive degree. All this is carried out so that a key driving factor in students' choice of study is the quality culture guaranteed by the 'Pázmány brand', which serves as the intellectual hub of the Hungarian Christian humanities intelligentsia. In monitoring and reviewing programmes, special attention must be paid to sustainable development and the advancement of digital competences.

During the design and periodic review of curricula, we strive to ensure that the knowledge, skills, and attitudes (collectively: competences) acquired during the learning process contribute to students' personal development and equip them to excel in the labour market and effectively apply what they have learned.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Expanding and/or adapting the educational offering taking into account the requirements of the maintainer, the labour market, and society.	Vice-Rector for Education
2.	Assessing the current practices of faculties and faculty-level organisational units regarding stakeholder involvement in programme launching, development, and review, and embedding these practices systematically into quality assurance activities.	Vice-Rector for Education
3.	Establishing a new doctoral school.	Faculty Deans
4.	Increasing the number of programmes delivered through international partnerships.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
5.	Involving students in programme launch processes and curriculum reviews.	Vice-Rector for Education
6.	Monitoring student credit workload.	Vice-Rector for Education
7.	Standardising course descriptions and updating them on a semesterly basis.	Faculty Deans

Standard (ESG 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.

Student-centred learning and teaching entails an interactive lecturer–student relationship that builds upon student motivation and autonomy while ensuring appropriate guidance and mentorship from academic staff. This requires ongoing evaluation and enhancement of pedagogical and assessment methodologies. University leadership and faculty members – in close collaboration with the Student Union – aim to foster a learning environment and implement assessment systems integrated into the learning process that support fruitful and successful student learning activities.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Pedagogical and methodological renewal in line with 21st-century technologies.	Vice-Rector for Education
2.	Establishing a Centre for Educational Methodology and organising comprehensive technical support.	Vice-Rector for Education
3.	Developing a new campus in Budapest providing an excellent setting for faculty educational activities, alongside dedicated sports and community spaces for students.	Director General for Development
4.	Organising regular forums and discussions on educational methodology and practical training.	Vice-Rector for Education
5.	Reviewing and upgrading competence measurement frameworks.	Faculty Deans
6.	Organising educational methodology workshops for academic staff.	Vice-Rector for Education

Standard (ESG 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.

PPCU precisely establishes regulations governing the entire student life cycle, published transparently on the university website. The university makes every effort to maintain student enrolment, expand it in specific programmes, and increase the proportion of international students within the total student body.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Increasing the number of applicants ranking the University as their first choice.	Vice-Rector for Education
2.	Developing preparatory training courses for secondary school leaving examinations to attract talented secondary school pupils to PPCU.	Faculty Deans

No.	Objective	Responsible
3.	Reducing the proportion of students who conclude their studies without obtaining a diploma (reducing student attrition/dropout).	Vice-Rector for Education

Standard (ESG 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.

PPCU's revised quality policy also drives transformation in human resource management: 'it closely harmonises quality enhancement with human resource management criteria so that its staff stand out in competition among higher education institutions in their capabilities connected with pastoral, educational, research, and advisory duties.' Consequently, continuous development of academic competences remains a key priority.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Maintaining high instructional quality; preserving and improving institutional rankings.	Vice-Rector for Education
2.	Formulating a performance appraisal framework for teaching and research personnel, tailored to faculty characteristics.	Vice-Rector for Education
3.	Conducting internal educational methodology and professional training aligned with stakeholder needs (cf. Section 1.3).	Vice-Rector for Education
4.	Advancing the digital tool usage and educational IT competences of teaching staff (cf. Section 1.3).	Vice-Rector for Education

Standard (ESG 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.

The diversity and vitality of the student community require services capable of addressing diverse needs and expectations. Embracing student-centred learning necessitates that university

services function as integral instruments of learning support, with strong emphasis on equal opportunities and student needs represented via the Student Union.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Enhancing learning support and student services informed by stakeholder suggestions and satisfaction survey feedback.	Faculty Deans
2.	Broadening electronic administration facilities and online student services.	Education and Studies Department
3.	Developing tutor-mentor programmes supporting the integration of incoming first-year students.	Faculty Deans
4.	Continuously ensuring and enhancing academic and career advisory services for students.	Faculty Deans
5.	Implementing equal opportunity and equal treatment standards as set out in the PPCU Equal Opportunities Plan, with monitoring conducted by the Equal Opportunities Committee.	Equal Opportunities Committee

Standard (ESG 1.7) (ESG 1.8): Information management, public information

Institutions should gather, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of their programmes and other activities. (ESG 1.7)

Institutions should publish information about their activities, including programmes, which is clear, accurate, objective, up-to date and readily accessible. (ESG 1.8)

The university strives to make strategic and executive decisions grounded in reliable data, ensuring effective measures are implemented following collected evidence. Communication serves as the primary conduit for maintaining relations across students, staff, alumni, employers, and wider society.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
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No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Further strengthening the international profile and research visibility of PPCU.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
2.	Enhancing university prestige, brand awareness, and institutional appeal.	Communications Department
3.	Developing the institutional website in line with structural/organisational updates and programme modifications.	Communications Department
4.	Systematically expanding internal communication and information dissemination channels.	Communications Department
5.	Institutionalising previously non-systematic surveys and compiling longitudinal trend analyses.	Chair of UQAC
6.	Expanding Alumni initiatives and engagement programmes.	Communications Department
7.	Reintroducing the Pázmány Card discount and affiliation scheme.	Communications Department
8.	Holding regular rectorial briefings for students and staff members.	Rector

Standard (ESG 1.10): Cyclical external quality assurance

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

The university attaches high importance to feedback and recommendations issued by accreditation authorities and embeds them directly into institutional practices.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	High-standard, rigorous preparation for HAC institutional accreditation.	Chief Advisor to the Rector

No.	Objective	Responsible
2.	Introducing and sustaining external evaluations conducted by partner institutions.	Chief Advisor to the Rector
3.	Operating a dedicated working group preparing for HAC institutional and doctoral school accreditations.	Chair of UQAC

Research

Alongside primary teaching responsibilities, academic research is of paramount importance to PPCU. Advancing fundamental and applied research is steered via a coordinated university-level research plan.

Main objectives of PPCU for the period 2024 to 2027:

No.	Objective	Responsible
1.	Reviewing and updating the institutional research plan.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
2.	Defining institutional and research-unit quality assurance mechanisms for R&D&I, assuring ESG 2015 compliance, structures, and personnel.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
3.	Establishing selection criteria for preferred publication venues and determining priority scientometric databases.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
4.	Enhancing the visibility and impact of research undertaken at the University.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation
5.	Forming collaborative partnerships with other institutions (Catholic and secular) for joint research projects.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation

No.	Objective	Responsible
6.	Fostering and developing high-quality digital academic publication venues.	Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research Organisation

Budapest, 25 April 2024

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