

Decision of the FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Committee



11th Meeting on September 20, 2023

PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

Project Number:	20/075 (cluster 3)
Higher Education Institution:	KIMEP University
Location:	Almaty, Kazakhstan
Study programmes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bachelor of International Law2. Master of International Law3. Bachelor of Jurisprudence
Type of accreditation:	re-accreditation

The FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Committee has taken the following decision:

According to § 7 (6) in conjunction with § 9 (1) of the FIBAA General Terms and Conditions within the framework of procedures for the award of the FIBAA Quality Seal for Programmes from January 1, 2021, the study programmes are re-accredited.

Period of Accreditation: July 6, 2023, and finishing on July 5, 2030.

The FIBAA Quality Seal is awarded.



Assessment Report

Higher Education Institution:

KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Bachelor/Master programmes:

- 1) Bachelor of Jurisprudence
- 2) Bachelor of International Law
- 3) Master of International Law

Qualification awarded on completion:

- 1) Bachelor of Jurisprudence
- 2) Bachelor of International Law
- 3) Master of International Law

General information on the study programmes

Brief description of the study programmes:

The **Bachelor of Jurisprudence** programme has a workload of 240 ECTS credits with a regular duration of four years (8 semesters). It integrates the study of substantive Kazakhstani law with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as with drafting, negotiating and advocacy skills through classroom exercises and internships. As a result, students who earn the KIMEP Bachelor of Jurisprudence degree should be prepared to enter into the practice law in Kazakhstan as beginning attorneys. The programme is taught in English.

The **Bachelor of International Law** programme also has a workload of 240 ECTS credits with a regular duration of four years (8 semesters). It provides an education on the legal regulation of inter-state relations, of private relations between natural persons and legal entities, and of business relations between partners resident in different jurisdictions. This knowledge and the corresponding skills should enable graduates to become lawyers in the public and private practice areas. In particular, graduates of the Bachelor of International Law programme should be suited to practicing public and private international law at relevant national agencies and bodies, international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, at private companies and law and consultancy firms. The programme is taught in English.

The curriculum of the **Master of International Law** programme has a workload of 60 ECTS credits with a regular duration of one year. The programme also may be completed over an extended time period to overall 1,5 years to accommodate working professionals. It includes components in legal methodology and writing. The objective of the programme is to provide professionals with the skills to solve complex legal problems and offer service to clients based on ethical principles. The programme is taught in English.

Type of study programme:

Bachelor and Master programmes

Projected study time and number of ECTS credits

Bachelor programmes: 4 years; 240 ECTS credits

Master programme: 1 – 1.5 years; 60 ECTS credits

Mode of study:

Full-time

Didactic approach:

Study programmes with obligatory class attendance

Double/Joint Degree programme:

No

Enrolment capacities:

20 to 50 students for each programme

Programme cycle starts in:

Fall and spring semester

Initial start of the programmes:

Bachelor of Jurisprudence: 2011

Bachelor of International Law: 2014

Master of International Law: 2009

Type of accreditation:

Re-accreditation

Last accreditation period:

July 6, 2018 to July 5, 2023 (with a provisional prolongation till September 30, 2023)

Procedure

A contract for the re-accreditation of the programme Bachelor of Jurisprudence (Bachelor of Jurisprudence), Bachelor of International Law (Bachelor of International Law) as well as Master of International Law programme (Master of International Law) was made between FIBAA and KIMEP University on June 21, 2022. On February 26, 2023, the HEI submitted a self-evaluation report, which included a detailed description of the programmes and further documents in order to prove that the criteria for programme accreditation are met.

At the same time, FIBAA appointed a review panel¹. The HEI has agreed with the chosen experts. The panel consisted of:

Christoph Fay

Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Frankfurt, Germany,
Lawyer
(Employment Law, Personnel Management)

Prof. JU Dr. Daniela Heid, Ph.D., M.A.

Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, Bruehl, Germany
Professor of Public Law
(Public Law, Public Administration, Public Service Law, Police Law, European Law, esp. Eastern European Law)

Prof. Dr. Dennis Hilgers

Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management
(Open Government, Government Openness and Public Trust, Public Financial and Performance Management, Business Administration)

Dr. Ikboljon Qorabayev

KAZGUU University, Astana, Kazakhstan
Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer in International Relations
(International Law, International Relations, Comparative Regionalism Studies)

Katharina van Kampen

Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
Law Sciences (state examination)

Prof. Dr. Christian Schachtner

IU International University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany
Professor of Public Management and Nonprofit Management, Head of programme
(Public Law, Public Administration, Human Resource Management)

FIBAA project manager:
Dr. Birger Hendriks

¹ The panel is presented in alphabetical order.

The assessment is based on the self-evaluation report, amended by further documents, as requested by the panel, and an on-site visit. The on-site visit took place on April 20 and 21, 2023, at the HEI's premises in Almaty. The same cluster included an appraisal of the programmes Bachelor of Public and Municipal Administration (Bachelor of Public and Municipal Administration) and Master of Public and Municipal Administration (Master of Public and Municipal Administration). At the end of the on-site visit, the panel has given brief feedback on its first impressions to representatives of the HEI.

The assessment report based on this was delivered to the HEI for comment on August 21, 2023. The statement on the report was conveyed on August 30, 2023. It has been taken into account in the report at hand.

Summary

The programmes **Bachelor of Jurisprudence**, **Bachelor of International Law** and **Master of International Law** offered by KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, fulfil the FIBAA quality requirements for bachelor and master programmes and can be re-accredited by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) for seven years starting on July 6, 2023, and finishing on July 5, 2030. The programmes are in accordance with the national and the European Qualification Frameworks and the European Standards and Guidelines in their applicable version valid as of the time of the opening of the procedure, and with the Bologna Declaration.

The panel members identified several areas where the respective programmes could be further developed:

- Reducing the numbers of offered elective courses, also oriented at the partly low numbers of students, and checking whether some of these offers can be included as compulsory courses (see chapter 3.1);
- Checking whether the part of international law in the BIL programme could be intensified (see chapter 3.1);
- Including explicitly ethical aspects into the syllabi (see chapter 3.1);
- Developing courses that are devoted to ethical questions in the context of the learning outcomes of each programme (see chapter 3.1);
- Predominantly using the ECTS credits in internal documents (see chapter 3.2);
- Including the course assessment techniques and evaluation criteria in all syllabi for the three study programmes (see chapter 3.2);
- Checking the requirements for students to be present in person during all in class teaching lessons and allowing to use IT technology (see chapter 3.2);
- Developing a mentoring programme to enhance the academic development of the full-time faculty (see chapter 4.1);
- Intensifying the cooperation with universities from abroad and by this broadening the international cooperation for increasing mobility of students and faculty (see chapter 4.3).

The measures that the HEI takes in order to implement the recommendations of the panel members will have to be considered during the re-accreditation.

There are many criteria in which the programmes exceed the quality requirements:

- International orientation of the study programme design (see chapter 1.2);
- Counselling for prospective students (see chapter 2.2);
- Guest lecturers (see chapter 3.3);
- Internationality of faculty (see chapter 3.4);
- Foreign language contents (see chapter 3.4);
- Skills for employment / Employability (see chapter 3.6);
- Academic qualification of faculty (see chapter 4.1);
- Practical business experience of faculty (see chapter 4.1);
- Student support by faculty (see chapter 4.1);
- Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty (see chapter 4.2);

- Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (see chapter 4.3);
- Access to literature (see chapter 4.4);
- Career counselling and placement service (see chapter 4.5);
- Information on activities during the academic year (see chapter 5.3).

For the overall assessment of the programme, please refer to the quality profile at the end of this report.

Information

Information on the Institution

Established in 1992, KIMEP University (KIMEP) is an independent, non-profit higher education institution in Kazakhstan. KIMEP is licensed and has been attested by the Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science (MES - now MSHE) as a higher education institution (HEI) authorised to provide educational services. In January 2012, KIMEP obtained its university status.

KIMEP currently offers 35 degree programmes for students including 15 undergraduate, 13 Master and seven Ph.D. The programmes are offered in Business Administration, Finance, Marketing, Management, Accounting and Audit, Economics, International Journalism, Public Administration, International Relations, International Law and English pedagogy.

The programmes at hand are conducted by the Law School². Besides, KIMEP includes Bang College of Business (BCB), College of Social Sciences (CSS), College of Humanities and Education (CHE), and Executive Education Center that are supported by various units at the University level.

Based on Fall 2022 data, there are 101 non-degree and 2,126 degree students at KIMEP. Included are 303 international degree students. Overall, KIMEP degree students represent 35 different countries. Currently, there are 101 full-time faculty at KIMEP. Sixty-six percent of the University's full-time faculty members hold doctoral degrees, among them 64 with Ph.D. or equivalent degree (DBA, J.D.³) and three Doctors of Science. The overall faculty/degree student ratio for KIMEP is 19.14 students per faculty. KIMEP has 14,214 KIMEP alumni.

KIMEP is legally structured as a joint-stock, non-profit organisation, which offers higher education services. Although 60% of KIMEP shareholders are private and 40% shares belong to the Kazakhstan government, KIMEP does not receive any funding from the government.

Kazakhstan became the 47th participating country in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the Bologna Process under the 2010 Budapest-Vienna Declaration. MSHE⁴, as the responsible ministry, has instituted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

² See Organigramme annex 1

³ The degree Juris Doctor is mainly used in the US and Canada (a professional degree without a dissertation).

⁴ Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Further development of the programme, implementation of recommendations from previous accreditation, statistical data and evaluation results

The programmes were accredited for the first time by FIBAA on July 6, 2018. In the previous report, the experts gave several recommendations. In the report at hand, the panel members see these recommendations as being adequately taken into account by the University. The recommendations were the following:

- 1 “The regulations of admissions do not specify for the LLM which level in jurisprudence the applicants have to bring. Therefore, the panel recommends specifying the needed entry level for the master.”

KIMEP’s comment: For the Academic Year 2023-2024, the Law School intends to require (a) an undergraduate degree in Law with a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 2.5 from KIMEP, or (b) completion of the 4 or 5 basic undergraduate Law courses which constitute a Minor in Legal Studies at KIMEP, or (c) an undergraduate degree in Law or a related field and at least five (5) years of relevant work experience.

- 2 “Since the future graduates are going to be most likely working in corporations very close to the management, the panel recommends offering in the undergraduate programmes an introduction to management, in order to better prepare students for their future positions.”

KIMEP’s comment: Students may take Management and other Business course(s) in the Bang College of Business as electives. Many graduates will work in law firms, government, international organisations, local NGOs, etc. or will continue further study, such that other Law or non-Law electives are more relevant to their plans.

- 3 “After the on-site visit experts found out that students were not always informed which exams were counting for the final note and which were not. Therefore, the experts recommend improving the transparency towards the students regarding relevant exams for the final note.”

KIMEP’s comment: Law students are now informed during First Law School Year Orientation to refer to the class syllabi for authoritative information as to course assessments. They are further instructed to ask their instructors if they do not understand the published grading criteria.

- 4 “...not all of the Bachelor’s theses were in line to the scientific standards. The examined Master’s theses did not achieve the required master level and did not follow throughout the scientific standards. In both cases the experts expressed some concerns regarding the structure, volume and citation methods of the theses.”

KIMEP’s comment: The Law faculty believe that (1) the majority of undergraduate students are not at a point of intellectual development, writing and research skills, or life and experience to produce a senior paper that should be considered a “thesis” without considerably more time and effort than is feasible, if at all; (2) Undergraduate Law students are ill-served by the over-specialization implied in an obscure topic or the inevitable superficial treatment of a major survey topic at their level. They do, however, need to exhibit a professional level of knowledge of the major areas of Law; and (3) because of technological advances and the written thesis format (particularly with limited face-to-face supervision time, there is no confidence that a

short thesis defence will be adequate to ensure that students are submitting their own work. That said, there may be a very few students, for instance those intending to do academic (as opposed to professional) graduate work and not practice Law, for whom a thesis is a suitable Final Attestation. The MSHE policy promulgated last fall leaves the matter in the discretion of individual universities.

Therefore, for undergraduate students entering the School of Law during or before Fall Semester, 2022, Final Attestations shall be as follows, unless such students subsequently opt in to requirements under the 2023-2024 or later university Catalogue: For the Bachelor of Laws, a State Examination, with added specialized State Examinations in Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure; for the Bachelor of International Laws, a State Examination, with added specialized State Examinations in Public International Law and Private International Law. As an alternative, students with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 and/or demonstrated special needs may be allowed to substitute a Thesis upon a showing of good cause and the approval of the proposed supervisor and the Dean.

As to the LL.M. programme, beginning in 2023-2024, the thesis will be required to be 15,000 words with an oral defence. Prior to registration, prospective graduate degree candidates will be required to meet with their faculty advisor and agree upon a degree plan which specifies courses to be completed, the area of specialization to be studied and researched, and a proposed thesis topic with a timeline to be approved the LS Graduate Coordinator and the Dean.

- 5 "...the panel recommends creating abridged versions of the regulations for each programme..."

KIMEP's comment: The Law School has simplified both the programme requirements and their descriptions for the 2023-2024 catalogue. Law Students are sent "all undergraduate," "all graduate" or "all student" emails in eye-catching formats and are notified of such emails by social media groups when specific regulations require their attention.

- 6 "...the panel recommends widening the offer of specific intercultural training, as a way to further improve the intercultural capabilities of the students."

KIMEP's comment: The Law School is finalizing two comprehensive Memoranda of Understanding with large, comprehensive research universities in the United States in order to provide undergraduate inbound and outbound exchanges, faculty inbound and outbound exchanges, opportunities for joint research and publications involving undergraduate and graduate students and dual degrees. Both institutions have specific expertise relative to multicultural education and training, which we hope to utilize.

- 7 "During the on-site visit the panel found out that some students had to extend their studies because some of the offered courses could not take place due to lack of staff. The panel considers very important to enable students to finish their studies within the normal stipulated period. The Law School could prove this by showing that there are enough faculty members for all of the courses of the submitted curricula."

KIMEP's comment: Beginning with 2023-2024, all required Law School classes will be offered in a set sequence and students will be scheduled to timely take them. All undergraduate elective classes in the catalogue will be offered at least once every two years in a predetermined cycle, such that they will be available to every student. Outbound study abroad

students are urged to seek advising before departure to ensure that classes taken at partner universities will be applied seamlessly to their degrees.

The School of Law now has a dedicated, full-time communications professional who is working to provide topical information to internal and external audiences. News and changes regarding programmes and the importance of faculty evaluations is included in this remit. Exchange of information between the Law School administration and Faculty is provided by scheduled faculty meetings.

Furthermore, the Law School now has a full-time Director of Experiential Learning who is also an Assistant Professor of Practice. That position's responsibilities include expanded interaction with and accountability to the legal profession in Kazakhstan. The Bar's support and assistance is essential to experiential education efforts, such as the Legal Clinic, Ask-a-Lawyer project, Moot Court/Arbitration competitions, and internships. While their feedback is solicited continuously, we do not find that local lawyers are prepared to provide assessment or evaluation on a formal basis to the Law School.

- 8 "...the panel learned the Master at KIMEP does not qualify to do a PhD in Kazakhstan. Not all students were aware of this. Therefore, the panel recommends spreading this information transparently from the beginning..."

KIMEP's comment: The LLM is marketed and taught as a professional degree for working lawyers, not as a steppingstone to academia. An example of language used internally in this regard is that "Our license is for 'International Law', and it is a professional, rather than academic, graduate degree".

Appraisal

The panel notes that KIMEP has taken into account the recommendations of the previous accreditation procedure as far as the University thinks they fit to put them into practice.

Programme Description and Appraisal in Detail

1. Objectives

1.1 Objectives of the study programmes (Asterisk Criterion)

KIMEP defines itself as an international North-American style private university having the following mission: uniting people of different nations, races and religions by means of knowledge; training qualified specialists highly demanded in various spheres of activity; and forming personalities and educating young people capable of working in any country.

The KIMEP School of Law offers the following undergraduate programmes, which aim to qualify graduates to pursue post-graduate studies as well as to practice law in Kazakhstan or to work at the international level: Bachelor of Jurisprudence (BLLB) and Bachelor of International Law (BIL). The School also offers the Master of International Law (LLM) as a graduate law programme. Finally, the School of Law offers two types of minor in law for undergraduate KIMEP students: Minor in Law and Minor in International Law.

Bachelor of Jurisprudence (BLLB)

The KIMEP programme incorporates the teaching of both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills⁵. The BLLB programme is designed to provide a comprehensive education in law that will enable students to acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The BLLB programme integrates the study of substantive Kazakhstani law with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as with drafting, negotiating and advocacy skills through classroom exercises and internships. As a result, students who earn the KIMEP Bachelor of Jurisprudence degree should be prepared to enter into the practice law in Kazakhstan as beginning attorneys.

For this programme the School of Law has defined the following intended learning outcomes (ILOs):

The student is able to:

1. Correctly employ specific legal and political terminology,
2. Correctly interpret and apply normative legal acts, and provide legal advice,
3. Draft memos and other legal documents,
4. Analyse understanding of the role and influence of international trends on Kazakhstan's legal system,
5. Effectively explain the specific features of the legal system of Kazakhstan and their relation, to long- term process in the legal and constitutional history of the country,
6. Make legal decisions based on legal acts and ethical values,
7. Effectively process legal information in English, Russian and Kazakh,
8. Conduct legal research individually and in teams.

Bachelor of International Law (BIL)

The School of Law began accepting students for the BIL programme in 2014. The BIL programme provides an education on the legal regulation of inter-state relations, of private

⁵ KIMEP LLB License Application, April 11, 2011.

relations between natural persons and legal entities, and of business relations between partners resident in different jurisdictions. This knowledge and the corresponding skills should enable graduates to become effective lawyers in the public and private practice areas. In particular, graduates of the BIL programme should be suited to practicing public and private international law at relevant national agencies and bodies, international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, at private companies, and law and consultancy firms.

For the BIL programme the School of Law has defined the following intended learning outcomes (ILOs):

The student is able to:

1. Assess legal issues in terms of public and private international law by producing memoranda, notes and other analytical documents;
2. Apply rules of public and private international law, in conjunction with the domestic law of Kazakhstan, in drafting claims and other procedural documents;
3. Negotiate and litigate in favour of their clients, in domestic and international judicial and arbitral bodies;
4. Generalise and apply international case law in the substantiation of legal positions;
5. Prognosticate trends in the development of public and private international law by means of the comparative legal method;
6. Express themselves clearly on topics of public and private international law in Kazakh, Russian and English, orally and in writing;
7. Correctly interpret and apply normative legal acts, and provide legal advice;
8. Perform legal work individually and in a team.

Both undergraduate study programmes (BLLB and BIL) provide students with knowledge of the principles of the Kazakhstani, regional, and international legal systems. Graduates shall be empowered to critically assess, interpret, and apply the law with a historical, comparative and jurisprudential background that is essential for a thorough and critical understanding of law and legal institutions. Moreover, both undergraduate curricula include a skills component that teaches students universal practical skills such as problem solving, analysis, research, and specific legal skills such as legal writing, drafting, and argumentation.

As both programmes aim to train law practitioners, KIMEP defines identical teaching objectives for them:

- Impart knowledge of major theories, principles, concepts, and sources of international law;
- Impart basic knowledge of major areas of Kazakhstan legislation and regulations both procedural and substantive;
- Impart knowledge of ethical issues associated with professional practice and develop an understanding of how to recognise ethical dilemmas; identify options for resolving these dilemmas and how to apply an appropriate option to solve professional ethical problems;
- Develop skills that constitute professional competencies in international and Kazakhstan legal practice, indicatively including:
 - Legal drafting, negotiation and litigations;
 - Communication with lawyers from other legal systems;
 - Legal representation, and
 - Client management;

- Develop the ability to communicate effectively on legal issues in written and spoken professional English and Russian.

Master of International Law programme (LLM)

The LLM programme was founded to prepare professionals to take leadership roles in the legal practice community, business economy, and civil society in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. It was established as an English language programme in order to prepare its graduates for work in the international community. The curriculum includes components of legal methodology and writing. Teaching courses in English is both consistent with KIMEP's strategy of instruction in English and acknowledges the role of English in international law. The objective of the programme is to provide professionals with the skills to solve complex legal problems and provide service to clients based on ethical principles.

Students are expected to acquire the skills to read and interpret legal texts; to examine critically the underlying policies of legal rules; and to prepare written and oral arguments based upon correct reasoning and applicable to practical tasks encountered in the external environment.

The primary objective of the Master of International Law programme is to train students to apply detailed substantive knowledge of international law, using skills required by the external environment in which they will undertake careers in law and businesses engaged in international transactions.

These mandatory skills are to:

- Draft legal documents in the English language virtually equivalent to a native speaker,
- Think innovatively by knowing how to interpret and apply law to formulate creative solutions to legal problems,
- Understand legal principles triggered by cross border transactions,
- Comprehend the business models upon which laws are based,
- Understand legal formalities without losing sight of substance,
- Produce an LL.M.-thesis demonstrating deep knowledge of a subject and representing scholarly work equivalent to that expected in any world-class law school.

The aforementioned objectives are reflected in the student learning outcomes and conform to Kazakhstan's National Qualification Framework as well as the Qualification Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), which is the overarching framework for qualifications in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Appraisal:

The qualification objectives of BLLB, BIL and LLM programmes are explained and convincingly presented in relation to the target groups, targeted professional fields and societal contexts of the respective discipline. They embrace academic proficiency, comprehensive employability, as well as the development of the individual student's personality. The subject-specific and extra-curricular qualification objectives and skills to be acquired correspond with the aspired level at graduation. They take into account the requirements of the national qualification framework.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.1* Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

1.2 International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)

According to its SER⁶, KIMEP is committed to educating and preparing students for careers in an international environment. KIMEP University wants to achieve internationalisation through active recruitment of students and faculty from other countries, active collaboration with international partner institutions in fields such as student exchange, joint programmes, research activities and employer connections. The language of instruction for all programmes is English. The internationalisation benefits from the international backgrounds of KIMEP's teaching staff. Currently all full-time faculty of the School of Law is made up of one American, two Italians, one Spanish, two Uzbeks, and three Kazakhstani scholars (see also chapter 4.1).

The School of Law cooperates with several foreign universities which is the basis for the training of students in various fields of jurisprudence to work both in Kazakhstan and abroad. The Bachelor and Master programmes on International Law (BIL and LLM) are designed to enable an international career, and prominently feature international legal disciplines. In BIL, political science and international relations modules are also offered to complement the specifically legal courses, and to raise student awareness of social, economic, geopolitical, and strategic issues that shape international relations.

An overarching assumption of all law programmes at KIMEP is that due to globalisation, most careers present international aspects, whether they are undertaken abroad or in Kazakhstan. International law courses are, therefore, available also to students opting for the more domestically-oriented Bachelor of Jurisprudence. Comparative law courses are offered in all programmes. All courses in the three programmes are planned and taught by taking into account the experiences of foreign jurisdictions as appropriate.

In practice, the international orientation of the KIMEP School of Law is manifested in areas such as: 1) international approach to curriculum and module development; 2) participation in international projects; 3) student exchanges and other study abroad opportunities; 4) internationality of the faculty; 5) English as language medium for teaching and University life.

Appraisal:

The panel welcomes, that the design of both the undergraduate and the Master programmes appropriately takes into account the required international aspects, with respect, too, to its graduates' employability. A significant number of faculty has an international educational background and can give insight into their international experience. Moreover, all courses are taught in English, which makes the programmes attractive for international visiting lecturers

⁶ See Self-evaluation report (SER) p. 14.

and exchange students.

Owing to the emphasis of the programme design on internationality in teaching and study (in terms of curricular contents, academic staff, practical experience abroad), the programmes, by imparting knowledge with that goal in mind and developing the concomitant skills, enable graduates to competently handle international tasks.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.2*	International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)		X			

1.3 Positioning of the study programme

KIMEP defines itself as unique in the Kazakhstan education market, as it employs the largest percentage of PhD and Juris Doctor holders from Europe and the US⁷. The courses are almost exclusively in English and have an international orientation. There is no other university in Almaty offering study programmes in law fully in English. The programmes implement educational objectives and qualify specialists with the ability to meet professional requirements. As mentioned above, law graduates are employed in state agencies and government bodies, educational institutions, law enforcement, in private law firms and in international organisations.

As far as the positioning of the study programmes on the job market for graduates is concerned, KIMEP created its programmes having perceived a need in the market for attorneys who have English competency, critical thinking skills, and knowledge of local and international law. The programmes' ILOs are included in the programmes' part of the university's catalogue. According to KIMEP⁸, the programmes offered match the needs for the labour market as identified through communications with the University's stakeholders. BLLB graduates are prepared to enter into the practice law in Kazakhstan as attorneys, whereas the BIL graduates will be enabled to practicing public and private law at the national and international level (see above chapter 1.1).

As for the LLM, graduates are prepared to pursue further study of law at the graduate level or to work locally or internationally. Graduates are expected to be qualified to work in law firms, business firms, financial services firms, government; and international organisations. Also, programme graduates with an academic inclination are eligible to apply for appropriate PhD programmes at other higher education institutions abroad.

Part of KIMEP's mission is to develop well-educated citizens and to improve the quality of life in Kazakhstan and Central Asia through teaching, learning, community service and the advancement of knowledge in the fields of business administration and social sciences. To fulfil this mission, KIMEP aims to offer graduate and undergraduate degree programmes at the highest level of international educational standards in different subjects such as law, business,

⁷ See SER p. 15.

⁸ See SER p. 15.

economics, finance, accounting, public administration⁹. KIMEP selects students from among those who demonstrate leadership, talent, and language capabilities, irrespective of their financial means, gender or ethnic origin, or any other subjective criteria.

The first of the law programmes (LLM) was introduced in 2009 after due consideration with all stakeholders, and the other programmes followed in similar fashion with KIMEP's strategy of broadening the scope of its available programmes in areas that are important to the development of well-educated citizens and the improvement of the quality of life.

Appraisal:

For the three programmes BLLB, BIL and LLM the reasons for the positioning the study programmes in the educational market are plausibly given. KIMEP University with its national reputation and its strong international orientation has a competitive position in the educational market.

For all three programmes, the arguments in support of graduate employability based on the stated qualification objectives are convincingly presented. The future fields of employment for graduates of all three programmes are plausibly set forth.

The programmes at hand are convincingly integrated into the HEI's overall strategic concept. Their qualification goals are in line with the HEI's mission and strategic planning.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability“)			X		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			X		

⁹ See SER p. 15.

2. Admission

KIMEP seeks to enrol outstanding students who have demonstrated the potential to succeed through leadership and talent and who have also shown evidence of their capability to contribute to the community.

Admission requirements for all types of students are recorded in the “Admission Policy”, which is reviewed and issued on an annual basis. These internal regulations are based on and take into account the rules of admission approved by the MSHE¹⁰ that were updated in 2021 and stipulate in detail the procedures, criteria and responsibilities for the admission to higher education programmes. The entrance examination was centralised across the country. HEIs no longer arrange examinations and are separated from admission. After documents’ submission applicants have to register at the database of the National Testing Center (NTC) of the MSHE and at the scheduled time take online (written) examinations on the NTC platform in terms of a UNT (Unified National Test). Then, candidates apply directly to the University Admission Committee with supporting documents. The performance of this test also serves as a competition for eligibility to receive a state educational grant.

On behalf of the University, the Department of Student Recruitment and Admissions (DSRA) issues orders for three types of degree students and for non-degree students. Periods of issuing the orders of admission to undergraduate and graduate programmes are defined by Kazakhstan legislation:

- Orders of admission of undergraduate students, graduate and doctoral students,
- Orders on transfer and reinstatement of undergraduate students,
- Orders for granting access to non-degree educational services (throughout the year).

As for the Bachelor programmes, KIMEP’s entry requirements are the following:

1. The applicant needs to present proof of the completed secondary education and as Kazakhstan citizen the UNT certificate issued for the current year with passing scores. For foreign citizens an interview with the programme is required.
2. For the top graduates of professional vocational schools admission to the fast-track study option is granted based on the state classifier of related specialisations.
3. KIMEP awards college credits to graduates of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools (NIS) possessing a NIS Grade 12 Certificate that reflects completion of higher and standard level courses with grades not lower than C. Direct placement to academic courses is granted, as well.
4. Students may be transferred or reinstated after withdrawal from other universities if they have fully completed the first academic period of a study programme according to the individual study plan (with a GPA of not less than 2.0 or not less than 50%).

The entry requirements for the Master level programmes are different:

1. The KIMEP graduate programmes accept applicants who completed an undergraduate programme with the Diploma confirming the completion of undergraduate degree (certified copy) and a diploma supplement with grades.

¹⁰ Government Order #701 dated July 9, 2013.

2. A special entrance examination (KGET – KIMEP Graduate Entrance Test; a GMAT-like test¹¹), is required with a minimum passing score of at least 15 out of 50. KIMEP Bachelor graduates with GPA of 3.0 and above are exempted from programme entrance tests. The KGET measures various skills that should have been or will be developed in an educational and work environment. It does not measure knowledge of business, job skills, specific content in undergraduate studies, abilities in any other specific subject area, or subjective qualities, such as motivation, creativity, and interpersonal skills. The test is given in English and consists of three sections:
 1. Problem solving (20 questions in 30 minutes),
 2. Data sufficiency (20 questions in 40 minutes),
 3. Critical thinking (10 questions in 20 minutes).

KIMEP accepts international certificates of GMAT and GRE¹² tests for the appropriate graduate programmes. Students of graduate programmes of other HEIs can transfer to KIMEP Master programmes if their study programme conforms to those at KIMEP. They must provide all the required documents. Once admitted to KIMEP Master programmes, the student has to submit a detailed description of courses taken at other institutions of higher education to be considered for transfer to the Master programmes at KIMEP.

Because all KIMEP programmes are taught in English, students' English proficiency level must be assessed prior to admission. Therefore, determining the level of a student's English proficiency is mandatory, except for:

1. Holders of completed undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degrees or their equivalents from English medium universities (authentic diploma, transcript, and confirmation of English-language instruction), including KIMEP graduates,
2. Students of established dual degree programmes between KIMEP and partner universities.

An applicant must fulfil the language requirement in English when applying to a respective studies cohort. The student must submit the English proficiency certificates (if available) or pass the domestic test KEPT. For defining English proficiency, KIMEP accepts international English proficiency test certificates:

- TOEFL
- IELTS
- Cambridge English Examinations
- KIMEP English Placement Test (held throughout the year at KIMEP in Almaty and in other major cities of Kazakhstan).

The KIMEP College of Humanities and Education (CHE) has developed a comprehensive Foundation English Programme for those students whose English proficiency must improve to succeed in their study programmes. It consists of three courses — levels A, B, and C, in descending order of proficiency. The total number of courses that students need to complete will depend on their proficiency in English.

KIMEP has created two correspondence tables aimed at identifying levels of English proficiency for undergraduate and graduate level students.

¹¹ Graduate Management Admission Test

¹² Graduate Record Examination

Required English proficiency for undergraduate level students

Level of English Foundation Course	KEPT	CEFR+	IELTS / IELTS indicator	TOEFL IBT	TOEFL PBT/ Institutional TOEFL	Revised TOEFL paper-delivered test	Duolingo English test
Academic English	80-100%	B2	5.5 (not less than 5.0 in the Writing section)	70	523	52	85-90
UF A	51-79%	B1	4.5	57-69	475-522	42-51	65 -84
UF B	30-50%	A1	3.5	27-56	380-474	19-41	45-64
UF C	< 30 %	Beginner or False Beginner	<3.0	<26	<379	<18	<44

CEFR+: Common European Framework of Reference (Common European competencies of foreign language proficiency: studying, learning, assessment)

Required English proficiency for graduate level students

Level of English Foundation Course	KEPT	CEFR+	IELTS/ IELTS indicator	TOEFL IBT	TOEFL PBT/ Institutional TOEFL	Revised TOEFL paper-delivered test	Duolingo English Test
Direct to programme	60-100%	B1	4.5	70	523	52	65-70
Graduate English Foundation level A	50-59%	A2	4	41-69	437-522	37-51	55-64
Graduate English Foundation level B	21-49%	A1	3.5	27-40	380-436	19-36	45-54
Graduate English Foundation level C	< 20 %	Beginner or False Beginner	<3.0	<26	<379	<18	<44

CEFR* - Common European Framework of Reference (Common European competencies of foreign language proficiency: studying, learning, assessment)

The DSRA was created to recruit and admit students to KIMEP academic programmes in accordance with admission policies, as well as strategic and operational plans. Annually, the DSRA organises relevant recruitment activities in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and worldwide. It is responsible for all activities related to collection, review, and data entry from online applications of all KIMEP programmes, based on KIMEP Admission Policy and Admission Orders. The DSRA is also responsible for the review of all applicants to determine admission to KIMEP programmes with the follow up communications regarding arrival, visa, registration and enrolment or re-application for the next intake. Moreover, DSRA serves as a central

information point for all inquiries on applications and admissions to academic programmes and closely interacts with other KIMEP units responsible for the admission decision-making, such as the Admission and Scholarship Committee, Academic Council/Summer Oversight Committee, and the President's Cabinet.

Student admission decisions are recorded in the form of an order specifying the grounds of admission. The KIMEP President approves the final list of admitted students and issues an order on admission to undergraduate programmes, graduate programmes, and non-degree programmes. Each admission order has a list of requirements that admitted students must fulfil to ensure eligibility for full admission. Those admitted students who did not comply with all requirements listed in the admission order are withdrawn as non-matriculated students. Students who comply with all requirements stipulated in the admission orders receive access to course registration in accordance with their programme and terms of study. Admission consideration is separate from financial aid considerations. By granting admission to academic programmes, KIMEP does not make any representations regarding financial aid.

In collaboration with Deans, faculty, and the DSRA Office, the Office of Academic Affairs plans, organises, conducts, and reports on entrance exams that lead to admission or rejection decisions. Admitted students will immediately receive notifications to their email address, indicated in their application form, as well as via the Applicant Portal in the section "Acceptance Package".

The online application is available in three languages: Kazakh, Russian, and English. Applicants may activate their account in the system by entering a current personal email address. The system automatically sends out a notification on receipt of applications to the email address indicated in the application. The status of the submitted application may be checked using the Applicant portal, section "Admission status".

KIMEP provides counselling to prospective students both in-person as well as through a dedicated IT system. They can receive in-person counselling services from faculty and staff members at "Open House" events regarding admission procedure, programme information, scholarships and financial aid, exchange and academic mobility, dual degree opportunities, and career opportunities. DSRA organises more than 200 annual events such as open houses, educational fairs, exhibitions, and teacher days throughout Kazakhstan and abroad to provide information directly to prospective students and their parents. In addition to the DSRA, the University has appointed 'KIMEP University Admission Liaison Officers' in China. For distance counselling services, the DSRA has developed a dedicated IT system to provide information to prospective students. A 24-hour telephone service (Smartcall), online interactive service (Chatra), and the applicant portal provide necessary information regarding admission, selection, and other counselling services. For current students, the Department of Student Affairs, headed by the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, provides support and counselling services for study plans, personal counselling needs, and information about the social environment at KIMEP and in Kazakhstan. The status of a submitted application may be reviewed using the applicant portal.

Extracts from the "Policy on Application and Student Admission to Undergraduate and Graduate Programmes" regulating the rules of admission of applicants to undergraduate and graduate programmes, as well as transferring and reinstating students, are published on the

KIMEP website in the section “For Applicants”: <https://www.kimep.kz/prospective-students/en/admission/> .

According to planned recruitment activities, the University prepares and publishes materials for internal and external advertisement: brochures, booklets, and informational bulletins. KIMEP has also created information boards to place information on majors available in the colleges, as well as extracts from Admission Rules in Kazakh, Russian, and English. Materials for KIMEP Admission Rules and special Applicant memos are prepared for applicants.

KIMEP’s Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations Departments, arrange to have information on specialisations offered by the University along with Admission Rules broadcast on radio, placed in public displays on the streets of Almaty and other cities of the country, and published on official digital platforms and KIMEP’s social media: Facebook, Vkontakte, Instagram, and popular websites.

Appraisal:

The basic admission requirements are defined by law and conducted by the National Testing Center for the undergraduate study programmes. Based on this, KIMEP’s admission procedure respects the national requirements.. As for the Master study programmes, KIMEP accepts applicants who completed an undergraduate programme with the Diploma confirming the completion of undergraduate degree (certified copy) and a diploma supplement with grades. For the LL.M programme KIMEP has a special and transparent entrance examination (KGET – KIMEP Graduate Entrance Test; a GMAT-like test).

The panel welcomes that KIMEP’s counselling processes and offers are transparent and oriented at the applicants’ needs. Prospective students can get information and advice both in-person as well as through a dedicated IT-system. They also can receive in-person counselling services from faculty and staff members at defined office hours, by telephone and via e-mail or during Open House events. Moreover, they may directly turn to the student counselling service for clarification of specific questions, of personal aptitude, of career perspectives etc. Personal dialogue between applicants and the HEI is provided. KIMEP ensures a constant availability for prospective students and reacts quickly to incoming enquiries.

The selection procedure is transparent and ensures that qualified students are admitted.

As all KIMEP University programmes are taught in the English language, the admission procedure including the Foundation courses make sure that students achieve an adequate level of English proficiency. The admission requirements or preparatory language courses ensure that students can successfully complete the study programme (courses, additional literature, utilisation of counselling services and extracurricular activities).

KIMEP provides a clearly structured and transparent documentation of the admission regulations and procedures in effect. Its website contains all relevant information concerning prerequisites, admission procedures and the concerning responsible stakeholders at the University. Thereby, the national requirements are appropriately considered. The admission decision is based on transparent criteria and is communicated in writing.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
2.1*	Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.2	Counselling for prospective students		X			
2.3*	Selection procedure (if relevant)			X		
2.4(*)	Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					X
2.5*	Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.6*	Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3. Contents, structure and didactical concept of the programme

3.1 Contents

The Bachelor programmes have a workload of 240 ECTS credits. In the first two years, they include general education courses and basic foundation courses, which are based on MSHE demands. This is followed by International Law for BIL or National Law and Practice for BLLB, moreover by alternative majors Private Law or Public Law. The undergraduate programmes also require internships for practical skills training. Summer Sessions can be available for additional preparation courses.

In the **BIL and BLLB programmes**, the first- and second-years students will be registered for classes by the School of Law. For the third and fourth years, registration will be pursuant to each student's approved Declaration of Major and Degree Plan. The general overview shows few differences between both programmes:

Module of Courses	ECTS
University General Education	56
Legal Skills, Basic Law and History	107
International Law (BIL), National Law and Practice (BLLB)	25
Major Electives (Public or Private)	20
Other Electives	20
Final Attestation – Bar Exam and Prep	12
Total Credit Hours Required for Graduation	240

General Education aims to develop the foundation skills necessary for functioning in complex local and global environments. The respective courses have a workload of 56 ECTS credits are listed in a "KIMEP Catalogue". Included are courses such as on History, Arts, Photography, Psychology, Fashion Design. Students must take courses with a workload of overall 56 ECTS credits.

The second group of courses comprises legal skills, basic law and history (required for both BIL and BLLB programme). This includes:

- **Reading, Writing and Research;**

Russian/Kazakh for Law, Speaking for Lawyers, Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students; Legal Research, Reading and Writing

- **Experiential Learning:**

1st Year Professionalism Seminar; 2nd Year Professionalism Pre-diploma Internship #3 Seminar, Internship #1 – Ask-A-Lawyer, Internship #2 – Legal Clinic, Internship #2 - Mooting

- **Basic Law**

Theory of State and Law, Introduction to Legal System of KZ, Constitutional Law of KZ, Civil Law of KZ, General Part, Criminal Law of KZ, General Part, Civil Law of KZ (Special Part), Criminal Law of KZ (Special Part), Civil Procedure of KZ, Criminal Procedure of KZ, Mediation,

Arbitration and the AIFC, Land Law and Practice in KZ, Contract Law and Practice in KZ, Tax Law and Practice in KZ, Company Law and Practice in KZ, and Labor Law and Practice in KZ.

- **History:**

Comprised is a course on Roman Law.

The group of **International Law and Practice (Required for BIL)** includes the courses: International Commercial Law and Practice; Intro to International Criminal Law and Procedure; Survey of Public International Law; Survey of Private International Law; Intro to Law of International Treaties.

For the **BLLB** instead is required the group **National Law and Practice with courses** Administrative Law and Practice in KZ; Procuracy Supervision in KZ; Practice in Kazakhstan and Professional Responsibility; Family and Inheritance Law and Practice in Kazakhstan; and Tort Law and Practice in Kazakhstan.

For **both BIL and BLLB**, in the group of **major elective courses** students can choose between courses in public international law or private international law, as per Declaration of Major and Degree Plan, which must be approved by Faculty Advisor and Dean before the third-year registration. Generally, students who take public law majors also take public law electives, private law majors will be combined with private law electives.

These elective courses are also called Specialisation Elective Courses and include for **BIL** 28 courses categorised in three sub-groups: Procedural Law, Public International Law and International Relations, and Comparative Law. For the **BLLB** programme 23 Specialisation Elective Courses are allocated in four sub-groups: State Regulation, Procedural Law, Business law and Comparative Law. In both programmes students must take seven courses with a workload of overall 35 ECTS credits.

Other Elective Courses with a required overall workload of 20 ECTS credits may be used to explore subjects in the Law School or other KIMEP College that are of personal interest. They may also be used to ensure timely graduation for those who study abroad for a semester but for whom a full schedule of required classes for the degree is not available at the foreign institution, or for enhanced expertise in the major area, or for a law minor in the area of the other degree programme in which a student is not enrolled (i.e., Jurisprudence for BIL students).

To prepare for legal practice or graduate studies, undergraduate students need to complete a full load each semester in sequence, demonstrating accumulated knowledge of law and acquisition of lawyering skills as they progress.

Programme Plan BIL

1 ST YEAR	FALL SEMESTER	ECTS credits		1 ST YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER	ECTS credits
	Modern History of Kazakhstan	5			Kazakh II / Russian II	5
	Kazakh I / Russian I	5			Academic Speaking (English)	5
	Academic Listening and Note Taking	5			Intro to Philosophy or Intro to Ethics	5
	Academic Reading and Writing I (English)	5			Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students	5

Theory of State and Law	5		Intro to the Legal System of KZ and Lawyering	5
1L Professionalism Seminar	3		Intro to Computers or Business Computer Applications	5
Physical Education	2			
TOTAL	30		TOTAL	30
1ST YEAR	SUMMER I		1ST YEAR	SUMMER II
TOTAL			TOTAL	
2ND YEAR	FALL SEMESTER		2ND YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER
General Education Socio-Political Module	12		Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part	5
Russian/Kazakh for Law	2		Civil Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part	5
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	5		Constitutional Law of KZ	5
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	5		Internship #1 – Ask-A-Lawyer	2
Internship #1 – Ask-A-Lawyer	2		Arts, Society, Culture Elective	5
2L Professionalism Seminar	2		Intro to Private International Law	5
			Physical Education	2
TOTAL	28		TOTAL	29
2ND YEAR	SUMMER I		2ND YEAR	SUMMER II
TOTAL			TOTAL	
3RD YEAR	FALL SEMESTER		3RD YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER
Criminal Procedure of KZ	5		Survey of Public International Law	5
Civil Procedure of KZ	5		Intro to Law of Treaties	5
Legal Research, Writing and Reasoning	5		Land Law and Practice in KZ	5
Tax Law and Practice in KZ	5		Contract Law and Practice in KZ	5
International Commercial Law and Practice	5		Mediation, Arbitration and the AIFC	5
Internship #2 – Legal Clinic or Mooting	2		Internship #2 – Legal Clinic or Mooting	2
Roman Law	5			
TOTAL	32		TOTAL	27
3RD YEAR	SUMMER I		3RD YEAR	SUMMER II

Internship #3 – Pre-diploma		2				
TOTAL		2		TOTAL		
4 TH YEAR	FALL SEMESTER (Optional Study Abroad)			4 TH YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER	
Major Elective		5		Company Law and Practice in KZ		5
Major Elective		5		Labor Law and Practice in KZ		5
Major Elective		5		Bar Exam Prep I		6
Major Elective		5		Bar Exam Prep II/Exam		6
Other Elective		5		Intro International Criminal Law and Procedure		5
Other Elective		5		Other Elective		5
TOTAL		30		TOTAL		32
Total study programme		240 ECTS credits				

The following matrix can demonstrate in which way the programme core courses cover these eight ILOs.

Core Courses	Intended Learning Outcomes							
	ILO 1	ILO 2	ILO 3	ILO 4	ILO 5	ILO 6	ILO 7	ILO 8
Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students						✓	✓	✓
Theory of State and Law	✓					✓		✓
Constitutional Law of Kazakhstan	✓					✓		
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part	✓	✓			✓	✓		
History of State and Law of Kazakhstan			✓					
History of State and Law in Foreign Countries			✓	✓				
Legal Research, Reading and Writing						✓	✓	
Administrative Law of Kazakhstan		✓				✓		

Labour Law of Kazakhstan		✓				✓		
History of Political and Legal Studies				✓				
Philosophy of Law				✓	✓			
Roman Law				✓				
Contract Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Tort Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Company Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Family and Inheritance Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Comparative Constitutional Law					✓			
Intellectual Property Law of Kazakhstan		✓						
Land Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Environmental Law of Kazakhstan		✓			✓			
Animal Law		✓			✓			
Public International Law	✓	✓			✓			✓
Private International Law	✓	✓					✓	
Criminal Procedure Law of Kazakhstan		✓			✓			
Civil Procedure Law of Kazakhstan		✓			✓			
Commercial Litigation in Kazakhstan		✓				✓	✓	
Law of the WTO		✓					✓	
Law of the European Union		✓					✓	
International Human Rights Law	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
International Investment Law	✓	✓						

International Commercial Law (*)	✓	✓						
Law of Energy and Natural Resources		✓					✓	
Financial Law of Kazakhstan (*)		✓					✓	
Tax Law of Kazakhstan		✓					✓	
Procuracy Supervision in Kazakhstan		✓				✓		
Advocacy in Kazakhstan and Professional Ethics of Lawyer					✓			
Criminalistics		✓						
Court System of Forensic Inquiry		✓						
Law of International Treaties	✓	✓					✓	✓
International Criminal Law	✓	✓			✓			✓
Introduction to the Legal System of Foreign Countries			✓	✓				
Comparative Contract Law			✓	✓				
Introduction to United States Law (*)			✓	✓				
Criminology					✓			
Public International Law (Advanced)	✓	✓			✓		✓	
History of International Law (*)	✓				✓			✓
Diplomatic and Consular Law (*)	✓	✓						✓
International Institutional Law / Law of International Organisations	✓	✓						
International Conflict and Security Law	✓	✓			✓			
IT (Cyberspace) Law (*)		✓						

Introduction to International Commercial Litigation in the EU and the US (*)		✓					✓	
International Commercial Law I (*)		✓					✓	
International Commercial Law II (*)		✓					✓	
International Tax Law		✓					✓	
International Commercial Arbitration		✓					✓	
Moot Courting	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Fundamentals of International Relations			✓	✓				
Terrorism and Security			✓					
Foreign Policy of Kazakhstan			✓					
Theories of International Relations			✓	✓				
Global Security and International Conflict Resolution			✓					
Diplomatic and Consular Service		✓						
Diplomatic Protocol and Documents		✓					✓	
Ethics in International Relations					✓			

The Bachelor of Jurisprudence programme (BLLB) has a similar content to the BIL programme and includes especially more courses on procedural law.

Programme Plan BLLB

1 ST YEAR FALL SEMESTER	ECTS credits		1 ST YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER	ECTS credits
Modern History of Kazakhstan	5		Business Russian / Kazakh		4
Kazakh I / Russian I	5		Academic Speaking (English)		5
Academic Listening and Note Taking	5		General Education Elective		5
Academic Reading and Writing I (English)	5		Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students		5
Introduction to Philosophy or Introduction to Ethics	5		General Education Elective		5
Introduction to Computers or Business Computer Applications	5		Physical Education		2
TOTAL	30		TOTAL		26
1ST YEAR SUMMER I			1ST YEAR SUMMER II		
General Education Elective	5				
Physical Education	2				
TOTAL	7		TOTAL		
2ND YEAR FALL SEMESTER			2ND YEAR	SPRING SEMESTER	
Theory of State and Law	5		Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part		5
Legal Research, Reading and Writing	5		Civil Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part		5
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	5		Programme Foundation Elective		5
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: General Part	5		Programme Foundation Elective		5
Roman Law	5		Programme Foundation Elective		5
Constitutional Law of Kazakhstan	5				
TOTAL	30		TOTAL		25
2ND YEAR SUMMER I			2ND YEAR SUMMER I		
TOTAL			TOTAL		
3RD YEAR FALL SEMESTER	ECTS credits		3RD YEAR SPRING SEMESTER		ECTS credits
Public International Law	5		Criminal Procedure Law of Kazakhstan		5
Private International Law	5		Programme Foundation Elective		5
Programme Foundation Elective	5		Programme Foundation Elective		5

Programme Foundation Elective	5		Programme Foundation Elective	5
Programme Foundation Elective	5		Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5
Programme Foundation Elective	5		Internship I	4
TOTAL	30		TOTAL	29
3RD YEAR SUMMER I			3RD YEAR SUMMER II	
Pre-diploma Internship #3	2			
TOTAL	2		TOTAL	
4TH YEAR FALL SEMESTER			4TH YEAR SPRING SEMESTER	
Civil Procedure Law of Kazakhstan	5		Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5		Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5		Thesis I	6
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5		Thesis II	6
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5		Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	5		Internship II	4
TOTAL	30		TOTAL	31
TOTAL STUDY PROGRAMME		240 ECTS credits		

As for the Programme Foundation Electives, students must complete 45 ECTS credits. For those students who want to obtain Minor degrees from other colleges, they need to take only 25 ECTS credits. The rest, 20 ECTS will be counted toward Minor degrees.

The list of the Foundation Electives includes courses such as: History of State and Law in Foreign Countries; Administrative Law of Kazakhstan, Environmental Law of Kazakhstan; Animal Law; Customs Law; Criminalistics; Criminology; Labor Law of Kazakhstan, Company law of Kazakhstan; Intellectual Property law of Kazakhstan; Land Law of Kazakhstan, and Property Law.

For the “Program Requirements (Elective courses)”, as shown in the study plan, students must take courses with a workload of 35 ECTS credits from a list with 26 different offers of courses such as: Antimonopoly Law; Law of Energy and Natural Resources; Financial Law of Kazakhstan; Tax Law of Kazakhstan; Procuracy Supervision in Kazakhstan; Advocacy in Kazakhstan, and Professional Ethics of Lawyer; Law and Economics; International Commercial Law; International Investment law; Comparative Contract Law; Introduction to Common Law.

The following matrix shows in which way the BLLB core courses shall cover these ILOs:

Courses		Intended Learning Outcomes							
		ILO 1	ILO 2	ILO 3	ILO 4	ILO 5	ILO 6	ILO 7	ILO 8
Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students								✓	✓
Theory of State and Law		✓						✓	
Constitutional Law of Kazakhstan		✓				✓		✓	
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: General Part		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Criminal Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: General Part		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Civil Law of Kazakhstan: Special Part		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Introduction to the Legal System of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	
History of State and Law of Kazakhstan						✓			
History of State and Law in Foreign Countries						✓			
Legal Research,								✓	✓

Reading and Writing (*)									
Administrative Law of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	
Labour Law of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	
History of Political and Legal Studies					✓	✓			
Philosophy of Law							✓		
Roman Law					✓	✓			
Law Enforcement Bodies (*)		✓							
Contract Law of Kazakhstan		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Tort Law of Kazakhstan		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Company Law of Kazakhstan		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Family and Inheritance Law of Kazakhstan		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Comparative Constitutional Law					✓	✓	✓		
Intellectual Property Law of Kazakhstan		✓							
Land Law of Kazakhstan		✓		✓				✓	
Environmental Law of Kazakhstan		✓		✓			✓	✓	
Animal Law		✓		✓			✓		
Customs Law of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	

Public International Law		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Private International Law		✓			✓			✓	✓
Criminal Procedure Law of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	
Civil Procedure Law of Kazakhstan		✓						✓	
Commercial Litigation in Kazakhstan (*)		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Law of the WTO		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Law of the European Union					✓				✓
International Human Rights Law					✓		✓		✓
International Investment Law		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
International Commercial Law (*)		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Law of Energy and Natural Resources		✓		✓				✓	
Financial Law of Kazakhstan (*)		✓		✓				✓	
Tax Law of Kazakhstan		✓		✓				✓	
Procuracy Supervision in Kazakhstan		✓						✓	

Advocacy in Kazakhstan and Professional Ethics of Lawyer							✓	✓	
Criminalistics				✓					
Court System of Forensic Inquiry				✓					
Introduction to United States Law (*)					✓				
Criminology				✓			✓		

Master of International Law (LLM)

The Master of International law is a one-year degree programme with a workload of 60 ECTS credits providing specialised knowledge of international law for legal and business practitioners engaged in cross-border legal transactions. The programme also may be completed over an extended time period to accommodate working professionals. Students acquire foundational knowledge of international law as well as skills to read and interpret legal texts, to critically examine the underlying policies of legal rules, and to prepare written and oral arguments based upon. The curriculum combines conventional courses found in general LLM courses with courses dealing with the particular legal regime of Kazakhstan.

Curriculum content proceeds from the introductory to a more advanced level in a sequence. The required courses are general courses of private international law and public international law. Along with these courses there are MSHE required courses in management, psychology and research. In addition, electives cover English capabilities providing for a more in-depth learning of legal methodology, drafting and research methodologies. Other course electives are offered for specific areas of law, such as mergers and acquisitions or international humanitarian law. While the basic courses are always taught by full time professors, other courses are often taught by practitioners, who provide information from a professional's point of view.

The LLM programme requires a thesis and thesis defence. The student selects the subject of the thesis in consultation with their chosen supervisor. Thesis courses are only offered after the student has taken a certain number of hours.

Programme Plan

The following table is the tentative program of courses offered; this schedule may change based on availability of professors or interests of students.

SEMESTER I	ECTS credits
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Legal Method, Skills and Reasoning	4
Management for Lawyers	3
Programme Foundation Elective course	4
Public International Law	4
Private International Law	4
TOTAL	19

SEMESTER II	ECTS credits
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	4
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	4
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	4
Programme Requirements (Elective course)	4
Research Apprenticeship	3
Experimental Research	7
TOTAL	26

SUMMER SEMESTER	ECTS credits
Internship	3
Thesis and Defense	12
TOTAL	15
TOTAL of the study programme	60 ECTS credits

As for the Foundation Course, students must choose one course from the following list: Introduction to the Legal System of Kazakhstan; Contract Law of Kazakhstan; Tort Law of Kazakhstan:

For the Specialisation Elective Courses students choose four courses with a workload of 16 ECTS credits from a list offering 26 courses, such as: International Commercial Law; International Commercial Arbitration Law; International Criminal Law; Law of the European Union; Information Technology Law; Company Law of Kazakhstan; Law of Energy and natural Resources; International Banking Law; Administrative Law of Kazakhstan, and Legal Traditions of the World.

At the successful completion of the LLM programme, graduates shall be able to:

1. Demonstrate professional-grade understanding of public and private international law, both substantive and procedural;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the interaction of domestic and international law;
3. Evaluate the role of international law in international relations and in the furthering of Kazakhstan's interests in the international arena;
4. Complete substantive research projects, which demonstrate advanced knowledge of international law, and proficiency in research methodologies, academic conventions, and academic English;

5. Provide ethical legal advice and solutions to legal problems involving the international aspects of actions by private individuals, business, government and civil society;
6. Communicate ideas and information clearly and effectively, in both oral and written English, using correct legal terminology;
7. Demonstrate ability to work in teams.

The table below shows the correspondence between the LLM's courses and the programme's learning outcomes.

Core Courses	Intended Learning Outcomes						
	ILO 1	ILO 2	ILO 3	ILO 4	ILO 5	ILO 6	ILO 7
Legal Method, Skills and Reasoning (Professional English)						✓	✓
Private International Law	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Psychology for Lawyers						✓	✓
Management for Lawyers					✓	✓	
Public International Law	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Methodology of International Legal Research	✓			✓		✓	
Introduction to the Legal System of Kazakhstan	✓					✓	
Contract Law of Kazakhstan		✓				✓	✓
Tort Law of Kazakhstan		✓				✓	✓
Methods of Legal Argument (*)						✓	✓

International Commercial Law	✓		✓			✓	✓
International Commercial Arbitration	✓		✓			✓	✓
Company Law of Kazakhstan				✓	✓	✓	✓
Tax Law of Kazakhstan (*)				✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Litigation Practicum (*)					✓	✓	✓
Law of Energy and Natural Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Intellectual Property Law						✓	
International Banking Law (*)	✓	✓				✓	
International Commercial Arbitration Practicum (*)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Administrative Law of Kazakhstan						✓	
Corporate Finance						✓	
International Taxation Law	✓	✓	✓			✓	
International Investment Law (*)	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Rationale for degree and programme name

The MSHE has a classification of available Bachelor and Master subjects. KIMEP received licenses for a Bachelor of International Law and for a Bachelor of Jurisprudence, the name of which was required by the MSHE. The Master programme title was based on the classification system as well. The titles reflect the professions and areas of specialisation. The level of knowledge and skills provided by these programmes in Bachelor and Master programmes reflect the national qualification framework.

The KIMEP LLM is, according to the MSHE, appropriate for practitioners; a student wanting to continue on in Kazakhstan towards a PhD must take additional courses before being allowed on. However, some students have gone on to PhD work in Western Europe with the LLM from KIMEP.

Integration of theory and practice

According to KIMEP¹³, in all courses offered by the Law School theoretical questions are explained by means of practical examples where appropriate. The proportions of practice and theory in any one course are determined by the instructor. In a number of courses problem-solving is part of the learning and assessment regime; for example, the legal writing course offers students a set of facts that requires them to write a document analysing what law applies and how it applies. Contract law courses present cases as part of the assignments that must be analysed according to the appropriate civil code article. The School has offered a course in negotiation that required students to negotiate with one another, to attempt to come to an agreement. The LLM courses include arbitration exercises within the international arbitration course; a litigation practicum is periodically offered. The legal writing course requires several small assignments of legal analysis along with two larger documents (literature review and a legal memorandum). Moot court courses also provide opportunity for drafting of memos and representation before judges (and practicing oral advocacy skills in general).

Each of the programmes has an internship component wherein the student must work in a firm, court or other concern for a certain number of hours. At the undergraduate level, students are required to take two Internships whereas the graduate students take only one internship. These internships provide feedback from employers to the student and the School.

Moreover, the School of Law operates a legal clinic which provides experience in *pro bono* client consultation (a turn in the legal clinic is one of the internships for the undergraduate programmes — graduate students may also intern here but generally they intern in law firms or legal departments). In addition to coursework with skills training, guest speakers are frequently brought in through the legal clinic and by individual professors for their courses. The guest speakers offer valuable insights into practical aspects of the legal profession and business.

Interdisciplinary thinking

As to the interdisciplinary thinking in the programmes, all **Bachelor students** at KIMEP must take courses in general education, as already mentioned. This coursework brings students in touch with different subjects and encourages them to develop a critical and inquiring attitude, an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of subject areas, acceptance of persons of different backgrounds or values, and a deepened sense of self. There are courses in arts, society, and culture - including several new offerings in the fine arts, literature, and drama - along with one course in data analysis (as applied to a choice of interdisciplinary fields).

The beginning of the legal coursework includes philosophy of law and historical approaches to the development of the state. Later courses offer knowledge of law and economics, and law and business/finance. The coursework for the **Bachelor of International Law** in the upper undergraduate level includes international relations courses (electives such as Theory of International Relations and Foreign Policy of Kazakhstan). Other undergraduate coursework may touch upon such areas as IT, forensics and environmental issues.

The **LLM's** coursework, beside legal subjects, includes economics and business management. In addition, the MSHE requires a psychology course of all LLM students. Certain courses that deal with laws regulating business or international law also require that the course touch upon areas that are regulated, e.g., international relations, business management, finance and economics.

¹³ See SER p. 36.

Ethical aspects

In terms of ethics, KIMEP has a set of core values that were confirmed in 2009 which the university aspires to uphold. These core values remain the heart of all activities at KIMEP. Adopted in November 2009 by the KIMEP Board of Trustees, these values codify the key principals that have guided the University since its foundation, such as:

- Value the well-being of the students, faculty, and staff,
- Encourage personal and professional development in an environment of collegiality and trust,
- Value quality in University education programmes and research activities,
- Value the holistic development of the students, instilling in them a questioning spirit and the ability and desire to learn throughout life,
- Value the responsibility devoted to the development of the future leaders of society who will embrace the highest ethical standards,
- Value the creation, application, and dissemination of knowledge in a culture which fully supports the freedom of inquiry and speech,
- Value fairness and integrity and do not tolerate favouritism, nepotism or corruption,

KIMEP's values reflect ethical principles for academic faculty guided by the advancement of knowledge, acting as academic mentors for their students, respecting and collaborating with colleagues in an academic community, responsibly serving an academic institution, while exercising the rights and obligations of individual members of society.

Within the KIMEP community the staff and faculty uphold the core values and shall lead students by example. The areas of ethical behaviour within the profession are addressed in the appropriate classes. For example, one teacher when teaching business law course begins with a module on ethical systems and ethical behaviour before addressing more black letter law subjects.

Methods and scientific practice

All undergraduate students must take academic reading and writing courses. Those for the law school are geared towards the law students and include as one of the major assignments the research of a legal theme. This research requires an interview (and the instruction on how to ensure ethical research with guarantees of anonymity of interviewer and written agreement signed by the interviewed subject). Within the School of Law, opportunity is presented for blackletter law research with appropriate written conclusions to be given to a supervisor or teacher.

Opportunity is provided in both the undergraduate and graduate programme to conduct more in-depth research. The **Bachelor** students may opt to write a student paper in the fourth year. The **LLM** programme requires a thesis of sufficient level of research and originality to meet the national qualification framework.

Methodological competences and academic practice are trained within the course content. Students are equipped with the skills for research-oriented work and for applying those skills in the respective vocational fields.

Examination and final thesis

All exams, as they are defined in format and content for the courses, aim to ascertain whether the student has achieved the ILOs. Most courses have final cumulative exams. Examples of

assessments methods used are written / oral projects, home or in-class individual/group assignments including written assignments and tasks, term projects, and multiple-choice tests, short answer, and case study questions as part of examinations.

The evaluation type follows the description of the respective syllabus and conforms to university-level policies and procedures for examination, which, in turn, have been set according to the MSHE standards. The MSHE requires that assessments are reported at certain intervals throughout the semester recommending 30% for each of two mid-term assessments and a 40 % final assessment.

According to the recent MSHE requirements¹⁴, a higher educational institution independently determines the form and procedure for the final assessment (certification). In line with this, KIMEP **undergraduate programmes** may require either state exams in basic subjects (e.g., civil law and criminal law) at the end of the four-year period or an optional undergraduate thesis that the student may do. The latter option, however, has not been very popular.

Bar Examination (in ECTS credits)

Bar Exam Prep I	6	Co-requisite: completion of all other academic courses, to include prior completion of at least 128 credits
Bar Exam Prep IIB	6	Co-requisite: completion of all other academic courses, to include prior completion of at least 128 credits
TOTAL	12	

Thesis or Project

Thesis/Project I	6	Prerequisite all academic credits plus completion of at least 126 credits of courses
Thesis/Project II	6	Prerequisite all academic credits plus completion of at least 126 credits of courses
TOTAL	12	

The comprehensive KIMEP Bar Examination (State Examination) in English shall test legal knowledge, potentially all of the mandatory BIL course subjects (see above). The Bar Examination will be administered in two parts - multiple choice and in-room essay sections. It is possible to pass one part, and not the other. Students failing either part of the KIMEP Bar Examination will not graduate in May and will have an opportunity to pass either or both parts the following Fall Semester and graduate in December. Additional preparation courses may be available during Summer Sessions.

According to the “KIMEP Thesis Guidelines for Graduate Students”¹⁵, in **Master programmes** students are required to complete a thesis that must consist of three stages: Research Methods (Thesis I), Thesis Seminar (Thesis II) and Thesis Defense (Thesis III). Students prove

¹⁴ State Obligatory Standard of Higher Education, Appendix 1 to the MSHE Order #2 dated July 20, 2022.

¹⁵ See there, chapter A 1.

their ability to do scholarly work and the achievement of the study programme's qualification objectives. The faculty of the LLM programme provides guidance to their students, especially within the context of the LLM thesis.

The final theses are evaluated based on: (a) the students' ability to reflect on an issue of law and to apply research methods; and (b) previously published and coherently applied criteria, rules, and procedures. The student's thesis should show that the study programme's qualification objectives have been achieved.

Appraisal:

The panel members welcome that the curricula of both the undergraduate programmes BIL and BLLB and the graduate programmes LLM adequately reflect the qualification objectives. The contents of the courses are well-balanced, logically connected and oriented towards the intended learning outcomes. The areas of specialisation with required and elective courses enable students to acquire additional competences and skills. They show a reasonable recognition of the related scientific discourse.

However, the panel takes the view that the lists of elective courses that students can select, for all three programmes include many different subjects. The panel recommends reducing the numbers of offered elective courses, also oriented at the partly low numbers of students, and checking whether some of these offers can be included as compulsory courses into the respective study programme.

The panel takes the view that the BIL programme could have a stronger focus on international law. Therefore, the panel recommends KIMEP checking whether the part of international law in the BIL programme could be intensified.

The degree and programme names for all three programmes at hand (BIL, BLLB, LLM) correspond to the contents of the curriculum and the programme objectives.

Within all three programmes the School of Law integrates theoretical knowledge and practical insights into the curriculum and teaching methods. They also include guest lecturers and part-time lecturers from business and law firms. Theoretical questions are, where possible, explained by means of practical examples.

The panel welcomes that the students are required to take internships that enables them to gather practical experience.

The governmental requirements stipulate the training of interdisciplinary courses. The School of Law consequently includes respective compulsory and elective courses. Therefore, the panel is convinced that the programme qualifies the students for interdisciplinary thinking.

Ethical questions and requirements are thoroughly dealt with and appropriately communicated as the panel learnt from the KIMEP's self-report as well as from the discussion about the programme contents. However, the panel recommends the School of Law including explicitly ethical aspects into the syllabi. Moreover, the panel recommends the School of Law developing courses that are devoted to ethical questions in the context of the learning outcomes of each programme.

Students acquire methodological competences and are enabled to do scientific work on the required level. Several courses regarding scientific work and methodological skills are offered in the programmes and build upon each other.

All exams, as they are defined for the courses, are suited in format and content to ascertain the intended learning outcomes. The requirements are in accordance with the desired qualification level. KIMEP uses a variety of test formats, and the system of continuous assessment appears properly to check on the students' achievement of the intended course learning outcomes.

The final Bar Examinations as well as the theses are evaluated based on previously published and coherently applied criteria, rules, and procedures. The students prove, especially in their thesis, their ability to do scientific work at the respective undergraduate and graduate level as well as the achievement of the study programmes' qualification objectives.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.1 Contents					
3.1.1* Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.2* Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.3* Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.4 Interdisciplinary thinking			X		
3.1.5 Ethical aspects			X		
3.1.6* Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.7* Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3.2 Structure

Projected study time	BIL and BLLB: 4 to 4.5 years; LLM: 1 to 1.5 years
Number of ECTS credits	BIL and BLLB: 240 ECTS credits LLM: 60 ECTS credits
Workload per ECTS credit	27 hours
Number of courses	BIL: 52 BLLB: 52 LLM: 12
Time required for processing the final thesis or project and awarded credits including defence	Three semesters; 12 ECTS credits
Number of contact hours	2,190 h for the Bachelor programmes 570 h for the Master programme

Internally, KIMEP University uses an own credits system in parallel to the ECTS - the “KIMEP credits”. It follows the American credit hour system and is oriented at necessary contact hours for each lecture whereas the ECTS includes contact hours as well as the self-study time per course. As the Republic of Kazakhstan is a member of the European Bologna Process the universities are required to use the ECTS¹⁶ only to avoid irritation of students and affected administration staff.

The two undergraduate study programmes include 52 courses. For the entire period of study equal to 8 semesters, students must collect not less than 240 ECTS credits.

The undergraduate programmes follow the MSHE curriculum as shown above in chapter 3.1.

Modules of Courses	ECTS credits
University General Education	56
Legal Skills, Basic Law and History	107
International Law (BIL), National Law and Practice (BLLB)	25
Major Electives (Public or Private)	20
Other Electives	20
Final Attestation – Bar Exam and Prep	12
Total ECTS credits required for graduation	240

The Master programme includes

Modules of Courses	ECTS credits
Programme Content Requirements	15
Programme Requirements (Electives)	16
Foundation Course	4
Research Courses	10
Internship	3
Thesis and Defence	12

¹⁶ See above „Information on the Institution”.

Total	60
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KIMEP has elaborated a syllabus for every course which serves as information for students and for faculty. It provides all necessary information and detailed descriptions such as the course title, credit hours, course description, information about the instructor, assessment description, semester schedule/plan, the prerequisites for the course (if applicable), intended learning outcomes, methods of assessments, teaching and learning methods. The syllabus template is used by all KIMEP instructors. Moreover, content-wise the course descriptions are included in the "KIMEP Catalogue" which is published annually.

For all programmes, the University issues a Diploma Supplement according to EHEA standards and in English.

During the on-site visit the discussions with the programme managements of all three programmes revealed that in view of low student numbers of certain courses will not take place or may be cancelled.

As to all programmes, the above-mentioned curriculum structures are aimed to help the students combine the core subjects (theoretical background studies and concepts, textbooks, literature review and research assignments) with the practical components, which have become an integral part of each course. The programme schedule is planned in advance and available electronically (from the programme's website) or in the student portal.

The undergraduate classes are scheduled during the week (daytime) and graduate classes are scheduled in the evenings during the week and on Saturdays. The learning objectives stated in the syllabi guide students to manage their workload and help acquire skills related to the learning objectives. The students also know from the syllabus what is expected from them as learners. The course assessments are outlined in the curriculum. When any course starts, students are routinely informed about the form of course evaluation that will be offered.

Undergraduate students (BIL and BLLB) are allowed a maximum of 10 years to complete the degree. The Master students have a maximum 5-year limit to complete their programme. Any period of academic leave from KIMEP is included in these time limits. Any student who does not regain good standing is put on academic suspension and is placed on the Academic Support Programme (this is a mandatory recovery programme for students in academic suspension). The Academic Support Programme is designed to help students regain good standing with emphasis placed on self-responsibility, proper decision-making and study skills. If later students are not able or willing to regain good standing, they will be dismissed from the KIMEP. Academic suspension is allowed only once during the whole student's study time.

According to KIMEP¹⁷, the study and exam regulations for the undergraduate as well as for the graduate programme conform to relevant MSHE instructions issued. Each course is assessed out of a maximum of 100 points, in two or three assessment sessions: 60 points are distributed among assessment periods that are reported by certain deadlines during the course of the semester, 40 points are reserved for the final exam. The midterm exams and the final exam may be conducted in various formats:

¹⁷ See SER p. 41.

- In-class exams (multiple choice test, open questions, mini-essay, presentations, case studies, etc.);
- Take-home exams (open questions, essays, case studies, etc.).

In the **Bachelor programmes**, comprehensive final exams are written, and include the following sections:

- Theory of State and law; Constitutional Law of Kazakhstan;
- Civil Law and Procedure;
- Criminal Law and Procedure.

In the **LLM programme**, the comprehensive final exam procedure comprises of written assignments and includes questions, respectively, from the public and private international law parts.

Every semester the deadlines for assessments and information of the MSHE requirements are online presented in the academic calendar.

In most syllabi of all three programmes, a special section describing the evaluation criteria, examination policy and faculty expectations from students is not included. Also, the course assessment techniques are not explained. However, special assessment arrangements, especially in relation to final examinations, are made on a case-by-case basis for students with confirmed physical disabilities or special learning needs.

The University uses a letter grading system A, B, C, D, F, etc. Letter grades are further differentiated with “+” for the top of the grade range or “-” for the bottom of the grade range. Based on the grades assigned, a grade point average is calculated and recorded on the student’s transcript (thus KIMEP’s top grade is an A+). Details of the grading system are included in the KIMEP catalogue.

Total Mark (all exams/assignments/tests):

Quality	Grade description	Percentage	GPA
A+	Highest grade	Above 90	4.33
A	Excellent	85–89	4.00
A–	Very good	80–84	3.67
B+	Good	77–79	3.33
B	Satisfactory	73–76	3.00
B–	Pass	70–72	2.67
C+	Pass or Fail	67–69	2.33
C	Pass or Fail	63–66	2.00
C–	Pass or Fail	60–62	1.67
I	Incomplete	—	—
W	Withdrawn	—	—

KIMEP has established five general requirements that a student must meet to earn a Bachelor degree:

- Earn credits with a minimum passing grade of “D–” or better in each course,
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00,
- Complete general education required courses (GER) based on programme curriculum,
- Receive a passing grade in all required non-credit prerequisite courses,

- Complete all of the requirements in a KIMEP degree programme.

To earn a graduate degree from KIMEP, a Master level student must fulfil the following requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 60 ETCS credits of Master's coursework beyond the undergraduate degree,
- Complete a residency requirement consisting of a minimum of 50% of graduate coursework completed at KIMEP. Up to six credits of graduate coursework completed at a partner university in a KIMEP -sponsored exchange programme can be included in the 24 credits. Additional credits earned at partner universities can be transferred but cannot be applied to the KIMEP minimum credits. The thesis and internship normally are supervised by KIMEP.
- Receive a passing grade in all required credit and non-credit courses,
- Complete the number of credits required by the degree programme with a passing grade in each course,
- Grades between "A+" and "B–" are passing grades. "C+", "C", or "C–" can be passing subject to the 2 C's policy limitation
- In order to obtain a MACTA / MFIN degree, a student must complete all necessary coursework with an overall GPA of 3.00 (with a maximum of 2 C grades).
- Research, write and publicly defend the thesis,
- Meet all programme requirements in the student's major field of study.

KIMEP follows the Lisbon Recognition Convention that has been ratified by Kazakhstan and has elaborated respective guidelines fulfilling the MSHE requirements. A study period abroad will be recognised if there are no substantial differences between the course taken abroad and the learning outcomes of the KIMEP course. This is applied to both organised students' exchange and the so-called free movers.

As to the feasibility of the study workload, the average undergraduate and graduate course of the three study programmes at hand is based on 135 learning hours that corresponds to 5 ECTS. The whole undergraduate programme has a workload of 6,480 hours. As a part of this about 2,190 are contact hours. The graduate programme includes 1,620 hours out of which about 570 hours are contact hours. The in-class activities include lectures, seminars, theoretical and practical exercises, group discussions and interaction with the course teachers and guest speakers as well as mid-term exams.

The remaining learning hours of the student self-studies or "learning period," include reading literature, research/problem investigations, homework, assignment and case-study preparation, consultation with teaching faculty and other activities designed to be organised outside of the class, including final exams.

Regarding the workload, the programme administration and teaching faculty: (a) guide students throughout the programme; (b) follow the status of their academic progression; and (c) provide assistance upon request just in case the students feel they are not keeping up. The fact that all coursework involves continuous assessment (not just final assessment) is aimed at helping students know where they stand in a course.

Feedback from faculty and students is considered when the programme is designed, and the workload is defined.

The students are supported by faculty and administrative units to make sure that they successfully complete their studies on time. Faculty members maintain regular office hours to consult students.

In addition, the students have access to the counselling services of the programme managers. KIMEP-wide, the Student Learning Support Centre provides both academic and personal support to help students continue and complete their studies. The support includes academic tutoring, psychological counselling, and a special programme to address at-risk students.

KIMEP describes itself as being committed to a policy of equal opportunity for learning opportunities to all qualified individuals and to the principles of continuing life-long education also¹⁸. It does not discriminate any individual or group on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, social or sexual orientation, creed, marital status, physical disabilities, remote area location, age and/or any other subjective criteria. KIMEP seeks to enrol outstanding students who have demonstrated the potential to succeed through leadership and talent as well as having shown evidence of their capability to contribute to the community. The University has created procedures for applying and accepting individuals with a diverse academic background and academic needs: Kazakhstani and international applicants, undergraduate students (graduates of high schools and vocational professional schools, transfer and reinstated students), graduate students and non-degree students for short and long-term study terms (international summer school, visiting exchange students, continuous non-degree students, adult learners etc.). Any information concerning an applicant's disability provided during the admissions process is voluntary and leads to the specific services once eligibility is proven through professional documentation to KIMEP Medical Centre. It is maintained in accordance with laws relating to confidentiality. No limitations are placed on the number or proportion of people with disabilities who may be admitted or enrolled.

Appraisal:

The three programmes at hand consist of courses that are categorised in groups. ECTS credits are assigned per course on the basis of the necessary student workload. As far as the University uses "KIMEP credit points" internally only (e.g. in internal regulations such as "KIMEP University Faculty Code of Practice") or in parallel to the ECTS credits (especially for courses and the Diploma Supplement), the panel urgently recommends KIMEP predominantly using the ECTS credits. This will make it easier to gain students from European countries based on the membership of Kazakhstan in the EHEA.

Each programme structure supports the smooth implementation of the curriculum and helps students to reach the defined learning outcomes. Practical components, in particular internships, are designed and integrated in such a way that credits can be acquired. The course descriptions provide detailed explanations of intended learning outcomes and the information defined in the ECTS Users' Guide. However, most syllabi do not include information about examinations. Therefore, the panel recommends KIMEP including the course assessment techniques and evaluation criteria in all syllabi for the three study programmes.

¹⁸ See SER p. 35.

There are legally binding study and exam regulations that are based on the governmental regulations. They contain all necessary rules and procedures. The study programmes are designed so that students can study for a certain time at other HEIs or do internships without any extension of their overall study time. The recognition of degrees and periods of study at other HEIs is regulated in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention; the recognition of periods of practical work – insofar intended – is also clearly defined. The final grade is supplied with an ECTS grading table.

The feasibility of each study programme's workload is ensured by a suitable curriculum design, by a plausible calculation of workload, by an adequate number and frequency of examinations, by appropriate support services as well as academic and general student counselling.

When reviewing the workload, the HEI also takes into account evaluation findings, including student feedback and the programme's success rate.

During the on-site visit the panel learned from students that the School of Law requires students' obligation to attend lectures in the University. However, the panel recommends KIMEP checking the requirement for students to be present in person during all in class teaching lessons and allowing to use nowadays common IT-technology.

KIMEP University ensures gender equality and non-discrimination. Students with disabilities are provided with affirmative actions concerning time and formal requirements throughout the programmes and the examinations. Students in special circumstances, such as single parents, foreign students, students with a migration background and/or from so-called non-academic backgrounds, are particularly assisted.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2 Structure					
3.2.1* Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.2* Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.3* Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.4 Equality of opportunity			X		

3.3 Didactical concept

The didactical concept for all programmes is shaped by a commitment to academic freedom and increasing the role of faculty in the academic decision-making process. The teaching faculty is expected to take into consideration subject-specific didactic requirements by choosing appropriate teaching and learning methods which are described in the syllabi.

In the undergraduate programmes, lecturers combine traditional lecturing techniques with innovative methodologies – such as video lectures, group work, case studies, moot court exercises – with a view to contributing to students' theoretical understanding of the subjects, and to their ability to apply theory in practice. Since 2015, students regularly successfully participate in domestic and international competitions and Moot Court exercises.

Besides representing an opportunity for KIMEP graduates to further pursue an education in law, the LLM aims at equipping young working professionals with legal competencies and skills that they can immediately employ in their occupations; or that they can leverage to start a new career. Two of the six required courses (on psychology and on management) highlight the programme's multidisciplinary character and complement legal education with practical skills.

While the undergraduate programmes aim at providing a comprehensive, fundamental education in most areas of domestic and international law, the LLM's curriculum is designed to cover a set of interrelated areas where Kazakhstani international lawyers are most likely to work, such as: international commercial law and arbitration, domestic and international tax law, international banking law, international investment law. Beside substantive law, the LLM emphasises procedural law, arbitration practices, and litigation skills.

Thus, KIMEP follows a student-centred learning concept that also implies particularly the following: Students are encouraged to classroom collaboration faculty uses interactive didactical methods. And case studies are used to enhance students' decision-making abilities and to ensure that students do understand how to apply theoretical knowledge in real business situations.

Faculty office hours and appointments are aimed at developing students' academic and personal skills via advising, consulting, and directing the learners on concerns.

The learning materials belong to the responsibility of the teaching faculty. They are provided to students before each course begins, with additional materials distributed by the course teacher during classroom hours. Course materials include both classic and modern textbooks (available at the library and privately owned by students), electronic resources (available at the library and placed by lecturers on public drives), video lectures on selected subjects, as well as lecturers' PowerPoint presentations and handouts.

Given the specificity of law as a subject area, in that it is related to a state's normative legal acts, which are available in languages other than English, some recommended course materials on Kazakhstani law may be in Russian and Kazakh languages, whereas most materials in other areas are in English. The library resources are added to each semester, upon teachers' requests. Student requests may also be fulfilled. There is some difficulty in getting local editions as the print runs are small. The school is well aware of the need to have English language textbooks for its courses. Currently two faculty-created textbooks in English are available: a textbook on Kazakhstan's constitutional law, and an introduction to several branches of Kazakhstan's law. Moreover, several law school faculty recently authored and edited a research handbook on several international law-related areas while one faculty member is currently in the process of writing a first-ever textbook on common theory of law in English, to be used for public law disciplines taught for Law School students.

All classrooms are equipped with multi-media facilities, Liquid Crystal Display/Interactive panels, webcams, LCD projectors, computers, appropriate furniture. In some courses, faculty members use virtual simulation software to make the course more practical and realistic.

Faculty members are encouraged to integrate guest speakers into the teaching process. On a regular basis and as part of the didactical concepts of all three programmes, professionals from among national and international law academics and practitioners are invited to deliver

guest lectures at the School of Law. Since 2014, guest lecturers from Bulgaria, Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia, Switzerland, and Ukraine visited the school¹⁹. These included law firm partners, NGO professionals, professional mediators, law academics, and a judge of the European Court of Human Rights. Such guest lectures are useful in that they highlight contemporary challenges to the practical application of law, and help students choose their future professional paths. In turn, during the same period, the School of Law's faculty delivered guest lectures at academic and professional institutions in Belarus, China, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the United States, and Uzbekistan. Further, the other colleges of KIMEP host guest lecturers, whose lectures are open to all students and faculty, for instance, the Central Asian Studies Centre and the Leadership Development Programme hosted several seminars and talks available that students could attend.

Tutors are students who have been selected by academic department faculty and have completed a tutor training programme conducted by the Student Learning Support Centre. In accordance with applicable KIMEP policies, whenever a lecturer has over 50 students per semester in the undergraduate programmes, he or she is entitled to a part-time lecturing tutor's (student assistant's, or teaching assistant's) support. Teaching assistants help instructors in proctoring exams; assisting in lecturers' research; arranging meetings with outside interlocutors; and carrying out other technical assignments. Teaching assistants' work is remunerated in accordance with applicable KIMEP policies.

Appraisal:

The panel welcomes that the didactic concepts of all three study programmes are described, plausible, and oriented towards the respective programme objectives. This allows for the application of different teaching and learning methods, such as, for instance, case studies or practical projects. Students are encouraged to take an active role in creating the learning process.

The panel notes that the accompanying course materials are oriented towards the intended learning outcomes and correspond to the required qualification level. They are up to date, user-friendly, and digitally accessible and encourage the students to engage in further independent studies.

The panel highly welcomes and gives kudos to KIMEP that guest lecturers from several countries with their special experience either from professional practice or scientific work, but also, for example, from culture and politics are regularly invited. Their contributions form an integral part of the study programmes' didactical concept. They come from a variety of occupations, which enhances the students' chances of employment thanks to the profound insights they gain from these lectures.

In some cases, lecturing tutors support the undergraduate students in the learning process and help them develop competences and skills.

¹⁹ During the COVID-19 pandemic period in 2020 and 2021 when studies had to be temporarily conducted in a distant format some guest lecturers had to present online.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.3 Didactical concept					
3.3.1* Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.2* Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.3 Guest lecturers	X				
3.3.4 Lecturing tutors			X		

3.4 International outlook

KIMEP, in line with its mission, strategy and core values, defines the study programmes at hand as being committed to training and preparing students for careers in an international environment²⁰. The University aims to achieve internationalisation by attracting students and faculty from other countries, by active collaboration with international partner institutions in areas such as student exchanges, joint programmes, research activity and corporate connections, and by carrying out research of international relevance and scope. KIMEP welcomes students from other countries and cultures.

The KIMEP School of Law manifests its international orientation in areas such as international approach to curriculum and module development; participation in international competitions and projects; student exchanges and other study abroad opportunities; participation in research and teaching mobility programmes; internationality of the faculty; and English language medium.

All programmes, regardless of the cycle, respect the importance of the domestic legal system in connection with wider international trends and long-term historical and intellectual processes. In the undergraduate programmes a few courses explicitly adopt a comparative methodology and emphasise the international circulation of constitutional models and ideas (Comparative Constitutional Law) or compare contract law and contractual practices across jurisdictions (Comparative Contract Law) or deal with world legal systems such as the Common Law and the Civil Law systems (History of State and Law in Foreign Countries). Certain public law- and international law-related courses contain a comparative element in terms of analysing different legal systems (e.g., Theory of State and Law) and comparison of various levels of legal jurisdictions such as international, regional and domestic levels (Public International Law).

Other courses, such as Moot Courting, prepare the students to international competitions, which is the next aspect of internationalization at the KIMEP School of Law.

The LLM in International Law requires a certain knowledge of domestic law. To remedy the lack of domestic law element, students without a Bachelor of Law degree are required to take an introductory course in national law of Kazakhstan. All LLM students are required to take the following courses of the programme: Private International Law, Public International Law and Methodology of Research of International Law. Other courses may incorporate comparative law into their syllabus.

²⁰ See SER p. 43.

Through the KIMEP International Relations Office, the school maintains partnerships with foreign universities that allow students to go for exchange programmes abroad. Therefore, KIMEP offers an array of study abroad opportunities to its students:

- Student Exchange Programmes: Studying for 1 or 2 semesters at one of the partner universities;
- Dual degree programmes: Currently, the Law School is actively involved in negotiations on setting up dual/double degree programmes at both undergraduate and graduate levels with two recognized American public universities (agreement drafting and concluding stage);
- There are summer programmes with KIMEP's international partner universities. With some of these programmes, credits can be transferred back to KIMEP.

The semester study abroad programme enables a student from an overseas university to register for law courses for one or more semesters. Similarly, students from overseas tertiary universities with which either the KIMEP or one of its colleges has entered into an exchange agreement may register to study law courses for one or more semesters.

The proportion of international students in the total student body has remained stable through the years, coming to 13.8 % for the 2022-23 academic year. The decrease in the total numbers of students compared to previous years prior to 2020 is explained by the forced switch to online education format during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Since the Bachelor of Jurisprudence focuses on the domestic law of Kazakhstan, the student body is overwhelmingly composed of Kazakhstani citizens; despite this, the undergraduate programmes regularly have students from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. KIMEP offers scholarships to attract foreign students. The LLM programme has had students from Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and USA.

The cooperation between the School of Law programmes and other universities includes not only student mobility but also research and teaching mobility exchanges between respective universities. The international law programmes contain required subjects within the field of private and public international law. The courses for the programme Bachelor of Jurisprudence offer several electives available to the students on international law. In addition, teachers bring an aspect of comparative law to the classroom as they teach, using examples of other law jurisdictions where appropriate.

As far as faculty is concerned, KIMEP has international professors with western terminal degrees, from such countries as the US, Canada, and EU. KIMEP plans to further increase the number of international faculty (both visiting and exchange). KIMEP advertises internationally and locally in order to have a broad choice of candidates both international and domestic. The final choice of candidates includes consideration by the selection committee of the candidate's education, professional experience and English abilities.

The official language of all Law School programmes at KIMEP is English. The international law programmes are taught only in English. However, the School of Law acknowledges that the substance of what it teaches for the domestic jurisdiction begins as Russian and Kazakh language law. Therefore, the teachers provide the original law in the original language and discuss the English language equivalents (translations) and teach in English; the assessments are in English.

In the Bachelor of Jurisprudence, because the procedural issues (court) will be solely in Russian or Kazakh, the School of Law has received permission to teach these courses in those

languages, generally Russian. The School of Law is committed to teaching other areas of domestic law in English.

Appraisal:

All three programmes include to a certain extent international contents that are an integral part of the curriculum especially if Bachelor students choose courses of the group International Law and Practice or respective elective courses. The LLM allows students to choose courses such as “Mergers and Acquisitions” or International Humanitarian Law” that have international contents. Students are thus prepared for the challenges in an international working environment. Through practical examples, students are enabled to act in an intercultural environment.

The international composition of the student body corresponds to the programme concept. The measures taken to promote internationality are goal-oriented.

The panel welcomes that KIMEP University promotes the international composition of the faculty (teachers from different countries, teachers with international academic and professional experience) as a fundamental element which is shaping the profile of the study programmes and promotes the acquisition of international competences and skills.

As all study programmes are taught in the English language (except some parts of the BLLB programme), respective language courses and required foreign language materials correspond with their qualification objectives. Internationality is clearly a key element of the study programme’s profile.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.4 Internationality					
3.4.1* International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.4.2 Internationality of the student body			X		
3.4.3 Internationality of faculty		X			
3.4.4 Foreign language contents		X			

3.5 Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)

KIMEP undergraduate students are required to take courses such as sociology, psychology, philosophy, history and culture as part of general education to broaden their understanding of life, society and the world beyond the limits of business education and generally during the first two years of their studies. They are also asked to take programme foundation courses from other business disciplines such as information systems. In addition, all students study courses in English. These mandatory English courses have assignments in public speaking, panel discussions and analysing speech of others in verbal areas and in writing a research report that includes a literature review and data collection, including conducting interviews. Master students too are required to attend core and programme foundation courses before attending course related their specialised professional domain.

The curricula of the Bachelor programmes contain courses that use individual and group presentations as part of the course assessments. The School of Law offers a legal writing course that reviews various genres of legal writing including academic writing and legal practice work product (correspondence, memoranda, contract articles, etc.). In addition, class papers and written assignments are used as assessments in different classes, which are either academic (theoretical) or practical (case study analysis). Students have an elective course in moot courting, which specifically provides practice in oral argumentation, writing briefs and teamwork. This course is supported by the available extracurricular activities of international moot court competitions.

Moreover, the undergraduate programmes include an internship in the legal clinic. The legal clinic provides opportunities to work with a client in interviewing and analysing a set of facts to present a paper that advises the client on their issue. Other internships allow students to practice soft skills within a professional setting.

In the LLM programme, the instructors focus less on developing a wide gamut of communication and speaking skills, and more on addressing specific professional needs. Differently from the bachelor programmes, in the LLM the instructors can refer to the students' work experiences, where appropriate, and the learning benefits from the opportunity of connecting the theoretical knowledge to the personal challenges that many students will have experienced in organisations of various nature. The students' multidisciplinary skills can benefit also from the verbalisation and the exchange of personal work experiences.

Appraisal:

The panel welcomes that in particular by means of group work, the legal clinic and moot court courses, students acquire communication, academic- and public-speaking skills as well as cooperation and conflict handling skills in accordance with the course descriptions. This is supported by suitable didactical and methodological measures. The acquisition of further multidisciplinary competences, such as sociology, psychology, philosophy, history and culture as well as leadership is ensured.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.5*	Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3.6 Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)

The undergraduate programmes require two internships. As part of these internships, students have the opportunity to work in the legal clinic providing pro bono legal consultation to the public, and to participate in a programme in collaboration with the website www.zakon.kz whereby the students research and answer questions sent into an advice column on the website.

Classes such as Academic Reading and Writing for Law Students enable law students to learn legal terminology and the writing style of non-fictional narrative documents. Assessments

include student presentations in both group and individual work. Further assignments include case studies (case briefs or simply case analyses), moot court exercises and introduction to certain types of legal documents (e.g., expert opinions, court documents).

In the LLM programme, the curriculum is based on an assessment of the areas where Kazakhstani international lawyers are most likely to find employment, or where those lawyers are most likely to seek professional development through a graduate degree in law. More attention is spent on research skills leading to a thesis that shows independent research and a contribution to the legal literature. Along with the research skills, courses are devoted to legal reasoning, methods and writing that teach the student a more in-depth skill level of those areas that they may have acquired at the undergraduate level. In addition, case analysis and teamwork may be parts of the coursework at the LLM level. The LLM programme also requires an internship that allows the student to experience the employment environment (students who are already employed may be offered internship substitutes).

Appraisal:

For the three programmes, the promotion of employability – for instance through the integration of theory and practice and through the promotion of multidisciplinary competences and skills – runs as a common thread of the study programmes through all their courses. Moreover, the panel welcomes that KIMEP offers in each of the two Bachelor and in the LLM Master programme a list of elective courses which can enable the students to actively apply the acquired skills in new areas of work and to develop them further.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)		X			

4. Academic environment and framework conditions

4.1 Faculty

The faculty of the School of Law consists of eleven full-time teachers (of whom one is the Dean who teaches only one course per year), and a pool of approximately eight part-time lecturers. All full-time faculty members teach courses in the Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of International Law programmes. The LLM courses also may be taught by legal professionals familiar with the area of law. The adjunct part-time teachers are mostly young academics or legal professionals who have business experience and are either partners or senior associates in law firms.

The international faculty generally teaches international law subjects. For instance, “International litigation” would be taught by an adjunct. In the Bachelor programmes, the core civil law courses and most of the fundamental theoretical core courses are taught by full-time faculty. Criminal law courses are taught by adjunct faculty for the most part (an exception is international criminal law). The LLM courses are taught by five full-time faculty members and two adjunct instructors. Some adjuncts have taught in both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

KIMEP has installed a formal process of teaching staff hiring, which is outlined in internal regulations²¹ and in compliance with Government regulations²². The hiring process is carried out by competition with qualification requirements. All candidates applying to fill any teaching staff positions in KIMEP must meet the qualification requirements for the positions of employees of higher educational institutions. The academic qualifications of the teachers selected to deliver classes are aligned with the academic requirements set by the School of Law and follow the programme objectives. For teaching at the undergraduate level, faculty members must have at least a Master’s degree. A doctorate degree (PhD or J.D.²³) is required for teaching any graduate programme.

Moreover, a minimum of three years of teaching experience in higher education including examination methods, English proficiency, and evidence of remote instructional design are required. During interviews, special attention is given to assessment and feedback practices. These are the minimum required qualifications. Interviews are conducted with all prospective faculty by a committee, during which more detailed questions about teaching philosophy and assessment style are asked. In some cases, job candidates are asked to give a demo lesson.

Of the full-time faculty, two members have a Juris Doctor (J.D.), two have an LLM, one has the ABD²⁴ status, and all others have a PhD. The adjunct faculty generally have at least an LLM or Candidate of Science. But for adjuncts, length of business practice may be sufficient for teaching in certain fields, and some adjuncts who have been in the profession a longer time will have only an LLB²⁵.

²¹ See KIMEP University Faculty Code of Practice (as of September 2022) and “KIMEP Employment Guidelines”.

²² Order No. 635 of the Ministry of Education and Science of RK dated 14 Dec. 2007 on “Regulations of Competitive Hiring and Selection of Faculty and Researchers in the Institutions of Higher Education”, Order No 391 dated 17 June 2015, and Order No 339 dated 14 July 2021.

²³ Juris Doctor, mainly used in USA and Canada.

²⁴ “All But Dissertation” status means: Coursework has been done, but the dissertation is not written.

²⁵ Bachelor of Law.

As per the Faculty Code of Practice, all full time (core) faculty members are required to teach four standard courses every semester (eight per academic year)²⁶. This means a teaching load per week of 12 hours. A faculty may be requested to teach one graduate level course; faculty holding a doctoral degree with sufficient teaching qualifications and background are requested to teach at the doctorate level programmes. In 2022-2023 academic year, the average workload per faculty is 6.6 courses. During the on-site visit KIMEP announced that the regular teaching load may be further reduced.

According to KIMEP²⁷, the University's faculty has the highest proportion of holders of terminal degrees from Western universities among the CIS countries. For continuing faculty members, the 'KIMEP Centre of Educational Excellence' provides regular training to improve and hone pedagogical competencies. The college serves as a collaborative platform to host professional workshops, seminars, webinars, conferences, discussion groups, professional development programmes, and additional opportunities for the educational market for the whole university. Further, faculty members regularly participate in international academic mobility programmes to learn and update teaching and research qualifications.

The list of professional development workshops organised for KIMEP faculty members is presented in the following table:

Professional Development Workshops for KIMEP Faculty

Year	Professional Development Workshops
2022	Best practices in inclusive education Strategies around student anxiety and depression
2021	Blended and Blended Online Learning
2020	Evidence of Understanding and Learning Remote Teaching and Learning Programme Quality Online Course Design
2019	Inclusive Education Improving Pedagogy Junior Faculty Research
2018	Student-Centred Course Design & Instruction

The faculty is encouraged to participate in conferences and publish research. The annual evaluation forms add points to the performance evaluation for conference attendance and for publications, the amount of which are dependent on the nature of the publication. In addition, faculty may be awarded financial rewards for publications depending on a set of criteria distributed to the faculty annually.

The KIMEP law faculty has shown evidence of its academic qualification by numerous publications by recognised scholarly journals and publishers such as: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Springer, Kluwer Law International, Lumen Juris Editoria, Moscow

²⁶ Faculty Code of Practice, Part V Clause 1

²⁷ See SER p. 46.

Journal of International Law, Asia-Pacific Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law, Asian Journal of Comparative Law, Journal of International Peacekeeping, CLES Research Paper Series, Europa-Kolleg Hamburg, Global Review of Constitutional Law, Bruylant, and many others.

In 2016, Kazakhstan's MES (now MSHE) began to require continuing development in pedagogy. KIMEP created a Centre for Teaching Excellence (later renamed as Centre for Educational Excellence) to offer seminars in pedagogy, which has been offering seminars in pedagogy since January 2018. The School of Law encourages all its faculty to participate in these seminars and introduced evidence of professional development as part of its annual evaluation starting in 2018. Furthermore, the School of Law has a practice of voluntary peer-evaluation of teaching, whereby faculty members attend lectures taught by colleagues, and submit a report based on a standardised form.

As to the Practical Business Experience of Faculty, one of the four full-time faculty members worked in USA in the industry. Also, other faculty members achieved experience outside the universities. Those who have had their career mostly in academia nevertheless have also consulted.

There are opportunities for faculty to collaborate and interact. Faculty collaborate as members of permanent committees within the formal university structure, comprising a hierarchy of departmental chairs, the CSS and dean's office, and the KIMEP Academic Council. Membership on committees is either by election or appointment. All faculty members are encouraged to get involved in committee work. Consequently, faculty develop an awareness of issues across CSS and the entire university; they are accustomed to collaboration and create an institution-wide culture of collegiality.

The faculty members cooperate with each other for the purpose of tuning the modules towards the overall qualification objectives. Meetings of all those teaching in the programme take place regularly within the quality assurance process. For those faculty members who teach courses where the subject matter may run adjacent or overlap, they discuss among themselves how to divide the subjects. Instructors may also observe a class of their peers and give comment.

Student learning support and coaching are integral parts of the services provided by KIMEP and are offered on a regular basis according to the syllabi. Where necessary, the students are given full support with academic and related issues. The students are provided with support on skills development and activities aimed at their individual and team success regarding the learning process.

In order to support students, faculty members are requested to publish their student advising hours in their syllabi and on their office doors. Beyond this, some professors hold independent (extracurricular) review sessions and other extracurricular activities. Faculty adhere to the concept of student-centered learning or student-friendly learning, one aspect of which are generous office hours and an "open door" policy regarding student visits for consultation. Concomitantly, PA student satisfaction is consistently at the top or near the top in surveys of KIMEP undergraduates.

Faculty advise students about scholarships or study opportunities abroad and provide letters of reference. Where appropriate, faculty engage students as Research or Teaching Assistants,

thus giving students experience in work concerning academic matters. Faculty support the students through everyday conscientious teaching and mentoring; and each spring the faculty organizes a departmental “team building” party for the undergraduate and graduate students on campus.

Programme administration is available to support students with administrative issues. Programme administrators help faculty in preparing the course materials, providing technical support to faculty. For students completing their theses, supervising faculty are in regular contact with them via email and Zoom calls and/or face-to-face meetings.

Appraisal:

The panel is convinced that the structure and number of the faculty correspond to the programme requirements and ensure that the students achieve the intended qualification objectives. The faculty’s composition, consisting of full-time, part-time as well as visiting lecturers, guarantees that both the academic standards and the requirements of professional practice are fully satisfied. However, the panel members note that the regular teaching-load of 12 hours per week for full-time academic staff is high regarding required research work and administrative contributions. They support KIMEP’s intention to reduce this regular teaching load in order to improve research activities and thereby the quality of teaching.

When commenting on the draft of this report, KIMEP University responded to this remark: “Beginning with the academic year 2023-24, KIMEP has introduced a scheme by which faculty members can earn reductions in their teaching load to achieve a teaching load of six courses or of four courses per year, contingent on maintaining a target level of research output.” The panel welcomes that KIMEP has introduced a possibility to earn a reduced teaching load.

The academic qualification of the faculty corresponds to the requirements and objectives of each study programme and is outstanding because of their scientific publications. KIMEP verifies the qualifications of the faculty members by means of a competitive hiring procedure, which is described and regulated in the “KIMEP University Faculty Code of Practice”. Specific measures for the further qualification of the faculty members are implemented.

The pedagogical and didactical qualification of the faculty correspond to the requirements and objectives of the study programme. KIMEP University verifies the qualifications of the faculty members by means of an established and competitive procedure. KIMEP ensures that assessors are familiar with existing testing and examination methods and receive support in developing their own skills in this field. Specific measures for the further qualification of the faculty members are implemented. However, the panel got the impression that promoting full-time faculty members in their academic career could have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and research. Therefore, the panel recommends KIMEP developing a mentoring programme to enhance the academic development of the full-time faculty.

The practical experience of the faculty corresponds to the requirement of the relevant programmes to integrate theory and practice. Full-time faculty, but especially part-time instructors contribute above-average practical experience of their law firms which they can use in their teaching activities.

The panel notes that faculty members cooperate with each other for several purposes including tuning the courses towards the overall qualification objectives. Meetings of all those who are teaching in the relevant programme take place regularly.

Student support is an integral part of the services provided by the faculty. It is offered on a regular basis and serves to help students to study successfully. The faculty members are available for the students outside the specified office hours as well. The students are “fully content” with the support they receive.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.1 Faculty					
4.1.1* Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.2* Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.3* Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.4 Practical business experience of faculty		X			
4.1.5* Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.6* Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.7(*) Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended learning/distance learning programmes)					X

4.2 Programme management

The Law School has two coordinators (Law School Coordinator and Internship / Research Programmes Manager) who are always available to the students during working hours for advice on the progress of their programme, information on how to use KIMEP resources and any other issues that may arise during the students' time at KIMEP with respect to their studies. The coordinators also assist the faculty in the fulfilment of their academic and administrative duties and provide technical and advisory support. They coordinate the activities of everyone involved in the programmes and have to ensure that the programmes run smoothly on an academic level with the Associate Deans for Undergraduate and Graduate Programmes.

At the higher levels, the programmes are managed through four formal committees:

- The Curriculum and Quality Enhancement Committee periodically revisits the curricula, course contents and the course management of the programmes.
- At College-level Undergraduate and Graduate Programmes Committees check and make recommendations regarding the management, quality, and standards of the respective programmes, consistent with intended learning outcomes.
- The College Council approves the management, operations, changes, and improvements of the programmes to align with the strategic vision, mission and objectives of the School of Law. Faculty members and student representatives are included.

- At University-level the Academic Council as the supreme academic policy making authority, provides final approval of the programme management activities. Also, faculty and students` representatives are involved.

KIMEP has developed its own Online Registration System, which allows the students, faculty, the registrar, and administration to use a number of web-based real-time services, and effectively supports the administering of the education process. Using the system, students can exercise the following features from any location in the world online: check the schedule for the upcoming semester, communicate with their academic advisors, choose the courses according to their descriptions and prerequisites, register for courses, check their grades for the previous semester, check their GPA for the previous semesters, review their financial obligations to KIMEP, and check their individual academic requirements.

Faculty members can exercise the following features online directly from their offices: check the actual number of students registered for the course during the registration period, obtain the list of students registered for the course, carry out advisory services, and enter final grades. The Office of the Registrar can obtain the following current and exact information on any student directly online: number of credits obtained, GPA, list of courses completed, individual schedules, and financial obligations.

Appraisal:

As KIMEP explains, the two coordinators support the activities of everyone involved in the programme and ensures that the programme runs smoothly.

Faculty members and students are supported by the administration in the organisation of the study programme. Sufficient administrative staff is available. Decision-making processes, authority, and responsibilities are clearly defined. Teachers and students are included in the decision-making processes where their areas of work are involved.

The opportunities of electronic service-support are used and supplement personal one-to-one counselling. KIMEP offers the administrative staff opportunities for continuous professional development. The administrative staff acts as a service provider for students and faculty.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.2	Programme management					
4.2.1*	Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.2.2	Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty		X			

4.3 Cooperation and partnerships

The University has established links and partnerships with more than 100 universities in North America, Europe and East Asia which offer exchange programmes and dual degree programmes for undergraduate and graduate students, joint fora and research opportunities, faculty visiting and exchange programmes, summer schools, and study abroad programmes. There are three groups of students with specific needs: 1) outgoing to other HEI, 2) incoming

from other HEI for a short period and 3) degree seeking. A full list of partner universities and co-operation agreements, student mobility statistics and dual degree accomplishments are available at the KIMEP International Office website (<https://www.kimep.kz/diam/en/>).

The co-operation agreements with HEIs offer its faculty and staff members a range of opportunities to study, carry out research and experience international academic life at the partner universities. Cooperation agreements or a memorandum of understanding (MoU) have been signed with the following universities:

- University of North Carolina at Pembroke (MoU),
- Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan (cooperation agreement),
- O.P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India (agreement on student exchange),
- Gansu University for Political Science and Law, PR China (MoU),
- Institute of Animal Law of Asia, Oregon, USA (cooperation agreement).

The Law School is currently involved in active negotiations with two recognised American public universities to create undergraduate and graduate double degree programmes.

The School of Law has an intensive cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations. An Advisory Board, including employers, alumni, and students, was created in 2012-2013. Its first meeting in 2022-2023 took place in late 2022. The Advisory Board assesses information about the performance of the programmes, and provides valuable feedback and recommendations over the programmes, syllabi and overall quality of the Law Schools' work.

Thanks to the cooperation with the Kazakhstani lawyers' association, KazBar, and selected chambers of legal consultants such as IUSTUS, students have access to the leading law firms for their internships. Cooperation with Kazakhstan's largest legal database, Zakon.kz, gives unlimited and complimentary access to students and faculty to legislation and other documents. Law School's cooperation with International Law Students Association (ILSA) facilitates students' participation in a world championship (Jessup moot court competition on international law) and get free access to legal databases such as Heinonline, LexisNexis, and JSTOR.

To help select, manage and maintain beneficial, long-term partnerships with the business community including law firms of Kazakhstan and abroad, the KIMEP Corporate Development Department, Business Advisory Council (BAC), KIMEP Alumni Association, and KIMEP Career Centre were established.

Appraisal:

The scope and nature of cooperation with universities, other academic institutions and networks relevant for the programmes are plausibly presented. The agreements forming the basis of the cooperation are documented. The cooperation is actively pursued and has a clear impact on the conception and implementation of the study programme. All such activities contribute to the development of the students' qualification and skills. However, the panel recommends the School of Law intensifying the cooperation with universities from abroad and by this broadening the international cooperation for increasing mobility of students and faculty.

The scope and nature of cooperation with business enterprises, law firms and other institutions relevant to the programme are plausibly presented and actively promoted. The agreements forming the basis of the cooperation are documented. Moreover, the cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations is actively promoted. The panel especially welcomes that the Law school has installed an Advisory Board that enables the School to have regular meetings with partner companies and firms on further developments of the study programmes. As described in this report, such cooperation has a formative impact on the programme contents and on the profile of graduates. E.g., appointments of professionals from law firms for teaching and other projects significantly contribute to the development of qualifications and skills and to the quality of the final project or thesis.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3	Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1(*)	Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			X		
4.3.2(*)	Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)	X				

4.4 Facilities and equipment

KIMEP's campus consists of eight buildings, including the two main academic buildings: Valikhanov Building and the New Academic Building; the Olivier Giscard d'Estaing Library (OGEL), and the Dostyk Building (administration building). The University campus hosts the Residence Hall for students and own apartments, as well as the apartment in Samal micro-district for foreign faculty and top-managers; also, there is a plant building and a publishing and printing department building.

Dostyk Building was constructed in 1954. It hosts BCB, College of Humanities and Education (CHE), Sports Center and the university administration. It also hosts two auditoria with a total area of 105 square meters, 118 offices with the total area of 3,418 sqm. Since 1992 the building was reconstructed several times. In 2012, to enhance the academic environment for the students eleven study rooms were created there. In 2016 the cosmetic renovation of Sports Center was done together with renovating the faculty offices at the third and fourth floors for the total area of 2,258 sqm. In 2017 the major repairs were performed at the third floor, including corridors and offices (500 sqm).

The Valikhanov Building was constructed in 1975. It hosts College of Social Sciences (CSS), Computer and Information Systems Center, the canteen with an area of 1,013.2 sqm, a coffee shop, a stationery shop and a copying centre. The building is a host for 40 classrooms with the gross area of 3,596.69 sqm and 136 offices with the gross area of 3,035.2 sqm. Academic rooms, besides the general classrooms, include six computer labs, three conference halls, a media laboratory for journalism department and the specialized classroom for teaching arts.

The New Academic Building was commissioned in the fall of 2008. The total area of the building amounts to more than 6000 sqm out of which 2,301 are teaching facilities. It hosts 21 classrooms, three computer labs and a recreation area with wireless KIMEP LAN and Internet access. The building also hosts the School of Law. These classrooms and offices are maintained on the basis of scheduled maintenance work. In 2017 a Starbucks coffee shop was opened on the second floor of the building.

The Residence Hall Building was constructed in 1972 and designed for 424 students to reside in double or triple rooms. The Building also hosts the modern Executive Education Center, the Medical Center, the Office of Student Affairs, the International Office and the Career and Employment Center and a canteen. In 2013-2014 the first of three stages of major repairs were done at the first, fourth and fifth floors, including the lounge rooms and study rooms between the 2nd and the 5th floor (2,358 sqm), as well as of the façade and of entrance of the building; one of existing elevators was replaced by the modern one, and a partial replacement of the old furniture was done. The second stage was completed in 2015 and includes a major renovation of the third floor with partial replacement of the old furniture (1,149 sqm). The final stage was completed in 2016 (1,149 sqm).

For faculty Housing, KIMEP owns 2/3 of the apartment house located on campus, in which there are 18 furnished 2-rooms and 3-rooms apartments for faculty and management of the University.

Besides annual enhancements of educational operations KIMEP pays attention to advancement of a healthy lifestyle. The University has a modern indoor Sports Centre and a football field. Besides, jointly with “Bank of Astana” in 2016 the workout site was opened on campus. In 2018 the University has constructed a new open-air basketball and volleyball court. In 2017 enhancement of campus infrastructure was made via developing the working project of installing the automatic irrigation system and landscaping design.

All three academic buildings are equipped with ramps, elevators; automatic sliding doors are installed at entrances to academic buildings. In addition, special buttons are installed at the entrances to all buildings to call staff if any assistance is needed. Since the buildings are of quite old construction, gradual reconstructions are carried out. Reconstructions meet all current building standards, including standards required for students with special educational needs.

Reconstruction of the Valikhanov Building was carried out between 2017 and 2021. A stationary lift (mini elevator) at the cafeteria entrance was installed adding to previously installed elevators. All entrances to buildings are equipped with tactile tiles and buttons to call staff for assistance. Each floor is equipped with specialised restrooms for people with disabilities.

The total area available in KIMEP is 10.840 square meters.

Teaching Facilities

Building Location	Area sqm	Seating Capacity	Screens	OHP	LCD	Computer	TV Set	Video	Telephone	Tribune	Air-Con.
Valikhanov	3432	2326	44	31	41	249	4	3	0	33	62
CCE	130	48	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
Dostyk	2258	151	2	2	2	25	1	0	2	2	8
Library	2719	69	2	2	2	87	0	5	3	1	3
New Acad.	2301	1,107	15		20	126	2	2	0	21	24

Total	10,840	3,701	65	37	67	489	9	12	7	59	101
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Notation: OHP - Overhead projector; LCD - Display

The current student to computer ratio is 7 to 1.

Seventy-three classrooms are equipped with LCD-projectors, LCD-panels, and computers, which allow multimedia presentations and access to file servers, electronic materials, and the Internet during lectures. A number of conference halls, such as the Great Hall and the High-Tech Conference Hall, are equipped with all necessary hardware to run multimedia presentations for groups of varying size. There are also 11 study rooms available with wireless Internet.

The Olivier Giscard d'Estaing Library (OGEL) is located in a separate building on the University campus with an area 2,719 sqm and can serve up to 350 students at a time. OGEL users are not only students, teachers and staff of KIMEP, but also KIMEP alumni. The library works 64.5 hours per week: on weekdays from 8.30 to 20.00, on Saturday from 10.00 to 19.00. OGEL facilities include public reading areas for the library's circulating collection and for reference, periodicals, and reserves materials; a conference room, two independent study laboratories with computer workstations, which provide access to electronic resources. The library has 87 computers with unlimited access to the Internet at the disposal of its users. The library's conference room and computer laboratory are equipped with all necessary software and hardware to run multimedia presentations.

KIMEP owns one of the biggest English-language library collection in Central Asia²⁸. The library collection includes 100,583 print copies (of these 70,869 in English), and 21 international and local electronic resources, which comprise over 700 thousand full-text documents (e-books, magazines, conference materials, legislative acts of Kazakhstan and foreign countries) and can be accessed from any computer on campus: CARD (the library's own bibliographic database), Ebook Central, EBSCO EconLit, EBSCO Business Source Complete, EBSCO Ebooks, Emerald, Encyclopaedia of Public International Law in Asia, JSTOR, Hein Online's Core collection, Paragraph, Polpred, ProQuest One Business, Sage Premier, Scopus, Taylor & Francis Ebooks, Taylor & Francis Social Science and Humanities eJournals, The Chronicle of Higher Education, TOL, Lexis, Web of Science and Zakon. The remote access is organised to 15 electronic databases, so now library users can access these resources from any place outside the campus. Bibliographic records of all print literature are entered into an electronic catalogue (KIMEP uses AMLIB as its library management system), which is accessible to all users both in the library and through KIMEP website.

The library is constantly developing a book collection and its electronic resources. Twice a year the library organises textbook orders, that usually include reference and research titles requested by the faculty and students. The budget allocated for acquisition of learning resources for 2022-2023 academic year will allow increasing the library collection for nearly 1,000 print books, renewing subscriptions for the existing electronic resources and subscribing to two new electronic databases.

In order to ensure students with necessary literature for the study programmes, OGEL provides the Textbook Rental Service. Every student may take the necessary course title for rent for a semester. Usually the library acquires the number of copies assigned for the relevant course

²⁸ See SER p. 82.

equal to 30-50% of the planned enrolment number. Also 3-5 copies from this amount go to reserve collection, which is created to make the course titles available for all students. Reserve titles can be used only in the library reading rooms and can be checked out for the overnight loan. So if a student cannot take the course title for rent, there is always a copy in the library available for reading.

Eleven library staff members provide a wide range of services to all users: open access to the entire book collection; selection of books on the subject; individual consultations, presentations, trainings, orientation sessions to entering students and new faculty, seminars, webinars on the use of the electronic catalogue and electronic databases. Also, the Library organises practical trainings for students together with teachers; scanning materials for teachers; draws up thematic exhibitions; regularly updates and places information on the website, on social networks; provides unlimited internet access.

Annually, the QAIR²⁹ conducts a survey among students and graduates regarding the work of all departments, including the library, and all their recommendations and comments are analysed and taken into account in the future direction of the Library in providing services.

Appraisal:

The panel had the opportunity to visit the campus as well as the buildings and facilities which are described above. The members could confirm that quantity, quality, media and IT facilities of the teaching rooms meet the standards required for the programmes, even taking into account the resource needs of other study programmes. The rooms are properly equipped for disabled students and give them barrier-free access. Also, the panel welcomes that across the campus students can find meeting areas in comfortable and functional surroundings. Access to the internet through laptops via wireless LAN is provided free of charge. A sufficient number of group rooms is available.

The panel takes the view that the School of Law has in some parts computers and electronic resources that could be modernised. The panel recommends keeping the electronic resources up to date.

The opening hours of the library respect and take notice of students' needs. The library is accessible during most of the day. Access to the literature and journals as well as to digital media (e.g. electronic media, databases) is ensured and available from the students' home. The literature expressly required for the study programme is available in the library and also kept up to date. Qualified library staff can advise students.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.4 Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1* Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.4.2* Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)		X			

²⁹ KIMEP Quality Assurance and International Research Department, see above chapter 1.3.

4.5 Additional services

KIMEP established the Career Center in 1996 with the purpose of building strong cooperation between the business community, alumni, and students of KIMEP. The Career Center provides students, starting from their first year of study, with all necessary tools to successfully manage professional development: career advising, career events, recruitment, employer outreach programmes, and networking opportunities (Career and Employment Service – CES).

The dedicated staff of the centre provide job seekers, who are KIMEP students and alumni, with such services as counselling on internship opportunities, preparation for job interviews, writing resumes, and job presentation skills. Further, the Career Center organises annual job fairs and maintains close connections with leading companies to have full information about job vacancies. The department also runs a platform for online employment opportunities that is considered a leading job portal in Almaty³⁰.

Moreover, the School of Law offers career counselling and placement services as well. These activities, specifically aimed at future legal professionals, take place at mentor initiative, moot court community.

- The mentorship programme allows students of the last year and those who have just graduated to have a successful and highly ranked lawyer as a mentor. This helps students to gain access to the labour market and establishes direct links between employers and KIMEP School of Law. Another activity is moot courting.
- Moot courts allow students to acquire new research, reasoning and negotiation skills. In 2017 KIMEP School of Law participated in “International Law World Championship” (Jessup competition) in Washington DC. In April 2018, it qualified again to the national level and represented Kazakhstan in the USA. Subsequently, the law school’s student teams started taking part in new prestigious international moot court competitions such as the Nuremberg Moot Court Competition on international criminal law (in 2021).
- Legal Clinic imitates the work of a law firm. It has its own office, a structure that is similar to a typical law firm, software that allows dealing with cases, table areas to receive clients, etc. All School of Law undergraduate students have an internship in it. It also highlights the skills that should be improved. Because of cooperation with the association of Kazakhstani lawyers KazBar and the legal database and news outlet Zakon.kz, Legal Clinic has professional supervisors and ensures for KIMEP complimentary access to zakon.kz – the biggest and most expensive legal database of Kazakhstan laws, court decisions, and regulations.

The KIMEP Alumni Association was established to maintain a permanent relationship between KIMEP and its alumni, with the purpose of mutual service and support. An active alumni network makes a stronger university and multiplies the value and prestige of a KIMEP degree. KIMEP School of Law is still a relatively young college but it now lists more than 450 alumni. However, it fully benefits from the university level Alumni Association of KIMEP that includes more than 9,000 alumni including those who graduated from the School of Law.

The goal of the Alumni Association is to keep Alumni up to date with the programmes and activities of KIMEP and provide support to the university and its programmes. The Alumni Association assists the University in the growth of its cultural and extracurricular activities and

³⁰ See SER p. 50; see also <https://kimep.kz/current/en/career-employment>.

facilitates KIMEP's involvement in the community. Alumni currently serve on KIMEP's business advisory board and as mentors to various student organisations on campus.

Alumni Association activities include:

- Developing an active network of alumni branches, as well as discipline-specific alumni groups;
- Serving an important role to KIMEP as benefactors, as spokespersons and advocates for the university, as advisors to the Colleges, and as a positive voice championing the importance of a KIMEP degree;
- Acting as role models for current KIMEP student;
- Fundraising for current students through the Rakhmet Scholarship Fund;
- Annual reunions, luncheons and networking activities that recognize outstanding alumni in areas of professional development and community service.

Alumni are invited to participate in all events undertaken by the EEC³¹, which are often also open for general public as well, like: HR club, Marketing Club, Corporate Governance Certifications, KIMEP International Research Conference, HR International Conference, some social events like New Year party.

Appraisal:

The panel is convinced that the excellent career counselling and placement services at KIMEP help the students and graduates effectively promote their employability, especially as they are offered to the students and graduates on an individual basis. Such activities are planned on a long-time basis, are performed regularly, and are actively marketed. KIMEP provides sufficient resources in terms of staff and room facilities for this purpose. Students have access to the HEI-wide corporate network. The University brings its graduates in contact with representatives from business enterprises at regular events. This also includes the Law School with special activities such as moot court and legal clinic.

The Law School has set up an alumni organisation with the aim of developing an alumni network. As this organisation is still relatively young it needs some more time to become a successful network.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.5	Additional services					
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service	X				
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			X		

³¹ KIMEP Executive Education Centre.

4.6 Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

KIMEP's main income is based on the tuition fees in particular from the Bachelor programmes (more than 84%), whereas the Master programmes contribute around 3.6 % and the Doctoral programmes 1.5 % (in the academic year 2022/23). The University achieves a yearly surplus of about 2 million €. More detailed Information on the School's Financial Situation has been presented to the panel.

Appraisal:

The panel is convinced that the income related to the programmes ensures that each cohort of students starting within the accreditation period can complete the study programme.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.6* Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

5. Quality assurance and documentation

KIMEP's Quality Assurance system (QA) is based on its "University policy for quality assurance in education"³². Its task is enhancing the quality of teaching, research, personnel as well as improving key stakeholders' satisfaction and operational effectiveness. The QA includes both academic and non-academic areas of University functioning. The task of quality management is to review and coordinate the University units' activities that are critical in terms of achieving quality requirements. The QA functions as a dynamic and continuous process, which implies the constancy of the quality assurance process in the form of a continuous repetition of the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle.

In its QA Policy KIMEP has established a framework for quality assurance that is compatible with mechanisms for institutional, departmental, and programme quality assurance. This framework is embedded in each college and in every department, both academic and non-academic.

The academic structure of KIMEP enables the management to oversee all colleges and academic affairs departments, programmes and curriculum, faculty, budget, and assessment strategies. Each college or academic division is responsible for creating their own continuous quality assurance process to include annual and cyclical programme reviews of each aspect. Annual programme reviews are limited in scope to particular programme learning outcomes, and include overviews of curriculum, faculty, finances, student learning, and programme effectiveness. Full programme reviews occur every 3-5 years and incorporate thorough assessments of the same information in addition to an overview of all programme learning outcomes and student learning assessments.

Information from both annual and cyclical reports is used to revise the curriculum and programme effectiveness, as well as to determine market needs, student interest, value added, and financial impact. Both types of programme review are completed in the fall semester following the academic year in which data was collected and analysed. After completion, programme reviews are sent to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Curriculum Review Committee, QAIR³³, and the Admission and Scholarship Standing Subcommittee for review and feedback. For major issues or revisions, programme reviews are presented to the Academic Council and the President's Cabinet.

QAIR is responsible for collaboration between different units at KIMEP – executive, management, departmental, and programmatic – in order to provide necessary information to support strategic decision-making and quality assurance systems, which promote integrity and effectiveness across the University. The primary roles of the office are as follows:

- Provide the information and analysis necessary to support decision-making at the institutional level and within colleges / divisions,
- Undertake such reviews and audits as necessary to safeguard the integrity and quality of the institution's activities,
- Advise the institution on quality implications of proposals, policies and strategic plans.

QAIR conducts the student evaluations as well as annual alumni surveys regarding employment and overall satisfaction with the quality of KIMEP's education. It also determines the students' success rates every semester and acts as a liaison between state bodies, higher

³² As of December 15, 2017. (QA Policy)

³³ Office of Quality Assurance and Institutional Research.

education institutions, and both national and international agencies to share best practices and develop strategies for the benefit of the community as a whole. Additionally, upon request they carry out various studies that investigate particular quality aspects in individual programmes or separate areas of the university's performance.

The Academic Council of KIMEP has to manage general academic affairs, to oversee academic quality assurance and curriculum review, and to develop recommendations for further approval by the President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. College Deans, the Director of the Admission and Financial Aid Office, and the Deputy to the President for Student Recruitment & Admission have representation on this committee, directly or by proxy, and provide administrative support for the committee.

This committee reviews the curriculum to ensure alignment with the National Qualifications Framework, that each programme submits viable programme reviews, and oversees continuous academic quality assurance. The function of the committee is to evaluate, analyse, and determine the appropriateness of any new programmes or courses, or of changes to existing programmes. It further establishes criteria for quality assurance controls over all matters of academic import, and makes recommendations concerning admission and scholarship, including additional criteria and student enrolment rules not covered by state standards for each major.

The President's Cabinet as the executive body of KIMEP has the right to make decisions on any issues of KIMEP operations that are not covered by Kazakhstan's legislation and are not governed (according to the Charter) by other bodies and officials of KIMEP, including financial management, strategic planning, development of organisational structure of the institution, and resolution of departmental or programmatic issues.

One of the most valued instruments for teaching performance evaluation is student evaluations. Student Perception of Instruction Survey (SPIS) is part of the general formal faculty evaluation process and is mandatory for each course taught at the Bachelor, Master and Doctorate Programmes as it allows retrieving student opinion on their perceptions of the instructional effectiveness, quality of teaching, and their learning experience. QAIR distributes the student survey at the end of each semester and the results of SPIS to faculty in the first part of the ensuing semester.

The SPIS is conducted employing a standard internet-based approach that aims at greater audience scope and higher rate of responses. Links to questionnaires are distributed via email, regular reminders are sent, and respondents are encouraged, but not obliged, to answer all questions. QAIR processes and analyses the questionnaires.

The questionnaire looks at the quality of teaching in three important fields: 1) faculty, 2) class sessions and 3) courses. The first section consists of questions about instructional delivery and academic professional attitude towards students, while the second part covers questions about management of class sessions and learning environment. The third part addresses student's understanding of course requirements and syllabus, availability of course materials and the overall level of satisfaction. This also includes the question whether the workload was manageable³⁴. Respondents through two open-ended questions are also provided with the possibility to add any information regarding the faculty member and course quality.

³⁴ Question 16.

To ensure objectivity, students fill in the SPIS forms after the completion of final examinations but prior to issuance of final grades, and the survey is anonymous. Feedback to faculty members is provided on the basis of each course and in aggregated format on a semester level.

The Faculty Satisfaction Surveys measure the level of faculty satisfaction pertaining to working conditions, professional development and leadership at KIMEP to further develop the university's status as an outstanding employer and academic institution. The survey has been conducted every spring semester since the 2005-06 academic year on an anonymous and voluntary basis. All faculty members are invited to take part in the survey. Survey results are presented to management and faculty in the form of a report that highlights both strong and weak points of KIMEP's working conditions and compares overall satisfaction with data from previous periods. The collected responses are components of efforts to create a better working and learning environment.

KIMEP also elaborates an Alumni Survey (KAS). It aims to assure the quality of professional preparation of graduates by collecting their feedback about working experience, job performance and level of satisfaction with the quality of KIMEP education, which allows identification of areas for improvement. The survey has been conducted each summer since 2005 by means of email and phone interviews with graduates of previous year. Survey results are reported to management and shared with KIMEP faculty and students.

One of the recommendations of FIBAA experts presented within the accreditation period held during 10-12 April 2019 was to increase the frequency of the Alumni Survey in order to gather sharper insights from graduates and reflect their career paths. Moreover, both five- and ten-years post-graduation institutional research and assessment are well known practices worldwide, usually aiming to track alumni career paths and gather their opinion on how their education influenced their current activity. After reviewing the recommendations, it was decided to extend the target respondent group of Alumni Survey to include KIMEP alumni who graduated 5 and 10 years ago. As a result, since 2019 the QAIR has been conducting an extensive Alumni Survey aiming to simultaneously collect the opinions of 3 cohorts of alumni — those who graduated 1, 5, and 10 years prior.

As far as the Employer Satisfaction Survey (ESS) of KIMEP Alumni is concerned, ESS seeks opinion of employers on levels of KIMEP graduates' professional preparedness in terms of knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The survey has been conducted every fourth year since 2007 through electronic means and supporting calling campaigns. The most recent evaluation was conducted in fall 2021. It had the overall result, that 98% of surveyed employers are satisfied with the skills and qualities of KIMEP graduates. At the same time, the proportion of employers who expressed a desire to continue hiring KIMEP graduates in the future increased from 82% in 2013 to 97% in 2021. The survey results illustrate employers' perception of KIMEP graduates' professional qualities and help to guide further improvement of academic programmes.

The MSHE also periodically evaluates the programmes. All assessments have indicated a satisfactory level in programme management.

All programme descriptions and curricula including course syllabi, learning strategy and methodology, and other relevant documents about the programme are communicated to newly-admitted students during each induction session, and are alternatively available for the

programme applicants through various channels including the university's catalogue, programme brochures, and leaflets. Some documents are accessible on the University's webpage in electronic format. The information is also available upon request through the offices of the respective programmes.

The Marketing, Communications and Public Relations Department (MCPR) department at KIMEP is responsible for the internal and external dissemination of KIMEP-related information and news. Internally, the MCPR regularly informs students, faculty, and staff of upcoming events (visiting speakers, athletic and intellectual competitions, and performances), undergraduate, graduate, and doctor degree programmes, student services, publications, and accomplishments of KIMEP community members. Externally, MCPR shares information regarding admissions, scholarships, academic programmes, athletic and intellectual competitions for school students, events that are open to the greater community, and institutional accomplishments.

The MCPR staff operate several social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vk.com, Telegram); disseminate mail and e-mail; place advertisement placards on building facades and billboards; design and print leaflets, brochures, and posters; photo-zones, press-walls, banners, flags, create digital campaigns (targeted and contextual ads), produce promo videos and conduct photoshoots, order KIMEP branded souvenirs, and organise the graduation ceremony. Among the main media partners of KIMEP are Khabar channel, Kazakhstan national TV channels, and Forbes Kazakhstan. The MCPR department also manages the KIMEP website (kimep.kz), which is the main source for information on KIMEP, its administration, and its student body. The annual online KIMEP Catalogue provides full details concerning the academic calendar, academic policies, and codes of conduct, disciplinary procedures, student facilities, student support services, as well as details concerning all admission requirements, programme structures, courses, and graduation requirements.

MCPR also provides counselling and printing services for the KIMEP Times, the independent student newspaper, founded in 1995. It is the only student newspaper that has been awarded a licence (# 1689-A) by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Culture and Information and is published in English and Russian. It is published every three months throughout the academic year. The newspaper publishes articles and commentaries on KIMEP programmes, achievements of students, faculty and staff and many other things. MCPR coordinates the production and distribution of the yearbook for graduates, a student-driven project, founded in 2020. At the beginning of each academic year, MCPR develops the marketing activities plan and obtains a list of necessary advertisement and informational materials approved by all units of KIMEP.

Appraisal:

KIMEP works with a quality assurance and development procedure, which systematically and continuously monitors and develops the quality of the programmes with respect to its contents, processes, and outcomes. It takes into account the evaluation results and the analysis on student workload, success rate, and graduate employment as well as the profile of the student population. Faculty members and students participate in the respective committees to plan and assess the quality assurance and development procedures. Responsibilities are clearly defined. The panel welcomes the clear division of responsibilities for quality assurance.

Evaluations by the students as well as the quality control by the faculty are carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with prescribed procedures; the outcomes are communicated to the students and faculty and provide input for the quality development process.

External evaluations by alumni and employers are carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with prescribed procedures; the outcomes are communicated and provide input for the quality development process.

The panel notes that faculty members discuss the evaluation results and underlines the importance of these discussions and of their conclusions.

The study programmes' contents, curricula and examination schemes have been described in detail, documented and published.

KIMEP regularly publishes current news and information – both quantitative and qualitative – about the study programmes. The panel appreciates that press relations and network communication, especially by means of social media, are actively maintained. In its annual report KIMEP University presents a summary of the activities of the academic year.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1	Evaluation by students			X		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty			X		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			X		
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year		X			

Quality profile

HEI: KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Bachelor programmes:

Bachelor of Jurisprudence

Bachelor of International Law

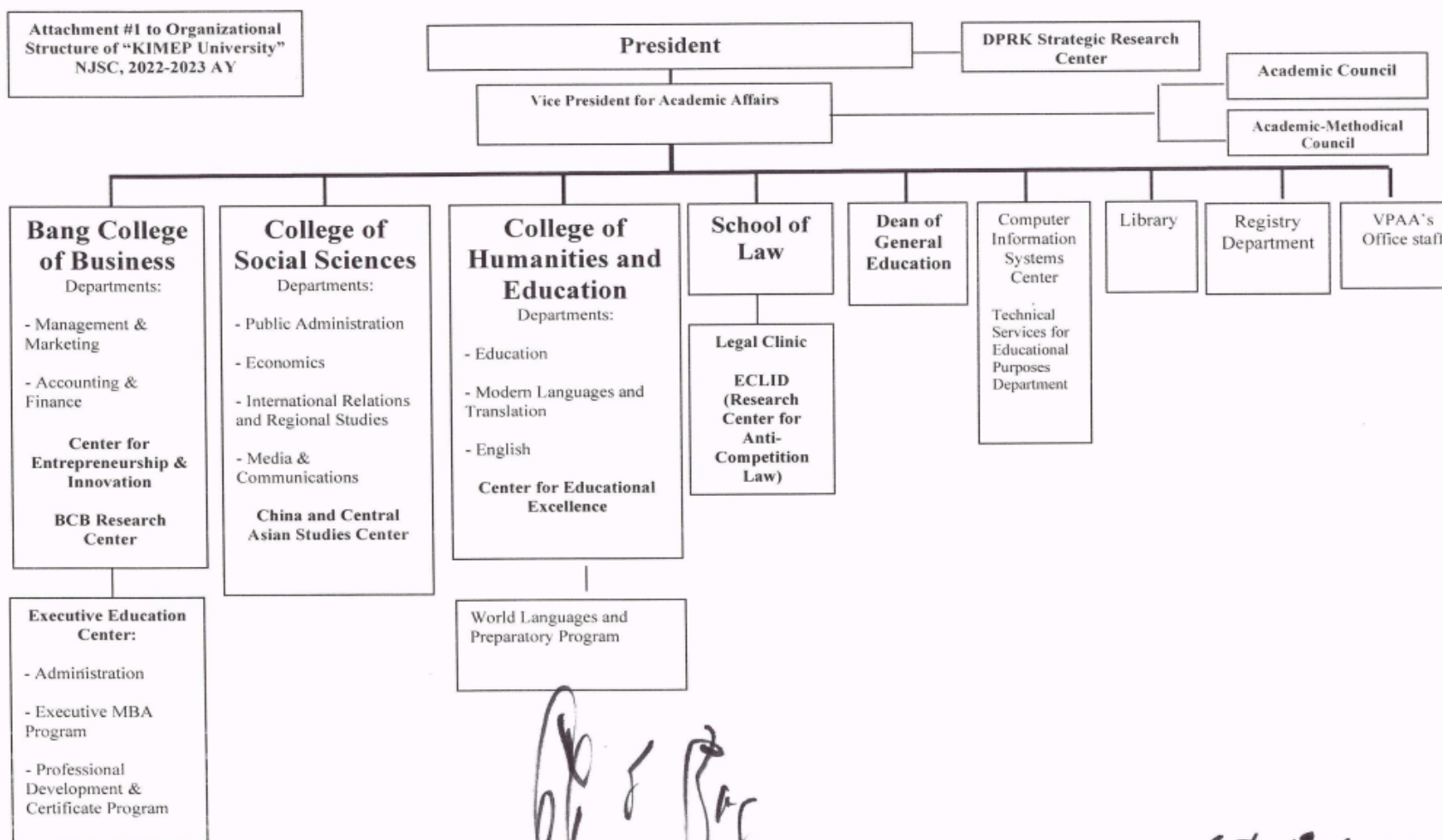
Master programme:

Master of International Law

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1	Objectives					
1.1*	Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
1.2*	International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability“)			X		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			X		
2	Admission					
2.1*	Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.2	Counselling for prospective students		X			
2.3*	Selection procedure (if relevant)			X		
2.4(*)	Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					X
2.5*	Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.6*	Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3	Contents, structure and didactical concept					
3.1	Contents					
3.1.1*	Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.2*	Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.3*	Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.4	Interdisciplinary thinking			X		
3.1.5	Ethical aspects			X		
3.1.6*	Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.7*	Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2	Structure					
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.2*	Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.3*	Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.4	Equality of opportunity			X		
3.3	Didactical concept					
3.3.1*	Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.2*	Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.3	Guest lecturers	X				
3.3.4	Lecturing tutors			X		
3.4	Internationality					
3.4.1*	International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.4.2	Internationality of the student body			X		
3.4.3	Internationality of faculty		X			
3.4.4	Foreign language contents		X			
3.5*	Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.	Academic environment and framework conditions					
4.1	Faculty					
4.1.1*	Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.2*	Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.3*	Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.4	Practical business experience of faculty		X			
4.1.5*	Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.6*	Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.7(*)	Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					X
4.2	Programme management					
4.2.1*	Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.2.2	Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty		X			
4.3	Cooperation and partnerships					

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3.1(*)	Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			X		
4.3.2(*)	Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)	X				
4.4	Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1*	Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.4.2*	Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.5	Additional services					
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service	X				
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			X		
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5	Quality assurance and documentation					
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1	Evaluation by students			X		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty			X		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			X		
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year		X			



Approved: Dr. Chan Young Bang, President of "KIMEP University" NJSC

Date: Oct. 13, 2022

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