



**European Association for  
Public Administration  
Accreditation**

## EAPAA Accreditation Committee Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report with respect to the request for accreditation of Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, Master in Public Policy programme and Master in Public Administration programme.

The EAPAA Accreditation Committee, at its meeting of 10 September 2019 in Belfast – UK, has evaluated these programmes against the EAPAA Accreditation Criteria.

### 1. Accreditation Criteria

<b>2. Applicability/Eligibility</b>	
2.1 Domain	Both programmes are eligible for applying for accreditation.
2.2 Geography	Kazakhstan is a member of the CIS, therefore the programme falls within the jurisdiction of EAPAA.
2.3 Programme longevity	Both programmes fit the criterion of normal accreditation.
2.4 Programme variants and locations	Both programmes are offered in one variant and at one location, the NU campus in Astana. The MPP programme is a 2-year programme with full-time students, and the MPA programme is a 18-month full-time programme taught on weekends (Fridays and Saturdays). Both programmes correspond to a full-time master level programme in terms of numbers of hours and ECTS.
4 Category of accreditation	The programmes fit the categories of accreditation they apply for.
<b>5. Standards</b>	
5.1 Domain of public administration	The programmes fall within the domain of public administration. The multidisciplinary nature of the programmes could be further strengthened.
5.2 Mission of the programme	The programmes fulfil the criteria of mission-based accreditation. However, the programmes might prepare themselves for the future development of the strategic partnership by creating different scenarios and measures to ensure the sustainability of the study programmes. Wider student and staff exchange would support the objectives of internationalisation of education and research.

5.3 Level	The intended learning outcomes of the programmes, as they are pursued in the practices of teaching and studying, correspond in general terms to those of Master's level studies defined by so-called Dublin Descriptors, but the programmes could clarify the formulation of outcomes to make the correspondence more transparent and more evident, especially considering the purposes of international marketing.
5.4 Practice and internships	In general, programmes are practically oriented and they comply with accreditation requirements. However, the relation to practice could be developed further by strengthening local networks and developing more teaching cases about the region.
5.5.1 Curriculum Content	
5.5.1.1 Core components	The programme curricula are well structured and follow the criteria of multidisciplinary, consistency with the mission, and provide students adequate preparation for further professional development (MPP), highest positions in public administration (MPA) or pursue academic career. The curricula are maintained to reflect needs of the students and developments in the public administration field. However, the multidisciplinary aspect of the curricula is limited, neglecting competences in the very relevant fields of law, ethics and e-governance (informatization of public administration). Some of the programme developments are not clearly aligned with the declared programme mission.
5.5.1.2 Other Components	Not applicable.
5.5.1.3 Structure and didactics of the programme	The didactic concepts of the programmes are coherent with the curriculum and learning objectives. Many interactive teaching methods facilitate the understanding of the utility of theoretical concepts in the context of practical, real-world policy analysis and management. The interactions between students of both programmes is very limited; check the recommendations for further details.
5.5.1.4 Intake	The programmes clearly define objectives and aims; each programme is designed according to the specific needs of, what seemed to be, correctly identified target groups of potential students. The intake of students from heterogeneous disciplines is a challenge that need constant monitoring. Currently, it is addressed by selection of appropriate topics of the admission essays and conducting a preparation, boot camp week for all the students.
5.5.2 Length	The length of both MPA and MPP curricula are in line with the objectives of the programmes and follow the accreditation criteria for master programmes in public administration.
5.5.3 Results	There is clear match between the qualification achieved by the graduates of MPA and MPP and the intended learning of the programme and its curriculum constituents. Both graduates and graduate employers show enthusiasm when referring to the competences and qualifications obtained during the study. Some courses' (e.g., micro- and macro-

	economics) content is not clearly aligned with the overall programmes themes of public policy analysis and public administration.
5.6 Quality Improvement and Innovation	
5.6.1 Programme accomplishment	The programmes meet the criteria of programme accomplishment, but the programmes could create mechanisms for more systematic utilisation alumni's experience.
5.6.2 Curriculum Development	The programmes meet the criteria of curriculum development, but the feedback mechanisms could be more fully developed.
5.6.3 External Reviews	The programmes meet the requirement of the utilization of the external reviews.
5.7 Student Assessment	The individual performance of students is properly assessed, each learning outcome being matched with appropriate assessment methods. The final exercises and theses are currently being assessed by faculty members only, this practice might be improved following the recommendations. Formal mechanisms for collecting student feedback on assessments have been sufficiently established.
5.8 Programme Jurisdiction	The programmes meet the criteria of programme jurisdiction. However, the management should consider the implications of the expected staff growth for the effectiveness of the current model.
5.9.1 Faculty nucleus	The faculty nucleus is more than adequate to run the programme effectively. However, long-term sustainability should remain a point of attention.
5.9.2 Faculty qualifications	Faculty members are well equipped for teaching the courses in the curriculums of the programmes. They have strong publication records and are active researchers in their respective fields.
5.9.3 Diversity: gender and minorities	The overall gender balance and the gender balance of faculty is appropriate.
5.10 Admission of Students	Admission policy is well aligned with the overall objectives of both programmes. The procedures are clearly explained and transparent, providing also clear guidance to tentative students for selecting among the two programmes (MPA and MPP). The overall gender distribution of the students of both programmes is well balanced.
5.11 Supportive Services and Facilities	The accommodation and material services are adequate and supportive in realising the programmes efficiently and effectively.
5.12 Student Services	Both programmes meet the criteria of sufficient student services.

5.13 Public Relations	In general, the public relations of the GSPP meet the requirements for accreditation. However, the site visit team sees opportunities for further development of public relations, especially in the region.
6. Additional Criteria	Not applicable.

## **2. Conclusion**

**Based on the above evaluation of the specific criteria, the EAPAA Accreditation Committee concludes that the programmes meet the criteria for accreditation sufficiently and can be accredited without restrictions.**