**VALIDATION and ACCREDITATION COLLABORATIONS**

**WORKING GROUP**

Validation and Accreditation Collaborations Working Group was established in September 2023 as a unit under the Quality Commission. Its main objectives are to support the quality efforts of Istanbul Beykent University and especially to strengthen its internationalization efforts.

For these purposes, studies have been initiated to support international accreditation, as well as international dual degree program agreements and other quality studies.

In determining the content and direction of these studies, the following institutions and documents were taken into consideration as a guide.

* UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
* YÖKAK (Higher Education Quality Board) criteria and Evaluation Report
* Criteria of international rating agencies such as Times Higher Education University Ranking Index, Round University Ranking Index
* Standards and expectations of international and national accreditation bodies
* Internal Evaluation Reports (Program self-assessment reports, Peer Review reports)
* Turkey's higher education goals emphasized by the Council of Higher Education
* Strategies and practices of successful universities worldwide

The activities carried out by the Validation and Accreditation Collaboration Working Group are listed below under the relevant headings.

**PROJECTS AND PEER REVIEWS**

In 2023-2024, the Validation and Accreditation Collaboration Working Group has carried out a project to identify the values that are prominent and adopted globally in the field of higher education in the 21st century and to integrate these values to the institution in order to improve quality. In this project, the following values have been identified as common and prioritized values internationally.

* Inclusivity, diversity and equality
* Education that serves UN Sustainable Development Goals
* Well-being of people
* Digital transformation
* Training that will facilitate the transition of students to business life and increase employment

Before starting to work on integrating these internationally prominent values to the university, several surveys were conducted to understand the extent to which these values have already existed in our university, in other words, to take a kind of x-ray of the institution in this direction and to determine the current situation.

1. First of all, an “Inclusive Curriculum Survey” was prepared to understand whether the curriculum serves these values. 1200 courses were surveyed. (December 29, 2023) Based on the results of the Inclusive Curriculum survey, areas for improvement were identified and an evaluation report was prepared with suggestions. (December 30, 2024)
2. A second survey was conducted to see to what extent the Teaching and Evaluation processes at our university include 21st Century values. Surveys were collected for 1182 courses (December 29, 2024) Teaching and Evaluation Surveys were analyzed and a report was prepared for improvement (March 29, 2024)
3. Surveys on the Physical Space and Digital Infrastructure of our university were prepared. (April 15, 2023) Physical Space and Digital Infrastructure survey was completed by 179 administrative staff. (April 30, 2024)
4. In order to see the relationship between the Policies, Processes and Regulations at our university and 21st Century values, a survey was conducted and a questionnaire was collected from 29 senior and mid-level managers. (May 30, 2024) According to the outputs of the survey report, aspects open to improvement were identified and suggestions were prepared. (May 30, 2024)
5. An informational meeting was held for all academic staff related to all the above-mentioned studies about the new values adopted by our University. (February 08, 2024)
6. An informative meeting was held for administrative staff about the new values adopted by the University (February 29, 2024). (February 29, 2024) Thus, it is aimed that the entire University will act in line with the same values.
7. A draft handbook was prepared for the studies on 21st century values (July 01, 2024)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cLjCuTiI35SNF28pESIyDuegKWuZy26/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-LjCuTiI35SNF28pESIyDuegKWuZy26/view?usp=sharing)

1. The consolidated improvement suggestions report on the results of four surveys conducted within the scope of adaptation to 21st century values was shared with the Board of Trustees. (July 01, 2024) Following the approval of the Board of Trustees, work was initiated.

**Updating the Syllabus (2023-2024)**

In order to integrate the improvement suggestions based on the results of the surveys to the courses at the university level and to realize this process in a systematic way that can be measured and controlled, it was aimed to make certain changes by filling in the titles to be opened on the syllabi.

**The new topics proposed to be opened in the syllabus are listed below:**

* Contribution of the course to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
* Adding valuable resources from all regions of the world to the course resources in line with the goal of an inclusive curriculum; including valuable sources published in other regions of the world in addition to Western sources in the curriculum, including different perspectives among the course resources
* Adding digital resources to the course resources and weekly syllabus
* Adding activities that support the course such as invited guest speakers from related sectors to increase employment, trips to related places and conferences/seminars to be attended to the weekly syllabus.

After determining the above-mentioned titles to be added to the syllabi, a detailed informative meeting was held for all academic staff throughout the University about the syllabus update studies. (July 31, 2024)

**Peer Review (2023-2024)**

As of September 15, 2024, all academic staff have completed entering information on the new titles in the syllabi. Thus, the Peer Review process was initiated to check all entries, and by December 2024, all checks were completed and the syllabi were successfully updated in the context of the prominent values of the 21st century.

**Updating the Syllabus (2024-2025)**

For the improvement studies targeted for the 2024-2025 academic year, the issues that national and international accreditation bodies attach the most importance to have been taken into consideration. It was aimed to strengthen our Faculties and Institute, which will apply for national and international accreditation this year, in this direction and thus support the successful completion of the accreditation processes.

In this context, first of all, the program learning outcomes for each program will be reviewed, the language will be simplified, repeated or overlapping outcomes will be eliminated, and the selection of verbs according to Bloom's Taxonomy will be reviewed.

The learning outcomes of each course will also be reviewed and it will be ensured that they include verbs according to Bloom's Taxonomy.

The relationship between the revised and renewed program outcomes and the learning outcomes of each course will be reestablished, the relationship between the learning outcomes of the course and the program learning outcomes will be clearly established and indicated in the relevant matrix. In this way, it will be shown that each course in the curriculum serves the program. Courses where this relationship cannot be established will be removed from the curriculum, and courses with a high level of relationship will be added to the curriculum.

These studies have been ongoing at our university for years. This year's study aims to carry out a full-scale review and improvement in these areas.

To serve as a beginning of this project, a Training Meeting was organized for the work targeted to be carried out. Academic staff was informed about how studies should be conducted, and training was given with examples in this direction. (January 30, 2025)

**Peer Review (2024-2025)**

**1. Plan** Our university has planned peer review processes within the scope of the 2024-2025 academic year in order to increase the quality of education and contribute to continuous improvement processes. The following steps were taken during the planning phase:

The scope of the peer review process was determined and criteria were established.

A questionnaire was administered to select volunteer peer reviewers and finally selected reviewers were identified (January 27, 2025):

**2. Implement:** The peer reviews conducted in the Fall semester were carried out in two phases:

*First Evaluation Report:* A report was prepared as a result of the evaluations made in the first phase (September 03, 2024).

*Final Evaluation Report:* The final evaluation report was prepared taking into account the corrections and improvements made after the initial evaluations. (September 15, 2024)

*Faculty Based Evaluation Results were extracted from the evaluation results and shared with Faculties.*

**3. Check: The** effectiveness of the evaluation process was measured and the data collected throughout the process was analyzed.

Work Calendar: The calendar for the peer review processes to be carried out in the spring semester was determined and put into practice (January 24, 2025)

**4. Take Measures:** The peer evaluation processes have made significant contributions to the improvement of education and training processes. The strengths and areas open to improvement identified in the evaluation reports have provided important data for making education processes more effective. In addition, through this process, best practices were identified through inter-faculty comparisons and concrete steps were taken to improve the quality of education. This process has paved the way for a more systematic approach in future peer reviews and has been an important guide to improving academic quality.

**INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION**

The well-known international accreditation institution ACQUIN has visited our university with a team consisting of 2 ACQUIN officials and 10 experts between 02-05 November 2024. The negotiations for the international accreditation of the Faculty of Communication’s 7 departments were successfully completed. (November 02-05, 2024)

The departments of the Faculty of Communication have been announced to be eligible for international accreditation by ACQUIN, these departments are listed below:

* Digital Game Design
* Visual Communication Design
* Public Relations and Advertising
* Media and Communication
* New Media (Turkish)
* New Media (English)
* Television Journalism and Programming

Our Faculty of Fine Arts has also been internationallt accredited by ACQUIN on November 28, 2024. The departments of the Faculty of Fine Arts that are entitled to international accreditation by ACQUIN are listed below:

* Gastronomy and Culinary Arts
* Graphic Design
* Communication and Design
* Acting
* Radio, Television and Cinema (Turkish)
* Radio, Television and Cinema (English)
* Textile and Fashion Design

**DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMS**

* A double diploma program agreement was signed with Cortland University, which is part of the SUNY (State University of New York) university network, in the departments of New Media and Cinema, Radio and Television. Information about dual diploma programs was posted on the website and shared with students (06 July 2024)

<https://if.beykent.edu.tr/bolumler/yeni-medya-ingilizce/cift-diploma>

<https://gsf.beykent.edu.tr/bolumler/radyo-televizyon-ve-sinema-ingilizce/cift-diploma>

* International Joint Diploma Program Directive has been prepared (July 22, 2024)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16gha3BBzBXQFuPcTisSNGNn_63C7ddAt/view?usp=sharing>

* Negotiations with SUNY Oswego representative Joshua Mckeown and SUNY Türkiye representative Büşra Cebeci has started for the International Relations (EN) department. (October 04, 2024)

**OTHER WORK**

* It is planned to create a ticket system that will make the complaint-evaluation-return processes visible. (January 15, 2025) The report prepared in this direction was submitted to the Board of Trustees.
* The text prepared within the scope of internationalization activities was delivered to the public relations unit to be used in promotional activities. (06 December 2024)

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

* Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with North Carolina University has been signed. (21.07.2023)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gwn4SoeNCEf7rlpylUcBjvsf6hpD7I1C/edit?usp=drive_web&ouid=102242555404673652558&rtpof=true>

* Our application for membership to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Turkey, whose Turkish pillar is undertaken by Boğaziçi University, has been accepted. (December 27, 2024) <https://unsdsn.bogazici.edu.tr/tr/uyeler>
* Representing our university, the Validation and Accreditation Working Group participated in the SDSN Turkey 10th Anniversary Event and Members Meeting held at Boğaziçi University on December 27, 2024.
* A report on the sustainability-related institutional structures of the member universities of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, of which we have been accepted as a member, has been prepared (January 30, 2025)
* International student education promotion meeting was organized at Taksim campus (January 16, 2025)

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

* The departments and programs for which we have completed the application process have been awarded the TQF logo. The application process for other departments is ongoing. (January 16, 2025)
* The revised version of the Academic Performance Directive has been submitted to the Senate (07 January 2025)
* Peer Review (2024-2025) has been planned and initiated.
* Our Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Law and the Institute of Graduate Studies are getting ready for international accreditation.

**Last updated on: 17.02.2025**