

SUMMARY

of the Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development expert's statement on the audit results of 031202 "Translation and Translation Theory", 031200 "Linguistics and Intercultural Communication" direction provided by Moscow State Open University

1. The mission of AQA is to support independently on a regular basis Russian public and non-public higher education institutions in the development of educational quality to meet the best national and international quality assurance practices and standards. The Agency contributes to the increase of quality awareness among higher education stakeholders and stimulates the competitiveness of Russian higher education institutions on the international scale. To this end, the Agency carries out audits of the academic performance of higher educational institutions.

2. The audit procedure is worked out by the AQA in accordance with the standards set up by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science of the Russian Federation (Rosobrnadzor).

3. The objectives of the AQA academic audit are:

- to contribute to the promotion of high quality in education;
- to ensure that students, employers and other interested parties can have readily access to easily understood, reliable and meaningful information about the extent to which the programs of study, awards and qualifications offered by the institution meet national expectations in respect of academic standards and quality;
- to ensure that if the quality of programs or the standards of awards are found not to be in compliance with the norms set, the Agency immediately forms recommendations to the HEI for ensuring rapid action to improve the programs and standards and supervises the improvement process;
- to secure accountability for the use of funds gathered from different sources and received by institutions.

4. To assess the quality of education and the quality of basic educational programs the AQA expert carries out the academic audit and checks if the objectives of the educational program provided by the HEI and the level of their implementation meet the educational aims set by the HEI.

5. To make a final statement on the quality of education the AQA expert defines the contribution of each educational activity characteristic leading to the realization of the program objectives set by the HEI and checks if the level of their implementation meets the educational aims set by the HEI.

6. When conducting the academic audit procedures, the Agency assesses:

- the compliance of the structure and content of specialist's training with the requirements of the competence model;
- teaching, instruction and diagnostics of students' competence levels;
- students' professional competences and their marketability;
- the formation of students' socio-personal competences;
- the compliance of educational resources with the modern requirements and the set educational objectives;
- staff quality assurance;
- educational quality control and assurance.

7. The contribution of each educational activity characteristic is rated on the following four-point scale:

- **“1” point** is given in case the contribution to the realization of educational objectives is insufficient and the aims of education are not reached; there are considerable drawbacks to be eliminated;
- **“2” points** are given in case the contribution to the realization of educational objectives is in general sufficient and allows the aims of education to be reached but the educational activity can be substantially improved;
- **“3” points** are given in case the contribution to the realization of educational objectives is sufficient and the aims of education are reached to a great extent; however there are opportunities for further improvement;
- **“4” points** are given in case the contribution to the realization of educational objectives is full and the aims of education are completely reached.

8. If the point profile suggested by the AQA expert has “2” points and higher, the quality of education provided by the HEI is approved.

9. On the basis of the data received as a result of the HEI audit and its internal documentation on quality assurance in the time period from July 4 – July 10, 2008 the AQA expert gave the following assessment to the educational activity characteristics provided on the “Translation and Translation Theory” program:

Point profile of educational activity characteristics		
Characteristic		Point
1.	The compliance of the structure and content of specialist's training with the requirements of the competence model	1
2.	Teaching, instruction and diagnostics of students' competence levels	1
3.	Students' professional competences and their marketability	1
4.	The formation of students' socio-personal competences	2
5.	The compliance of educational resources with the modern requirements and the set educational objectives	2
6.	Staff quality assurance	2
7.	Educational quality control and assurance	1

10. The profile contains “1” points which means that the educational activity at the HEI has considerable drawbacks on the “Translation and Translation Theory” program, due to this the quality of education provided in accordance with the program cannot be approved.

11. The AQA expert came to the conclusion that:

- the contribution of educational activity characteristics to the implementation of the “Translation and Translation Theory” program does not allow to reach the aims of education, the HEI educational activity connected with the program realization has considerable drawbacks that need elimination. Such characteristics as the content and structure of specialist's training, teaching, instruction and diagnostics of students' competence levels, evaluation of students' professional competences, educational quality control and assurance can be sufficiently improved.
- the internal HEI quality assurance system at the Linguistics and Intercultural Communication Department does not function properly and cannot guarantee the quality of education of the “Translation and Translation Theory” specialty graduates;
- due to the absence of the properly worked out and arranged basic educational program and a set of educational and methodological materials on the specialty, the Department and the Chair can hardly assure the quality of education;
- the Department and the Chair will not be able to maintain and improve the quality of education;
- the information published by the HEI on the educational quality of the “Translation and Translation Theory” is not to a full extend sufficient, precise, and true.

12. On the basis of the above mentioned statement on the audit results of 031202 “Translation and Translation Theory”, 031200 “Linguistics and Intercultural Communication” direction provided by Moscow State Open University the expert:

- **cannot confirm that the HEI provides the stated quality of higher education on the specialty;**
- **comes to the conclusion that the HEI educational activity provided in accordance with the “Translation and Translation Theory” program implementation has considerable drawbacks that require elimination;**
- **recommends the Advisory Council of the Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development not to issue an AQA certificate on the above mentioned specialty.**