Proposal for accreditation

Study Programme in Pharmacy

Ecole de Pharmacie Genève-Lausanne (EPGL)

OAQ Report

30 April 2012

University of Geneva

University of Lausanne

University of Neuchâtel
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1 Frame of reference, object and procedural steps

1.1 Frame of reference

The accreditation of study programmes leading to a Federal Diploma in Pharmacy is mandatory according to the Federal Law on Medical Professions of 23 June 2006 (MedBG, Art. 23 § 1). The Federal Law on Financial Aid to Universities of 8 October 2009 (UFG) and Art. 24 § 1 MedBG define the criteria that must be fulfilled for accreditation of study programmes. The legally defined educational objectives are of key importance (Art. 4 MedBG, Art. 6-10 MedBG).

The quality assessment is based upon Quality Standards that were developed by the Deans of the five Swiss Medical faculties, in cooperation with the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ) and the Federal Office for Public Health (FOPH). They were based on the internationally accepted “Basic Medical Education WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement” and authorised on 11 June 2003 by the Joint Commission of the Swiss Medical Schools (SMIFK). In 2007 and 2010 on behalf of the FOPH, the OAQ revised and adapted the quality standards to the MedBG and to the specificities of pharmacy in consultation with the three Swiss academic institutions responsible for the pharmaceutical education. Those Quality Standards comply with the international recommendations of the “Pharmacy Education Taskforce”.

This work resulted in the development of the quality standard set "Accreditation of Study Programmes in Pharmacy. Quality Standards”, dated April 2010, which comprises the educational objectives specified in Art. 4, 6, 7, 8 of the MedBG as well as the general and specific quality standards for study programmes outlined in the Accreditation Guidelines of the Swiss University Conference (SUC).

Between March 2010 and August 2012 the OAQ conducts the accreditation procedures of all the Bachelor and Master programmes in Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, Dental Medicine and Pharmacy.

These procedures foresee the assessment of the fulfilment of the accreditation criteria according to the MedBG as well as the fulfilment of the quality standards according to the SUC Accreditation Guidelines.

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1 Bundesgesetz über die universitären Medizinalberufe vom 23. Juni 2006 (MedBG), SR 811.11.
3 Accreditation of Study Programmes in Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences, Quality Standards, April 2010, Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA), Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), from now quoted as „Quality Standards“
4 The standards of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) can be downloaded on www.wfme.org
5 www.fip.org/pharmacy_education
7 Guidelines of the Swiss University Conference for Academic Accreditation in Switzerland (Accreditation Guidelines) of 28 June 2007, SR/RS 414.205.3.
The accreditation proposals to the two accrediting bodies, the SUC (UFG criteria) and the Swiss Accreditation Council (MedBG criteria) are each limited to the respective quality criteria. However, the accreditation decision according to UFG is a precondition for accreditation according to MedBG.

The conceptual planning of the procedures as well as all accompanying instruments were defined by the OAQ under the mandate of the FOPH and in cooperation with the SUC and the FOPH itself.

1.2 Object of the accreditation procedure

The object of the accreditation procedure is the study programme in Pharmacy (full cycle, including the BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences – BPharm – and the MSc in Pharmacy – MPharm) of the “École de Pharmacie Genève-Lausanne” (EPGL). The EPGL was created in 2003, after the transfer of the Section of Pharmacy of the University of Lausanne (UNIL) to the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Geneva (UNIGE). The operational governance and the strategic planning of the EPGL is assured by the University of Geneva, which offers the full study programme in Pharmacy, from the first year BPharm to the end of the MPharm.

The EPGL has developed a strong partnership with the Universities of Lausanne and Neuchâtel (UNINE), allowing the students enrolled in the BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences programme to follow the first year (BPharm-1) of their studies at either of these institutions. The terms of the collaboration between UNIGE, UNIL and UNINE were defined in a convention.

At the University of Lausanne, the School of Biology, which is part of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, is responsible for the first year of the BPharm. The majority of the students continue their studies at the University of Geneva, but they nevertheless have the possibility to continue their studies at the ETH Zurich or at the University of Basel.

At the University of Neuchâtel, the first year courses of the BPharm are provided by the Faculty of Science. The students attend some courses together with students of the BSc in Biology, and follow some additional courses specifically dedicated to the pharmaceutical sciences. As for the students from the University of Lausanne, they can continue their studies at the University of Geneva, but also at the ETH Zurich or at the University of Basel.

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8 Self-evaluation report prepared in view of the accreditation of the study programme in Pharmacy, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel, p. 4. Thereafter cited as Self-evaluation report.
9 Self-evaluation report, p.4.
10 Self-evaluation report, p.7.
In 2010, there were 355 students enrolled in the study programme in Geneva, and 60 students graduated. 16 professors and 8 “Maîtres d’enseignement et de recherche” teach the pharmacy students and supervise 105 doctoral students (PhD).

In Lausanne, the number of 1st year students is stable with 29 students enrolled in 2010. In Neuchâtel, 14 students were registered for the year 2010.

1.3 Procedural steps

- 07.02.2011 Opening of the procedure
- 23.06.2011 Approval of the experts’ panel by the Swiss Accreditation Council
- 18.06.2011 Approval of the experts’ panel by the Scientific Advisory Board of the OAQ
- 23.08.2011 Self-evaluation report of the EPGL
- 10-14.10.2011 On-site visit of the EPGL
- 14.11.2011 Preliminary experts’ report
- 28.11.2011 Position statement of the EPGL (including position according to Art. 27 § 2 of the SUC Guidelines)
- 12.12.2011 Final experts’ report
- 20.02.2012 Draft OAQ report with proposal on accreditation decision
- 27.03.2012 Statement of the Scientific Advisory Board of the OAQ
- 10.04.2012 Statement of the MEBEKO
- 30.04.2012 Final OAQ report with proposal on accreditation decision

The procedure was properly conducted under all formal aspects and legal requirements.

1.4 The panel of experts

- Prof. Dr. Claus-Michael LEHR, Peer Leader (Universität Saarland, Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Claude MAILLHOT, expert (Université de Montréal, Canada)
- Prof. Dr. Franz GERHARD, expert (University of Regensburg, Germany)
- Nicolas HUGUENIN, expert, Student MSc in Pharmaceutical sciences (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
1.5 Reference documents

- Self-evaluation report prepared in view of the accreditation of the Study Programme in Pharmacy, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel, 23 August 2011.
- Experts’ report, dated 12 December 2011
- Position statement of the EPGL (including position according to Art. 27 § 2 of the SUC Guidelines), dated 28 November 2011
- Statement of the MEBEKo, dated 10.04.2012

2 External Evaluation

2.1 The self-evaluation report

The EPGL delivered its self-evaluation report in due time. The report, written in English, contains 88 pages completed by 72 appendices and fully complies with the recommendations of the OAQ. Each quality area is treated in one full chapter, and is concluded by an analysis including the main strengths and the points to be improved. Each sub-area comprises the status at the three universities, first at the UNIGE, and then, if applicable, at the UNIL and at the UNINE, giving a full view of the study programme.

The members of the experts’ panel judged the report as being systematic and honest and was perceived as a highly helpful source to evaluate the study programme.\textsuperscript{12}

2.2 The on-site visit

The on-site visit took place at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in Geneva, from October 10\textsuperscript{th} to October 12\textsuperscript{th} 2011, starting with a briefing of the expert team by the OAQ representative in the evening. Besides the students and staff from Geneva, representatives of the Universities of Lausanne and Neuchâtel were present in some of the sessions, as well as invited representatives of other stakeholders. The on-site visit ended with a debriefing session, open for all interested participants in the accreditation process, during which the peer-leader exposed orally the main outcomes of the external assessment.

The experts could only visit the facilities of the Geneva campus.

All the time, the team encountered a friendly and highly supportive atmosphere. The programme was rather tight, but nevertheless provided sufficient opportunities to get a complete impression of the programme, its facilities and the people involved. The persons

\textsuperscript{12} Expert’s report, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Geneva-Lausanne (EPGL), Faculty of Science, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel, 12th December 2011, p.4. From now on cited as Experts’ report.
interviewed were competent and collaborative, always responding to questions in an honest and open manner.\textsuperscript{13}

2.3 Assessment of the fulfilment of the quality standards by the experts

Based on the individual examination areas, the experts have highlighted the following strengths of the unit under accreditation:

- Thanks to the excellent collaboration with Lausanne and Neuchâtel, the first-year students are well trained to successfully continue their studies in Geneva with a relatively small drop-out rate.
- Besides teaching, EPGL provides a highly dynamic research environment, which is particularly attractive also for foreign students to get a well structured formation at high level.
- The department enjoys active support by relevant stakeholders, such as e.g. PharmaSuisse.
- The expert panel was impressed to see „enseignement coordonné“ as an example for interdisciplinary teaching and learning in clinical and practical pharmacy.
- A well-developed drug discovery, drug development and medicines and diseases module integrates different scientific disciplines, reflecting the entire value chain.
- Security measures and programs are well settled and convincingly implemented.
- The intermediate staff seems to be motivated and satisfied with the career perspectives.
- An excellent relation between teachers and students at all levels could be observed.
- There is adequate staffing with committed administrative personal.
- No gender or equal opportunity problems were observed. Recruiting policy and procedure for academic staff are transparent and well implemented.

As for the weaknesses, the expert panel has underlined the following:

- Programme evaluation activities are taking place but it appears necessary to organize all these activities in a formal quality assurance system.
- A mission statement with clearly formulated objectives was not immediately visible for the experts.

\textsuperscript{13} Experts' report, p.5.
The experts were surprised by the low mobility of students to leave the region or to go abroad in spite of provided financial support by national and European programs. Outgoing mobility should be further promoted and encouraged.

The time frame (14 weeks) currently allowed for master thesis is ambitiously short. It should be prolonged to be in line with (inter)national standards.

The education in patient-oriented aspects of pharmacy seems suffering from limited resources.

The participation of students and intermediate staff in different committees is wished, but not obvious at all levels.

There is a lack of incentives for well trained „pharmaciens formateurs“ to engage in internships outside Geneva.

Opportunities for transdisciplinary interactions with other health professions (e.g. medicine, nursing), especially during the internships, are poorly developed.

The experts have identified the following threats:

- Students might be not sufficiently exposed to the international dimension of their field of science and profession.
- Insufficient compatibility with curricula at other universities and recognition of externally taken courses and exams may lead to a loss of international visibility and reputation.
- The available resources in terms of space and budget may be not sufficient to cope with the increasing demand of well-trained pharmacists in Switzerland.

and the following opportunities for the study programme offered by the EPGL:

- The collaboration between Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel (“3 campus situation”) should allow to further increasing the admission of students in the first year and to make a stronger selection of good students.
- Financial Support from PharmaSuisse may allow developing a unique profile with a particular strength in patient-oriented pharmacy.
- The very well developed collaboration with external stakeholders (e.g. hospitals and industry) may become a role model in Europe.

In their report, the experts have indicated various recommendations for the quality improvement of the study programme and for its further development. Additionally they have formulated three conditions for accreditation with regard to the following sub-areas:

- Sub-area 1.1 Mission and Objectives (standards 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3)
CONDITION 1: Formulate the mission statement and make it publicly visible, also consulting stakeholders and consistent with the strategic plan and research objectives.
- Sub-area 3.4 Student Representation (standard 3.4.1)

CONDITION 2: Representation of students must be formally integrated in the curriculum committee (“commission d’enseignement”).
- Sub-area 7.1 Study Programme Evaluation (standards 7.1.1, 7.1.2)

CONDITION 3: The School of pharmacy must implement a formal programme evaluation system.
- Sub-area 9.1: Continuous Renewal / Quality Assurance (standard 9.1.1)

CONDITION 3 applies.

As a conclusion, the experts recommend the accreditation of the Study programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL (including 1st year at the Universities of Lausanne and Neuchâtel) with 3 conditions to be reviewed within 1 year after accreditation decision.

2.4 Compliance with the legal requirements

The expert panel concludes that the curriculum as implemented at the EPGL complies with the legal requirements foreseen by Art. 24 MedBG. They confirm that the students will reach the goals and qualifications for a later career as academically trained health professionals, and to participate in subsequent continuous education programmes.

2.5 Position statement of the unit under accreditation on the experts’ report

The EPGL accepts the experts’ report and confirms that the comments found in the report were of positive and constructive nature. The EPGL has formulated factual corrections to the experts’ report, which have mostly been integrated into the final version of the experts’ report.

The EPGL has taken note of the conditions to be fulfilled for full accreditation, which already had been identified as problematic areas in the self-evaluation report. It also considers the recommendations to be very constructive and confirms that the majority of them will be implemented at medium term.14

2.6 Consultation of the OAQ Scientific Advisory Board

The OAQ sent the self-evaluation report, the expert report, the comments of the EPGL and the OAQ’s draft report to its Scientific Advisory Board on February 21, 2012 for consultation.

14 Response of the EPGL to the Report of the Experts mandated with the Accreditation of the Study Program in Pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy Geneva-Lausanne, 28th November 2011, p.1. From now on cited as „Response of the EPGL“.
On 27 March 2012 the OAQ Scientific Advisory Board confirmed that the procedure was properly conducted and supports the programme accreditation for a period of 7 years.

2.7 Consultation of the MEBEKO

The OAQ sent the self-evaluation report, the experts' report, the comments of the EPGL and the OAQ's draft report to the MEBEKO on February 21, 2012 for the first consultation, according to Art. 27 § 5 MedBG. In its position statement dated 10 April 2012 the MEBEKO confirms that the procedure was properly conducted under all formal aspects and supports the conclusions reached by the experts.

2.8 Position statement of the “Ecole de Pharmacie Genève-Lausanne” according to Art. 27 § 2 of the SUC Accreditation Guidelines

The EPGL stated in its response from 28 November 2011, that the three conditions will satisfactorily be met by implementing the following measures. For condition 1, the visibility of the EPGL’s missions will be increased. These missions have been detailed in the Strategic Plan 2011-2014, which was accepted by all academic institutions related to EPGL.

For condition 2, the representation of students in the Study Commission (commission d'enseignement) of EPGL will be realized by the participation of a student at the Bachelor’s level, and one at the Master’s level. These students will be selected by the student body.

For condition 3, a formal evaluation process will be established according to the systematic evaluation procedure of study programs established at UNIGE in late 2009.

The OAQ acknowledges the measures to be taken by the EPGL and believes that they will allow the EPGL to fulfil the conditions made by the experts within a time-span of 1 year.

3 Conclusion of the OAQ

In order to comply with the accreditation criteria, not every single quality standard needs to be completely fulfilled. The recommendation for accreditation by the experts and the accreditation agency is the result of a global judgement taking into account evidences at the level of sub-areas of examination.

Based on the self-evaluation report, the experts' report, the comments of the EPGL on the expert's report, the statement of the MEBEKO and of the Scientific Advisory Board, the OAQ concludes that the Study Programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL (University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel) fulfills to a large extent the Quality Standards of the FOPH for accreditation. It supports the accreditation of the programme for a

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15 Response of the SPS, p.1.
period of 7 years. The OAQ generally agrees with the conditions proposed in the experts’ report, taking into account the following:

– the positioning of the EPGL should be part of the mission statement of the University of Geneva and oriented as well on the mission of the faculty. The first condition should therefore be reformulated as follows:

Coherently with the strategic plan and research objectives and in consultation with its stakeholders, the EPGL’s mission must be oriented on the mission of the University of Geneva and of the faculty and be publicly visible.

This condition addresses both the UFG and the MedBG criteria for accreditation.

– The second condition should be maintained:

The representation of students must be formally integrated in the curriculum committee (“commission d’enseignement”).

This condition addresses exclusively the UFG criteria for accreditation.

– The third condition should be maintained:

The School of pharmacy must implement a formal programme evaluation system

This condition addresses both the UFG and the MedBG criteria for accreditation.

The recommendations formulated in the expert report are intended by the experts to contribute to the development of the quality of the study programme. The OAQ agrees with the recommendations of the experts.

3.1 OAQ’s proposal for accreditation according to UFG to the attention of the SUC

Concluding that the Study Programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL (University of Geneva, University of Lausanne and University of Neuchâtel) fulfils to a large extent the accreditation standards pursuant to art. 10 of the Accreditation Guidelines, the OAQ thus recommends to the attention of the Swiss University Conference:

Accreditation of the Study Programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL of the University of Geneva, the University of Lausanne and the University of Neuchâtel for a period of 7 years, with the following 3 conditions to be reviewed within a time-span of 1 year:

– Coherently with the strategic plan and research objectives and in consultation with its stakeholders, the EPGL’s mission must be oriented on the mission of the University of Geneva and of the faculty and be publicly visible.
The representation of students must be formally integrated in the curriculum committee ("commission d’enseignement").

The School of pharmacy must implement a formal programme evaluation system.

3.2 OAQ’s proposal for accreditation according to MedBG to the attention of the Swiss Accreditation Council

Concluding that the Study Programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL (University of Geneva, University of Lausanne and University of Neuchâtel) fulfils to a large extent the objectives and accreditation criteria pursuant to Art. 4, 6, 7, 9 and 24 of the MedBG, the OAQ thus recommends to the attention of the Swiss Accreditation Council:

Accreditation of the Study Programme in Pharmacy of the EPGL of the University of Geneva, the University of Lausanne and the University of Neuchâtel for a period of 7 years with the following 2 conditions to be reviewed within a time-span of 1 year:

- Coherently with the strategic plan and research objectives and in consultation with its stakeholders, the EPGL’s mission must be oriented on the mission of the University of Geneva and of the faculty and be publicly visible.
- The School of pharmacy must implement a formal programme evaluation system.

3.1 Antrag des OAQ auf Akkreditierung gemäss UFG an die SUK

Das OAQ kommt zum Schluss, dass der Studiengang in Pharmazie von der EPGL (Universität Genf, Universität Lausanne und Universität Neuenburg) die Akkreditierungsstandards gemäss Art. 10 der SUK-Richtlinien in grossem Ausmass erfüllt.

Daher beantragt das OAQ die Akkreditierung des Studiengangs in Pharmazie von der EPGL (Universität Genf, Universität Lausanne und Universität Neuenburg) für 7 Jahre, mit 3 Auflagen zu überprüfen innerhalb 1 Jahr nach Rechtskraft des Akkreditierungsentscscheid:

- Im Einklang mit der strategischen Planung und den Forschungszielen und nach Konsultierung der Interessenvertreter, muss das Leitbild der EPGL auf das Leitbild der Universität Genf und der Fakultät ausgerichtet, und öffentlich zugänglich gemacht werden.
- Die Vertretung der Studierenden in der Studienkommission muss geregelt werden.
- Die EPGL muss ein formelles Verfahren der Programmevaluation einführen.

3.2 Antrag des OAQ auf Akkreditierung gemäss MedBG an den Schweizerischen Akkreditierungsrat

Das OAQ kommt zum Schluss, dass der Studiengang in Pharmazie von der EPGL (Universität Genf, Universität Lausanne und Universität Neuenburg) die Ziele und Akkreditierungskriterien gemäss Art. 4, 6, 7, 9 und 24 MedBG in grossem Ausmass erfüllt.
Daher beantragt das OAQ die Akkreditierung des Studiengangs in Pharmazie von der EPGL (Universität Genf, Universität Lausanne und Universität Neuenburg) für 7 Jahre mit 2 Auflagen zu überprüfen innerhalb 1 Jahr nach Rechtskraft des Akkreditierungsentseheds:

- Im Einklang mit der strategischen Planung und den Forschungszielen und nach Konsultierung der Interessenvertreter, muss das Leitbild der EPGL auf das Leitbild der Universität Genf und der Fakultät ausgerichtet, und öffentlich zugänglich gemacht werden.
- Die EPGL muss ein formelles Verfahren der Programmevaluation einführen.

3.1 Proposition de l’OAQ relative à l’accréditation selon la LAU adressée à la CUS

L’OAQ certifie que la filière d’études en Pharmacie de l’EPGL (Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne et Université de Neuchâtel) satisfait dans une large mesure aux standards d’accréditation conformément à l’art. 10 des directives de la CUS et propose l’accréditation de la filière d’études en Pharmacie de l’EPGL (Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne et Université de Neuchâtel) pour 7 ans, avec les 3 conditions suivantes, à remplir dans un délai de 1 an:

- De manière cohérente avec le plan stratégique et les objectifs de recherche, en consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes, la mission de l’EPGL doit s’orienter à la mission de l’Université de Genève ainsi qu’à celle de la faculté et avoir une visibilité publique.
- Une représentation des étudiants doit être formellement intégrée dans la Commission d’Enseignement.
- L’EPGL doit mettre en œuvre un système d’évaluation formel de la filière.

3.2 Proposition de l’OAQ relative à l’accréditation selon la LPMed adressée au Conseil suisse d’accréditation

L’OAQ certifie que la filière d’études en Pharmacie de l’EPGL (Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne et Université de Neuchâtel) satisfait dans une large mesure aux objectifs et critères d’accréditation conformément aux Art. 4, 6, 7, 9 et 24 de la LPMéd et propose l’accréditation de la filière d’études en Pharmacie de l’EPGL (Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne et Université de Neuchâtel) pour 7 ans, avec les 2 conditions suivantes, à remplir dans un délai de 1 an:

- De manière cohérente avec le plan stratégique et les objectifs de recherche, en consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes, la mission de l’EPGL doit s’orienter à la mission de l’Université de Genève ainsi qu’à celle de la faculté et avoir une visibilité publique.
- L’EPGL doit mettre en œuvre un système d’évaluation formel de la filière.
4 List of Abbreviations

BPharm  Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences
BSc    Bachelor of Science
CRUS   Rectors’ Conference of the Swiss Universities
CUS / SUK / SUC  Conférence universitaire suisse / Schweizerische Universitätskonferenz / Swiss University Conference
FOPH   Federal Office of Public Health
LAU / UFG  Loi fédérale sur l’aide aux universités et la coopération dans le domaine des hautes écoles / Bundesgesetz vom 8. Oktober 1999 über die Förderung der Universitäten und über die Zusammenarbeit im Hochschulbereich
LPMéd / MedBG  Loi fédérale du 23 juin 2006 sur les professions médicales universitaires / Bundesgesetz vom 23. Juni 2006 über die universitären Medizinalberufe
MEBEKO  Commission fédérale des professions médicales / Medizinalberufekommission
MPharm  Master of Science in Pharmacy
MSc    Master of Science
OAQ    Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities
SMIFK-CIMS  Commission of the Swiss Medical Schools
SPS / EPGL  School of Pharmaceutical Sciences / Ecole de Pharmacie Genève-Lausanne
UNIGE   University of Geneva
UNIL    University of Lausanne
UNINE   University of Neuchâtel
WFME   World Federation for Medical Education