European Association for
Public Administration Accreditation

EAPAA Accreditation Committee Summary Evaluation 2026-2032

PhD-programme in Public Policy, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University – Astana, Kazakhstan.

Summary evaluation with respect to the request for accreditation of the PhD-programme in Public Policy, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University – Astana, Kazakhstan.

In consideration of the Self-Evaluation Report of the above programme, the Site Visit Report of 29 July 2026 of the EAPAA Site Visit Team for this programme, and the response of the programme to the draft of the Site Visit Report, the EAPAA Accreditation Committee, at its online meeting of 23 September 2026, has evaluated this programme against the EAPAA Standards (September 2023).

Criteria	Summary evaluation
Mission, objectives and competencies	The programme has a clear doctoral mission, focused on developing independent researchers capable of contributing to evidence-informed policymaking and public policy scholarship. Its objectives are well-aligned with both regional needs and international academic standards.
Entry into the programme	The admissions procedures are selective, transparent and appropriate for doctoral-level study. Further support during the transition into doctoral research could help strengthen student preparedness and progression.
Structure of the curriculum	The curriculum provides a coherent and well-structured progression from coursework to independent dissertation research. Strong methodological preparation is a notable strength, although opportunities for earlier research independence could be explored.
Content of the curriculum	Curriculum content is rigorous, policy-relevant and supported by faculty expertise. The programme successfully combines advanced methodological training with substantive public policy and public administration knowledge.
Didactic approach	The didactic approach is well-aligned with the programme's objectives. It combines structured supervision, milestone monitoring and continuous feedback. The programme provides a supportive framework for doctoral development while encouraging increasing research autonomy.

Student Assessment	The assessment methods are comprehensive and appropriate for doctoral education, covering coursework, research progression, dissertation development, and final examination. The assessment framework provides clear mechanisms for monitoring academic progress and achievement of doctoral competencies.
Preparation for the labour market	The programme prepares graduates for careers in academia, research, government and international organisations. Teaching assistantships, research projects, and policy engagement opportunities contribute positively to professional development.
Results	The programme has produced graduates who contribute to academia, research and public policy practice. While graduate outcomes are positive, continued attention to student progression, completion rates and attrition patterns remains important.
Quality monitoring and improvement	Quality assurance processes are comprehensive, systematic and supported by regular monitoring and stakeholder involvement. The programme demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to feedback, although the role of doctoral students in the quality cycle and the communication of actions taken in response to student feedback could be made more visible.
Faculty	Faculty quality is a major strength of the programme. Academic staff are highly qualified, research active, internationally diverse, and possess expertise that strongly supports doctoral education and supervision.
Diversity	The programme benefits from a diverse and international academic environment among both faculty and students. Continued efforts to strengthen faculty gender balance and long-term local capacity are encouraged.
Responsibility and autonomy	Governance structures are clear and responsibilities are well-defined. The programme leadership has meaningful influence over academic matters. The governance framework provides an appropriate balance between institutional oversight and programme autonomy.
Supportive services and facilities	Students benefit from excellent facilities, library resources, technological infrastructure and support services. The broader university environment provides a strong foundation for doctoral learning and research.
Research basis	The programme is supported by a strong and active research environment with research-active faculty, funded projects, and policy-relevant scholarship. The curriculum and supervision arrangements are firmly grounded in current research and academic expertise.
Internationalisation	Internationalisation is a clear strength of the programme, reflected in its international faculty, English-language environment, global partnerships and international academic culture. Further evidence of student mobility and international scholarly engagement would strengthen an already strong profile.