

## **Quality assurance evaluation at BUT**

Quality assurance and internal quality evaluation is based on the definition of the BUT mission in The Statute of BUT, is based on the focus, medium-term orientation and intentions of the BUT and follows the BUT development concept formulated in its Strategic Plan of Educational and Scientific, Research, Development, Innovation, Artistic or Other Creative Activities of the BUT.

The traditional value from which BUT derives the principles of its activities is academic freedom. This value is linked in particular to institutional autonomy, political independence, freedom of thought, the right to present and defend opinions and democracy. Academic responsibility is also an integral part of the BUT value system, which is based on the principles of professionalism and objectivity, critical thinking, a sense of truth and justice, an emphasis on economic benefit, sustainability, return, security and stability, an emphasis on social benefit and applicability, and an emphasis on respect for the basic principles of rational management.

Quality is understood as the fulfilment or improvement of the standards of the activities of the BUT in accordance with its mission and its objectives, which are described in the Strategic Plan of the BUT, the plans for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for each year, The Statute of BUT, the internal regulations and internal standards of BUT and the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (or other strategic and conceptual materials of the Government).

Quality assurance means the systematic care for the quality of educational, creative and related activities, as well as their maintenance and improvement. Quality evaluation means verification of the degree of fulfilment of the mission and objectives of the BUT and compliance with the standards of the BUT activities. Furthermore, quality assurance internal quality evaluation are based on standards and procedures for quality assurance in the higher education sector in the Czech Republic and abroad.

### **Quality assurance internal evaluation system**

The system of quality assurance and internal evaluation is defined by the internal regulation Rules of the system of quality assurance of educational, creative and related activities and internal evaluation of the quality of educational, creative and related activities of the BUT (hereinafter referred to as "Rules of the BUT Quality Assurance System") and other related standards.

The guarantor of the quality assurance and evaluation system of Brno University of Technology is the Internal Evaluation Board, which is composed of distinguished academic staff of Brno University of Technology, experts in quality management of universities and a student representative. In particular, the Internal Evaluation Board approves methodological materials related to quality assurance and internal evaluation, submits designs for the development of the system of quality assurance and internal evaluation of the BUT to the BUT authorities for their opinion, manages the course of the internal evaluation of the BUT quality, verifies whether the BUT requirements for the quality of the educational, creative and related activities of the BUT are met and carries out their evaluation. In particular, the Internal Evaluation Board manages the area of accreditation of programmes and verifies the fulfilment of standards in educational activities. Its activities are governed by the Higher Education Act, the Statute of BUT, the Rules of Procedure of the Internal Evaluation Board and internal and of BUT. Evaluation of the quality development of creative activities

including the habilitation procedure and the procedure for appointment as a professor falls within the competence of the Scientific Board of the BUT.

At the level of the BUT management, the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the BUT Quality Assurance System Rules, who cooperates with other substantively relevant departments of the Rector's Office, especially the Quality Department, as well as with Faculties and other BUT units.

The system of quality assurance and internal evaluation of the BUT is designed in such a way that it is intertwined with all activities of the BUT and is formed by all organizational units of the University, i.e. all employees of the University. The basic moral rules of conduct of BUT employees are regulated by the BUT Code of Conduct.

### **Quality assurance internal evaluation of educational activities**

The system of quality assurance and internal evaluation in educational activities is based on the Rules of the Quality Assurance System of the BUT a system of internal standards governing procedures in the field of accreditation of programmes and their evaluation. The basic standard for the preparation of accreditation is the internal regulation Rules of Programmes Implemented, supplemented by the university-wide guidelines Standards of the BUT Study Programmes and the Rules for Discussion of Design Proposals for Accreditation and Study Programmes in the Internal Evaluation Board of the BUT. The principles supporting the implementation, evaluation and development of study programmes are regulated by the Study and Examination Rules of BUT and by the Guidelines Organisation and Course of Evaluation of Study Programmes and Rules for Evaluation of Educational Activities by Students, Graduates/ Alumnus/ Alumni of BUT and Employers.

At the level of faculties and units, the above-mentioned internal ordinances of the BUT are supplemented by faculty regulations taking into account the specifics of the implementation of study programmes and regulating the admission procedure to study programmes.

The guarantor of a programme has an important role in the quality assurance of study programmes. The guarantor is responsible for the quality and proper implementation of the programme he or she guarantees. His/her duties are regulated by the Rules of Programmes Implemented. The advisory body of the study programme guarantor is the study programme council (in the case of a doctoral study programme, the subject council), whose task is, in particular, to supervise the implementation of study programmes, to continuously monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching in the study programme and to discuss the study programme development plan. Other actors in the evaluation of the quality of teaching are students of the relevant programme, graduates/ Alumnus/ Alumni and employers, who provide supporting the development of study programmes and educational activities at the BUT through their statements. An integral part of any evaluation of the quality of programmes are measures to correct the identified shortcomings.

### **Quality assurance internal evaluation of creative activities**

BUT is a technician-oriented university emphasizing the creative field cooperation with the industrial and application sphere. The creative activities of the BUT are carried out in accordance with the National Policy of Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic.

quality in creative activities is to strengthen the position of the BUT in the Czech Republic and Europe. This system is created and modified in accordance with the valid methodology of evaluation of research, development and innovation results of the Czech Republic.

The main document in the framework of quality assurance and management of creative activities at the BUT is the Strategic Plan of Educational and Scientific, Research, Development, Innovation, Artistic or Other Creative Activities of the BUT, supplemented by a set of measures supporting the development of creative activities. Since 2008, the BUT has had an incentive system for improving performance and quality in research and development, which supports prestigious publications. Competitions supporting creative activity are regularly organized at the BUT, namely TOP 10 Most Productive Authors, Competition for the Most Productive Workers and Students of Doctoral Study Programme, supporting the creation of technological results with high commercial potential. The internal grant competition for students of Doctoral Study Programmes is also designed to support creative activity.

Quality assessment in the area of creative activity is carried out mainly at the level of Faculties and other workplaces and is linked to the evaluation of research teams, academic and research staff and students of Doctoral Study Programmes (doctoral). Due to the change in the national methodology for the evaluation of research, development and innovation, the evaluation system will have to be modified.

### **Quality assurance internal evaluation of related activities**

Ensuring the quality of educational and creative activities is critical to the mission of the BUT; however, it cannot be separated from the quality of other related activities aimed at supporting education and creative activities. These include activities in the area of university management and administration, information systems, information and consultancy services, support for project activities, protection and transfer of technology, library services, publishing and editorial activities, Halls of Residence and Dining Services (Student and Employee), creation of facilities for sports and leisure activities of students and employees. Evaluation of the quality of these activities is carried out at the BUT mainly in the form of feedback from users of the respective services, or in the form of surveys. The evaluation of these activities is also included in the annual reports on the activities and management of the BUT.

### **External quality evaluation**

The internal evaluation of the quality of educational, creative and related activities of the BUT is complemented by external evaluation. First of all, it is the evaluation by the National Accreditation Office for Higher Education, which has this right according to the Higher Education Act. For the BUT, this evaluation is a confirmation of the quality of the implemented activities and a theme for their development.

The BUT decided to undergo an international evaluation by the European University Association (EUA) as part of the Institutional Evaluation Programme in 2004 and then a re-evaluation in 2010/2011. In 2017, a new EUA evaluation was initiated and in 2018 a new evaluation was conducted, which focused on the new situation created by the amendment to the Higher Education Act. The BUT sees this evaluation as a further step towards harmonising Czech technical education with universities in other EU countries and ensuring the strategic position of the BUT among European universities.