HIGHER EDUCATION IN ESTONIA
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IN ESTONIA
The current publication is the fourth edition of *Higher Education in Estonia*. The first edition was compiled in collaboration with the Estonian Ministry of Education in 1998, the second and the third (revised) edition appeared in 2001 and 2004 respectively.

This edition has been considerably revised and updated to reflect the many changes that have taken place in the course of higher education reforms in general, and in the systems of higher education cycles and qualifications in particular, including the changes in the quality assessment procedures.

The publication is an information tool for all those concerned with higher education in its international context. It contains information about the Estonian higher education system and the higher education institutions, meant primarily for use by credential evaluation and recognition bodies, such as recognition information centres, higher education institutions and employers.

This information is necessary for a better understanding of Estonian qualifications and for their fair recognition in foreign countries. Taking into account the fact that credential evaluators and competent recognition authorities in other countries will come across qualifications of the former systems, this book describes not only the current higher education system and the corresponding qualifications, but also the qualifications of the former systems beginning with the Soviet period.

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Compilers
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BRIEF HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The development of education in Estonia has been influenced by many different countries which have ruled over its territory.

With the conquest of the Estonian territory by German, Swedish and Danish feudal landlords the 13th century may be regarded as the starting point of school education in Estonia. The first schools were established in the larger towns.

The development of the Estonian national school was due to the decline of feudalism. In the second quarter of the 16th century the ideas of humanism reached Estonia from Germany.

In 1617 during the Swedish-Polish war the territory of Estonia was incorporated into Sweden and Estonia remained under the rule of the Swedish king Gustav Adolf II. This era was favourable for the development of education. In 1632 the Tartu Grammar School was reorganised and was given the name *Academia Gustaviana*. This is regarded as the establishment of the first university in Estonia - the University of Tartu. In the 17th century there were only students of Swedish and Finnish origin at this institution. As a rule, there were no Estonian students studying there. *Academia Gustaviana* operated until 1656 when the area was occupied by Russian troops; it again operated as the Academia Gustaviana-Carolina from 1690 to 1710 until it was forced to close by the Great Northern War.

An especially important event for the development of education in Estonia was the re-opening of the University of Tartu in 1802. Many outstanding scholars received their education there, among them were the first native Estonians.

It was necessary for the Republic of Estonia (1918 – 1940) to have a well-educated population. This need led to the opening of gymnasiums and
seminaries, as well as to the extension of higher education institutions. In 1919, instruction in the Estonian language was introduced at the University of Tartu. It has remained the language of instruction since then.

During that period new higher education institutions were established in Estonia: Special Technical Courses (Tallinn University of Technology) in 1918, Tallinn Higher Music School (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre) in 1919, and Tallinn Teacher Training Seminary (Tallinn University) in 1919.

After the occupation of Estonia by the Soviet Union in 1940, the introduction of the Soviet education system began. During that period there were very limited possibilities for developing an independent education policy. Despite the pressure to adopt the over-politicised Soviet educational structure and study programmes, the Estonian educational system maintained instruction in the Estonian language.

Until the end of the 1980s the educational system was under the control of the Soviet Union. Political renaissance started at the end of the 1980s. Since 1988 the structure of the administration of education in Estonia has repeatedly been reorganised. The Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and Post-Secondary Technical Education and the Vocational Education Committee were combined into one Educational Committee. In 1989 the Education Committee was reorganised to create a new Ministry of Education and Research, to administer general, vocational and higher education. The next reorganisation (in 1993) led to the establishment of the Ministry of Culture and Education whose responsibility was the overall education policy, higher education and science, while the National School Board (Riigi Kooliamet) was responsible for general and vocational education. In 1996, the Ministry of Culture and Education and Riigi Kooliamet were reorganised and a separate Ministry of Education and Research was re-established.

Since 1991 Estonia has undertaken several extensive reforms in the field of higher education. Those reforms took into account the aim of integrating into the European common space of education and research. Since 2000 the changes in the higher education area have followed the
principles of the Bologna process. In the years 2001-2003, amendments were made to all substantial legislation governing higher education, such as the Universities Act, the Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act and the framework document the Standard of Higher Education. The changes which have taken place in Estonia in the course of the Bologna process towards the European Higher Education Area were primarily directed towards the new qualification structure and towards supporting mobility.
SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Secondary Education

Estonian pre-higher education is divided into basic education (põhi-haridus) (Grades 1-9) and general/vocational secondary education (üld/kutsekeskharidus) (Grades 10-12). Compulsory secondary education was replaced by compulsory nine-year basic education following the Republic of Estonia Education Act in 1992. A child becomes of compulsory school age when he or she reaches the age of seven by 1 October of the current school year. A person ceases to be of compulsory school age when he or she reaches the age of 17 or when he or she has completed basic education.

Basic Schools and Secondary Schools Act adopted in September 1993, establishes gümnaasium (Grades 10-12) as the main structural unit of secondary education, replacing the former secondary school (keskkool). A secondary school, as an institution, may also include a basic school (Grades 1-9). Education in state or municipal general secondary schools is free of charge.

General secondary education is determined by the national curriculum (Põhikooli ja gümnaasiumi riiklik õppekava, 2002; Gümnaasiumi riiklik õppekava, 2010), vocational secondary education is determined by the vocational education standard (Kutseharidusstandard, 2006) and the national vocational curricula (kutseõppe riiklik õppekava).

There are two main options after completing basic school: a general secondary school (gümnaasium) or a vocational education institution (kutseõppeasutus). Approximately two thirds of the basic school graduates continue their studies towards general secondary education.
Curriculum

The requirements concerning secondary education, i.e. the educational standards, are established in the Government approved national curriculum. The national curriculum determines the study objectives and the duration of studies. It establishes compulsory subjects and the minimal scope of their treatment, as well as the requirements for graduation. Schools prepare their curricula on the basis of the national curriculum.

The national curriculum for basic and secondary education (2002) gives schools more freedom in choosing the direction of studies, makes it possible to consider the students’ interests and abilities, and decreases the study load. It emphasises the need for the integration of different subjects and the importance of putting knowledge into practice. It also coordinates the development of an external evaluation system.

It is possible to intensify the treatment of compulsory subjects by adding topics or by offering subjects to be chosen by students. The number of alternative subjects and courses is determined by the national curriculum, but the school, taking into consideration the students’ interests and the existing opportunities, develops their content. Within the scope of alternative courses, a secondary school may offer initial vocational training in cooperation with vocational training establishments.

The new national curriculum (Gümnaasiumi riiklik õppekava, 2010), gives more importance to achieving the goals, competencies and subject integration set in the curriculum. The study load has been reduced, the learning outcomes have been expressed more clearly and there is more freedom of choice for the students.

The nominal period of study at general secondary school is three years (Grades 10 – 12) at the end of which the students have to take five examinations, whereas at least three of them must be taken as national examinations (riigieksamid). A school year includes no less than 175 days (35 weeks) of study. The authorised minimum weekly workload at the gümnaasium is 32 lessons.

In the secondary school curriculum, the subject programmes are compiled as courses, whereas the word “course” refers primarily to a
35-hour study unit. At schools with Estonian as the language of instruction the curriculum includes 72 compulsory courses, at schools with Russian or some other language of instruction, due to the compulsory Estonian language study, there are 81 compulsory courses. According to the new curriculum (2010) the overall study load will be 63 courses.

The compulsory subjects at the secondary level are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Courses (National Curriculum, 2002)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonian (eesti keel)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature (kirjandus)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian (vene keel)¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature (kirjandus)²</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian (eesti keel)³</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-foreign language (A-võõrkeel)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-foreign language (B-võõrkeel)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (matemaatika)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (geograafia)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (bioloogia)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry (keemia)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (füüsika)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History (ajalugu)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human studies (inimeseõpetus)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies (ühiskonnaõpetus)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music education (muusika)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art education (kunst)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education (kehaline kasvatus)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ At schools where the language of instruction is Russian
² At schools where the language of instruction is Russian
³ At schools where the language of instruction is Russian or some other foreign language
Grading system

At Estonian general secondary and vocational secondary schools there is a unified grading system. The students’ knowledge, skills and competencies are assessed on a five-point scale, with 3 as the pass mark:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>väga hea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>hea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>rahuldav</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>puudulik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>nõrk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

very good
good
satisfactory
unsatisfactory (fail)
poor (fail)

This scale is used for current assessment throughout the school year as well as for the final examinations.

National Examinations

The system of national examinations (riigieksamid) for general secondary school graduation in Estonia was introduced in 1997. General secondary school students take five final examinations. At least three of them must be national examinations (in 1997 there were two national examinations) and two may be taken as school examinations (koolieksamid), but students may also take all five examinations as national examinations. In one subject either the national examination or the school examination may be taken. The national examinations are administered by the National Examinations and Qualifications Centre (Riiiklik Eksami ja Kvalifikatsioonikeskus).

The national examination in the Estonian language (eesti keel) or Estonian as a second language (eesti keel teise keelena) is obligatory for all secondary school leavers. The rest of the national examinations may be chosen from among Russian (vene keel) (at a school or class where the language of instruction is Russian), English (inglise keel), German (saksa keel), French (prantsuse keel), Russian as a foreign language (vene keel võõrkeelena), biology (bioloogia), chemistry (keemia), mathematics (matemaatika), physics (füüsika), geography (geograafia), history
Higher education in Estonia (ajalugu), and social studies (ühiskonnaõpetus). There can be only one foreign language examination among the three compulsory national examinations (Estonian is not considered a foreign language).

In 2003 it was possible for secondary school leavers to choose between the short version (50 points) and the complete version (100 points) of the national examination in English, mathematics and chemistry. The passing minimum was 20 points both for the short and the complete versions. This practice was discontinued the next year.

National examinations are graded on a 100-point scale, with the exception of the essay in the mother tongue (Estonian) for which a 10-point scale was used until 2000. From 1997 to 2001 the national examination score of at least one point was a passing score. Since 2002 graduation the minimum passing score has been 20 points. The foreign language examination is also graded on a 100-point scale, but the National Examination Certificate shows the score for the oral part of the examination separately.

National examinations also serve as entrance examinations for higher education institutions, although tests, interviews, portfolios etc. may be required in addition.

Certification

The formats and statutes of the Certificate of General Secondary Education and the National Examination Certificate are approved by the Government and are regulated by the Statute and Format of the Basic School and General Secondary School Certificates and the National Examination Certificate (Põhikooli ja gümnaasiumi lõputunnistuse ning riigieksamitunnistuse statuut ja vorm). Since 2003 graduation the Certificate of General Secondary Education and the transcript of grades (hinneteleht) have been issued as two separate credentials.

General secondary school (gümnaasium) graduates receive a Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Certificate of General Secondary Education) and a Riigieksamitunnistus (National Examination Certificate). The Certificate
of General Secondary Education is issued by the school and the National Examination Certificate is issued by the National Examinations and Qualifications Centre. The National Examination Certificate is valid only if accompanied by the Certificate of General Secondary Education.

Effective 2009, the National Examination Certificate is not issued in paper format. The certificate is available in electronic format through the official state portal eesti.ee.

Vocational Education

The main legal acts stipulating the establishment, reorganisation, and termination of a vocational education institution, the organisation of studies, and the principles of administration and budget formation are Vocational Education Institution Act (Kutseõppeasutuse seadus, 1998) and Vocational Education Standard (Kutseharidusstandard, 2006). Instruction in vocational education institutions is carried out according to the Vocational Education Standard and the school curriculum prepared on the basis of the national curriculum for vocational education. The national curriculum is based on the professional standard worked out by the National Qualifications Authority (Kutsekoda). So far, 51 national curricula have been approved. The format and the conditions for issuing a vocational school leaving certificate are stipulated by a Government Regulation.

Vocational education institutions, programmes and qualifications

In 2010 there are 31 state, 3 municipal and 10 private vocational education institutions in Estonia. In recent years, according to the development visions, many vocational education institutions have merged into regional vocational education centres that enable to unite the resources as well as the competence in a certain area with the aim of assuring the quality of vocational education.
Vocational education can be acquired through several options on the basis of both basic and secondary education:

- Vocational secondary education may be started after completing basic education (9 years of study). The nominal length of vocational secondary education programmes based on basic education is at least 3 years (120 study weeks), including general secondary education courses in the amount of at least 40 weeks. The students who have successfully completed the programme receive a certificate Lõputunnistus kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education). Holders of vocational secondary education qualifications (kutsekeskharidus) whose intention is to continue studies at a higher education institution can improve their knowledge of general secondary education for additional 35 weeks. The study is organised in cooperation with vocational education institutions and general secondary schools.

- When vocational education is obtained after basic education, but without taking general secondary education subjects, the nominal period of study can vary from 1 to 2.5 years. The students who have successfully completed the programme receive a certificate Lõputunnistus põhihariduse baasil kutseõppe läbimise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Education Based on Basic Education).

- When vocational education is obtained after secondary education, the nominal period of study can vary from 0.5 to 2.5 years. The graduates receive a certificate Lõputunnistus keskhariduse baasil kutsėoppe läbimise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Education Based on Secondary Education).

- Persons who have not completed basic education, but are older than compulsory education age (over seventeen years of age), are also given an opportunity to obtain vocational education. The nominal length of such programmes is from 20 study weeks to 2.5 years. The credential issued upon completion of the programme is Lõputunnistus põhihariduse nõudeta kutsėoppe läbimise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Education without the Requirement of Basic Education).
In all these study programmes practical training and work placement constitute at least 50% of the curricular time.

The final examination at a vocational education institution may be replaced by a professional qualification examination (*kutseeksam*) administered by the National Qualifications Authority. Successful candidates receive a professional certificate (*kutsetunnistus*).

Vocational training can also be part of basic education or general secondary education (*kutsealane eelkoolitus*) conducted in cooperation with a vocational education institution and a general secondary school. The training period varies from 15 to 40 study weeks.
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Access Qualifications

The requirement for access to higher education is secondary education, certified by *Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus* (Certificate of General Secondary Education), *Lõputunnistus kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta* (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education), the corresponding qualifications of the former systems, and foreign qualifications giving access to higher education. The certificate of general secondary education is issued after 12 years of schooling (9 years of basic education and 3 years of general secondary education). In order to complete the general secondary school programme it is necessary to take national examinations. The national examination certificate is valid only if accompanied with the certificate of general secondary education.

Until 1995 the name of the Certificate of General Secondary Education was *Keskkooli lõputunnistus*. In the 1988/1989 school year the transition from 8-year to 9-year basic school, as well as from 11-year to 12-year secondary school took place at schools where the language of instruction was Estonian. Accordingly, the first graduates, who had completed the 12-year secondary education programme, finished school in 1998.

Studies for obtaining vocational secondary education on the basis of basic education last a minimum of three years and include general secondary education courses. The qualification awarded is *Lõputunnistus kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta* (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education).

The former qualifications of vocational secondary education giving access to higher education are:
Lõputunnistus põhihariduse baasil kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education Based on Basic Education);

Diplom (Diploma of Specialised Secondary Education);

Lõputunnistus kutse- ja keskhariduse omandamise kohta (Certificate of Vocational and Secondary Education);

Lõputunnistus keskerihariduse omandamise kohta (Certificate of Specialised Secondary Education).

Specific Admission Requirements

There is a selection procedure for most higher education institutions and programmes. The specific requirements are set by the higher education institution and depend on the chosen field of study. In general, the results of the national examinations (riigieksamid) passed in a general secondary school (gümnaasium) are accepted as the basis for admission, sometimes an interview or a professional aptitude test is required. There may also be a number of entrance examinations.

Entrance examinations are most commonly set by the departments and approved by the board of the higher education institution. The examination subjects are usually those relevant to the course of study. The basis for the admission decision is usually a combination of the national examination and entrance examination results. For admission to study programmes in art and music, aptitude is tested through the presentation of a creative work or through a creative competition.

There are generally no entrance examinations for admission to open universities (avatud ülikool) although the academic department may select students according to their academic merit and/or work experience. The candidates who want to study for a degree through an open university
are expected to meet the same access requirements as the regular degree students. Open universities may also provide courses outside the academic programme. In that case secondary education may not be an obligatory requirement.
HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Legal Framework

General legislation for higher education in Estonia is laid down in the following legal acts: Republic of Estonia Education Act, Universities Act, Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act, Private Schools Act, Vocational Education Institutions Act, and Standard of Higher Education. The framework document the Standard of Higher Education (Kõrgharidusstandard 1996; 2002; 2008) specifies the requirements for higher education programmes and quality assurance. It is a fundamental legal act concerning licencing and accreditation of study programmes or higher education institutions. The Standard of Higher Education is based on other acts related to higher education and is valid for all cycles and forms of higher education, irrespective of the ownership or the legal status of the higher education institution.

Types of Higher Education Institutions

The Estonian higher education system is binary and consists of universities (ülikool) and professional higher education institutions (rakenduskõrgkool).
Universities

A university is an institution of higher education and research that has the right to grant academic degrees at the bachelor`s (bakalaur)reus), master`s (magister) and doctoral (doktor) levels in several fields of study. Universities may also provide professional higher education programmes. The function of a university is to advance research and culture, to provide services based on educational, research and other creative activities necessary for society.

In addition to organising the academic life of the university the competence of universities extends to opening new study programmes, establishing admission terms and conditions, deciding about the structure, electing the rector, approving the development plan and the budget, and making restricted decisions in matters concerning assets.

Universities may be public or private.

Professional Higher Education Institutions

Professional higher education institutions (rakenduskõrgkoolid) provide first-cycle higher education programmes, but may also offer master`s level (magister) programmes and post-secondary vocational education programmes in the fields of their specialization. A professional higher education institution may independently provide master`s programmes in the fields of theology, public security and national defence, master`s programmes in other fields may be provided in collaboration with a university. Since 2008 six professional higher education institutions have had the right to conduct master`s programmes.

Professional higher education institutions may be state or private.

Professional higher education institutions are legally more restricted in their activities and the approval of the Ministry of Education and Research is required in order to open new study programmes or to establish the terms and conditions for admission. State professional higher education institutions are financed by the state.
Private professional higher education institutions provide study programmes mainly in the fields of social sciences, business administration, information technology and theology.

Administration and Academic Staff

The collegial decision-making body of a higher education institution is the Council (Nõukogu), whose procedures for formation and bases for operation are determined in the statutes of the higher education institution. The council approves the statutes of the higher education institution and makes amendments to them, approves the statutes of the structural units of the higher education institution, adopts the development plans for the higher education institution, approves the study programmes, approves the budget and the report on its execution.

Higher education institutions are run by the Rector who is accountable to the Council. The Rector is responsible for the development of the higher education institution and for the effective use of its financial resources. Candidates for the position of Rector must either hold or have held the academic rank of Professor. The Rector is elected for a period of five years.

The teaching staff of a university consists of professors (professor), associate professors (dotsent), lecturers (lektor), assistants (assistent) and teachers (õpetaja). The research staff of a university includes leading researchers (juhtivteadur), senior researchers (vanemteadur) and researchers (teadur). A member of the higher education institution research staff may be engaged in teaching. Members of the academic and research staff are elected for a period of up to five years.

The higher education institution may engage scholars or other prominent creative persons or outstanding experts as visiting teaching staff.

At least 85% of the academic staff engaged in teaching doctoral programmes must hold a doctoral degree.
Professors

The candidate for the position of a professor \((\text{professor})\) must hold a doctoral degree and has at least five years of research, development or some other creative activity experience.

A university professor is a leading member of the teaching staff who participates in research and development at international level, organises and conducts studies, supervises students and members of the teaching and research staff involved in those activities.

Associate professors

The candidate for the position of an associate professor \((\text{dotsent})\) must hold a doctoral degree and has at least five years of research, development or some other creative activity experience.

A university associate professor is a member of the teaching staff who conducts studies, participates actively in research and development, and supervises students and members of the teaching staff involved in those activities.

Lecturers, assistants and teachers

The candidate for the position of a lecturer \((\text{lektor})\) must hold a master’s level degree. A lecturer is a member of the teaching staff who usually supervises students of the first and second cycle of higher education programmes and may be involved in research and development activities.

The candidate for the position of a university assistant \((\text{assistent})\) must hold at least a master’s level degree, the assistant of a professional higher education institution must hold a higher education degree. An assistant conducts seminars, practical training classes and practice sessions in the first two cycles of higher education, may supervise students, and be involved in research and development activities.

The candidate for the position of a university teacher \((\text{õpetaja})\) must hold at least a master’s level degree, the teacher of a professional higher
education institution must hold a higher education degree. An university teacher conducts seminars, practical training classes and practice sessions in the first two cycles of higher education, may supervise students, and be involved in research and development activities. The teacher of a professional higher education institution conducts seminars, practical training classes, practice sessions, and performs other teaching tasks of a practical nature.

**Grading and Credit System**

The academic year at higher education institutions is usually divided into two semesters: the autumn semester and the spring semester. Studies begin in September and end in the first half of June. As a general rule, the academic year comprises 40 weeks of lectures, seminars, practical training, independent study and research or other assignments, and an examination period.

**Credit system**

Student workload is measured in credits. Effective from the 2009/2010 academic year the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) has officially been in use. One ECTS credit corresponds to 26 hours of work. The workload of one academic year is 1560 hours or 60 ECTS credits.

In the credit system valid until the 2009/2010 academic year, one credit (ainepunkt, AP) corresponds to a workload of one week or 40 hours. The workload of one academic year is 40 AP that corresponds to 60 ECTS credits.

According to the Universities Act, both systems were in use until 31.08.2008.
Grading

All courses taught at higher education institutions must end with an examination (eksam) or a pass/fail assessment (arvestus). There may be several independent examinations in separate parts of the course. At the end of each semester, during an examination session, there are usually oral and written examinations. The results of examinations or other forms of assessment may be given in numbers or expressed in words: pass (arvestatud) or fail (mitte arvestatud).

Until the 1999/2000 academic year there was no unified grading system used in higher education institutions of Estonia. The two most common grading scales were a 5-point scale and a 6-point scale. The 5-point scale was as follows:

5 - väga hea / very good or excellent (pass)
4 - hea /good (pass)
3 - rahuldav / satisfactory (pass)
2 - puudulik / unsatisfactory (fail)
1 - kasin / poor (fail)

The 6-point scale was as follows:

5 - suurepärane / excellent (pass)
4 - väga hea / very good (pass)
3 - hea / good (pass)
2 - rahuldav / satisfactory (pass)
1 - kasin / sufficient (pass)
0 - puudulik / unsatisfactory (fail)
All higher education institutions started using a unified grading system in the 1999/2000 academic year:

- a 6-point percentage-based grading system was established;
- the minimum passing level in examinations is 51%;
- distribution of marks among the students who pass the examination is not calculated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description Estonian/English</th>
<th>Completion of required work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 or A</td>
<td>suurepärane / excellent</td>
<td>91 – 100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or B</td>
<td>väga hea / very good</td>
<td>81 – 90 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or C</td>
<td>hea / good</td>
<td>71 – 80 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or D</td>
<td>rahuldav / satisfactory</td>
<td>61 – 70 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or E</td>
<td>kasin / sufficient</td>
<td>51 – 60 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 or F</td>
<td>puudulik / insufficient</td>
<td>0 – 50 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some higher education institutions use letter grades A – F, others use numbers 5 – 0. Grades F or 0 are the fail grades.

Since September 2010 the same grading scale has been in use, but assessment is based on learning outcomes.

**Higher Education Programmes and Qualifications**

As a result of a major higher education reform and the restructuring of study programmes, the present system of higher education qualifications was introduced in the 2001/2002 academic year. The Estonian higher education system now comprises three main cycles. The National Higher Education Qualifications Framework was adopted on 18.12.2008 (Standard of Higher Education).
Bachelor’s Programmes

Bachelor’s programmes are first-cycle higher education programmes. The purpose of bachelor studies is to broaden the scope of general education, to develop the basic knowledge and skills required for a certain field of study necessary for continuing at the master’s level or for access to the labour market. The nominal duration of the programmes is generally 3 years (180 ECTS credits), as an exception, it may be up to 4 years (240 ECTS credits). The qualification awarded upon completion of the programme is bakalaureus. The qualification gives access to master’s programmes.

Estonian universities may award the following bachelor’s degrees:

- Haridusteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Arts in Education (BA);
- Humanitaarteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (BA);
- Sotsiaalteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (BA);
- Loodusteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences (BSc);
- Tehnikateaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSc);
- Põllumajandusteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSc);
- Terviseteaduse bakalaureus – Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSc).

Professional Higher Education Programmes

Professional higher education is higher education of the first cycle, the purpose of which is to acquire the competencies necessary for working in a certain profession or for continuing studies at the master’s level. The nominal period of study is 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS credits). Midwifery studies and specialized nursing studies last 4.5 years (270 ECTS credits). The qualification awarded upon completion of the programme is Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom (Diploma of Professional Higher Education). The qualification gives access to master’s programmes.
Master’s Programmes

Master’s programmes are second-cycle higher education programmes. The purpose of master’s level studies is to develop the knowledge and skills required for a certain field of study and to acquire the necessary competences in order to enter the labour market or to continue studies at the doctoral level. The access requirement is a first-cycle higher education qualification. The nominal duration of the programmes is 1-2 years (60-120 ECTS credits), but together with the first-cycle studies it is at least 5 years (300 ECTS credits). The qualification awarded upon completion of a master’s degree programme is magister. The qualification gives access to doctoral programmes.

Estonian higher education institutions award the following second-cycle degrees:

*Haridusteaduse magister* – Master of Arts in Education (MA);
*Kunstide magister* – Master of Arts in Arts (MA);
*Humanitaarteaduse magister* – Master of Arts in Humanities (MA);
*Sotsiaalteaduse magister* – Master of Arts in Social Sciences (MA);
*Ärijuhtimise magister* – Master in Business Administration (MBA);
*Loodusteaduse magister* – Master of Science in Natural Sciences (MSc);
*Tehnikateaduse magister* – Master of Science in Engineering (MSc);
*Põllumajandusteaduse magister* – Master of Science in Agriculture (MSc);
*Terviseteaduse magister* – Master of Science in Health Sciences (MSc);
*Usuteaduse magister* – Master of Arts in Theology (MA);
*Õigusteaduse magister* – Master of Arts in Law (MA).

The name of the study programme or the area of specialisation can be added to the general degree name in brackets.
Integrated Bachelor’s and Master’s Programmes

Integrated bachelor’s and master’s programmes comprise both basic and specialized studies. Such long-cycle programmes are offered in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, architecture, civil engineering, and class-teacher training. The nominal duration of programmes in medicine and veterinary medicine effective from the 2002/2003 academic year admissions, is 6 years (360 ECTS credits). The nominal duration of other integrated programmes is 5 years (300 ECTS credits).

The qualification awarded upon completion of an integrated study programme is a master’s level degree and gives access to doctoral programmes. Persons who have completed an integrated long-cycle programme are awarded the following degrees:

- Arstikraad – Degree in Medicine (MD);
- Hambaarstikraad – Degree in Dentistry (DD);
- Farmaatsiamagister – Master of Science in Pharmacy (MSc);
- Loomaarstikraad – Degree in Veterinary Medicine (DVM);
- Arhitektuurimagister – Master of Science in Architecture (MSc);
- Tehnikateaduse magister – Master of Science in Engineering (MSc);
- Haridusteaduse magister – Master of Arts in Education (MA).

Doctoral Programmes

Doctoral programmes represent higher education of the third cycle, the purpose of which is to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for independent research, development or professional creative work. The access requirement for doctoral studies is the degree of magister or a corresponding qualification. The nominal length of the programme is 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS credits). The qualification awarded upon completion of doctoral studies is doktor. This is a research degree obtained after the completion and public defence of a dissertation based on independent
scientific research or creative work. The universities award the degree of *Filosoofiadoktor* – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), with an indication of the field of study or the area of specialisation.

### National Higher Education Qualifications Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Nominal length of programme</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
<th>QF-EHEA¹ level</th>
<th>EQF-LLL² level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doktor (Doctor)</strong></td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>180-240 ECTS credits</td>
<td>Third cycle</td>
<td>Level 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magister (Master)</strong></td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td>60-120 ECTS credits</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degrees of integrated Bachelor´s and Master´s programmes</td>
<td>5-6 years</td>
<td>300-360 ECTS credits</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rakenduskõrgharidus-õppe diplom</em> (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)</td>
<td>3-4.5 years</td>
<td>180-270 ECTS credits</td>
<td>First cycle</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bakalaureus (Bachelor)</strong></td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>180-240 ECTS credits</td>
<td>First cycle</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area  
² European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning
Higher Education Qualifications of the Former Systems

Since 1991 four systems of higher education and qualifications have been in force. In order to ensure equal opportunities and rights for the qualification holders, the comparison of the qualifications of the former systems was established by a government regulation in 2005.

Reform of higher education cycles and degrees

In order to implement the Bologna Declaration (The European Higher Education Area – Joint Declaration of the European Ministers of Education), which was signed in 1999 by the European Ministers of Education, a working group was formed in Estonia under the guidance of the Minister of Education and Research. The higher education reform was adopted by the Government of the Republic in the summer of 2001.

The transition to new study programmes in the Estonian higher education institutions took place in the academic year of 2002/2003. The new system of higher education has two main cycles, following the bachelor-master model of the European Higher Education Area. The study programmes of some fields have been integrated into a single long cycle.

Recognition of qualifications issued in the former education systems of Estonia is determined by Estonian Government Regulation No 120 (RT I, 32, 241) "Correspondence of qualifications issued in Republic of Estonia and qualifications issued in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics prior to 20 August 1991“.

Degree structure until 1991

Until 1991 the Estonian higher education institutions followed the Soviet system of higher education. In most fields of study the nominal duration of the programmes was 5 years, in a few programmes it was 4 or 4.5 years, in medicine it was 6 years. The final qualification Specialist’s Diploma or spetsialisti diplom kõrgema kutsehariduse omandamise kohta (Specialist’s Diploma of Higher Professional Education) as the original
title in Estonian, was awarded with an indication to a professional qualification: Engineer (*insener*), Physicist (*füüsik*), Geographer (*geograaf*), Economist (*ökonomist* or *majandusteadlane*), Lawyer (*jurist*), etc. and the indication of a narrow specialisation where applicable.

The first stage of postgraduate studies (*aspirantuur*) leading to the qualification of *Kandidat nauk* normally lasted 3 years and included original research. The second stage of postgraduate studies (*doktorantuur*) led to the degree of *Doktor nauk*.

On 31 July 1990, a year before Estonia declared independence, the Government adopted a regulation according to which the two systems, the Soviet system and the Estonian system, became equally valid. In fact, the Soviet system ceased to function in the spring of 1991.

According to Government Regulation No 120 of 06.06.2005 the Specialist’s Diploma issued in the former USSR corresponds to the degree of *magister* (master’s degree), except the diplomas issued by the institutions of higher education within the area of administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union and by the institutions of military higher education. The degrees of *Kandidat nauk* and *Doktor nauk* correspond to the degree of *doktor* (doctoral degree).

**Degree structure from 1991 to 1994**

In this transition period the first degree *Diplom*, known as *diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom* (University Specialist’s Diploma) was the qualification that followed the structure of the Soviet-time Specialist’s *Diploma*. The nominal duration of most programmes was 5 years as the students had begun their studies in the Soviet higher education system. In some cases, at *Tartu Ülikool* (University of Tartu) for example, the nominal duration was reduced to 4 years. There were several arts programmes where the nominal duration was 5.5-6 years. The qualification obtained was a final university degree, awarded upon completion of a long-cycle programme, giving access to all positions where higher education was required.

The diploma awarded indicated a professional title (*insener*, *ökonomist*, *bioloog* etc.) or certified the completion of a programme in a certain field
or specialisation.

Instead of the former research-based postgraduate programme aspirantuur, a new programme called magistratuur (magister-study) was developed. Generally, magister-study was of the same level as aspirantuur in the system of the Soviet period.

The admission requirement for the magister programme was a Specialist’s Diploma or diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom. The nominal duration of the magister programme was 2 years. The graduates were awarded the degree of magister after the public defence of original research. The degree of magister was introduced as the first research degree in the higher education system and became a requirement for those who wanted to work in research institutes or higher education institutions, or to continue studies towards a doctoral degree (a second research degree) – doktor.

According to Government Regulation No 120 of 06.06.2005 the diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom (University Specialist’s Diploma) corresponds to the degree of magister (master’s degree). The degree of magister awarded upon completion of a programme entered into the Estonian Education Information System before 01.06.2002 is recognised as a qualification between a magister (Master’s degree) and a doktor (doctoral degree). Higher education institutions may accept the old magister-level courses and the thesis as part of the doctoral programme.

Degree structure from 1995 to 2002

According to the Universities Act, the first stage of higher education with the nominal duration of 4 years was fixed for the new admissions effective from 01.01.1995. At the end of the 1990s there were very few programmes with the nominal duration of 3 years (business administration at some private universities, for example). Generally, the reduction of studies from 5 years to 4 years resulted from the development of new programmes with higher quality standards and more intensive courses, different from the former 5-year programmes leading to the qualification of diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom. The graduates of these programmes were awarded the degree of bakalaureus or kraadita
diplom (University Diploma). The qualification kраadita diplom was issued until 1998 and was awarded upon completion of professionally-oriented programmes. At the same time, some universities (Tartu Ülikool and Tallinna Pedagoogikaülikool, for example) awarded the degree of bakalaureus not only to the students who had begun their studies in 1995, but also to those who graduated in that year. Other universities (Tallinna Tehnikaülikool and Eesti Põllumajandusülikool, for example) continued to award the qualification of diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom under the new title of kraadita diplom to those who had started their studies before 01.01.1995. In some fields a professional title was awarded – inseneri nimetus (Title of Engineer), ökonomisti nimetus (Title of Economist), etc.

The main purpose of the bakalaureus programmes registered before 1 June 2002 was to give the students theoretical knowledge and practical skills for work in the chosen field and the completion of such programmes gave the right to work in positions requiring higher education. Research and professional or creative work, including the final thesis, constituted no less than 10% of the programme. The nominal length of the programme was predominantly 4 years, except teacher training that could be extended up to 5 years. The student workload was 180-240 ECTS credits. According to the internal regulations of some universities, a Latin designation of the academic degree was also used on the state-standard diploma (baccalaureus artium or baccalaureus scientiarum).

The qualifications of bakalaureus (bachelor) or kraadita diplom were final university degrees of the same academic and professional value as the former Specialist´s Diploma or diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom.

The second stage of higher education was magistratuur (a magister programme) introduced at the beginning of the 1990s.

The main purpose of a magister programme was to deepen the theoretical and specialist knowledge and to develop proficiency in research, professional or other creative work. The admission requirement was the degree of bakalaureus or a corresponding qualification. The length of the
Higher education in Estonia

The programme was 1-2 years (until 1999 – 2 years), but together with the bakalaureus programme no less than 5 years, with the total workload of 60-120 ECTS credits or 120 ECTS credits until 1999. Research constituted at least 50% of the research-oriented magister programme and a novel scientific treatment of a topic in the corresponding field was required. In the professionally-oriented magister programme research, development or creative work made up at least 25% of the student workload. The programmes were completed with the defence of a thesis.

Upon completion of magister programmes registered before 1 June 2002, the degree of a professional or research magister was awarded. According to the internal regulations of some universities, a Latin designation of the academic degree was also used on the state-standard diploma (magister artium, magister scientiarum, magister theologiae or magister iuris).

Even if there were the degrees of bakalaureus and magister in the Estonian higher education system at that time, this was not a traditional bachelor-master or two-tier or undergraduate-graduate structure. The bakalaureus programme was one long-cycle programme with the nominal duration of 4-5 years in most fields of study, including engineering, teacher training, law, etc. The bakalaureus and magister are the degrees typical of and peculiar to the Estonian higher education system only and are not comparable with the generally known degrees of the European bachelor-master systems.

In October 1998 the diplomiõppe diplom (Diplom-Study diploma) and kutsekõrghariduse diplom (Diploma of Vocational Higher Education) were introduced for professional higher education programmes. Such diplomas were awarded beginning in October 1998. The last admission to these programmes was the 2001/2002 academic year.

The diplom-study programme was a programme of an applied nature the purpose of which was to acquire practical knowledge and skills. The programmes could be taught at a university or a professional higher education institution. In practice, according to the requirements established by the university, the credits of such programmes could be transferred in order to continue studies in the bakalaureus programme.
According to the Vocational Education Institutions Act (1998), some vocational education institutions could provide higher education programmes. Vocational higher education was offered by postsecondary vocational schools or professional higher education institutions. The aim of higher vocational education was to offer general education as well as professional and occupational knowledge and skills.

The nominal duration of both diplom-study and vocational higher education programmes was 3-4 years, the student workload being 180-240 ECTS credits.

Until 2002 there were two kinds of doctoral degrees – the research doktor and the professional doktor. The programme for the research degree included research of no less than 70%. The professional degree programme included research or creative work of no less than 50%. The professional and research doctoral degrees were degrees of the same academic level. The nominal duration of doctoral programmes was 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS). Upon completion of such programmes the degree of doktor was awarded. According to the internal regulations of some universities, a Latin designation of the research degree was also used on the state-standard diploma (doctor philosophiae, doctor iuris, doctor medicinae or doctor theologiae).

According to Government Regulation No 120 of 06.06.2005 the degrees of bakalaureus and kraadita diplom (University Diploma) awarded upon completion of a programme entered into the Estonian Education Information System before 01.06.2002 correspond to the degree of magister (Master’s degree). The degree of magister awarded upon completion of a programme entered into the Estonian Education Information System before 01.06.2002 is recognised as a qualification between a magister (Master’s degree) and a doktor (Doctoral degree). Higher education institutions may accept the old magister-level courses and the thesis as part of the doctoral programme. The qualifications of diplomiõppe diplom and kutsekõrghariduse diplom are officially recognised at the bachelor’s level.
Quality Assurance and Recognition of National Qualifications

Quality assurance

Since 2009 higher education quality has been assessed by an independent agency Eesti Kõrghariduse Kvaliteediagentuur (EKKA) (Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency). The responsibility of the agency is to conduct institutional accreditation of higher education institutions and quality assessment of study programme groups. Within the assessment process of study programme groups it is assessed if the programmes correspond with the current legislation and with the national and international standards, including the quality of theoretical and practical training, the qualifications of the teaching and research staff, as well as the availability of the necessary resources. On the basis of external assessment, the Government of the Republic grants the higher education institution the right, for an indefinite or a fixed period of time (1-3 years), to conduct studies according to the programme belonging to the respective study programme group.

During 2009-2012 the Ministry of Education and Research will implement the transition from the former accreditation system, in which individual study programmes were accredited, to quality assessment of study programme groups. This period is called the period of transitional assessment. The conditions and the procedure for quality assessment were established by Directive of the Minister of Education and Research of 6 May 2009. The EKKA Quality Assessment Council has laid down the requirements for transitional assessment and the procedure for its implementation.

Study programme groups are assessed from three aspects: quality, resources, and sustainability of studies.

Until 31.12.2008 accreditation was the responsibility of the Eesti Kõrghariduse Akrediteerimiskeskus (Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre – EHEAC) and the Kõrghariduse Hindamise Nõukogu (Higher Education Quality Assessment Council – HEQAC).
The system of quality assessment of Estonian higher education consisted of four parts – self-analysis of universities (faculties or departments), a foreign expert appraisal, the decision by the HEQAC, and self-improvement of the higher education institution.

The HEQAC was founded by the Government in 1995 and operated under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Research. The main activities of the HEQAC included accreditation of higher education institutions, accreditation of study programmes, making accreditation decisions public, and giving recommendations on the basis of accreditation decisions.

Assessment of study programmes began after the foundation of the EHEAC in 1997. The EHEAC formed expert groups and agreed with higher education institutions and experts on time schedules for assessment visits.

A critical self-analysis prepared by the educational institution was evaluated by experts. At the end of the assessment visit, the experts presented their comments and recommendations, which, along with the results of self-analysis, formed a basis for improving the quality of education provided. Recommendations regarding accreditation were forwarded to the HEQAC who made the final decision. The accreditation decision could be full accreditation or conditional accreditation.

There were three accreditation categories:

The decision “accredited” indicated that the higher education institution or the study programme met the requirements. The decision could also include recommendations for eliminating minor shortcomings. Full accreditation was valid for seven years from the date of the decision.

The decision “conditionally accredited” indicated that the institution or the study programme under review had major shortcomings which needed to be eliminated or addressed. In this case accreditation was valid for two years from the date of the decision. According to the Amendment to the University Act in 2003, the validity period of conditional accreditation was extended to three years. At the end of this period re-
accreditation was relevant.

Qualifications awarded two years before the accreditation decision was adopted are also officially recognised.

The decision “not accredited” indicated that the institution or the study programme did not meet the minimum requirements set by the standard.

**Recognition of national qualifications**

Effective 2009 educational institutions may provide higher education programmes and award officially recognised qualifications, if, as a result of the assessment of the respective study programme group, the Government of the Republic has granted them such a right.

At the same time, until 31.12.2011, official recognition of qualifications is also based upon accreditation decisions. In addition to diplomas issued after accreditation was granted, diplomas issued up to two years before the accreditation decision was adopted, are also recognised. Besides, diplomas issued by public universities, certifying the completion of study programmes entered into the Estonian Education Information System (database) before 01.06.2002, and diplomas issued by state professional higher education institutions, certifying the completion of study programmes entered into the database before 30.06.2003, are officially recognised without accreditation.
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

Academic recognition

It was essential to establish a well-functioning system of recognition for the operation of the European Higher Education Area (the Bologna Process) and to ensure free movement of people. Estonia has developed the principles of assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications according to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) ratified by the Estonian Parliament, the Riigikogu, on 1 April 1998.

The recognition procedures are described in a greater detail in Government Regulation No. 89 of 06.04.2006 “The assessment and academic recognition of foreign qualifications”. The regulation is the national overarching legal instrument in the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention. It determines the nomination of competent assessment and recognition authorities, the general principles of assessment and academic recognition, the applicants’ right to fair assessment, and the role of the Estonian ENIC/NARIC in the assessment of foreign qualifications and information provision.

The main activities of the Estonian ENIC/NARIC are the assessment of foreign educational qualifications (certificates, diplomas, degrees, etc.), their comparison with Estonian qualifications, and making recommendations to employers and higher education institutions for a fair recognition decision. Students wishing to continue their studies in Estonia on the basis of a foreign academic qualification must apply for admission as well as for the recognition of their periods of study directly to the higher education institution.

The purpose of the assessment of foreign qualifications by the Estonian ENIC/NARIC is to establish a correspondence between the foreign qualification and a qualification within Estonia’s current system of education. The evaluation statement is informative, giving advice both to the credential holder and to the higher education institution, the employer or any other institution to which the foreign credential is presented.
final recognition decision about the foreign qualification rests with the higher education institution, the employer or, in the case of regulated professions, the respective competent recognition authority. Most higher education institutions and employers in the public sector require assessment of foreign credentials and a statement of comparison by the Estonian ENIC/NARIC.


Professional recognition


Any national of a member state of the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland has the right to work, to seek work, to set up a business or to provide services in any other member state. The aim of Directive 2005/36 is to facilitate mobility between member states of the EU, EEA and Switzerland. The directive works on the principle that a qualified professional in one member state is qualified to exercise the same profession in another member state.

The basic principle of the directive is the recognition of a foreign qualification, but every host country has the right to implement the necessary regulations and procedures to reach that goal. There is a great need for professional recognition, since the requirements for the same profession in different countries may vary. In the case of substantial differences there is the possibility to implement compensation mechanisms, such as an aptitude test or an adaptation period.

In order to work in a regulated profession, the holder of a foreign qualification must apply to a competent authority for the recognition of the
qualification. Information about regulated professions, competent authorities and application procedures is provided by the Estonian ENIC/NARIC that acts as a contact point for professional recognition.
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The current chapter comprises a list of public universities, state professional higher education institutions, private higher education institutions with accredited study programmes and post-secondary vocational schools offering higher education.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

EESTI KUNSTIAKADEEMIA
Estonian Academy of Arts

Founded in 1914
Former titles:
Tallinna Kunstitööstuskool (1914-1924)
Riigi Kunsttööstuskool (1924-1938)
Riigi Tarbe- ja Kujutava Kunsti Kool (1938-1940)
Riigi Kõrgem Kunstikool (1938-1940)
Riigi Rakenduskunsti Kool (1940-1944)
ENSV Tallinna Riiklik Tarbekunsti Instituut (1944-1951)
Eesti NSV Riiklik Kunstiinstituut (1951-1989)
Tallinna Kunstiülikool (1989-1995)
Address: Tartu mnt 1
10145 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 626 7301
Fax: +372 626 7350
E-mail: artun@artun.ee
http://www.artun.ee
Faculties: Fine Arts, Design, Architecture, Art and Culture
Degrees: Bakalaureus (Bachelor)
        Magister (Master)
        Doktor (Doctor)
EESTI MAAÜLIKOOL
Estonian University of Life Sciences

Founded in 1951
Former titles:
Eesti Pöllumajanduse Akadeemia (1951-1991)
Address: Kreutzwaldi 1
51014 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: +372 731 3001
Fax: +372 731 3037
E-mail: info@emu.ee
http://www.emu.ee

Institutes: Agronomy, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Economics and Social Sciences, Forestry and Rural Engineering, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Technology

Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Bakalaureus (Bachelor)
Magister (Master)
Loomaarstikraad (Degree in Veterinary Medicine)
Doktor (Doctor)
EESTI MUUSIKA- JA TEATRIAKADEEMIA
Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre

Founded in 1919

Former titles:
Tallinna Kõrgem Muusikakool (1919-1923)
Tallinna Konservatoorium (1923-1935)
Eesti Vabariigi Tallinna Konservatoorium (1935–1940)
Eesti NSV Tallinna Konservatoorium (1940-1941)
Tallinna Konservatoorium (1941-1944)
Tallinna Riiklik Konservatoorium (1944-1964)
ENSV Muusika ja Teatrikunsti Instituut (1964-1965)
Tallinna Riiklik Konservatoorium (1965-1989)
Tallinna Konservatoorium (1989-1993)
Eesti Muusikaakadeemia (1993-2005)

Address: Rävala pst. 16
10143 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 667 5700
Fax: +372 667 5800
E-mail: ema@ema.edu.ee
http://www.ema.edu.ee

Departments: Piano, Strings, Brass and Woodwind, Vocal Studies, Chamber Music, Conducting, Composition, Musicology, Jazz, Cultural Management and Humanities, Drama School.

Institutes: Music Education Institute, Institute of Interpretation Pedagogics

Degrees: Bakalaureus (Bachelor)
Magister (Master)
Doktor (Doctor)
TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL
Tallinn University of Technology

Founded in 1918
Former titles:
Tallinna Tehnikum (1919-1936)
Tallinna Tehnikainstituut (1936-1937)
Tallinna Tehnikaülikool (1938-1941)
Tallinna Polütehniline Instituut (1941; 1944-1989)
Institutions that have merged into the university:
International University Audentes (in 2008)
Kohtla-Järve Polütehnikum (in 2005)
Virumaa Kõrgkool (in 2000)

Address: Ehitajate tee 5
19086 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 620 2002
Fax: +372 620 2020
E-mail: ttu@ttu.ee
http://www.ttu.ee

Faculties: Engineering, Power Engineering, Information Technology, Chemical and Materials Technology, Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Social Sciences.

Colleges: Kuressaare College, Virumaa College, Tallinn College, Tartu College

Institutes: Institute of Geology, Institute of Cybernetics, Institute of Marine Systems
Degrees:  

Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom  
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)

Bakalaureus (Bachelor)

Magister (Master)

Doktor (Doctor)
TALLINNA ÜLIKOOL
Tallinn University

Founded in 1919
Former titles:
Tallinna Öpetajate Seminar (1919-1947)
Tallinna Öpetajate Instituut (1947-1952)
Tallinna Pedagoogiline Instituut (1952-1992)

Institutions that have merged into the university:
Rakvere Pedagoogikakool (in 2001)
Eesti Humanitaarinstituut (in 2005)
Akadeemia Nord (in 2010)

Address: Narva mnt 25
10120 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 640 9101
Fax: +372 640 9116
E-mail: tlu@tlu.ee
http://www.tlu.ee

Institutes: Estonian Institute for Future Studies, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Ecology, Educational Sciences, Estonian Demography, Estonian Language and Culture, Fine Arts, Germanic-Romance Languages and Cultures, Health Sciences and Sports, History, Informatics, Information Studies, International and Social Studies, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Political Science and Governance, Psychology, Slavonic Languages and Cultures, Social Work

Colleges: Haapsalu College, Rakvere College, Baltic Film and Media School, Catherine’s College, Law School
Degrees:  

*Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom*  
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)  
*Bakalaureus* (Bachelor)  
*Magister* (Master)  
*Doktor* (Doctor)
TARTU ÜLIKOOOL
University of Tartu

Founded in 1632
Former titles:
Academia Gustaviana (1632-1665)
Academia Gustavo-Carolina (1690-1710)
Kaiserliche Universität zu Dorpat (1802-1918)
(Imperatorskij Jur'evskij Universitet (1893-1918))
Tartu Riiklik Ülikool (1940-1941; 1944-1989)
Institutions that have merged into the university:
Tartu Õpetajate Seminar (in 2001)
Õigusinstituut (in 2002)
Viljandi Kultuuriakadeemia (in 2005)
Address: Ülikooli 18
50090 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: +372 737 5100
Fax: +372 737 5440
E-mail: info@ut.ee
http://www.ut.ee
Faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Exercise and Sport Sciences, Science and Technology, Economics and Business Administration, Mathematics and Computer Science, Social Sciences and Education
Colleges: Narva College, Pärnu College, Türi College, Euro College, Viljandi Culture Academy
Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Bakalaureus (Bachelor)
Magister (Master)
Arstikraad (Degree in Medicine)
Hambaarstikraad (Degree in Dentistry)
Doktor (Doctor)
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

EELK USUTEADUSE INSTITUUT
Theological Institute of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founded in 1946
Address: Pühavaimu 6
10123 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 611 7400
Fax: +372 611 7402
E-mail: ui@eelk.ee
http://www.eelk.ee/ui/

Accredited programmes:

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<td>Magister</td>
<td>Conditionally</td>
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**Degrees:**
- *Bakalaureus* (Bachelor)
- *Magister* (Master)
- *Doktor* (Doctor)
ESTONIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL

Founded in 1988

Former title:

Address: Lauteri 3
10114 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 665 1325
Fax: +372 665 1330
E-mail: info@ebs.ee
http://www.ebs.ee

Accredited programmes:

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<td>Entrepreneurship and Business Administration (Ettevõtlus ja ärijuhtimine)</td>
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HIGHER EDUCATION IN ESTONIA

Magister Conditionally 26.02.2001
Magister (MBA) Fully 15.03.2004
Magister (MSc in BA) Fully 15.03.2004
Management (Juhtimisteadus) PhD Fully 16.06.2009
Public Administration (Avalik haldus) Bakalaureus Fully 28.02.2002

Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Bakalaureus (Bachelor)
Magister (Master)
Doktor (Doctor)
EUROAKADEEMIA
Euroacademy

Founded in 1997
Former title:
EuroÜlikool (1997-2010)
Address: Mustamäe tee 4
10621 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 611 5801
Fax: +372 611 5811
E-mail: euro@euroakadeemia.ee
http://www.euroakadeemia.ee

Accredited programmes:

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<td>Interpreter (Tõlk)</td>
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**Degrees:**

- **Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom** (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
- **Bakalaureus** (Bachelor)
- **Magister** (Master)
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION (RAKENDUSKÕRGKOOLID)

EESTI LENNUAKADEEMIA
Estonian Aviation Academy

Founded in 1993 as higher education institution

Former title:
*Tartu Lennukolledž* (1993-2008)

Address: Kreutzwaldi 58A
51014 Tartu
Estonia

Tel: +372 744 8100
Fax: +372 744 8101
E-mail: eava@eava.ee
http://www.eava.ee

Study programmes: Air Traffic Management, Aircraft Piloting, Aviation Management, Aviation Administration.

Degrees: *Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom*
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
*Magister* (Master)
EESTI MEREAKADEEMIA
Estonian Maritime Academy

Founded in 1919. Higher education institution since 1992

Former title:

Address: Kopli 101
11712 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 613 5500
Fax: +372 613 5502
E-mail: eesti.mereakadeemia@emara.ee
http://www.emara.ee

Faculties: Navigation, Engineering, Maritime

Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Magister (Master)
KAITSEVÄE ÜHENDATUD � 어렵UTUSED
Estonian National Defence College

Founded in 1998 as higher education institution

Address: Riia 12
51013 Tartu
Estonia

Tel: +372 717 6110
Fax: +372 717 6111
E-mail: ekv@ksk.edu.ee
http://www.ksk.edu.ee

Faculty: The Military Academy of the Estonian Defence Forces

Study programmes: Basic Officer Training Course, Advanced Officer Training Course

Degrees: Rakenduskörgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Magister (Master)
LÄÄNE-VIRU RAKENDUSKÕRGKOOL
Lääne-Viru College

Higher education institution since 2007

Address: Tiigivahe tee 2
    Mõdriku,
    46609 Lääne-Virumaa

Tel: +372 329 5950
Fax: +372 329 5951
E-mail: info@modriku.edu.ee
    http://www.lvrkk.ee

Study programmes: Business Administration, Accountancy, Social work, Commercial Economics

Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
    (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
SISEKAITSEAKADEEMIA
Estonian Academy of Security Sciences

Founded in 1992 as higher education institution

Former titles:
Eesti Sisekaitse Akadeemia (1992-1993)
Eesti Riigikaitse Akadeemia (1993-1998)

Address: Kase 61
12012 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 696 5644
Fax: +372 696 5343

E-mail: info@sisekaitse.ee
http://www.sisekaitse.ee

Colleges: Police and Border Guard College, Rescue College,
Financial College, College of Justice.

Specialties: Police and border guard, Rescue, Correction, Taxation
and Customs.

Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Magister (Master)
TALLINNA PEDAGOOGILINE SEMINAR
Tallinn Pedagogical College

Higher education programmes since 1995. Higher education institution since 2006

Address: Räägu 49
11311 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 639 1741
Fax: +372 639 1763

E-mail: tps@tps.edu.ee
http://www.tps.edu.ee

Study programmes: Youth Work, Pre-school Teacher, Social Work.

Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TALLINNA TEHNIKAKÕRGKOOL
Tallinn College of Engineering

Founded in 1915. Higher education institution since 1992

Former titles:
Tallinna Ehitus- ja Mehaanikatehnikum (1961-1992)
Tallinna Kergetööstustehnikum merged with Tallinna Tehnikakõrgkool in 2006

Address: Pärnu mnt 62
10135 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 666 4500
Fax: +372 666 4510
E-mail: tktk@tktk.ee
http://www.tktk.ee

Faculties: Architectural and Environmental Engineering,
Clothing and Textile,
Construction,
Mechanics,
Transport.


Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TALLINNA TERVISHOIU KÕRGKOOL
Tallinn Health Care College

Higher education programmes since 1996. Higher education institution since 2005

Former title:
Tallinna Meditsiinikool (until 2005)
Kohtla-Järve Meditsiinikool merged with Tallinna Tervishoiu Kõrgkool in 2006

Address: Kännu 67
13418 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 671 1703
Fax: +372 671 1710

E-mail: info@ttk.ee
http://www.ttk.ee/

Study programmes: Dental Technician, Midwife, Nurse, Assistant Pharmacist, Optometrist, Occupational Therapist, Nurse Assistant, Health Promotion.

Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TARTU KÕRGEM KUNSTIKOOL
Tartu Art College

Founded in 2000

Address: Tähe 38b
          50103 Tartu
          Estonia

Tel: +372 730 9822
    Fax: +372 730 9810

E-mail: artcol@artcol.ee
        http://www.artcol.ee


Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
        (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TARTU TERVISHOIU KÕRGKOOL
Tartu Health Care College

Higher education programmes since 1997. Higher education institution since 2005

Former title:
Tartu Meditsiinikool (until 2005)

Address: Nooruse 9
50411 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: +372 738 1642
Fax: +372 738 1646
E-mail: nooruse@nooruse.ee
http://www.nooruse.ee

Study programmes: Nursing, Midwifery, Bioanalytics, Radiography, Environmental Health, Physiotherapy.

Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION (RAKENDUSKÕRGGKOOLID)

ARVUTIKOLLEDŽ
Computer Science College

Founded in 1993. Higher education programmes since 2000

Address: Erika 7a
10416 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 660 3149
Fax: +372 660 3150
E-mail: iati@iati.ee
http://www.iati.ee

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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
EEKBKL KÕRGEM USUTEADUSLIK SEMINAR
Theological Seminary

Founded in 1989
Address: Annemõisa 8
50708 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: +372 744 6630
Fax: +372 744 6631
E-mail: seminar@kus.tartu.ee
http://kus.tartu.ee

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<td>Pastoral Theology (Pastoraalteoloogia)</td>
<td>Diplom</td>
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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusöppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
EESTI-AMEERIKA ÄRIAKADEEMIA
Estonian-American Business Academy

Founded in 1989.

Former title:
Eesti-Ameerika Ärikolledž (1989-2006)

Address: Punane 29
13611 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: (+372) 605 4100
Fax: (+372) 633 4719
E-mail: info@eaba.ee
http://www.eaba.ee/

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<td>International Business Administration (Rahvusvaheline ärijuhtimine (inglise keele süvaõppega))</td>
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<td>Conditionally</td>
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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
EESTI HOTELLI- JA TURISMIKÕRGKOOL
Estonian School of Hotel and Tourism Management

Founded in 1996. Higher education institution since 2010

Address: Puuvilla 19
10314 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 668 8707
Fax: +372 668 8706
E-mail: ehte@ehte.ee
http://www.ehte.ee

Accredited programmes:

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<td>Prof</td>
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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
**EESTI INFOTEHNOLOOGIA KOLLEDŽ**

The Estonian Information Technology College

Founded in 2000

**Address:**
Raja 4C
12616 Tallinn
Estonia

**Tel:** +372 628 5800
**Fax:** +372 628 5801
**E-mail:** info@itcollege.ee
http://www.itcollege.ee

**Accredited programmes:**

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<td>Technical Communication (Tehnosuhtlus)</td>
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<td>IT Systems Development (IT süsteemide arendus)</td>
<td>Prof</td>
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<td>Prof</td>
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**Degree:** Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
**EESTI METODISTI KIRIKU TEOLOGILINE SEMINAR**

**Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary**

Founded in 1994

**Address:** Narva mnt 51  
10152 Tallinn  
Estonia

**Tel:** +372 668 8467  
**Fax:** +372 668 8468  
**E-mail:** seminar@emkts.ee  
http://www.emkts.ee

**Accredited programmes:**

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**Degree:** *Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom*  
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
KÕRGKOOL I STUDIUM
Higher School I Studium

Founded in 1993
Address: Kopli 93
11712 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 661 7027
Fax: +372 661 7026
E-mail: info@istudium.ee
http://www.istudium.ee

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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
MAINORI KÕRGKOOL
Mainor Business School

Founded in 1992

Former title:

Address: Suur-Sõjamäe 10a
11415 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 610 1900
Fax: +372 610 1901
E-mail: mk@mk.ee
http://www.mk.ee

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Financial Management (Finantsjuhtimine) Diplom Conditionally 14.06.1999
Information Technology (Infotehnoloogia)
Voc.HE Conditionally 14.05.2004
Prof Fully 14.05.2004
Information Technology Management (Infotehnoloogia juhtimine)
Magister Conditionally 07.07.2009
Financial Management and Information Technology (Finantsjuhtimine ja infotehnoloogia)
Magister Conditionally 07.07.2009
Tourism Entrepreneurship and Service Management (Turismiettevõtluse ja teeninduse juhtimine)
Magister Conditionally 07.07.2009

Degrees: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
Magister (Master)
MAJANDUSE JA JUHTIMISE INSTITUUT
Institute of Economics and Management

Founded in 1993
Former titles:
Sillamäe Majanduse- ja Juhtimise Instituut (1999- 2006)

Address: Mere pst 3
40231 Sillamäe
Estonia
Tel: +372 39 77 543
E-mail: sillamae@ecomen.eu
http://www.ecomen.eu

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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
SOTSIAAL-HUMANITAARINSTITUUT
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences

Founded in 1999

Address: Osmussaare tee 8
13811 Tallinn
Estonia

Tel: +372 616 5170
Fax: +372 616 5171
E-mail: shi@shi.ee
http://www.shi.ee

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Degree: *Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom*
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TALLINNA ÄRIJUHTIMISE KOLLEDŻ
Tallinn College of Business Administration

Former titles:
Erakommertskolledž
Tallinna Kommertskolledž (2005-2009)

Address: Kivimurru 13a
11411 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 621 1564
Fax: +372 621 1564
E-mail: kolledz@tcc.neti.ee
http://www.tcc.ee

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Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
TARTU TEOLOGIA AKADEEMIA
Tartu Academy of Theology

Founded in 1992
Address: Ujula 1A
51008 Tartu
Estonia
Tel/Fax: +372 742 0958
E-mail: info@teoloogia.ee
http://www.teoloogia.ee

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Degrees: *Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom*  
(Diploma of Professional Higher Education)  
*Magister* (Master)
STATE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION

TALLINNA MAJANDUSKOOL
Tallinn School of Economics

Higher education programmes since 1999
Address: Tammsaare tee 147
          12915 Tallinn
          Estonia
Tel: + 372 650 7850
Fax: + 372 650 7851
E-mail: info@tmk.edu.ee
       http://www.tmk.edu.ee

Study programmes: Legal Studies, Business Administration,
Information Technology, Taxation, Banking, Personnel Management,
Accounting, Marketing,
Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
       (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)
VÕRUMAA KUTSEHARIDUSKESKUS
Võru County Vocational Training Centre

Higher education programmes since 2001

Address: Võru vald, Väimela
65566 Võrumaa
Estonia

Tel: +372 785 0800
Fax: +372 785 0801
E-mail: vkhk@vkhk.ee
http://www.vkhk.ee

Study programmes: Tourism- and Catering Management, Business Administration, Information Technology, Metal Processing and Mechatronics, Wood Processing.

Degree: Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom
(Diploma Professional Higher Education)
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HIGHER EDUCATION IN ESTONIA
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS INDEX

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Eesti NSV Riiklik Kunstiinstituut, see Eesti Kunstiaakadeemia
Eesti Sisekaitse Akadeemia, see Sisekaitseakadeemia
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E-mail: info@ekk.edu.ee
http://www.ekk.edu.ee
ANNEXES
ANNEX 1 Structure of Education System since 2002/2003 academic year
ANNEX 2 Samples of Certificates and Diplomas

Samples of certificates giving access to higher education

Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Certificate of General Secondary Education – since 2003)
Lõputunnistus kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education)

Samples of higher education diplomas

Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom (professional higher education diploma)
Bakalaureuse diplom (bachelor’s degree diploma)
Magistri diplom (master’s degree diploma)
Doktori diplom (doctoral degree diploma)
Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Certificate of General Secondary Education – since 2003)
Lõputunnistus kutsekeskhariduse omandamise kohta
(Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education)
Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom (professional higher education diploma)
Bakalaureuse diplom (bachelor´s degree diploma)
Magistri diplom (master’s degree diploma)
Doktori diplom (doctoral degree diploma)
### ANNEX 3
Correspondence of qualifications issued in Republic of Estonia and qualifications issued in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics prior to 20 August 1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications awarded in the present higher education system</th>
<th>Qualifications awarded in the previous higher education systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diploma of Professional Higher Education <em>Rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom</em></td>
<td><em>Diplom</em>-Study diploma <em>(Diplomiõppe diplom)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bakalaureusekraad</em></td>
<td>Diploma of Vocational Higher Education <em>(Kutsekõrgharidusõppe diplom)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magistrikraad</td>
<td>Bakalaureusekraad awarded upon completion of a <em>bakalaureus</em> programme with the nominal length of study of three years entered into the Estonian Education Information System (EHIS) before 1 June 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialist’s Diploma of Higher Professional Education <em>(Soviet Union Specialist’s Diploma)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bakalaureusekraad awarded upon completion of a <em>bakalaureus</em> programme with the nominal length of study of at least four years entered into the Estonian Education Information System (EHIS) before 1 June 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Diploma <em>(Ülikooli kraadita diplom)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magistrikraad</strong></td>
<td>University Specialist’s Diploma (Diplomeeritud spetsialisti ülikoolidiplom) Higher education based teacher training certificate or diploma awarded upon completion of a study programme with the nominal length of study of at least one year. Degree awarded upon completion of a programme based on the long-cycle study with the nominal length of study of at least five years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doktorikraad</strong></td>
<td>Candidate of Science (Kandidat nauk) Doctor of Science (Doktor nauk) Doktorikraad acquired in the education system of the Republic of Estonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNEX 4 Comparison of National Qualifications

### Professional higher education qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Post-secondary vocational education institution or professional higher education institution (rakenduskõrgkool)</td>
<td>University or professional higher education institution (rakenduskõrgkool)</td>
<td>Post-secondary vocational education institution or professional higher education institution (rakenduskõrgkool) or university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of practical training of the whole study programme</td>
<td>At least 35 %</td>
<td>At least 15 ECTS credits</td>
<td>At least 30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation requirements</td>
<td>Completion of the study programme</td>
<td>Completion of the study programme</td>
<td>Final examination or thesis, at least 3 ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>A yellow form marked K</td>
<td>A green form marked A</td>
<td>A bluish grey form marked R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Bakalaureusekraad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bakalaureusekraad Until 2002/2003 admissions</th>
<th>Bakalaureus (bachelor`s degree) Since 2002/2003 admissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal duration</td>
<td>4 years (240 ECTS credits), except teacher training – 5 years (300 ECTS credits). In a few cases 3 years (180 ECTS credits)</td>
<td>3…4 years (180…240 ECTS credits). In most cases 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/ professional/ creative work capacity of the whole study programme</td>
<td>At least 30 ECTS credits</td>
<td>Final examination or thesis: at least 3 ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation requirements</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Final examination or thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>A blue form marked B</td>
<td>A greenish yellow form marked L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magistrikraad</strong></td>
<td><strong>Magistrikraad</strong></td>
<td><strong>Magister (master`s degree)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kutsemagister Professional magister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal duration</td>
<td>1...2 years (60...120 ECTS credits), but together with bakalaureus programme not less than 5 years</td>
<td>1...2 years (60...120 ECTS credits), but together with bakalaureus programme not less than 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>University and professional higher education institution (rakenduskõrgkool)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/professional/creative work capacity of the whole study-programme</td>
<td>50 %</td>
<td>At least 25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis or final examination: at least 15 ECTS credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation requirements</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Thesis or final examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>A brown form marked C</td>
<td>A silver form marked M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further study</td>
<td>Can be regarded as part of the doktor programme</td>
<td>Doktor programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Universities had the right to admit students to the pre-reform magister and doctor programme until 1 September 2005*
ANNEX 5 Standard of Higher Education (Translation by EKKA)

Standard of Higher Education

Government of the Republic Regulation No 178 of 18 December 2008

This Regulation is established under clause 5 (2) 7) of the Republic of Estonia Education Act, subsection 211 (1) of the Universities Act and subsection 12 (1) of the Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act.

Chapter 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Purpose and scope of Regulation

(1) The Standard of Higher Education establishes the following uniform requirements for study at higher education level:

1) requirements for study programmes, including requirements for joint study programmes and requirements for studies and final theses or final examinations;

2) objectives and learning outcomes to be achieved (Annex 1) and total study load of studies at higher education level, including the principles for recognition of prior learning and professional experience;

3) general requirements for the members of the teaching staff and principles for establishing specific requirements, including principles for establishing requirements for the research, pedagogical and professional qualifications of the members of the teaching staff;

4) a list of broad areas of study and fields of study (Annex 2);

5) study programme groups where given educational institutions have the right to conduct studies and to issue corresponding academic degrees and diplomas (Annex 3).
(2) The Standard of Higher Education applies to all levels and forms of study of higher education level, regardless of the legal status of the educational institution.

(3) The provisions of the standard of higher education apply to medical training, veterinary training, pharmacist training, dentistry training, midwifery training, nursing training, architectural studies, civil engineering studies and teacher training taking account of the specifications arising from the framework requirements established by a regulation of the Government of the Republic.

(4) The Standard of Higher Education is a source document in issuing the right to conduct studies in higher education level, in institutional accreditation and in quality assessment of study programme groups for educational institutions providing higher education.

§ 2. Definitions

In this Regulation, the following definitions are used:

1) study programme means the source document for studies which sets out the objectives of the studies to be undertaken, including the expected learning outcomes, the nominal duration and volume of study, access requirements, the list and volume of subjects, short descriptions of subjects, the opportunities and conditions for choosing subjects, the opportunities for specialisation and the conditions for the completion of studies. A study programme other than a study programme of Doctoral study prescribes specialisation on one field of study (main field of study) or several fields of study (main field of study and minor field of study);

2) joint study programme means the source document for study, according to which studies are undertaken in two or more educational institutions providing higher education that have developed and approved the joint study programme together. Provisions on study programmes of this Regulation apply to joint study programmes, taking account of the specifications provided for them. If a part of a joint study programme is conducted in an educational institution of a foreign country, the parts of the study programme conducted in different countries shall conform to the relevant requirements of those countries.

3) qualifications framework – a tool for categorising vocational and educational levels on the basis of criteria set for acquired knowledge and skills and the extent of independence and responsibility. The internationally comparable qualifications framework connecting the professions system and educational system was approved in Annex 1 to the Professions Act, “Qualifications
Framework”, which is divided into eight levels, where level 1 is lowest and level 8 highest;

4) learning outcomes mean knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired as a result of learning that are described at the minimum level which is necessary for completion of the described study programme, module or subject. Achieving learning outcomes at higher levels than the minimum is differentiated by evaluation. Learning outcomes achieved on graduation from higher education level study and their connections to the qualifications framework are described in Annex 1 to this Regulation “Learning outcomes of cycles of higher education level and their connections to the qualifications framework”. If the study programme prescribes specialisation on one or several fields of study, the learning outcomes describe learning outcomes to be achieved in the main field of study or in fields of study acquired with a study load similar to the main field of study;

5) module means the unit of structuring of the content of the study programme which groups subjects into a purposeful set or which is constituted of one subject. The study load of a module in credit points shall be determined by educational institutions;

6) pedagogical skills of a member of teaching staff (teaching competency) mean a set of knowledge, skills, attitudes and personal characteristics necessary for successful teaching and supporting the learning process that is expressed in professional activities. Teaching competency covers the planning of a study process, conducting the study, evaluation and giving feedback, supervising and reviewing and educational methodological work.

Chapter 2

STUDY PROGRAMME

§ 3. Study load prescribed in study programme

(1) The study load prescribed in study programme shall be expressed in credit points of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (hereinafter credit point). One credit point corresponds to 26 hours of study by a student. The load of one academic year is 60 credit points, i.e. 1,560 hours of study by a student.

(2) In the part of a joint study programme implemented in an educational institution of a foreign country, different system for expressing study load than that provided in subsection (1) of this section may be used.
§ 4. Principles on the structure of a study programme

(1) A study programme is composed of modules structured in a way that enables a student in the first or second cycle of higher education to specialise in a main field of study and may enable to choose a minor field of study into the study programme or specialise, in order to achieve the objective and learning outcomes of the study programme, in several fields of study with a load similar to the main field of study. The structure of a study programme establishes preconditions for supporting the mobility of students and the recognition of prior learning and professional experience.

(2) When specialising in a main field of study, a student acquires the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for a study cycle and which are the precondition for commencing work in a field of study or fields of study described in the study programme and continuing studies in the next cycle. The main field of study (including the examination or thesis required for graduation) shall form at least 50 per cent of the study load determined to students by the study programme;

(3) When acquiring a minor field of study, a student chooses another field of study in the same or another specialisation as the main field of study and acquires additional knowledge and skills for commencing work in the minor field of study and for continuing studies in the next cycle. The load of a minor field of study is at least 45 credit points independent of whether the minor field of study is acquired during one or more cycles of study.

§ 5. Studies and language of instruction

(1) Studies are undertaken in the forms of contact learning, work practice and independent work.

(2) Contact learning means lectures, seminars, practical training classes, laboratory work, individual classes or other study in a manner determined by the educational institution, aimed at acquiring knowledge and skills, organised for achieving learning outcomes. Contact learning takes place in a learning environment (including eLearning), where both a student and a member of the teaching staff participate.

(3) Work practice means a purposeful activity organised to achieve learning outcomes, aimed at applying acquired knowledge and skills in a working environment in a form determined by the educational institution and under the supervision of an instructor.
(4) Independent work means acquiring knowledge necessary for achieving learning outcomes independently, according to tasks given by a member of the teaching staff.

(5) Language of instruction is the language in which studies are conducted; the skill of using the language enables achieving learning outcomes of the cycles higher education level described in Annex 1 to this Regulation. Language(s) of instruction and other languages necessary for achieving the learning outcomes shall be determined in the study programme.

§ 6. Requirements for study programmes and quality of studies

(1) A study programme shall be in line with the areas of activity of the educational institution that are based on the development plan or statutes of the institution. A study programme shall contribute to fulfilling the mission of the educational institution and to achieving its goals and shall take into consideration the needs of the labour market and the target group.

(2) Study programmes and conducting studies shall be consistent with the internal quality standards of the educational institution as well as with national and international quality requirements and agreements.

(3) The objectives and learning outcomes of a study programme shall be equal and comparable with the learning outcomes of the cycles of higher education level described in Annex 1 to this Regulation, meet the requirements and trends of international legal instruments that regulate the professional field and, if a professional standard exists, take into consideration the acquisition and implementation of the knowledge and skills described therein.

(4) The objectives and learning outcomes of a study programme shall be formulated in a way that they provide a basis for evaluation of the knowledge and skills of graduates of that study programme.

(5) The title and structure of a study programme shall be consistent and the study methods used and conducting of studies, including the load of independent work and work practice, shall support achievement of the objectives of the study programme.

(6) Work practice described in a study programme shall lead students towards acquiring and implementing efficient work methods.

(7) The conduct of studies is conforms to the requirements if:
1) ordinary teaching staff and research staff are available for the studies, who meet the qualification requirements established in legal instruments and whose number is, based on their responsibilities, the volume of conducted studies and research and the number of supervised students, adequate for achieving the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programme;

2) a member of the teaching staff or research staff who conducts studies in a given subject (including visiting members of the teaching staff) has the necessary teaching competence and his or her qualification supports achievement of the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programme;

3) ordinary teaching staff and research staff who are conducting studies have properly undergone evaluation, have received regular feedback on their activities and have regularly furthered their pedagogical skills;

4) necessary premises for studies and research and development activities related to Doctoral study are available (auditoriums, laboratories, seminar rooms and a library), the furnishings and equipment of which are ample and up-to-date for achieving the objectives of study programmes and the condition of which meet the health and safety requirements established in legal instruments;

5) necessary information technology tools for studies and research and development activities related to Doctoral study and connections to domestic and international information networks are accessible and necessary data media for acquiring subjects in the study programme are available;

6) a support structure exists that supports the work of the teaching staff (including creation of necessary working conditions), and support systems for students are available (including for provision of study and career counselling and for counselling on recognition of prior learning and professional experience);

7) financing sources for conducting studies and for research and development activities related to Doctoral study and a strategy supporting their obtainment are in place.

(8) A study programme shall be recorded according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic in the Estonian Education Information System database.
Chapter 3

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDIES AT HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL

§ 7. Bachelor’s study

(1) Bachelor’s study is study in the first cycle of higher education during which a student improves his or her general educational knowledge and acquires the basic knowledge and skills of a field of study and the knowledge and skills necessary for Master’s study and to commence work.

(2) In Bachelor’s study, a Bachelor’s examination or Bachelor’s thesis shall constitute at least five credit points of the study load determined in the study programme.

(3) In Bachelor’s study, work practice is foreseen that is necessary for achieving learning outcomes and the load of which is determined in the study programme.

(4) The access requirement to Bachelor’s study is secondary education or a corresponding foreign qualification.

(5) The nominal duration of Bachelor’s study is three to four years and the study load determined in the study programme shall be from 180 to 240 credit points.

(6) Bachelor’s study ends with the taking of a Bachelor’s examination or the defence of a Bachelor’s thesis.

(7) A university shall award to a person who has completed Bachelor’s study a diploma concerning completion of the study programme and awarding of a bakalaureusekraad, as well as an academic transcript and, if the University has decided that a Diploma Supplement in English is issued only upon the person’s request, a Diploma Supplement in English upon submission of a corresponding application.

(8) Educational institutions agreed upon in the co-operation agreement for a joint study programme shall award, according to subsections 13 (1³) or 13 (1⁴) of the Universities Act, a joint diploma or diploma concerning completion of the study programme and the qualification awarded, an academic transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has fully completed a joint study programme.
(9) A person who has completed Bachelor’s study has the right to continue his or her studies in Master’s study under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure established by the board of the educational institution.

§ 8. Studies in professional higher education

(1) Studies in professional higher education means study at the first level of higher education during which a student acquires the competence necessary for employment in a particular profession or to continue his or her studies in Master’s study.

(2) In studies in professional higher education, the final examination or final paper shall constitute at least five credit points of the study load determined in the study programme.

(3) In studies in professional higher education, work practice shall constitute at least 15 per cent of the study load determined in the study programme.

(4) The access requirement to studies in professional higher education is secondary education or a corresponding foreign qualification.

(5) The nominal duration of studies in professional higher education is three to four years and the study load determined in the study programme shall be from 180 to 240 credit points.

(6) Studies in professional higher education end with the taking of a final examination or the defence of a final paper.

(7) An educational institution shall award a diploma concerning completion of the study programme, as well as an academic transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has completed studies in professional higher education.

(8) Educational institutions agreed upon in the co-operation agreement for a joint study programme shall award, according to subsections 13 (1) or 13 (1) of the Universities Act or subsections 19 (2) or 19 (2) of the Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act, a joint diploma or diploma concerning completion of the joint study programme and the qualification awarded, as well as an academic transcript and a diploma supplement in English to a person who has fully completed a joint study programme.

(9) A person who has completed studies in professional higher education has the right to continue his or her studies in Master’s study under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure established by the board of the educational institution.
§ 9. Master’s study

(1) Master’s study is study at the second cycle of higher education during which a student improves his or her knowledge and skills in his or her field of study and acquires the knowledge and skills necessary for independent work and Doctoral study.

(2) In Master’s study, a Master’s examination or Master’s thesis shall constitute at least 15 credit points of the study load determined in the study programme.

(3) In Master’s study, work practice is foreseen that is necessary for achieving learning outcomes and the load of which is determined in the study programme.

(4) The access requirement to Master’s study is a bakalaureusekraad, higher education acquired by completing a professional higher education study programme or a corresponding qualification.

(5) At an institution of professional higher education, work experience of at least one year in a field of study corresponding to the study programme of Master’s study is the access requirement to Master’s study, in addition to the requirement specified in subsection (4). Depending on the nature of a field of study, the board of an institution of professional higher education has the right to establish a requirement for work experience of a longer duration as an access requirement to Master’s study.

(6) The requirement specified in subsection 5 does not apply to a joint study programme, if part of the joint study programme is conducted in a university or a foreign educational institution.

(7) The nominal duration of Master’s study is one to two years and the study load determined in the study programme shall be from 60 to 120 credit points.

(8) The nominal duration of both the Bachelor’s study and Master’s study, and studies in professional higher education and Master’s study is at least five years and the study load determined in the study programme shall be 300 credit points.

(9) Master’s study ends with the defence of a Master’s thesis or the taking of a Master’s examination.

(10) An educational institution shall award a diploma concerning completion of the study programme and awarding of a magistrikraad, as well as an academic
transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has completed Master’s study.

(11) Educational institutions agreed upon in the co-operation agreement for a joint study programme shall award, according to subsections 13 (1³) or 13 (1⁴) of the Universities Act, a joint diploma concerning completion of the joint study programme and the qualification awarded, as well as an academic transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has fully completed a joint study programme.

(12) A person who has completed Master’s study has the right to continue his or her studies in Doctoral study pursuant to the procedure established by the council of the university.

§ 10. Doctoral study

(1) Doctoral study is study at the highest cycle of higher education during which a student acquires the knowledge and skills necessary for independent research, development or professional creative activity.

(2) Doctoral study consists of studies and extensive research, development or other creative activity.

(3) In Doctoral study, research, development or other creative activity (including the Doctoral thesis) shall constitute at least seventy per cent of the study load determined in the study programme. A doctoral thesis is an independent scientific research which presents a new solution of an essential problem of the corresponding scientific field, or a creative work.

(4) Doctoral study shall be carried out at a university.

(5) The access requirement of Doctoral study is a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification.

(6) The nominal duration of Doctoral study is three to four years and the study load determined in the study programme shall be from 180 to 240 credit points.

(7) At least 85 per cent of the subjects determined in the study programme of Doctoral study shall be taught by teaching staff who have a Doctoral level degree or a corresponding qualification and are active in research and development in the corresponding field of study or creative persons recognised in artistic fields at a high international level.

(8) Doctoral study ends with the defence of a Doctoral thesis.
(9) A university shall award a diploma concerning completion of the study programme and awarding of a doktorikraad, as well as an academic transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has completed Doctoral study.

(10) Educational institutions agreed upon in the co-operation agreement for a joint study programme shall award, according to subsections 13 (13) or 13 (14) of the Universities Act, a joint diploma concerning completion of the joint study programme and the qualification awarded, as well as an academic transcript and a Diploma Supplement in English to a person who has fully completed a joint study programme.

Chapter 4

PRINCIPLES OF RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

§ 11. Purpose of recognition of prior learning and professional experience

The purpose of recognition of prior learning and professional experience is to:

1) increase educational and professional mobility of persons, including persons with special needs, and enhance opportunities for life-long learning;

2) enable recognition of outcomes of studying in the educational system consisting of cycles (formal education), other organised study activities (non-formal education) and learning through professional experience and during everyday activities and during leisure time (informal education) equally to compliance with the admission requirements specified in clause 12 (3) 1) of this Regulation or with learning outcomes achieved by completing a study programme;

3) enable educational institutions to respond flexibly to changes in the labour market and change of labour needs.

§ 12. General principles of recognition of prior learning and professional experience
(1) The educational institution shall establish the conditions and procedure for recognition of prior learning and professional experience of students pursuant to clause 14 (3) 4) of the Universities Act or clause 9 (4) 5) of the Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act.

(2) Establishing of the conditions and procedure for recognition of prior learning and professional experience and submission of an application, evaluation of an application and making of the decision on recognition and contestation of the decision on the basis thereof shall be based on the principles set out in the Administrative Procedure Act and this Regulation and quality requirements prescribed by legislation and established in educational institutions.

(3) Recognition of prior learning and professional experience may be applied under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure established on the basis of subsection (1):

1) for compliance with the admission requirements established by the educational institution;

2) for transfer of credit points upon completion of a study programme;

3) for calculation of prior learning and professional experience as credit points.

(4) The assessment and recognition of prior learning and professional experience shall not apply to compliance with the graduation requirements specified in subsection 7 (2), subsection 8 (2) and subsection 9 (2) of this Regulation.

(5) An educational institutions shall:

1) inform students of the conditions and procedure for recognition of prior learning and professional experience, including the terms and costs relating to the assessment which shall be borne by the student, and the possibilities for contesting the results;

2) ensure availability of the necessary information and supervision and counselling services for applicants for recognition of prior learning and professional experience;

3) ensure the uniformity of the procedure for recognition of prior learning and professional experience and the competence and impartiality with regard to the result of the persons who conduct assessment;

4) establish opportunities for assessors to participate in in-service training and co-operation network;
5) organise, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Research, the creation of support systems, including an advisory system and a co-operation network of assessors, for recognition of prior learning and professional experience.

§ 13. Principles for certification and assessment of prior learning and professional experience

(1) Outcomes of prior learning are certified by a corresponding diploma, certificate or another document certifying education.

(2) Studies which were carried out through professional experience and within the framework of everyday activities and leisure time shall be certified by reference to the works prepared and presentation thereof, a folder of samples, a professional certificate, a copy of the contract of employment or the directive of appointment to office or other documentary evidence. Upon certification of professional experience, a description of professional experience and a self-evaluation shall be appended to the application.

(3) The board of the educational institution has the right to establish additional requirements for certification in addition to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2).

(4) An educational institution has the right to assign practical tasks to a person, interview a person or valuate the knowledge and skills of a person in any other manner, as necessary, in order to evaluate the prior learning and professional experience of the person.

Chapter 5

TEACHING STAFF

§ 14. Principles of establishing specific requirements for teaching staff

(1) When establishing minimum requirements for teaching staff, an educational institution takes into consideration the requirements of this Chapter and if necessary for achieving the objectives and learning outcomes of a study programme, may establish higher requirements than those provided in this Chapter.

(2) In justified cases, an educational institution may establish in addition to the requirements of this Chapter, for a position presuming a doktorikraad, a profession awarded at the 8th level of the qualifications framework as compatible with the requirements.
§ 15. Professor

(1) An internationally recognised specialist in his or her field of study who has been awarded a doktorikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and at least five years of experience in active scientific and development activities or other creative activities, is eligible for the position of a professor of a university.

(2) An internationally recognised specialist in his or her field of profession who has been awarded a doktorikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and at least five years of experience in active research and development activities or other creative activities, is eligible for the position of a professor of an institution of professional higher education.

(3) An internationally recognised creative person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and at least five years of experience in active creative activities, is eligible for the position of a professor in fields of arts of a university or an institution of professional higher education.

(4) When applying for a position of a professor of a university, except for a case where the person has not worked as a professor before and except for applying for a position of a professor of arts, at least one Doctoral thesis shall have been defended under the candidate’s supervision within the past five years.

§ 16. Docent

(1) A recognised specialist in his or her field of study who has been awarded a doktorikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and at least five years of experience in scientific and development activities or other creative activities, is eligible for the position of a docent of a university.

(2) A recognised specialist in his or her field of profession who has been awarded an academic degree or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and at least five years of experience in his or her field of profession and in scientific and development activities or other creative activities, is eligible the position of a docent of an institution of professional higher education.
(3) A recognised creative person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience, including experience in supervising students and in creative activities, is eligible for the position of a professor in fields of arts of a university or an institution of professional higher education.

§ 17. Lecturer

(1) A person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and experience in scientific and development activities or other creative activities in his or her field of study is eligible for the position of a lecturer of a university.

(2) A person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification and who has pedagogical skills and professional experience in his or her field of profession is eligible for the position of a lecturer of an institution of professional higher education.

§ 18. Assistant

(1) A person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification is eligible for the position of an assistant of a university.

(2) A person who has been awarded a bakalaureusekraad, a diploma certifying completion of a study programme of an institution of professional higher education or a corresponding qualification and who has professional experience in his or her field of profession is eligible for the position of an assistant of an institution of professional higher education.

§ 19. Teacher

(1) A person who has been awarded a magistrikraad or a corresponding qualification is eligible for the position of a teacher of a university.

(2) A person with higher education is eligible for the position of a teacher of an institution of professional higher education.

(3) Specialists who have secondary education and at least three years of work experience in their profession may teach practical courses of a study programme of studies in professional higher education. The title of the position of a teacher of practical subjects may be “instructor”.
§ 20. Research staff

(1) A member of the research staff who is a member of the educational institution may fill the tasks of a member of the teaching staff, using his or her title.

(2) Members of research staffs who are not members of the educational institutions and other persons with required qualification shall participate in conducting Master’s study and Doctoral study under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure established by the council of a university.

§ 21. Visiting members of the teaching staff

For the purpose of achieving the objectives and expected learning outcomes of a study programme, an educational institution may involve in the conducting of studies as visiting members of the teaching staff scientists or other notable creative persons or notable practitioners of their field of study who do not have to meet the requirements of sections 15-19.

Chapter 6

IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

§ 22. Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on 12 January 2009.

§ 23. Transition

(1) To the procedures of applications for opening study programmes, for educational licences and for evaluation that were submitted before the entry into force of this Regulation, conditions and procedure in force at the moment of submission of the application shall apply.

(2) Educational institutions shall bring their study programmes into conformity with clauses 2 3), 2 4) and section 5 of this Regulation and with the requirements for study load provided in section 3, subsections 4 (2) and 4 (3), subsections 7 (2) and 7 (5), subsections 8 (2) and 8 (5), subsections 9 (2), 9 (7) and 9 (8) and subsection 10 (6) by 1 September 2009.
(3) Educational institutions shall bring their study programmes into conformity with subsections 7 (3) and 9 (3) of this Regulation by 1 September 2010.

(4) Requirements provided for members of teaching staff in this Regulation apply as of elections of the teaching staff which are carried out after 1 January 2009.

§ 24. Specifications in applying the Regulation until 31 August 2009

Until 31 August 2009, the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System shall not apply to study programmes and this Regulation shall apply to study programmes with the following specifications:

1) one credit point corresponds to 40 hours or one week of study by a student. The study load of an academic year is 40 credit points;

2) a minor field of study shall form at least 30 credit points or, if the minor field of study is acquired during several cycles of education, at least 30 credit points of the study load determined in the study programmes;

3) in Bachelor’s study, a Bachelor’s examination or Bachelor’s thesis shall constitute at least three credit points of the study load determined in the study programme;

4) the study load determined in a study programme of Bachelor’s study shall be from 120 to 160 credit points;

5) in professional higher education, a final examination or a final paper shall constitute at least three credit points of the study load determined in the study programme;

6) the study load determined in a study programme of professional higher education shall be from 120 to 160 credit points;

7) in Master’s study, a Master’s examination or Master’s thesis shall constitute at least at least ten credit points of the study load determined in the study programme;

8) the study load determined in a study programme of Master’s study shall be from 40 to 80 credit points;

9) the study load determined in a study programme of both the Bachelor’s study and Master’s study, and studies in professional higher education and Master’s study shall be 200 credit points;
10) the study load determined in a study programme of Doctoral study shall be from 120 to 160 credit points.

§ 25. Repeal


Government of the Republic
Regulation No 178 of 18 December 2008
Standard of Higher Education

Annex 1

Learning outcomes of cycles of higher education level and their connections to the qualifications framework

1.1. In order to be awarded a bakalaureusekraad, a student shall:

- have a systematic overview of the basic concepts, theoretical principles and research methods of the field of study;
- be able to identify interdisciplinary relationships;
- understand the scopes of application of different specialities of the field of study;
- know the theoretical schools, development trends and current problems of the field of study;
- be able to formulate problems relating to the field of study and to analyse and evaluate different solutions;
- be able to collect information independently by using appropriate methods and means and to interpret it critically and creatively;
- be able to select and use appropriate technologies and methods when solving problems of the field of study, and, among other things, be willing to participate in team work and lead it;
- have command of the communication skills and information and communication technologies necessary for work;

- be able to explain orally or in written form in the language of instruction and in at least one foreign language problems relating to the field of study, and to participate in professional discussions;

- be willing to actively participate in the civil society and demonstrate tolerance towards diversity of attitudes and values;

- be able to evaluate the role of knowledge and the role and consequences of his or her professional activities in society, with consideration of scientific, social and ethical aspects;

- be able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in work, to continue studies and to undertake continuous independent professional development.

1.2. The learning outcomes achieved on graduation from a Bachelor’s study programme are in conformity with the general requirements described in the 6th level of the qualifications framework.

2.1. In order to be awarded a diploma of studies in professional higher education, a student shall:

- have a systematic overview of the basic concepts, theoretical principles and research methods of the field of study;

- be able to identify interdisciplinary connections in scopes of application of different fields of study;

- know current problems and potential applications of the field of study;

- be able to formulate problems relating to the field of study and to analyse and evaluate different solutions;

- be able to collect information independently by using appropriate methods and means and to interpret it critically and creatively;

- be able to select and use appropriate methods and technologies when solving problems of the field of study within given frameworks, and to model and/or assess potential results on the basis of given information;

- show initiative in initiating projects as well as responsibility, leadership and team work skills in implementation thereof;

- have command of the communication skills and information and communication technologies necessary for work;
- be able to explain orally or in written form in the language of instruction and in at least one foreign language problems relating to the field of study, and to participate in professional discussions;

- be willing to actively participate in the civil society and demonstrate tolerance towards diversity of attitudes and values;

- be able to evaluate the role and consequences of professional activities in society, with consideration of social and ethical aspects;

- be able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in work, willing to engage as a specialist or undertaking in his or her field of profession;

- be able to undertake continuous independent professional development;

2.2. The learning outcomes achieved on graduation from professional higher education study programme are in conformity with the general requirements described in the 6th level of the qualifications framework.

3.1. In order to be awarded a magistrikraad (including upon completion of the integrated study programmes of Bachelor’s and Master’s study), a student shall:

- have systematic overview and broad knowledge of concepts, theories and research methods of the field of study;

- know the theoretical development trends, current problems and potential applications in the field of study;

- have in depth-knowledge in a narrower research field of the field of research;

- be able to identify and create interdisciplinary connections;

- be able to independently and creatively identify and formulate problems and/or research questions related to the field of study and be able to solve them with appropriate measures within given timeframes and within limited information, using of knowledge of other fields as necessary.

- be able to select and use appropriate methods and technologies when solving problems of the field of study, and to model and/or assess the potential results;

- be able to critically evaluate his or her activities when solving problems and/or research questions of the field of study;
- be prepared to work in an area of activity requiring professional qualifications, showing initiative, responsibility, leadership and team work skills;

- be able to hand down with competence his or her knowledge by teaching, instruction or in another manner;

- be able to present and reason orally or in written form in the language of instruction and a foreign language essential for his or her field of study the problems relating to the field of study, conclusions and the underlying theories, and to participate in relevant discussions of both corresponding specialists and non-specialists;

- be willing to actively participate in the civil society and demonstrate tolerance towards diversity of attitudes and values;

- be able to act ethically in complex situations, be aware of the ethical aspects, possibilities, restrictions and social role of his or her activities and be able to provide reasoned assessment in issues concerning his or her field of study;

- be able to evaluate his or her need, and the need of others, of continuing education and professional development, and have command of effective methods necessary for independent study;

- be able to continue studies or participate in research, act as a specialist or developer in his or her field, including internationally.

3.2. The learning outcomes achieved on graduation from a Master’s study programme (including upon completion of the integrated study programmes of Bachelor’s and Master’s study) are in conformity with the general requirements described in the 7th level of the qualifications framework.

4.1. In order to be awarded a doktorikraad, a student shall:

- have broad knowledge and systematic overview within his or her field of research and in-depth and up-to-date knowledge within a narrower sphere of the field of research;

- understand the meaning and scope of the existing knowledge and research methods of the field of research and between fields so as to extend, revaluate and formulate them as necessary;

- be able to independently and critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate new and complex ideas relating to the field of study, as well as creatively and with scientific accuracy identify and formulate research questions;
- have command of research methods of his or her field of research;
- be able to act independently in complex, including international work and study environment, including in research which requires leadership and teamwork skills, innovative thinking and the ability of making strategic decisions;
- be able to initiate, design, implement and critically evaluate research and development projects that lead to new knowledge and new procedural solutions;
- be able to provide scientific ethical assessments, show insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, the social role of science and the responsibility of people in the use of scientific achievements;
- be able to analyse social norms and relationships, comply therewith and act to change them as necessary;
- be able to present orally or in written form the problems and conclusions relating to the branch of science and his or her research, and the underlying theories, both to specialist audiences and in communication with non-specialists, and to present reasons and participate in relevant discussions in the language of instruction and a foreign language essential for his or her field of study, as well as to publish original scientific results in internationally pre-reviewed academic publications or, in fields of study related to arts, creative works for international audience;
- have an ability to identify his or her need of further knowledge or skills and support the studies of others both in the context of education and science as well as on a wider social level;
- be able to hand down with competence his or her knowledge by teaching, instruction or in another manner.

4.2. The learning outcomes achieved on graduation from a Doctoral study programme are in conformity with the general requirements described in the 8th level of the qualifications framework.

Government of the Republic
Regulation No 178 of 18 December 2008
Standard of Higher Education
Annex 2

List of broad areas of study and fields of study

I. Broad areas of study

1. Education
2. Humanities and arts
3. Social sciences, business and law
4. Science
5. Engineering, manufacturing and construction
6. Agriculture
7. Health and welfare
8. Services

II. Fields of study

1. The field of study in the broad area of study of education is teacher training and educational sciences.

2. Fields of study in the broad area of study of humanities and arts are the following:
   1) arts
   2) humanities

3. Fields of study in the broad area of study of social sciences, business and law are the following:
   1) social and behavioural sciences
   2) journalism and information
   3) business and administration
   4) law

4. Fields of study in the broad area of study of science are the following:
   1) life sciences
2) physical sciences
3) mathematics and statistics
4) computing

5. Fields of study in the broad area of study of engineering, manufacturing and construction are the following:
1) engineering and engineering trades
2) manufacturing and processing
3) architecture and building

6. Fields of study in the broad area of study of agriculture are the following:
1) agriculture, forestry and fisheries
2) veterinary

7. Fields of study in the broad area of study of health and welfare are the following:
1) health
2) social services

8. Fields of study in the broad area of study of services are the following:
1) personal services
2) transport services
3) environmental protection
4) security services