

Universities Act vol 2

§ 4. University

[RT I 2003, 20, 116 – entered into force 10.03.2003]

(1) A university is an educational, creative and research and development institution where studies conforming to the Standard of Higher Education are undertaken in three cycles of higher education. Doctoral study is based on positively evaluated research and development activities.

[RT I 2008, 34, 208 – entered into force 1.01.2014]

(4) A university where research and development activities have been positively evaluated in several research areas and where education is provided in several broad areas of study in every cycle of higher education may use the word “university” or an equivalent in a foreign language in its name.

[RT I 2008, 34, 208 – entered into force 1.01.2014]

§ 21¹. Standard of Higher Education

(1) The Government of the Republic shall establish uniform requirements in the Standard of Higher Education for studies at higher education level by a regulation.

(2) The following shall be established in the Standard of Higher Education:

- 1) requirements for study programmes, including requirements for joint study programmes and requirements for studies and final thesis or final examination;
- 2) objectives and learning outcomes to be achieved 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;
- 5) study programme groups where given educational institutions have the right to conduct studies and to issue corresponding academic degrees and diplomas.

[RT I 2008, 34, 208 – entered into force 1.01.2009]

§ 22³. Granting of the right to conduct studies

(1) Conducting studies is based on study programmes approved by the council of a university which are in conformity with the Standard of Higher Education and have been entered in the Estonian Education Information System founded on the basis of subsection 36⁶ (4) of the Republic of Estonia Education Act.

(2) The study programme groups in which a university has the right to open study programmes, and academic degrees and diplomas issued by universities are listed, on the proposal of the Minister of

Education and Research, by the Government of the Republic in an Annex to the Standard of Higher Education once a year.

(3) In order to open a study programme in a new study programme group, the university, or, in case of a joint study programme, the educational institution agreed upon in the co-operation agreement for the joint study programme, shall submit at least nine months before the start of a new academic year a request to the Ministry of Education and Research, attaching the following:

- 1) information on the study programmes according to which studies would be conducted, including the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programmes;
- 2) information on the ordinary teaching staff conducting studies and their qualifications;
- 3) information on material resources necessary for conducting the studies and research activities and on sources of financing of the studies;
- 4) reasons for the necessity of opening studies, including information on the target group and proposals from professional associations;
- 5) in case of a request for opening Doctoral study the information on positive evaluation of the research activities of the study's underlying research area;
- 6) in case of a joint study programme, information on the conformity of the joint study programme to section 22¹ of this Act and information on the conformity of the co-operation agreement for the joint study programme to section 22² of this Act.

(4) The Ministry of Education and Research shall organise an expert analysis of the request and the attached information during which the adequacy of the quality of studies, including the qualification requirements for teaching staff established by the council of the university and the qualifications of the teaching staff involved in the studies and the resources necessary to conduct the studies, and the attainability of the described learning outcomes with the study programme and their conformity to the requirements for conducting studies at the level of higher education are assessed. The Ministry of Education and Research shall involve the Higher Education Quality Agency in the assessment of the quality of studies. In case of a joint study programme, the conformity of the joint study programme and the co-operation agreement for the joint study programme to the requirements set out in sections 22¹ and 22² of Act is further assessed.

(5) The Government of the Republic has, on the proposal of the Minister of Education and Research, the right:

- 1) to grant to the university the right to conduct studies in the study programme group and to issue upon completion of a study programme the corresponding academic degree or diploma;
- 2) to grant to the university for a period of one to three years the right to conduct studies in the study programme group and to issue upon completion of a study programme the corresponding academic degree or diploma;

(6) If the Minister of Education and Research makes a proposal referred to in clause (5) 2) of this section, it will set a term for the university after which a new expert analysis of the study programme group will be conducted pursuant to the procedure set out in subsections (3) and (4) of this section. The costs of the new expert analysis shall be covered by the applicant.

(7) If the Minister of Education and Research denies a request for opening a study programme in a new study programme group on the basis of the results of the expert analysis, he or she shall endorse the denial by a directive.

(8) The Government of the Republic has, on the proposal of the Minister of Education and Research, the right to repeal the right granted according to subsection (2) of this section, if:

1) unlawfulness of the activities of a university has been established during state supervision and the precept made for the termination of violations, prevention of further violations and elimination of the consequences of violations has not been complied with;

2) significant deterioration of the quality of education, assessed on the basis of clauses (3) 1)-3) of this section, or of the internal quality assurance system or its functioning, compared to the situation established upon submission of a request referred to in subsection (3) of this section or during the most recent institutional accreditation or quality assessment of a study programme group, has been established during state supervision;

3) an educational institution has not performed its obligations set out in subsection 12 (1) or 12² (1) of this Act;

4) the research activities of the research area underlying the opening of Doctoral study is evaluated negatively;

5) the Minister of Education and Research would have to make, for the third time for the same study programme group, a proposal to the Government of the Republic to grant, for a period of one to three years, the right to conduct studies in the study programme group and to issue corresponding academic degrees and diplomas.

(9) If the Government of the Republic repeals the right referred to in subsection (2) of this section, the university shall cease admissions and the provision of education in that study programme group and, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Research, shall ensure that the students have the opportunity to continue their studies in the same or at another university in the same or a similar field of study.

[RT I 2008, 34, 208 – entered into force 1.01.2011]