The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

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27 December 1996 [shall come into force from 24 January 1997];
23 November 2000 [shall come into force from 26 December 2000];
20 May 2003 [shall come into force from 20 May 2003];
6 January 2004 [shall come into force from 10 January 2004];
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2 March 2006 [shall come into force from 6 April 2006];
15 February 2007 [shall come into force from 24 February 2007];
19 April 2007 [shall come into force from 6 May 2007];
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1 December 2009 [shall come into force from 1 January 2010];
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23 December 2010 [shall come into force from 1 January 2011];
14 July 2011 [shall come into force from 1 August 2011];
15 December 2011 [shall come into force from 1 January 2012].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The Saeima¹ has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following Law:

Law On Institutions of Higher Education

Chapter I
General Provisions

Section 1. Terms Used in this Law

The following terms are used in this Law:

1) **academic hour** – a unit of work time for studies, the duration of which is 45 minutes;

2) **accredited study programme** – a study programme which complies with a specific study direction of an institution of higher education or college, accredited in accordance with the procedures specified by the law. The time period of accreditation of an accredited study programme shall not exceed the time period for which the relevant study direction in the institution of higher education or college has been accredited;

3) **higher education** – a degree of education in which personality development based on science or art, or science and art, in the selected academic or professional, or academic and professional, field of study, as well as the preparation for scientific or professional activity, which takes place after the completion of a secondary education;

4) **accreditation of an institution of higher education or college** – assessment of the work organisation and quality of resources of an institution of higher education or college as a result of which it is granted the status of a State-recognised institution of higher education or college;

5) **a branch of an institution of higher education or college** – a structural unit established by an accredited institution of higher education or college, which has a certain organisational independence, which is territorially separated from the location of the institution of higher education or college (it is located in another state or another populated

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area) and the basic task of which is to implement the accredited study programmes of the relevant institution of higher education or college;

5) a representative office of an institution of higher education – a structural unit established by an institution of higher education which is territorially separated from the location of the institution of higher education (it is located in another state or populated area) and the task of which is to provide information regarding the institution of higher education, to represent the interests of the institution of higher education and to perform other organisational activities specified in the by-law thereof. The representative office of an institution of higher education shall not engage in economic activities and shall not implement study programmes;

6) matriculation – enrolment of persons in the list (student register) of students at an institution of higher education;

7) contact lesson - the direct communication of academic staff and students, which is implemented for the achievement of the goals and tasks of a study programme in accordance with the study programme plan and the duration of which is one academic hour;

8) a credit point – an accounting unit of studies which corresponds to a student’s work load of 40 academic hours (one week of studies);

9) part-time studies – a type of studies which corresponds to less than 40 credit points per academic year and less than 40 academic hours per week;

10) full-time studies – a type of study, which corresponds to 40 credit points per academic year and not less than 40 academic hours per week;

11) promotion – granting of a doctoral degree;

11\(^1\) study course – an outline of a system of knowledge, skills and competence corresponding to the study programme, organised in a specific level and amount, for which study results have been defined, for the achievement of which credit points are granted;

12) licensing of a study programme – the granting of rights to an institution of higher education or a college or the branches thereof to implement a specific study programme;

13) study module – a component of the study programme which is created by combining study courses or parts thereof, which have a common goal and achievable study results;

14) study period – any component of the study programme which is evaluated and documented and incorporates the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competence, but is not a complete study programme;

15) study results – a set of knowledge, skills and competence to be acquired upon completion of a study programme, study module or study course; and

16) accreditation of the study direction – an inspection with the purpose of determining the quality of the resources of an institution of higher education or college and the ability to implement a study programme corresponding to a specific study direction in accordance with regulatory enactments. The accreditation of the study direction of an institution of higher education or college gives the institution of higher education or college the right to issue a State-recognised diploma of higher education for successful acquisition of a study programme corresponding to the relevant study direction.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 2. Application of the Law

(1) This Law shall apply to all existing institutions of higher education and colleges in the Republic of Latvia irrespective of the procedures for the founding and financing and the specialisation thereof. It shall regulate the legal grounds for the activities of institutions of higher education and colleges, and determine and protect the autonomy of institutions of higher education.
This Law shall regulate the co-operation of institutions of higher education and State authorities in order to co-ordinate the autonomy of institutions of higher education with the interests of society and the State.

The Ministry of Education and Science shall supervise compliance with this Law in institutions of higher education and colleges, as well as shall be responsible for State policy in the field of higher education. The Minister for Education and Science shall represent the interests of institutions of higher education and colleges in the Saeima and the Cabinet.

[2 March 2006]

Section 3. Institutions of Higher Education

Institutions of higher education are institutions of higher education and science in which academic and professional study programmes are implemented, as well as which are engaged in science, research and artistic creation. In institutions of higher education, at least forty per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees. In academies, at least fifty per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees. The Cabinet shall determine other procedures for academic staff qualifications if such is required by the specific field of activity of the institution of higher education – arts, architecture, theology, security, seafaring or State defence. The study programmes implemented in an institution of higher education shall be divided into the following thematic groups:

1) education;
2) humanities and arts;
3) social science, commercial science and law;
4) engineering sciences, production and construction work;
5) natural sciences, mathematics and information technology;
6) agriculture;
7) health care and social welfare;
8) services.

An academic degree shall be conferred after the acquisition of the academic study programme, a doctor of science degree – after the acquisition of the doctoral study programme. A professional qualification and a professional degree of the relevant level shall be obtained after the acquisition of the professional study programme.

A university is an institution of higher education, which conforms to the following criteria:

1) it implements bachelor, master’s and doctoral study programmes. The defence of doctoral study programme promotion works occur every year;
2) at least 65 per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees;
3) publishes scientific periodical publications in respect of study programmes implemented in the institution of higher education; and
4) in the main scientific sectors, which are implemented in study programmes, institution of higher education structural units or scientific institutions have been established and scientific activities are performed therein.

[2 March 2006]

The right to include the words “universitāte” [university], “augstskola” [institution of higher education], “akadēmija” [academy] or “koledža” [college] shall be only in the names of those educational establishments, which implement study programmes, or in the names of those institutions founded by them. An institution of higher education, which conforms to the criteria referred to in Paragraph three of this Section has the right to include the word “universitāte” [university] in its name. The word “instituts” [institute] may not be included in the name of an institution of higher education.
(6) The Cabinet shall determine Latvian educational classifications which shall also include a comparison of degrees and professional qualifications acquired in the Republic of Latvia with the European Qualifications Framework and descriptions of the knowledge, skills and competence corresponding to the level of the European Qualifications Framework for graduates of each level of study programme.

(7) At least five per cent of the number of academic staff at an institution of higher education shall be foreign visiting professors, associate visiting professors, visiting docents and visiting lecturers, who have been employed in an academic position during the time period of previous five years at any of the accredited institutions of higher education of a European Union country, except Latvia.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 4. Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education

(1) Institutions of higher education are autonomous institutions of education and science with the right to self-governance. The autonomy of institutions of higher education shall be characterised by the division of power and responsibility between the State authorities and the management of the institution of higher education, as well as between the management and the academic staff.

(2) The autonomy of an institution of higher education shall be expressed in the right to select the ways and forms for the implementation of the tasks set forth by the founders of the institution of higher education and corresponding to this Law, as well as in responsibility for the quality of education acquired in an institution of higher education, appropriate and efficient utilisation of financial and material resources, and compliance with the principle of democracy and with the laws regulating the operation of institutions of higher education and other regulatory enactments.

(3) An institution of higher education has the right:

1) to develop and approve the constitution of the institution of higher education;
2) to form the academic staff of the institution of higher education; and
3) to independently determine:
   a) the content and forms of study programmes,
   b) additional provisions for the admission of students,
   c) basic trends of scientific research work,
   d) the organisational and managerial structure of the institution of higher education, and
   e) rates of monthly salary which are not less than the rates specified by the Cabinet; and
4) perform other activities, which do not contradict with the principles and tasks for the operation of the institution of higher education determined by the founder thereof and this Law.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 1 December 2009]

Section 5. Tasks of Institutions of Higher Education

(1) Founders of institutions of higher education shall determine the tasks to be implemented by the institution of higher education. Within the framework of the autonomy thereof, institutions of higher education shall ensure the inseparability of study and research work, the possibility of acquiring knowledge, an academic education and professional skills, academic degrees and professional qualification in the fields of social life, economics, culture, health care, State administration and other professional activities. In their activities they shall cultivate and develop science and art. Institutions of higher education shall provide students with the possibility to go in for sports.
(2) Institutions of higher education shall develop study programmes, choose academic staff, arrange laboratories, workshops, libraries and other structures so that the students are given the opportunity to acquire knowledge, an academic education and professional skills in accordance with the science development level and cultural traditions of Latvia in as concentrated and didactically wholesome a form as possible. They shall ensure such requirements for tests and examinations and such procedures that the degrees and titles, diplomas and professional qualification acquired, as well as the acquisition of parts of the study programmes, as are mutually recognised in the institutions of higher education of Latvia and other states.

(2') Institutions of higher education shall implement their internal quality assurance system, within the scope of which:

1) a policy and procedures for assuring the quality of higher education shall be established;
2) mechanisms for the creation of their study programmes, for internal approval, for supervision of activities and periodic inspection thereof shall be developed;
3) the criteria, conditions and procedures for the evaluation of student results, which enable reassurance of the achievement of the anticipated study results, shall be developed and made public;
4) internal procedures and mechanisms for assuring the qualifications of academic staff and the work quality shall be developed; and
5) it shall be ensured that information regarding student results, graduate employment, the satisfaction of students with the study programme, the work effectiveness of academic staff, the study funds available and the disbursements thereof, essential indicators of the activities of an institution of higher education is compiled and analysed.

(3) Institutions of higher education shall promote continuing education studies and shall participate in the activities of continuing education. They shall co-operate among themselves, as well as with scientific research institutions and other educational institutions. Institutions of higher education shall co-operate with the institutions of higher education of other states, promote this co-operation, as well as promote the exchange of students and academic staff between the institutions of higher education of Latvia and foreign states.

(4) Institutions of higher education shall organise their activities in the interests of society, as well as inform society about their operations and the directions and possibilities of studies and scientific research by promoting the selection of study and scientific research according to the interests and abilities of the individual. They shall offer to society their scientific, artistic and professional findings and the methods and results of research.

(5) Institutions of higher education shall attend to the preparation of new academics and provide them with the possibility of entering global academic processes.

(6) Institutions of higher education shall guarantee the academic freedom of academic staff and students, prescribing this in the constitutions thereof.

(7) [23 November 2000]

[23 November 2000; 14 July 2011]

Section 6. Academic Freedom

(1) The freedom of studies, research work and artistic creation shall be ensured in institutions of higher education if this freedom does not contradict with the rights of other persons, the constitution of an institution of higher education and regulatory enactments.

(2) The freedom of studies shall be expressed in the rights of students:

1) to choose an institution of higher education, a faculty (department);
2) to change their study programme during their studies, choosing the same study programme in another institution of higher education, faculty (department, institute);
3) to attend lectures in other institutions of higher education, faculties (departments, institutes);
4) to draw up and acquire the free elective part of individual studies; and
5) to be engaged in scientific research work and artistic creation.

(3) The freedom of research work shall be expressed as the rights of academic staff to choose the topic and direction of scientific activities.
(4) Academic staff are entitled to choose study methods.
(5) The administration of an institution of higher education shall have a duty to guarantee and respect the rights of students and academic staff provided for in this Section if they do not contradict with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of this Section.

[23 November 2000]

Section 7. Legal Status and Attributes of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges

(1) State-founded institutions of higher education (except the Latvian National Defence Academy) are derived public persons.
(2) The Latvian National Defence Academy and State-founded colleges are State institutions.
In founding colleges, the Cabinet shall transfer them to the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Science, but the existing colleges in the Ministry of the Interior system – to the subordination of the relevant Ministry of the Interior system institution. The Cabinet may transfer a college to the subordination of the Ministry of Culture or Ministry of Welfare.
(3) Institutions of higher education and colleges founded by private persons are commercial companies or foundations, which operate in accordance with the Commercial Law or the Associations and Foundations Law insofar as they are not in conflict with this Law.
(4) A State recognised diploma shall utilise the State coat of arms and the Cabinet shall determine the format of such diploma.
(5) Institutions of higher education shall have a seal with the full name of the institution of higher education. Institutions of higher education also have the right to use the historic symbols of the institution of higher education in the seal.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 19 April 2007; 18 February 2010]

Section 7.1 [14 July 2011]

Chapter II
Foundation, Reorganisation and Legal Grounds of Institutions of Higher Education

Section 8. Foundation of an Institution of Higher Education and the Opening of a Branch of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) Institutions of higher education may be founded by the State, and other legal persons and natural persons, including legal persons and natural persons from foreign states, taking into account the provisions of this Law and other regulatory enactments.
(2) State institutions of higher education shall be founded by the State of Latvia represented by the Cabinet on the basis of a proposal of the Minister for Education and Science.
(3) [2 March 2006]
(4) An accredited institution of higher education (also an institution of higher education accredited in a foreign state) may open branches of the institution of higher education (hereinafter also – branch) and representative offices of the institution of higher education (hereinafter in this Section – representative office), taking into account the provisions of this Law and other regulatory enactments.
(5) Branches and representative offices shall operate on the basis of a by-law approved by the collegial representation body of the institution of higher education. The head of a branch or
representative office shall act on the basis of an authorisation issued by the relevant institution of higher education.

(6) In founding an institution of higher education, the following provisions shall be observed:

1) the institution of higher education shall implement at least five study programmes and in the implementation thereof at least 30 (in a theological sector institution of higher education – at least 10) persons with a doctoral degree shall be involved, of whom at least five are doctors in the branch of science in which the study programme is implemented;

2) the founder of the institution of higher education shall own or have at his or her disposal premises for the implementation of the study programmes for at least eight years, and this shall be confirmed by an extract from the Land Register, as well as the plan of the premises owned or at his or her disposal or the building file in which the required area is indicated;

3) The design of an institution of higher education shall ensure for the implementation of study programmes that during the time a study process is simultaneously taking place there shall be not less than 7 square metres per one student area of premises, including the premises provided for the individual work of the academic staff;

4) the institution of higher education shall be able to ensure commitments for students studying in the study programmes thereof in the amount of at least 500 000 lats, and this shall be confirmed by a guarantee issued by a bank or an insurance company;

5) the value of the movable or immovable property apportioned to the institution of higher education shall not be less than 2 000 000 lats, and this property shall not be pledged or otherwise encumbered with property rights, it shall not be put under a ban, and it shall be justified by the relevant documents, including statements issued by the relevant Land Register and the Enterprise Register;

6) none of the founders of the institution of higher education shall have tax debts or State compulsory social insurance contribution debts, and this shall be confirmed by statements issued by the relevant competent authorities; none of the founders of the institution of higher education shall be declared insolvent, shall not be involved in the process of liquidation, the economic activity of any founder shall be neither suspended nor discontinued, nor shall court proceedings be initiated regarding the termination, insolvency or bankruptcy of the activities of any founder, and this shall be confirmed by a statement issued by the relevant competent authority; and

7) the premises of the institution of higher education in which study programmes are implemented shall be insured, and this shall be confirmed by an insurance agreement which is concluded for a time period not less than one year; the material and technical provision of the institution of higher education shall be in compliance with the conditions for the implementation of study programmes and hygiene requirements, and this shall be confirmed by a statement of the relevant competent authority; the institution of higher education shall be provided with computer equipment which meets the requirements of the students; the institution of higher education shall have a library, and access to electronic collections of Latvian and international literature and periodicals shall be ensured therein.

(7) When founding a branch of an institution of higher education, the following provisions shall be observed:

1) not less than six persons with doctoral degrees shall be involved in the implementation of one study programme;

2) the founder of a branch of the institution of higher education shall own or have at his or her disposal the premises for the implementation of study programmes for at least eight years, and this shall be confirmed by an extract from the Land Register, as well as the plan of the premises owned or at his or her disposal or the building file in which the required area is indicated;

3) the total area of the premises of the branch of the institution of higher education and the layout thereof shall ensure the possibility for at least 100 students studying in the branch
of the institution of higher education to participate in the implementation of study programmes. The area of the premises during the time a study process is simultaneously taking place shall be not less than 7 square metres per one student, including the premises designed for the individual work of the academic staff;

4) the institution of higher education shall be able to ensure commitments for students studying in the study programmes of the branch thereof in the amount of at least 125 000 lats, and this shall be confirmed by a guarantee issued by a bank or an insurance company;

5) none of the founders of the institution of higher education shall have tax debts or State compulsory social insurance contribution debts, and this shall be confirmed by statements issued by the relevant competent authorities; none of the founders shall be declared insolvent and shall not be involved in the process of liquidation, the economic activity of any founder shall be neither suspended nor discontinued, nor shall court proceedings be initiated regarding the termination, insolvency or bankruptcy of the activities of any founder, and this shall be confirmed by a statement issued by the relevant competent authority; and

6) the premises of the branch of the institution of higher education in which study programmes are implemented shall be insured, and this shall be confirmed by an insurance agreement which is concluded for a time period not less than one year; the material and technical provision of the branch of the institution of higher education shall be in compliance with the conditions for the implementation of study programmes and hygienic requirements, and this shall be confirmed by a statement of the relevant competent authority; the branch of the institution of higher education shall be provided with computer equipment which meets the requirements of the students; the branch of the institution of higher education shall have a library, and access to electronic collections of Latvian and international literature and periodicals shall be ensured therein.

(8) An institution of higher education, as well as a branch thereof, shall begin its operations with the day when it is registered in the Register of Institutions of Higher Education.

[3 June 2004; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 8.1 The Register of Institutions of Higher Education and the Transparency of the Register

(1) The Register of Institutions of Higher Education (hereinafter also – the Register) shall be a part of the Education Institution Register in which information regarding institutions of higher education and the branches thereof shall be entered. The Register of Institutions of Higher Education shall be managed by an official of the institution specified by the Cabinet, authorised for the relevant purpose (hereinafter – the Official of the Register).

(2) Everybody has the right to become acquainted with the records of the Register and the documents submitted to the Register.

(3) After submission of the relevant written request, everyone has the right to receive a statement from the records of the Register, as well as an extract or copy of the document, which is in the file of the Register. Upon the request of the recipient, the accuracy of an extract or copy shall be certified by the signature and seal of the Official of the Register, indicating the date of issue thereof.

(4) Upon the request of the recipient, the Official of the Register shall issue a statement that a specific record of the Register has not been amended or that the specified record has not been entered into the Register.

[3 June 2004; 12 June 2009]

Section 8.2 Information to be Entered into the Register

(1) The following information shall be entered into the Register:
1) the name of the institution of higher education or a branch of the institution of higher education;
2) the legal address of the institution of higher education or the branch;
3) the founders of the institution of higher education or the branch and the rector of the institution of higher education or the head of the branch;
4) the date when the decision on the foundation of the institution of higher education or the opening of the branch has been made;
5) the legal status of the institution of higher education;
6) the date of the approving of the constitution of the institution of higher education or the by-law of the branch;
7) the titles of study programmes implemented by the institution of higher education or the branch and the person responsible for the implementation of the relevant programme (the director of the study programme);
8) information regarding accredited study directions and the study programmes corresponding thereto in the institution of higher education or the branch;
9) information regarding the accreditation of the institution of higher education or the branch;
10) information regarding the provision of the premises of the institution of higher education or the branch and the legal status of the premises;
11) the resources and procedures for financing the institution of higher education or the branch;
12) information regarding the suspension of the constitution of the institution of higher education, information regarding the termination of the operation of the institution of higher education or the branch, and the insolvency, liquidation and re-organisation of the institution of higher education;
13) information regarding the appointment of a liquidator or administrator, indicating his or her given name, surname, phone number;
14) the phone or fax number, electronic mail address of the institution of higher education or the branch; and
15) other information if it is directly prescribed by law.
(2) When entering an institution of higher education or a branch in the Register, it shall be assigned a registration number.
(3) The date when the record was entered shall be added to each record.
[3 June 2004; 14 July 2011]

Section 8.3 Documents to be Submitted to the Register and the Storage Thereof

(1) Those documents shall be submitted to the Register, which justify the entering of a record into the Register or the amendments thereof, as well as other documents specified by law. The original of the relevant document or an appropriately certified copy thereof shall be submitted to the Register. Public documents issued in foreign states shall be validated in accordance with the procedures by international agreements and they shall be accompanied by a notarially certified translation into the Latvian language.
(2) Within two months after the foundation of an institution of higher education, an authorised person of the institution of higher education shall submit to the Register a submission regarding the registration of the institution of higher education. A draft of the constitution of the institution of higher education shall be attached to the submission for the registration of the institution of higher education. The submission for the entering of the institution of higher education into the Register shall be signed by all of the founders thereof.
(3) The registration of a branch in the Register shall be ensured by the institution of higher education, which has opened it. Within two months from the day when a decision on the opening of a branch of an institution of higher education has been made, an authorised person
of the institution of higher education shall submit to the Register a submission for the registration of the branch of the institution of higher education. The by-law of the branch approved by the institution specified in the constitution of the institution of higher education shall be attached to the submission for the registration of the branch.

(4) Documents on the basis of which new entries or amendments are to be made in the Register shall be submitted to the Register within 10 days from the day when the relevant decision was made if it has not been prescribed otherwise in this Law.

(5) Documents to be submitted to the Register and on the basis of which entries or amendments thereto have been made in the Register shall be valid if they have been issued not earlier than one month prior to the submission thereof to the Register. This provision shall not pertain to court adjudications.

(6) The State Service of Education Quality has the right to examine the conformity of information provided to the Register with the actual situation.

(7) Documents submitted to the Register shall be stored in the registration file of the relevant institution of higher education or branch if an entry into the Register has been made on the basis thereof.

[3 June 2004; 12 June 2009]

Section 8. Making an Entry in the Register

(1) An entry shall be made in the Register on the basis of a submission or a court adjudication. Samples of submission forms shall be approved by the Cabinet.

(2) The Official of the Register shall take a decision on the making of an entry in the Register or the refusal to make an entry within two months from the day the submission was received. The Official of the Register shall take a decision on the suspension of the making of an entry in the Register within seven days from the day the submission was received. The Official of the Register shall make an entry in the Register within the same time period on the basis of a court adjudication.

(3) The Official of the Register shall take a decision on the suspension of the making of an entry if:

1) the requirements of regulatory enactments have not been observed in the selecting of the name of an institution of higher education or a branch or in the approving of the by-law of the branch;

2) the draft of the constitution of an institution of higher education or the by-law of a branch or other submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of regulatory enactments; and

3) not all documents specified by law have been submitted.

(4) The Official of the Register shall take a decision on the refusal to make an entry if:

1) the purpose of the activities of an institution of higher education or a branch specified in the constitution of the institution of higher education or the by-law of the branch contradicts with the law;

2) the provisions for the foundation of an institution of higher education or the opening of a branch prescribed by regulatory enactments have not been observed;

3) after a decision for the suspension of the making of an entry has been made, the previously indicated deficiencies have not been eliminated within the time period specified in the decision;

4) the submission and the documents attached thereto have been submitted more than two months after the founding of an institution of higher education or the making of a decision on the opening of a branch;

5) the reasons referred to in Section 8.5, Paragraph 3 of this Law due to which it is not permitted to register an institution of higher education or a branch are present;
6) obstacles have been set up that hinder the examination by the State Service of Education Quality of the information provided to the Register; and
7) the submitter has provided false information.

(5) A decision to refuse the making of an entry in the Register or to suspend the making of an entry shall be substantiated, and it shall be indicated in this decision where and in what time period it may be disputed. The time period for the elimination of deficiencies shall be indicated in a decision for the suspension of the making of an entry.

(6) The Official of the Register shall send the decision referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Section to the submitter within three days from the day of the taking of the decision. The data of the Register of Institutions of Higher Education shall be published on the Internet homepage of the institution specified by the Cabinet; amendments to the Register, as well as the decisions taken by the Officials of the Register shall be published therein within three days.

(7) [12 June 2009]

(8) A repeated submission for the registration of an institution of higher education or a branch thereof may be submitted not earlier than one year from the day the decision to reject the registration of the institution of higher education or the branch thereof has come into effect.

(9) An entry shall be made in the Register on the same day when the decision on the making of the entry has been taken.

[3 June 2004; 12 June 2009]

Section 8.5 Registration Certificate

(1) After the entering of an institution of higher education or a branch thereof in the Register, it shall be issued a registration certificate, which is signed and certified with a seal by the Official of the Register.

(2) The following information regarding an institution of higher education or a branch thereof shall be indicated in a registration certificate:
   1) name;
   2) registration number; and
   3) registration date.

[3 June 2004]

Section 8.6 Exclusion of an Institution of Higher Education and a Branch from the Register

(1) An institution of higher education or a branch shall be excluded from the Register:
   1) if the founder has submitted a submission for the liquidation of the institution of higher education or the closing of the branch;
   2) if the institution of higher education which has opened a branch has been excluded from the Register;
   3) if within one year after the registration of the institution of higher education or the branch, a licence for the implementation of study programmes has not been received;
   4) if within one year after the receiving of a licence, the implementation of the planned study programmes has not been initiated;
   5) if the validity period of all study programme licences issued to the institution of higher education or the branch has expired, the licences shall be withdrawn or cancelled; and
   6) on the basis of a court adjudication.

(2) An institution of higher education or a branch may be excluded from the Register on the basis of a court adjudication if:
   1) the enrolment of students has been announced, students have been enrolled, and the implementation of study programmes has been initiated or educational activity of another
kind has been performed without having received a licence for the implementation of the study programme;

2) during the registration process of an institution of higher education or a branch, false information has been provided which has been the basis for the registration of the institution of higher education or the branch;

3) the issuing of State-recognised diplomas has been ascertained in an institution of higher education or branch, although it did not have the right to issue such diplomas in accordance with the provisions of this Law (the person has not fully acquired the study programme, the study programme is not accredited, etc.); and

4) the State Service of Education Quality, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Council of Higher Education or another institution within the competence thereof has repeatedly ascertained violations of regulatory enactments in the activities of the institution of higher education or the branch.

(3) A person whose founded institution of higher education has been excluded from the Register shall not be allowed to participate in the foundation of another institution of higher education or to file a submission for the registration thereof for one year from the day the institution of higher education has been excluded from the Register, except cases where an institution of higher education has been excluded from the Register on the basis of Section 8.6, Paragraph 1, Clause 1 of this Law.

[3 June 2004; 12 June 2009]

Section 9. Accreditation of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges

(1) Accreditation shall be performed in accordance with the accreditation regulations approved by the Cabinet, and it shall be organised by the Ministry of Education and Science. A decision on the accreditation of an institution of higher education, college and higher education study programme shall be taken within six months.

(2) An institution of higher education or college is entitled to issue State-recognised diplomas for the acquisition of the relevant study programme if the following conditions have been fulfilled:

1) the relevant institution of higher education or college is accredited;

2) the relevant study programme is accredited;

3) the constitution of the institution of higher education or the by-law of the college has been approved by the Saeima or accordingly by the Cabinet.

(3) After the opinion of the Council of Higher Education regarding accreditation has been received, the Minister for Education and Science shall issue the relevant document of accreditation. If the institution of higher education or college does not ensure the study base, and information base indicated in the accreditation, the study quality in conformity with the requirements referred to in Section 55, Paragraph one of this Law or in the operations of the institution of higher education or college significant violations of regulatory enactments have been determined, the Minister for Education and Science has the right to issue an order regarding an extraordinary accreditation, the revocation or cancellation of the period of accreditation or accreditation of the institution of higher education or college. Prior to the issuance of the order the Council of Higher Education shall provide a reasoned opinion.

(4) At the end of each year, the Ministry of Education and Science shall publish a list of those institutions of higher education and colleges, which have the right to issue State-recognised diplomas for the completion of higher education, as well as the names of the accredited study programmes in these institutions of higher education and colleges, in the newspaper “Latvijas Vēstnesis” [the official Gazette of the Government of Latvia].

[26 December 2000; 2 March 2006]
Section 10. Legal Grounds for the Operation of Institutions of Higher Education

(1) Institutions of higher education shall operate on the basis of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the Education Law, the Law On Scientific Activity, this Law, other regulatory enactments and the constitution of the relevant institution of higher education.

(2) Each institution of higher education shall draft a constitution thereof in which the following shall be included:

1) the name of the institution of higher education, legal address, the legal status thereof, the founder of the institution of higher education and his or her legal address;
2) the basic operational directions and tasks;
3) the procedures for approving the constitution and the amendments thereof;
4) the rights, duties and tasks of the representation and management bodies and decision-making bodies of the institution of higher education, the rights, duties and tasks of other collegial management institutions, the procedures for the establishment, election or appointment of these institutions and the composition thereof, the terms of office and the procedures for the recall or appointment thereof;
5) the basic provisions for the establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of the structural units, branches, institutions, commercial companies of the institution of higher education, as well as the basic provisions for the operations thereof;
6) the procedures for the adoption of documents regulating the internal procedures of the institution of higher education;
7) the procedures for the reorganisation and liquidation of the institution of higher education; and
8) other important regulations, which do not contradict with laws and other regulatory enactments.

(3) The constitutions of State-founded institutions of higher education (except the Latvian National Defence Academy) and the amendments thereto shall be approved by the constitutional assembly of the relevant institution of higher education and, upon the recommendation of the Minister for Education and Science, it shall be approved with a law by the Saeima. The constitution of the Latvian National Defence Academy, as well as institutions of higher education founded by other persons and the amendments thereto shall be approved by the Cabinet. If amendments have been made to the constitution of an institution of higher education, the text of amendments, as well as the full text of the amended constitution in its new wording shall be submitted to the Saeima or, as the case may be, to the Cabinet.

(4) If the Minister for Education and Science determines the non-compliance of an institution of higher education with laws and other regulatory enactments or other deficiencies, he or she may recommend to the Cabinet or the Saeima according to suspend the operations of the institution of higher education until the making of relevant amendments or the elimination of the deficiencies within his or her indicated time period.

(5) Persons who are not part of the staff of an institution of higher education may dispute administrative instruments issued by the institution of higher education or the actual actions thereof by filing a submission to the rector of the institution of higher education. The decision taken by the rector may be appealed to a court according to the procedures specified in the Administrative Procedure Law. If the disputed administrative instrument has been issued or the actual action has been performed by the rector of the institution of higher education, persons who are not part of the staff of the institution of higher education may dispute the relevant administrative instrument or actual action to the Ministry of Education and Science. A decision taken by the ministry may be appealed to a court according to the procedures specified in the Administrative Procedure Law.

[26 December 2000; 2 March 2006; 18 February 2010; 14 July 2011]
Section 10.1 Colleges

(1) Colleges shall be managed by a director. The director of a State-founded college shall be appointed according to competition procedures and dismissed from work by the Ministry of Education and Science or the relevant sector ministry. The authorisations of a college director commence with an entry in the Educational Establishments Register. Such entry shall be made on the basis of a submission by the college and a document certifying the appointment of a director submitted by the founders. A college shall operate on the basis of its by-law. The college council shall develop the by-law of a college. The college by-law shall be issued by the Cabinet as a Cabinet regulation on the basis of a recommendation by the Minister for Education and Science. The college by-law shall be developed in accordance with this Law and the Vocational Education Law. The college by-law shall include the following information:

1) the name of the college, the legal address thereof, legal status, college founder and the legal address thereof;
2) the basic operational directions and tasks of the college;
3) the procedures for the development of the college by-law and the proposals for the amendment thereof;
4) college representation, the procedures for the establishment, election or appointment of the management institutions and decision-making bodies thereof, as well as the rights, duties and tasks, authorisation time periods and recall procedures thereof;
5) the procedures for the election of college academic staff;
6) the procedures for the development and approval of the college study programmes;
7) the basic regulations for the establishment, re-organisation, liquidation and operation of college structural units and college branches;
8) the procedures for the acceptance of documents regulating internal procedures of the college;
9) the procedures for the re-organisation and liquidation of the college; and
10) other essential provisions, which are not in conflict with this Law and other regulatory enactments.

(2) A college is an educational establishment, which implements first level professional higher education programmes and provides the possibility of acquiring a fourth level professional qualification. A first level professional higher education programme shall be implemented after the acquisition of a secondary education. The time period for the implementation thereof shall be two to three years.

(3) First level professional higher education programmes shall be developed and approved in accordance with this Law and the Vocational Education Law.

(4) Students after the acquisition of an accredited first level professional higher education programme shall be issued with a recognised diploma regarding first level professional higher education. Such diploma shall certify at the same time also the acquisition of a specified professional qualification in conformity with the Vocational Education Law. The Cabinet shall determine the criteria and procedures for the issuing of such diploma.

[2 March 2006; 19 April 2007; 14 July 2011]

Section 11. Reorganisation or Liquidation of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges

(1) A decision on the reorganisation or liquidation of an institution of higher education or college shall be taken by the founder.

(2) A decision on the reorganisation or liquidation of State institutions of higher education or colleges shall be taken by the Cabinet upon a proposal of the Minister for Education and Science or the relevant sector minister. The draft Cabinet order for the reorganisation or
liquidation of an institution of higher education or college shall have appended an opinion of the Council of Higher Education. If the draft Cabinet order is submitted by a relevant sector minister, such draft shall be co-ordinated also with the Minister for Education and Science.

[26 December 2000; 2 March 2006]

Chapter III
Self-governance and Structural Units of Institutions of Higher Education

Section 12. Representation Bodies, Management Bodies and Decision-Making Bodies of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) The main decision-making bodies of an institution of higher education shall be the constitutional assembly, the senate, the rector and the academic arbitration court.
(2) The highest management body and decision-making body of an institution of higher education in strategic, financial and economic issues shall be the founder thereof, but the highest representation and management body and decision-making body in academic and scientific issues – the constitutional assembly of an institution of higher education.
(3) The procedures for elections, the duties and rights of the representation and management bodies and the decision-making bodies of an institution of higher education, as well as the procedures for appealing against decisions made by these bodies shall be determined by the constitution of an institution of higher education.
(4) The organs of a State-founded institution of higher education as a derived public person shall be the constitutional assembly, the senate, the rector and the academic arbitration court.
(5) The collegial institutions of an institution of higher education shall be the senate, the Assembly of the Faculty, the scientific council of the scientific institute of an institution of higher education or the Assembly of an Institute, as well as the department and division meeting.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 13. Constitutional Assembly

(1) The constitutional assembly shall be elected by secret ballot from:
   1) the academic staff;
   2) the students; and
   3) the general staff of an institution of higher education.
(2) The procedures for the election of representatives, and the number and terms of office thereof shall be determined by the constitution of an institution of higher education.
(3) The proportion of representatives of the academic staff in a constitutional assembly shall not be less than 60 per cent and the proportion of students – not less than 20 per cent.
(4) In accordance with the traditions of an institution of higher education, such names as convention, academic meeting, etc. may be used in place of the name constitutional assembly.
(5) The constitutional assembly shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson (vice-chairpersons) and a secretary.
(6) The constitutional assembly may be convened by the rector or the senate. In a newly-founded institution of higher education, the constitutional assembly shall be convened by the acting rector.

[23 November 2000; 3 June 2004; 14 July 2011]

Section 14. Competence of a Constitutional Assembly

(1) A constitutional assembly shall:
1) accept and make amendments to the constitution of the institution of higher education;
2) elect and remove the rector;
3) listen to the report of the rector;
4) elect the senate or approve the compliance of the election thereof with the constitution of the institution of higher education;
5) elect the academic arbitration court; and
6) approve the by-laws of the senate and the academic arbitration court.

(2) Other tasks of the constitutional assembly shall be determined by the constitution of the institution of higher education.

[2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 15. Senate

(1) The senate is a collegial management body and decision-making body of the staff of an institution of higher education which approves procedures and provisions, regulates all areas of activity of an institution of higher education (examines and approves study programmes, founds and liquidates structural units, etc.).

(2) Senators shall be elected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the constitution of an institution of higher education for a time period, which does not exceed three years.

(3) 75 per cent of the senate of an institution of higher education shall be representatives of the academic staff. The proportion of students in the senate of an institution of higher education shall be not less than 20 per cent. The student representatives shall be elected to the senate by the student self-governance body.

(4) [14 July 2011]

(5) The activities and competence of the senate shall be regulated by a by-law approved by the constitutional assembly.

(6) The senate of an institution of higher education may form councils and commissions for the co-ordination and resolving of particular matters. The procedures for the activities of councils and commissions shall be determined by the by-laws approved by the senate.

[23 November 2000; 3 June 2004; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 16. Convention of Advisors of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) A convention of advisors shall be formed in an institution of higher education. The convention of advisors shall consult the senate and rector in strategic matters for the development of the institution of higher education. The convention of advisors has the right to recommend the examination of issues in the senate and the constitutional assembly.

(2) A convention of advisors shall be founded upon the initiative of the senate of an institution of higher education or upon the request of the Minister for Education and Science. The by-laws thereof shall be approved and the senate of the institution of higher education thereof shall elect the members.

(3) A convention of advisors shall be convened upon the proposition of the chairperson thereof or not less than one third of the convention members.

(4) The Minister for Education and Science may request the forming of a convention of advisors after listening to the opinions of the rector and representatives of the senate. If the Minister requests the formation of a convention of advisors, he or she has the right to appoint the chairperson of the convention and up to 50 per cent of the members of the convention.
Section 17. Rector

(1) The rector is the highest official of an institution of higher education who implements the general administration of the institution of higher education and represents the institution of higher education without special authorisation.

(2) The constitutional assembly of an institution of higher education shall elect a rector for a term, which does not exceed five years and for not more than two times in succession. In a university, the rector elected shall be a professor, in other institutions of higher education – a professor or a person who holds a doctoral degree. Within one week after the election of a rector, the institution of higher education shall inform the Ministry of Education and Science regarding the results of the election.

(3) When founding an institution of higher education, the Cabinet shall appoint an acting rector nominated by the founder of the institution of higher education who shall fulfil the duties of rector until the approval of a rector elected in the constitutional assembly of the institution of higher education.

(4) An institution of higher education shall organise regular elections of a rector at least one month prior to the expiration of the term of his or her office. The previous rector shall fulfil the duties of rector until the approval of the newly elected rector in the Cabinet.

(5) A rector elected by an institution of higher education shall be approved by the Cabinet upon the proposal of the founder of the institution of higher education. A rector shall begin to fulfil the duties of his or her office after his or her approval in the Cabinet. The Cabinet is entitled to not approve a rector if he or she has been elected in violation of the provisions of this Law and the constitution of the institution of higher education. If the rector is not approved, the institution of higher education shall organise repeat elections for the office of rector within two months. The Cabinet shall appoint an acting rector nominated by the founder of the institution of higher education until the approval of a rector elected in the repeat elections. A candidate for the office of rector who has not been approved by the Cabinet shall not participate in the repeat elections for the office of rector.

(6) The Cabinet shall remove a rector from his or her duties upon the proposal of the senate of the institution of higher education or the relevant ministry if infringements of law or other regulatory enactments have been determined in the activities of the rector.

(7) If a rector ceases to fulfil the office prior to the end of his or her term on the basis of his or her own wishes, as well as if a rector is removed from office, the Cabinet shall appoint an acting rector nominated by the founder of the institution of higher education who shall fulfil the duties of rector until the approval of a newly elected rector.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]

Section 17.1 Competence of a Rector

...
5) be responsible for the implementation of the strategy of an institution of higher education and prepare the budget of the institution of higher education; and
6) perform other duties of a rector specified in regulatory enactments and in the constitution of the institution of higher education.

[23 November 2000; 14 July 2011]

Section 18. Audit of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) A sworn auditor has the right to become acquainted with all of the documents of an institution of higher education, related to the financial and economic activities, as well as to request and receive information from its officials.

(2) An institution of higher education is entitled to establish an audit commission which shall operate in accordance with the procedures specified in the constitution of the institution of higher education.

[14 July 2011]

Section 19. Academic Arbitration Court

(1) An academic arbitration court shall examine:
   1) the submissions of students and academic staff regarding the restriction or infringement of the academic freedom and rights prescribed in the constitution of an institution of higher education;
   2) arguments between officials of an institution of higher education, as well as the administrative bodies of structural units, which are subject to a subordinate relationship; and
   3) in the cases specified in this Law – submissions regarding the contesting of an administrative act or actual action, and take appropriate decisions regarding these, as well as fulfill other tasks provided for in the constitution of the institution of higher education.

(2) Decisions taken by an academic arbitration court shall be implemented by the administration.

(3) An academic arbitration court shall be elected by the constitutional assembly from amongst academic staff by secret ballot, and it shall not include representatives of the administrative staff of an institution of higher education. The proportion of students in the academic arbitration court shall be not less than 20 per cent of the composition of such arbitration court. Student representatives shall be elected in the academic arbitration court by the student self-governance body.

(4) Members of an academic arbitration court shall be responsible for their actions to the constitutional assembly; they may be removed from office upon the initiative of their employer only with the consent of the Constitution Assembly.

[3 June 2004; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 20. Structural Units of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) The structure of an institution of higher education shall be determined and the structural units thereof shall be established, re-organised and liquidated in accordance with the constitution of the institution of higher education.

(2) The tasks, functions and rights of the structural unit of an institution of higher education shall be prescribed by the by-law of the structural unit approved by the senate of the institution of higher education. The structural units of an institution of higher education have the right to open sub-accounts. The opening of sub-accounts and the utilisation of the resources of these accounts shall be regulated by other laws and regulatory enactments, as well as regulations approved by the senate of the institution of higher education. The sub-accounts of structural units shall be established so that structural units may have the
possibility of independently using financial resources and subventions. The financial resources of structural units shall not be used for other purposes in an institution of higher education without the consent of the head of the structural unit.

(3) Institutions of higher education may establish structural units for the purpose of conducting educational and scientific work – departments, groups of professors, faculties (divisions), scientific and training laboratories, institutes, etc. An institution of higher education also has the right to establish other structural units for the conducting of organisational, economic and service work. The structural units of an institution of higher education shall not have the status of a legal person.
[23 November 2000]

Section 21. Institutions, Commercial Companies, Associations and Foundations Founded by an Institution of Higher Education

(1) An institution of higher education may found commercial companies and be a shareholder therein, as well as found associations and foundations and be a member or founder thereof.
(2) State-founded institutions of higher education may also found with a decision of the senate institutions for the implementation of a specific purpose, including – public agencies.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]

Section 22. A Scientific Institute

(1) A decision on the foundation of a scientific institute shall be taken by the senate of an institution of higher education.
(2) Institution of higher education scientific institutes founded by the State or local governments (for example, centres, clinics, and experimental stations), may be founded as public agencies taking into account the procedures specified in the Law On Scientific Activity. The Law On Scientific Activity shall determine the legal basis, administration, funding and supervision procedures of a scientific institute – public agency.
(3) Institutions of higher education may establish scientific institutes also as an institution of higher education structural unit. The constitution of the institution of higher education shall determine the operations, funding and supervision of such scientific institutes, as well as the procedures for re-organisation and liquidation.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 23. Institutes

(1) An institute shall be established by uniting the structural units of one scientific sub-field or several scientific sub-fields (departments, groups of professors, scientific laboratories) with the goal of using the scientific potential thereof for the efficient achievement of common research targets, as well as by changing the subordinate relationship of already existing Latvian scientific institutes.
(2) An institute in any sub-field of science may be founded when the composition of the structural units, which it contains, includes the scientific potential, which corresponds to the requirements of the Promotion Council in the relevant scientific sub-field.
(3) The senate shall determine which academic staff may be elected by the Assembly of an Institute in accordance with the qualification of the institute.
(4) [2 March 2006]
[2 March 2006]
Section 24. Faculty

(1) A faculty shall be established by uniting structural units for the organisation of study and scientific activities in one or several directions of science, art or a profession. A dean shall lead a faculty. The Assembly of the Faculty shall elect the dean for a time period, which does not exceed five years and not more than two times in succession. The proportion of students in the faculty council shall be not less than 20 per cent of the composition of such faculty council. Student representatives shall be delegated to the faculty council by the faculty student self-governance body.

(2) A faculty may be formed if, upon uniting the scientific potential, which it includes, it at least corresponds to the requirements of the Promotion Council in the relevant branch or sub-branch of science.

(3) If it is not possible to comply with the requirements regarding scientific potential in the new direction of higher education, the structural unit corresponding to a faculty shall be referred to as a department. A division shall not have the right to elect lecturers.

[2 March 2006]


Chapter IV
Staff of an Institution of Higher Education

Section 26. Staff of an Institution of Higher Education, the Rights and Duties Thereof

(1) The academic staff of an institution of higher education shall consist of:
   1) the academic staff – employees of the relevant institution of higher education elected to academic positions;
   2) the general staff of the institution of higher education; and
   3) students, including master’s programme students, doctoral students and residents.

(2) The rights and duty of the staff of an institution of higher education shall be to promote the freedom of training, study and research and to promote transparency in the administration of the institution of higher education and the settling of the matters thereof. The staff of an institution of higher education shall fulfil its work duties so that the institution of higher education is able to implement its tasks, so that the rights of any other person are not offended and the fulfilment of position or work duties is not disturbed.

(3) A staff member has the right to participate in the formulation of the decisions of the management and self-governance of an institution of higher education and the formulation of the internal regulatory enactments of an institution of higher education in accordance with the constitution of an institution of higher education and in a prescribed order, as well as to take part in the making of a decision related to the interests of the staff, to participate in the meetings of the collegial management bodies of an institution of higher education, as well as to be given the opportunity to be heard.

(4) The staff of an institution of higher education has the right to participate in the elections of the self-governance of an institution of higher education and to be elected therein.

(5) The duty of the management of an institution of higher education shall be to attend to the working conditions of the staff, to provide the possibility for in-service training and retraining.

(6) The staff of an institution of higher education shall be responsible for fulfilling the duties thereof. The senate on the basis of the legislation in force shall determine the procedures according to which infringements are qualified and penalties for the failure to fulfil duties are imposed.
(7) A person may be elected to only one academic position – professor, associate professor, docents, lecturer or assistant, and only in one institution of higher education or college. A person elected to such position may perform academic work in another institution of higher education or college in the position of visiting professor, visiting docent or visiting lecturer. A person elected to such position may be at the same time elected also to the position of a senior researcher or researcher. In determining the academic staff or the number of persons or proportion thereof in an institution of higher education, a structural unit or for the implementation of a study programme, who have a doctoral degree, only persons elected to academic positions shall be taken into account.

(8) Administrative instruments issued by or actual actions of institutions of higher education may be disputed by academic staff in the institution of higher education academic arbitration court. The decision of the academic arbitration court may be appealed to a court according to the procedures specified in the Administrative Procedure Law.

[2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 27. Academic Staff

(1) The staff of an institution of higher education shall consist of:
   1) professors, associate professors;
   2) docents, senior researchers;
   3) lecturers, researchers; and
   4) assistants.

(2) The academic staff of an institution of higher education shall conduct scientific research and participate in the educating of students. The amount of tasks in each of the types of basic activities shall be determined by the institution of higher education.

(3) [1 December 2009]

(4) A rector may enter into individual agreements with retired academic staff in accordance with the financing granted by the State or other sources, he or she may also enter into agreements for the conducting of scientific research, prescribing a definite remuneration for a particular amount of work in accordance with the qualification of the employee. An institution of higher education may assign the honorary title of professor emeritus to professors and associate professors for a special contribution to higher education when they have reached the age of retirement.

(5) The employment contract restrictions specified in Section 45, Paragraph one of the Labour Law shall not apply to persons elected to academic positions. An employment contract with a person elected to an academic position (professor, associate professor, docent, lecturer or assistant) shall be entered into by the rector for the period of election – six years.

[20 May 2003; 2 March 2006; 1 December 2009]

Section 28. Professors

(1) A professor is a specialist who is internationally recognised in his or her field and who conducts scientific research or creates works of art pursuant to the modern levels and ensures high quality studies in the relevant sub-field of science or art. A person who has a doctoral degree and has not less than three years of work experience in the position of associate professor or professor may be elected to the position of professor. In art specialities, those persons whose artistic works conform to the by-law on academic positions accepted by the senate of the relevant institution of higher education may also be elected to the position of professor.

(2) In accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of this Law, professors shall be elected in an open competition for a time period of six years, and a rector shall enter into a contract of employment with him or her for the whole period of election.
In accordance with the title of the position of professor, a professor shall obtain the rights to conduct scientific research or the process of artistic creation and to perform educating work when he or she is elected to this position.

The main tasks of professors shall be:
1) the reading of highly qualified lectures, the supervision of studies, lectures and examinations in his or her study course;
2) the supervision of research works in the sub-field of science or the supervision of artistic creation in a field, which conforms to the title of the position of professor;
3) the supervision of doctoral studies and research works in the sub-field of science or the supervision of artistic creation in a field, which conforms to the title of the position of professor;
4) participation in the evaluation of the work and quality of study programmes, institutions of higher education and the structural units thereof; and
5) the training of the new generation of academics, artists and lecturers.

Section 29. Professor Positions in State and Local government Institutions of Higher Education [2 March 2006]

Section 30. Associate Professors

(1) A person who has a doctoral degree may be elected to the position of associate professor.
(2) In art specialities, those persons whose artistic works or professional activity conforms to the by-law on academic positions accepted by the senate of the relevant institution of higher education may also be elected to the position of associate professor.
(3) Persons who have the corresponding higher education and at least 10 years of practical work experience in the relevant branch may also hold the position of associate professor for the implementation of professional study programmes in institutions of higher education.
(4) In accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of this Law, associate professors shall be elected for a time period of six years by a Council of Professors of the relevant branch. On the basis of a decision made by the Council of Professors in a branch, a rector shall enter into a contract of employment with an associate professor.
(5) The main tasks of an associate professor shall be:
1) the conducting of research work in a sub-branch of science or the creation of works of art in a branch which conforms with the title of the position of associate professor;
2) the supervision of research work for the acquisition of doctoral degrees and master’s degrees; and
3) the provision and management of study work.

Section 31. Associate Professor Positions

(1) The number of associate professor positions shall be determined by the institution of higher education itself in accordance with the necessity and possibilities of financing.
(2) If there is a vacancy for an associate professor position in an institution of higher education, the senate of the institution of higher education shall make a decision on whether, when and in which sub-branch of science or art an open competition for the vacancy of the associate professor position shall be announced and to which category of remuneration, taking into account the functions and tasks, the relevant position shall pertain.
Section 32. Docents

(1) The number of docent positions shall be determined by the institution of higher education itself.
(2) A person who has a doctoral degree may be elected to the position of docent. In art specialities, persons whose artistic works comply with the by-law on academic positions accepted by the senate of the relevant institution of higher education may be elected to the position of docent.
(3) A docent shall be elected for a time period of six years by the Faculty Assembly or the Council of the Institute if the qualification of the members of these institutions complies with the requirements of the Promotion Council. Otherwise, the procedures for the election of docents shall be determined by the constitution of the institution of higher education.
(4) In accordance with the title of the position of the docent, the docent shall obtain the rights to conduct scientific research or the process of artistic creation and to perform educating work when he or she is elected to a position.
(5) The main tasks of docents shall be:
   1) research work in the sub-branch of science or artistic creation which conforms with the title of the position of the docent; and
   2) reading of lectures, the conducting of classes, the organisation of examinations and tests in his or her study programme (course, branch), especially in the basic courses thereof.

[23 November 2000]

Section 33. Procedures for the Election of Professors and Associate Professors

(1) An open competition shall be announced for vacant professor and associate professor positions.
(2) Applicants for professor and associate professor positions shall be elected by the Council of Professors in the relevant branch. After becoming familiarised with documents and after an interview with all applicants for the relevant position, the Council shall make a decision by voting. Persons who are not in the composition of the staff of an institution of higher education may contest a decision taken by the Council of Professors in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 10, Paragraph five of this Law, and the staff of an institution of higher education – in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 26, Paragraph eight of this Law.
(3) Each applicant who is a candidate for the position of professor shall receive an independent international evaluation organised by the Council of Professors in the relevant branch.
(4) The final decision of the Council on the election of the professor or associate professor shall be submitted to the rector of the institution of higher education. The minutes of the discussions of the Council and a complete list of applicants, which shall include the evaluation of the Council and a profile of the applicants, shall be submitted together with the decision. If voting has taken place for less than three applicants, special justification shall be provided.
(5) In art specialities, persons whose artistic works conform to the by-law on academic positions accepted by the senate of the relevant institution of higher education may also be elected to the position of professor and associate professor.
(6) [2 March 2006]

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]
Section 34. Evaluation of Scientific and Teaching Qualifications

(1) The scientific and teaching qualifications of an applicant for the position of professor or associate professor shall be evaluated by the Council of Professors in a branch following the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet.
(2) The scientific and teaching qualifications of an applicant for the position of docent, lecturer or assistant shall be evaluated by the Assembly of Faculty or the Council of the Institute.
[23 November 2000]

Section 35. Council of Professors in a Branch

(1) When organising an open competition for the position of professor or associate professor, a Council of Professors in a branch shall be formed in the relevant field or sub-branch in an institution of higher education, and this Council shall consist of not less than five professors of the relevant field or sub-branch of the institution of higher education elected in accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of this Law. The Council of Professors in a branch of an institution of higher education shall be enlarged so that at least one third of the members thereof are professors of the relevant branch or representatives of professional associations whose direction of activities conforms with the trend of the relevant position, but who do not work in this institution of higher education.
(2) The composition of the Council of Professors in a branch shall be approved by the senate of the institution of higher education upon the proposal of the chairperson thereof.
(3) If an institution of higher education does not have five professors in the relevant branch of science and it is not possible to form the Council of Professors in a branch, several institutions of higher education may jointly form this Council of Professors, and it shall be approved by the senates of the relevant institutions of higher education. If at least three professors have been invited from other institutions of higher education, the composition of the Council shall be approved by the Council of Higher Education.
(4) Foreign professors who are in the Council of Professors in a branch may participate in the activities thereof by correspondence, by becoming acquainted with the documents and announcing their opinion about all applicants in writing, as well as the applicant for whom they give their vote.
(5) The list of those fields in which the Councils of Professors in a branch are to be formed shall be approved by the Council of Higher Education.
(6) The activities of the Council of Professors in a branch shall be overseen by the Council of Higher Education.
[26 December 2000]

Section 36. Lecturers

(1) A person who has a doctoral degree or master’s degree may be elected to the position of lecturer. Provisions for the election of lecturers in art specialities and professional study programmes shall be regulated by the by-law approved by the senate of an institution of higher education. The Assembly of Faculty or the Council of the Institute shall elect lecturers for a time period of six years.
(2) The tasks of lecturers shall be determined by the constitution of an institution of higher education.
[23 November 2000]
Section 37. Assistants

(1) A person who has a doctoral degree or master’s degree may be elected to the position of assistant. An Assembly of Faculty or the Council of an Institute shall elect assistants for a time period of six years, and, if they do not have a doctoral degree, they shall be elected not more than two times in succession.
(2) The tasks of assistants shall be determined by the constitution of an institution of higher education.

Section 38. Senior Researchers and Researchers

(1) Senior researchers and researchers may be elected to the position by the assembly of the faculty or the council of the scientific institute, but, where no faculty or scientific institute has been established in the institution of higher education, by the senate of the institution of higher education in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 26 of the Law On Scientific Activity insofar as it is not in conflict with that specified in this Section.
(2) Senior visiting researchers and visiting researchers may be taken into employment without election. In such case an employment contract shall be entered into for a time period not exceeding two years.

[14 July 2011]

Section 39. Academic Staff of Professional Study Programmes

In pursuance of the necessity for acquiring practical skills and knowledge, a person who has higher education without an academic degree may hold the position of docent, lecturer and assistant in profile subjects of professional study programmes if he or she has a sufficient length of practical service appropriate to the subject to be taught. In order to elect a person who does not have an academic degree to the position of docent, this person shall be required to have practical service of a length of at least seven years. The requirements to be put forward to such applicants to docent positions shall be approved in the institution of higher education and college by, as the case may be, the senate or council. Lecturers and assistants who do not have a scientific and an academic degree shall be required to have practical service appropriate to the subject to be taught, the length of which is five years.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]

Section 40. Visiting Professors, Visiting Docents and Visiting Lecturers

(1) If there is an academic position vacancy or a temporary vacancy in an institution of higher education or college, the senate upon the proposal of the Assembly of the Faculty, or the college council may decide not to announce a competition, but rather to hire a visiting professor, an visiting associate professor, a visiting docent, a visiting lecturer or a visiting assistant for a time period of up to two years.
(2) Visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers and visiting assistants have the same rights, duties and remuneration as professors, associate professors, docents, lecturers and assistants, but they may not participate in the activities of the elected management bodies.
(3) The foreign teaching staff invited by an institution of higher education shall pay taxes in Latvia, shall be released from fees for visas, as well as shall receive a permit to live and work in Latvia for the time period prescribed in the contract of employment in accordance with the legislation in force and the international agreements approved by the Saeima.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]
Section 41. Substitution of Academic Staff during Periods of Temporary Absence

During a period of temporary absence, if it does not exceed two years, an associate professor may be appointed to the position of professor, a docent - to the position of associate professor, a lecturer or assistant with a doctoral degree – to the position of docent. Substitution shall be formalised by an order of the rector.

Section 42. Vacations of Academic Staff

(1) Each year academic staff has the right to a paid vacation of eight weeks, but every six years – a paid academic vacation of six calendar months for scientific research or the conducting of scientific research work outside his or her working place.
(2) Academic staff has the right to receive a one-time paid study educational leave of three months for the drafting of a doctoral thesis.
(3) Professors, associate professors and docents have the right to demand an unpaid vacation for a period of up to 24 months during one period of election in order to work as visiting professors or visiting lecturers in academic positions in other institutions of higher education. [23 November 2000]

Section 43. General Staff of an Institution of Higher Education

(1) The general staff of an institution of higher education shall be administrative staff, auxiliary teaching staff, technical, economic staff and other staff, with the exception of academic staff.
(2) The administrative staff of an institution of higher education shall be the rector, Pro-rector, Director (Executive Director), Dean and other officials whose basic functions include administrative work.
(3) The procedures for hiring and dismissing from work the general staff of an institution of higher education shall be determined by the institution of higher education, observing the provisions of this Law and other regulatory enactments.
(4) Remuneration for general staff of an institution of higher education or college, who are not pedagogues in compliance with the list of pedagogical professions, in State-founded institutions of higher education and colleges shall be determined in accordance with the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities. [23 November 2000; 1 December 2009]

Chapter V
Students of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges
[2 March 2006]

Section 44. Students of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges

(1) The students of institutions of higher education shall be:
   1) students of the bachelor degree study programmes;
   2) students of the professional study programmes;
   3) students of the master’s degree study programmes (master’s programme students);
   4) residents in medicine; and
   5) doctoral students.
(2) College students shall be students of the professional study programmes. [23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]
Section 45. Rights to Study in an Institution of Higher Education and College

(1) Each citizen of Latvia and non-citizen of Latvia, as well as a foreigner have the right to study in an institution of higher education and college. In order to study in an institution of higher education and college, a previous education attested by documents and compliant with the requirements of a study programme, recognised in Latvia, shall be required.

(2) A citizen of Latvia, a non-citizen of Latvia, a citizen of the European Union, a citizen of the European Economic Area or a citizen of the Swiss Confederation and a permanent resident of the European Community who has a valid residence permit has equal rights to study in an institution of higher education or college.

(3) The rights of a foreigner to study in an institution of higher education and college, to which the conditions of Paragraph two of this Section do not apply, shall be regulated by Section 83 of this Law.

[14 July 2011]

Section 46. Admission and Registration in the List of Students (Matriculation)

(1) An institution of higher education and a college is entitled to admit students to a particular study programme only after a licence for the implementation of the relevant study programme has been received.

(2) Admission to study programmes shall be regulated by admission regulations. Admission regulations for institution of higher education and college study programmes shall be developed by the relevant institution of higher education and college, taking into account Cabinet regulations regarding requirements, criteria and procedures for admission to study programmes. A student shall enter into a study agreement with an institution of higher education or college in writing. The mandatory provisions to be included in the study agreement shall be determined by the Cabinet.

(3) For full-time and part-time bachelor and professional study programmes the admission requirements of which is a previously acquired secondary education, students shall be admitted in an open and equal competition on the basis of the results of the centralised examinations, except persons who have acquired a secondary education up to 2004, as well as persons who have acquired a secondary education abroad or persons with special needs. The content and procedural requirements for centralised examinations shall be developed by the Ministry of Education and Science, after co-ordination with the Council of Higher Education, and approved by the Cabinet. An institution of higher education in co-ordinating with the Council of Higher Education may specify the procedures by which persons are admitted to such study programmes that have not completed centralised examinations.

(31) In addition to the persons referred to in Paragraph three of this Section also such persons have the right to be admitted to a study programme in the first year following the acquisition of a secondary education, to whom such right has been determined by the Cabinet upon the recommendation of an individual Cabinet member due to the special meritorious service of the person in question for the benefit of Latvia, unless these persons have been exempted from State examinations of secondary education in accordance with the procedures specified by regulatory enactments.

(4) After co-ordination with the Council of Higher Education, an institution of higher education may determine the additional requirements regarding special prior education, particular suitability and preparedness or compliance with other conditions.

(5) Institutions of higher education and colleges shall, up to the current 1 November, notify the National Centre for Education and shall publicise (also on the Internet home page) the admission requirements of study programmes for the following academic year.

(6) Each year the Cabinet shall determine the initial time period for the registration and admission of entrants in the first year after the acquisition of secondary education. An
institution of higher education shall not have the right to enter into agreements related to studies with the potential entrants prior to the initial term of admission.

(7) An institution of higher education and college shall prepare a personal file for each student. The following documents, at least, shall be included in the personal file:

1) a copy of a document attesting to secondary education;
2) copies of documents attesting to higher education acquired beforehand;
3) copies of a passport or identification card;
4) the study agreement with the institution of higher education or college regarding studies in the selected study programme;
5) documents, which attest to the study process and results of the student in other institutions of higher education or colleges, as well as the acquisition of study programmes or a part thereof if the credit points acquired in another institution of higher education, shall be counted in the study programme on the basis of these documents;
6) documents of the student regarding the process of studies (study card);
7) copies or true copies of educational documents issued by an institution of higher education or college and copies of the issued academic statements; and
8) a copy of the residence permit of the Republic of Latvia if the student needs such a permit.

(8) The Cabinet shall determine the procedures for preparing and updating the personal file of a student.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 3 July 2008; 12 June 2009]

Section 47. Initiation of Studies in Subsequent Study Stages

(1) The initiation of studies in subsequent study stages shall be possible if the required examinations of previous stages of the relevant study programmes have been passed or they are passed in a supplementary fashion in the relevant institution of higher education or college. If these requirements have been fulfilled and the institution of higher education or college has the relevant opportunities, it may not refuse to admit applicants to subsequent study stages.

(2) The right to study for State budget funds for the acquisition of a specific academic degree (bachelor, master), academic degree (Doctor) or higher education professional qualification, a natural person may utilise several times. For State budget funds only one study programme may be studied at the same time.

(3) The procedures for the initiation of studies in subsequent study stages shall be prescribed by the Cabinet.

[3 June 2004; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 48. Relations of Students with Mandatory Military Service

[See Transitional Provisions]

Section 49. Exclusion from the List of Students (Exmatriculation)

(1) A person may be excluded from the list of students if:

1) the person him or herself wishes it to be so;
2) it has been ascertained that admission thereto has been influenced by deception, corrupt practices or other behaviour with which the principle of the equality of applicants has been violated;
3) this person has not passed examinations or has not performed other tasks of studies within the time period determined by the institution of higher education; or
4) this person has violated the internal rules of procedure of the institution of higher education.
(2) In an institution of higher education exclusion of a person from the list of students shall be performed by the rector or dean of the institution of higher education, in a college – the college director. The decision on exclusion of a person from the list of students may be contested in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 26, Paragraph eight of this Law.

(3) [See Transitional Provisions]
[3 June 2004; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 50. Rights of Students

(1) Students have the right:
1) to acquire an academic or professional, or also an academic and professional education;
2) to use the premises, libraries, facilities, equipment, objects of culture, sport and medicine, etc. of an institution of higher education in accordance with the prescribed procedures;
3) to suspend and resume studies in accordance with the prescribed procedures;
4) to implement the rights related to freedom of studies, research work, and artistic creation in accordance with Section 6 of this Law;
5) to receive information in all matters, which are directly related to their studies and possible career;
6) to express their ideas and opinions openly in an institution of higher education;
7) to elect and to be elected to the self-governance body of students, to participate in all levels of self-governance bodies of an institution of higher education;
8) to attend learning activities in other institutions of higher education as listeners and to take the necessary examinations in accordance with the prescribed procedures; and
9) to found associations, hobby groups and clubs.

(11) Following retirement from the mandatory military service, but not later than until 31 December 2008, students of institutions of higher education and colleges, who had voluntarily applied for mandatory military service to which the Ministry of Defence had consented, have the right to recommence studies in the study programme commenced prior to the service.

(2) A student self-governance body shall represent the interests of the students of an institution of higher education in relations with State authorities.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 19 April 2007]

Section 51. Determining the Number of Study Places

The number of study places to be financed from the funds of the State budget in an institution of higher education shall be determined by the Minister for Education and Science on the basis of a proposal of the Council of Higher Education. The number of study places in institutions of higher education founded by other legal persons and natural persons shall be determined by the founder of such institutions of higher education.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]

Section 52. Study Fee and Scholarships

(1) The State shall determine the number of study places financed from the funds of the State budget in institutions of higher education and colleges. The Cabinet shall determine the procedures regarding the financing of institutions of higher education and colleges from the funds of the State budget. Admission to the State-financed study places shall take place in accordance with competition procedures.
(1) In accredited institutions of higher education and colleges at least one eighth of the places financed from the State budget shall be reserved for persons who have been retired from mandatory military service and have been admitted to one of the study programmes financed from the State budget not later than two years after retirement.

(2) The study fee for study places, which are not financed from the funds of the State budget, shall be covered by students, legal persons or natural persons, entering into a relevant agreement with the institution of higher education and college. Financial resources from the study fees shall be transferred to the special budget account of the State institution of higher education and college and shall only be used for:

1. the development of the institution of higher education and college;
2. the purchasing of teaching aids and scientific research equipment;
3. the purchasing of equipment; and
4. the material stimulation of the academic and general staff of the institution of higher education and college and students, as well as the work remuneration of the staff.

(3) The students referred to in Paragraph one of this Section shall be assigned scholarships following the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 19 April 2007; 14 July 2011]

Section 53. Student Self-Governance Bodies

(1) The students of an institution of higher education or college shall have their own self-governance body – an elected, independent body representing the rights and interests of students in an institution of higher education or college. It shall operate in accordance with a by-law, which shall be developed by students and approved by the senate or college council. The senate or college council may refuse to approve the by-law only due to legal reasons.

(2) [2 March 2006]

(3) The student self-governance body shall:

1. defend and represent the interests of students in matters of academic, material and cultural life in the institution of higher education and other State authorities;
2. represent the students of the institution of higher education in Latvia and foreign states; and
3. determine the procedures for the election of students to the collegial bodies of the institution of higher education.

(4) Management bodies of institutions of higher education and colleges have a duty to support and promote the activities of a student self-governance body. The student self-governance body shall be financed from the institution of higher education or college budget in an amount, which is not less than one-tenth part of the institution of higher education or college budget. Such funds shall be utilised by the student self-governance body for the performance of the functions referred to in Paragraph three of this Section.

[3 June 2004; 2 March 2006]

Section 54. Rights of a Student Self-Governance Body

(1) A student self-governance body has the right to request and receive information and explanations from the authorised representatives of any structural unit of an institution of higher education in all issues related to the interests of students.

(2) The representatives of a student self-governance body in the senate of an institution of higher education, the Assembly of Faculty and the constitutional assembly shall have veto rights in issues related to the interests of students. After the application of a veto, the issue shall be examined by the co-ordination commission, which is formed by the relevant management body according to the parity principle. The relevant management body shall
approve the decision of the co-ordination commission by a majority vote of two-thirds of the persons present.

(3) The representatives of a student self-governance body have the right to participate in the decision-making bodies of an institution of higher education, as well as the right to participate as observers in tests and examinations if this is provided for in documents regulating the study procedures in an institution of higher education.

(4) The decisions of the student self-governance body, after they have been approved in the senate of the institution of higher education, shall be compulsory for all students.

[23 November 2000]

Chapter VI
Studies in an Institution of Higher Education

Section 55. Study Programmes

(1) A study programme shall include all the requirements necessary for the acquisition of one academic degree or professional qualification. A study programme shall be regulated by a special document – a description of the study content and implementation which:

1) determines the requirements regarding previous education;

2) determines to which study direction the relevant study programme conforms;

3) in accordance with the level and type of education, determines:

a) the goals for implementation of the particular study programme and the planned study results upon completion of the study programme, including the anticipated study courses, study modules and the planned study results thereof;

b) the content of the offered education;

c) the amounts of the mandatory, limited elective and elective part and of study programmes and the division of credit points between them; and

d) the criteria of education for the achievement and evaluation of study results and the forms and procedures for the testing thereof;

4) includes a list of the academic staff involved in the implementation of the programme, their qualification and intended duties. Not less than five professors and associate professors altogether, who are elected to academic positions in the relevant institution of higher education, shall take part in the implementation of the compulsory part and the limited elective part of academic study programmes, except the cases provided for in Paragraph two of this Section;

5) includes a listing of the structural units (departments, groups of professors, laboratories, institutes, etc.) involved in the implementation of the programme, indicating the tasks thereof in the implementation of the particular programme;

6) includes a description of the required auxiliary staff, indicating the tasks thereof;

7) assesses the costs of the programme; and

8) includes a justification that the study programme conforms to the development strategy and available resources of an institution of higher education or college.

(2) Academic study programmes (study programmes for bachelor, master’s and doctoral degrees) shall be provided for not less than 250 full-time students. Academic study programmes (study programmes for bachelor, master’s and doctoral degrees) provided for less than 250 full-time students may be implemented and less than five institution of higher education professors and associate professor may take part in the implementation of the compulsory part and the limited elective part of these programmes if a relevant opinion of the Council of Higher Education has been received.
(3) Study programmes may be developed and submitted for approval in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the senate of an institution of higher education or a college council.

(4) Study programmes shall be approved by the senate of an institution of higher education or a college council. Prior to approval, an independent expert-examination of the programmes shall be organised, which shall include the grounds for the usefulness of implementation of the study programme, also indicating the essential differences of the study programme from similar study programmes of the same level and same study direction implemented in the same institution of higher education or college.

(5) The person responsible for the implementation of the relevant programme (the director of the study programme) shall be approved, and the financial and technical support of this programme shall be determined by a decision of the senate or college council regarding the implementation of the new study programme.

(6) [14 July 2011]

(7) [14 July 2011]

(8) In the case of the closing of a study programme, an institution of higher education shall financially provide the opportunity for students to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme of the relevant institution of higher education or in a study programme of another institution of higher education.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 55.1 Joint Study Programme

(1) An institution of higher education together with a partner institution, which may be another accredited institution of higher education in Latvia or an institution of higher education recognised by the relevant state in a foreign country (hereinafter – partner institution), is entitled to develop a study programme and take part in the implementation thereof (hereinafter – joint study programme), by entering into a relevant written agreement.

(2) A joint study programme shall comply with the following conditions:

1) it shall be formed by the parts of study programmes of the same level of higher education of an institution of higher education and partner institutions;

2) the institution of higher education and partner institutions involved in the implementation thereof shall each implement at least one tenth of the entire relevant study programme;

3) there are unified requirements in respect of the implementation of the joint study programme, the final examinations, the granting of degrees to be acquired in studies and professional qualifications; the parts of the joint study programme together form a unified content and consecutive joint study programme;

4) an institution of higher education and partner institutions have jointly developed a quality assurance system for the joint study programme;

5) mobility of students is ensured, which also allows the acquisition of a commensurate and essential part of the joint study programme in one or several partner institutions;

6) mobility of the academic staff is ensured in order that they might also teach at least at one partner institution;

7) a degree or professional qualification to be granted as a result of the acquisition of the joint study programme is specified, complying with the system of degrees or professional qualification to be acquired in studies, specified in the regulatory enactments of Latvia; and

8) the content of the diploma, as well as of the annex appended to the diploma to be issued jointly by an institution of higher education and partner institutions has been specified.

(3) In order to commence the implementation of a joint study programme, a licence shall be received. The Cabinet shall determine the provisions and procedures for the issuance of a
licence. The same conditions shall be applied to joint study programmes, the content, implementation and licensing thereof as are applied to other study programmes of the same level in Latvia, except the conditions of Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 and Paragraph three of this Law in respect of the academic staff in academic study programmes. If the partner institution of an institution of higher education of Latvia is a foreign institution of higher education, then, when submitting a submission to the Ministry of Education and Science regarding the licensing of a joint study programme, a document certifying that the partner institution is recognised in the relevant country shall also be appended to the submission of the institution of higher education. Within the scope of licensing the compliance of the study programme with the conditions of Paragraph two of this Section shall also be evaluated.

(4) A part of the joint study programme implemented by an institution of higher education shall be evaluated by the Assessment Committee within the scope of the accreditation of the relevant study direction of the institution of higher education in accordance with the procedures specified in this Law and other regulatory enactments. If a partner institution is a foreign institution of higher education, the part of the joint study programme implemented thereby shall be recognised in accordance with the procedures specified by the relevant state.

(5) When accrediting a study direction in an institution of higher education to which the joint study programme conforms, together with the documents necessary for accreditation specified in regulatory enactments, the institution of higher education shall also submit documents to the Ministry of Education and Science, which certify that the joint study programme implemented by a partner institution is recognised in accordance with the procedures specified by the relevant state.

(6) When accrediting a study direction to which the joint study programme conforms, the Ministry of Education and Science is entitled to co-operate with the relevant education quality assurance institutions of states of the involved partner institutions, request information regarding whether the joint study programmes or parts thereof implemented by partner institutions in the relevant state are recognised and whether the content of the programme conforms with the requirements set out for the acquisition of the relevant education qualification.

(7) As a result of the acquisition of a joint study programme in accordance with the agreement referred to in Paragraph one of this Section an institution of higher education is entitled to issue:

1) a joint diploma of an institution of higher education and partner institutions thereof regarding the acquisition of a higher education. The content and form of the diploma regarding the acquired higher education and the annex thereto shall be determined by the Cabinet; and

2) a diploma of an institution of higher education regarding the acquired higher education.

(8) The rights and duties of an institution of higher education specified in this Section shall also apply to a college.

[14 July 2011]

Section 55.2 Licensing of a Study Programme

(1) A licence shall be received for the implementation of any study programme. Within one month after receipt of a licence the study programme shall be entered in the Register of Education Programmes. Within one year after licensing of a study programme an institution of higher education or college shall start implementation of the relevant study programme.

(2) If a study programme complies with the study direction of an institution of higher education or college and the requirements of other regulatory enactments, a decision shall be taken on the licensing thereof and the Ministry of Education and Science shall issue a licence.
signed by the Minister for Education and Science to the institution of higher education or college.

(3) If an institution of higher education or college submits a study programme in a new study direction of the institution of higher education or college for licensing, the Cabinet shall take a decision on the opening of the new study direction in the relevant institution of higher education or college. The Cabinet shall evaluate the resources available to the institution of higher education or college and the compliance with the State development priorities. After taking of the referred to decision the licensing of the relevant study programme shall be decided.

(4) A decision on the refusal to licence a study programme shall be taken, if:

1) the submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of regulatory enactments;
2) the qualifications of the academic staff do not comply with the conditions for the implementation of study programmes or the requirements of regulatory enactments;
3) the study and informative base (including the library), the financial and material technical base do not comply with the conditions for the implementation of study programmes;
4) the content and mechanism for the implementation of the study programme to be licensed has not been drawn up;
5) information not corresponding with the actual circumstances has been provided;
6) the competent authorities have detected violations of regulatory enactments in the activities of an institution of higher education or college during the preceding year, prior to the day of the taking of the decision, and they have not been eliminated within the time period specified by the authorities; or
7) the study programme does not conform to the study direction of the institution of higher education or college.

(5) If a decision is taken on the refusal to licence a study programme, an institution of higher education or college is entitled to submit a submission for the licensing of a study programme corresponding to the relevant study direction no sooner than after six months.

(6) It shall be decided to cancel a licence for a study programme, if:

1) information not corresponding with the actual circumstances has been provided;
2) an institution of higher education or college has not begun implementing the licensed study programme within one year after receipt of the licence;
3) violations of regulatory enactments in the activities of an institution of higher education or college have been ascertained in relation to the licensed study programme;
4) within two years from the day of the commencement of the implementation of a study programme, accreditation of the study direction corresponding to the study programme has not commenced in accordance with the requirements of Section 55,\(^3\) of this Law;
5) an institution of higher education or college does not provide complete information to the Ministry of Education and Science upon the request thereby, within 30 working days, on matters related to the provision of the study process, as well as on study and informative bases (including the library), institutional, material technical or financial base of the institution of higher education or college;
6) the academic staff do not have the relevant qualifications or the institution of higher education or college do not ensure appropriate study and informative bases (including the library), institutional, material technical or financial base;
7) implementation of the study programme at an institution of higher education or college has been discontinued;
8) a decision has been taken on the refusal to accredit the relevant direction study at an institution of higher education or college; or
The non-conformity of the resources and abilities of an institution of higher education or college with the requirements of regulatory enactments are detected during the accreditation of a study direction.

(7) The Cabinet shall determine the procedures for the licensing of a study programme, the criteria by which study programmes shall be evaluated during the licensing process, the procedures by which an institution taking a decision on the licensing of a study programme, the refusal to licence a study programme or on the cancellation of a licence shall be established, the rights and duties of such institutions, as well as the sample of the licence.

[14 July 2011]

Section 55.3 Accreditation of the Study Direction

(1) A study direction of an institution of higher education or college shall be accredited within two years after commencement of the implementation of the first study programme corresponding to this study direction.

(2) A decision on the accreditation of the study direction shall be taken within six months from the day when a submission of an institution of higher education or college has been received for the accreditation of the relevant study direction. The study direction in the relevant institution of higher education or college shall be accredited for six years.

(3) If a non-conformity of the resources and abilities of an institution of higher education or college with the requirements of regulatory enactments are detected during the accreditation of the study direction, but it may be eliminated within the scope of the time period of accreditation of the study direction, the relevant study direction at the institution of higher education or college shall be accredited for two years. During this time period the institution of higher education or college shall eliminate the deficiencies detected, as well as provide a report on the elimination of the referred to deficiencies. A recommendation may also be made to the institution of higher education or college to close an individual study programme corresponding to this study direction. The licence for an individual study programme corresponding to the relevant study programme of the institution of higher education or college may be cancelled.

(4) Within one month after accreditation of the study direction, an entry shall be made in the Register of Education Programmes regarding the accreditation of the relevant study direction at the relevant institution of higher education or college, as well as regarding the accredited study programmes of the institution of higher education or college corresponding to the relevant study direction.

(5) A decision on the refusal to accredit the study direction at an institution of higher education or college may be taken if:

1) a substantiated joint report of the experts of the Assessment Committee or individual opinion of an expert (if the expert-examination is performed by one expert) is negative;

2) the study programme or study programmes corresponding to the relevant study direction of the institution of higher education or college do not comply with the requirements of this Law and other regulatory enactments;

3) the study and informative bases (including the library), material technical, financial base and the qualifications of the academic staff do not comply with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme or study programmes corresponding to the relevant study direction;

4) the study programmes for the acquisition of a master’s or doctoral degree are not based on the achievements and perceptions of the relevant sector of sciences; or

5) the institution of higher education or college has not eliminated the deficiencies detected during the previous accreditation of the study direction in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph three of this Section.
(6) If a decision is taken on the accreditation of the study direction at an institution of higher education or college, an accreditation form for the study direction signed by the Minister for Education and Science shall be issued thereto.

(7) If an institution of higher education or college does not ensure the study and informative bases (including the library), material technical or financial base and the qualifications of the academic staff indicated in the accreditation process of the study direction, the Minister for Education and Science is entitled, upon the recommendation of the Council of Higher Education or the Committee for the Accreditation of Studies, to decide on the determination of extraordinary accreditation of the relevant study direction.

(8) Within the scope of extraordinary accreditation of the study direction, a decision may be taken on the continuation of the accreditation of the study direction at an institution of higher education or college or a decision on the refusal to accredit the study direction at an institution of higher education or college.

(9) The Cabinet shall determine the study directions in higher education, the procedures for the accreditation or extraordinary accreditation of the study directions, the sample accreditation form, the criteria by which the study directions shall be evaluated during the accreditation process, as well as the conditions for the establishment, the rights and duties of the Assessment Committee.

[14 July 2011]

Section 56. Regulation of Studies

(1) Studies in an institution of higher education and college shall take place in accordance with the study programmes, which have been developed, approved and licensed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this Law. Study programmes shall be implemented in full-time and part-time studies.

(2) This Law shall not regulate the content and the requirements to be met in examinations, which are related to the specific area of activities of medicine, sport, art, police, border guards, fire-fighting and rescue, probation, penitentiary work, State defence and other relevant institutions of higher education or colleges. The concrete institution of higher education constitution or college by-law shall determine such requirements.

(3) The study programmes of State-founded institutions of higher education shall be implemented in the official language. The use of foreign languages in the implementation of study programmes shall be possible only in the following cases:

1) study programmes which are acquired by foreign students in Latvia, and study programmes, which are implemented within the scope of co-operation provided for in European Union programmes and international agreements may be implemented in the official languages of the European Union. For foreign students the acquisition of the official language shall be included in the study course compulsory amount if studies in Latvia are expected to be longer than six months or exceed 20 credit points;

2) not more than one-fifth of the credit point amount of a study programme may be implemented in the official languages of the European Union, taking into account that in this part final and State examinations may not be included, as well as the writing of qualification, bachelor and master’s thesis;

3) study programmes, which are implemented in foreign languages are necessary for the achievement of the aims of the study programme in conformity with the educational classification of the Republic of Latvia for such educational programme groups: language and cultural studies and language programmes. The licensing commission shall decide the conformity of the study programme to the educational programme group; and

4) joint study programmes may be implemented in the official languages of the European Union.
(4) An institution of higher education or college is entitled to implement preparatory courses in order to prepare foreigners for studies in study programmes of the institution of higher education or college.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 56.1 Study Course

(1) Institutions of higher education and colleges shall determine the procedures by which study courses shall be developed and included in study programmes, in order to ensure the achievement of the common study results. The description of a study course shall be prepared and approved in accordance with the procedures specified by the institution of higher education and college.

(2) The study course description shall:
   1) define the requirements for the commencement of the acquisition of the study course;
   2) determine the aims for the implementation of the study course and the planned study results;
   3) outline the content of the study course necessary for the achievement of study results, contain the study course calendar, mandatory and supplementary literature, indicate other sources of information;
   4) describe the organisation and tasks for the independent work of students; and
   5) determine the evaluation criteria of study results.

[14 July 2011]

Section 56.2 Study Module

(1) A study module may be developed for the structuring and transparency of the study programme, the establishment of a flexible study route and for the professional orientation of students, ensuring the planning thereof in a manner suitable also for lifelong learning.

(2) The description of the study module shall determine:
   1) the study results achievable as a result of the acquisition of the study module;
   2) the plan of the study work time; and
   3) the study courses included in the study module.

[14 July 2011]

Section 57. Duration of Studies

(1) Academic study programmes for the acquisition of a bachelor or master’s degree shall be implemented in an institution of higher education. Bachelor degree and master’s degree study programmes shall be formed in accordance with the national standard of academic education. The duration of a full-time bachelor degree study programme shall be three to four years, the duration of a full-time master’s degree study programme shall be one to two years on the condition that the total duration of bachelor and master’s studies is not less than five years.

(2) The duration of full-time studies for the acquisition of the fifth-level professional qualification shall not be less than four years, except those professional study programmes, which are implemented after the acquisition of the programme of a college. A professional higher education bachelor degree shall be assigned if the duration of a programme of full-time studies is at least four years. A professional higher education master’s degree shall be assigned if the total duration of full-time studies is at least five years.

(3) Persons who have acquired a bachelor degree are entitled to continue studies for the acquisition of a master’s degree.
(4) Persons who have acquired a master’s degree are entitled to continue studies in doctoral studies for the acquisition of a doctoral degree. The duration of a study programme in doctoral studies shall be three to four years.
(5) The content and the amount of content of a study programme, as well as the evaluation of achievements in full-time and part-time study programmes, shall be equal.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 58. Final Examinations and State Examination of Studies

(1) Academic bachelor degree and master’s degree study programmes shall end in final examinations, which include the formulation and defending of a bachelor or master’s thesis.
(2) Professional higher education studies shall end in State examinations, which may include the formulation and defending of a diploma thesis (diploma project) and a bachelor (master’s) thesis or the formulation and defending of a thesis paper (diploma project) or a bachelor (master’s) thesis.
(3) Examinations shall be complex and mostly in written form. Institutions of higher education shall preserve these materials.
[23 November 2000]

Section 59. Degrees and Professional Qualification to be Acquired during Studies

(1) In accordance with the State-accredited study programme, the following shall be acquired in institutions of higher education:
   1) academic education and the following degrees:
      a) a bachelor degree (academic degree),
      b) a master’s degree (academic degree), and
      c) a doctoral degree (scientific degree); and
   2) fourth- and fifth-level professional qualification and the following professional degrees:
      a) bachelor degree, and
      b) master’s degree.
(2) The professional qualification, which may be acquired by finishing a State-accredited higher education study programme with a duration of at least four years, shall be determined by the Cabinet Regulations.
(3) The acquisition of scientific qualification in institutions of higher education shall take place in accordance with the Law On Scientific Activity.
(4) The Cabinet shall regulate the procedures by which, upon a submission of a person, the degrees and professional qualifications acquired in Latvia prior to the coming into force of the existing regulation for the granting of degrees and professional qualifications shall be considered as equal to the degrees and professional qualifications specified in this Law, and the conditions for such equalisation. The main conditions for the equalisation of degrees and professional qualifications shall be the duration of study in full-time studies and the extent of rights which the degrees or professional qualifications gave at the time when the regulatory enactments regulating higher education provided for the validity thereof.
[23 November 2000; 14 July 2011]

Section 59.1 Diploma Register

(1) In the Diploma Register shall be recorded information regarding all higher education diplomas, which are issued by institutions of higher education, colleges and foreign institution of higher education branches registered in the Register of Institutions of Higher Education and the colleges section of the Register of Educational Establishments. The Diploma Register
shall be organised by an official authorised for this by the institution of higher education or college. The Diploma Register shall be organised electronically.

(2) In the Diploma Register regarding a diploma shall be recorded the following information:
   1) name of the diploma;
   2) diploma number;
   3) the given name and surname of the person to whom the diploma is issued;
   4) the name of the institution of higher education, college and foreign institution of higher education branch, which issued the diploma; and
   5) the date of issue of the diploma.

(3) The institutions of higher education, colleges and foreign institution of higher education branches referred to in Paragraph two of this Section shall submit electronically to the Diploma Register two times a year (in March and September) information regarding higher education diplomas issued in the previous half-year.

(4) The Diploma Register data shall be accessible only in the cases specified in regulatory enactments.

[2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 59.2 Studies outside Study Programmes

(1) A person has the right to register at an institution of higher education or college for the acquisition of an individual study module or study course. The procedures for registration shall be determined by the relevant institution of higher education or college.

(2) A person who has registered at an institution of higher education or college for the acquisition of an individual study module or study course shall be a listener of the relevant institution of higher education or college.

(3) A certificate shall be issued to a listener of a study module or study course acquired at an institution of higher education or college, which shall contain information regarding the recipient thereof, shall indicate the name of the institution of higher education or college, the name of the study course or study module and the amount in credit points, the given name, surname and qualification of the lecturer of the study course or study module, the amount of work performed and an evaluation of the study results. The institution of higher education or college shall manage the register of issued certificates.

(4) A listener has the right to accumulate amount of study work confirmed by certificates and, if he or she has an adequate previous education, to request that the institution of higher education or college evaluates the compliance of the work amount with the study programmes or phases thereof, granting the relevant credit points for it.

(5) An institution of higher education or college shall evaluate the study results achieved in previous education or professional experience of a person and if they comply with the requirements of the relevant study programme, recognise them, as well as grant the relevant credit points. Study results achieved in professional experience may be recognised in vocational or academic study programmes, moreover, only 30 per cent of credit points from a vocational or academic study programme may be granted, recognising the study results achieved in professional experience. The Cabinet shall determine the procedures and criteria for recognising the study results achieved in previous education or professional experience. An individual decision shall be taken for the recognition of study results or the refusal to recognise them. The decision and the documents justifying it shall be appended to the file of the relevant person. The decision taken by an institution of higher education or college may be appealed with its rector or director.

[14 July 2011]
Chapter VII
Scientific Research

Section 60. Aim and Subject-Matter of Scientific Research

(1) Scientific research shall be an integral part of the activities of each institution of higher education, and the entire academic staff of an institution of higher education shall take part therein in accordance with Section 26 of this Law. The aim thereof shall be the acquiring of scientific findings, the scientific justification and further development of training and studies, the solving of tasks of practical importance with the help of research methods.
(2) Scientific research activities in an institution of higher education shall take place in accordance with the Law On Scientific Activity.
[14 July 2011]

Section 61. Co-ordination of Scientific Research Work

(1) The supervisors of scientific research work shall independently determine the themes of their research work within the framework of the financing of an institution of higher education in accordance with the resources allocated for scientific research work. An institution of higher education shall co-ordinate the common plans and the most important aspects of research work.
(2) Institutions of higher education shall co-ordinate the direction of research, evaluate the significance and scientific level of research and make decisions on the financing thereof in mutual co-operation, as well as in co-operation with the relevant scientific institutions, the Latvian Council of Science and other concerned institutions.
(3) An institution of higher education and State authorities shall influence the directions of research by allocating financing for particular research in which the State and society is interested. Research may also be conducted with the funds of other persons.

Section 62. Publishing of the Results of Research

(1) The academic staff of an institution of higher education has a duty to publish the results of their research.
(2) An institution of higher education shall regularly publish summarising informative materials regarding conducted research, indicating the definite structural units and authors of the research. These materials shall be regularly published on the Internet home page of the institution of higher education in the official language and may also be published in other official languages of the European Union.
[14 July 2011]

Section 63. Granting of a Doctoral Degree

(1) The Promotion Council of institutions of higher education or State scientific centres shall grant a doctoral degree after the acquisition of an accredited programme of doctoral studies and the defence of the promotion thesis.
(2) The procedures for the assignment of a doctoral degree, as well as all other matters related to scientific activity, which are not regulated by this Law, shall be regulated by the Law On Scientific Activity.
[23 November 2000; 14 July 2011]
Chapter VIII
Co-operation of an Institution of Higher Education with State and Social Bodies

Section 64. Council of Rectors

(1) For the co-ordination of co-operation and the organisation of the necessary common activities, institutions of higher education shall form a collegial consultative council of institutions of higher education – a Council of rectors, in which the rectors of all accredited State institutions of higher education are included.

(2) The Council of rectors shall:

1) formulate proposals for the Minister for Education and Science regarding the development of higher education;

2) discuss issues regarding the establishment of common study programmes, the utilisation of the academic staff and material base;

3) prepare proposals and opinions regarding draft laws and other regulatory enactments in the field of higher education;

4) recommend experts for the accreditation of institutions of higher education and particular study direction;

5) formulate proposals for the accreditation of institutions of higher education on the basis of the results of an expert-examination;

6) prepare proposals regarding the distribution of State budget resources to institutions of higher education;

7) represent the institutions of higher education of the Republic of Latvia in foreign states; and

8) solve other issues related to the activities of institutions of higher education within the scope of their competence.

(3) The procedures for the operation and competence thereof shall be prescribed by the by-law of the Council of rectors. The Cabinet shall approve the by-law of the Council of rectors. [2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 64.1 Colleges Association of Latvia

(1) The Colleges Association of Latvia unites colleges, which implement licensed first level professional higher education programmes. The directors represent the Colleges Association.

(2) The Colleges Association of Latvia shall:

1) be concerned regarding the improvement of professional higher education programmes in colleges;

2) develop proposals for a college development strategy;

3) promote co-operation between the higher education institutions of Latvia and other states;

4) represent the interests of colleges in relationships with State, local government and foreign institutions; and

5) inform the public regarding colleges and the study opportunities thereof. [2 March 2006]

Section 64.2 Latvian Students Association

(1) For the representation of students and the expression viewpoints, the student self-governance bodies of institutions of higher education shall establish a Latvian Students Association. The Latvian Students Association is a collegial association of student self-governance bodies in which is included representatives of student self-governance bodies of all accredited institutions of higher education.
(2) The Latvian Students Association shall:
   1) provide opinions regarding draft regulatory enactments that impact on students
      interests;
   2) nominate student representatives to the Council of Higher Education and other
      institutions according to the procedures specified in regulatory enactments;
   3) ensure the representation of Latvian student self-governance bodies abroad; and
   4) within scope of its competence, resolve other issues associated with the
      representation of student interests.
(3) The Latvian Students Association has the right to receive information from State and local
    government institutions and to participate in activities, which impact on studies, and the rights
    and interests of students.
[2 March 2006]

Chapter IX
Council of Higher Education

Section 65. Status of the Council of Higher Education

(1) [23 November 2000]
(2) The Council of Higher Education shall have the status of a legal person. It shall have its
    own balance and an account in a bank. The Council of Higher Education shall have a seal
    with the name thereof.

Section 66. Procedures for the Establishment of the Council of Higher Education

(1) The Council of Higher Education, which shall consist of 12 members, shall be approved
    by the Saeima on the basis of a proposal of the Minister for Education and Science. The
    Council of Higher Education shall include one delegated representative of the Latvian
    Academy of Science, the Association of Art Higher Education Institutions, the Latvian
    Association of Education Managers, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Colleges
    Association of Latvia, the Council of rectors, the Latvian Association of University and
    College Professors, the Latvian Employer’s Confederation, the Education and Science
    Workers Trade Union, a representative of the Latvian Students Association, as well as a
    delegated representative of institutions of higher education founded by local governments
    and other legal persons and natural persons. In accordance with the office held (ex officio), the
    Minister for Education and Science shall represent the Council of Higher Education as a
    member thereof in government meetings. Representatives of the Latvian Lawyers
    Association, the Latvian Medical Association and other professional organisations may
    participate in the operations of the Council of Higher Education in the capacity of an advisor
    in the examination of matters, which are related to matters within the competence of these
    organisations.
(2) The Saeima may reject the candidatures of members of the Council of Higher Education
    by submitting justified objections of the members of parliament (factions).
(3) The bodies referred to in Paragraph one of this Section have the right to recall a member
    of the Council of Higher Education by submitting a justified recall notice to the Saeima.
(4) The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall be elected
    by secret ballot by the Council within 14 days after the termination of the term of office of the
    previous chairperson and vice-chairperson.
(5) A representative of the Higher Education and Science Department of the Ministry of
    Education and Science shall participate in the meetings of the Council of Higher Education as
    an independent advisor.
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]
Section 67. Members of the Council of Higher Education

(1) The members of the Council of Higher Education shall receive remuneration on the basis of a contract of employment.
(2) The members of the Council of Higher Education shall be subject to the restrictions and prohibitions, which are prescribed for State officials in the Anti-corruption Law.
(3) A person who has been punished for an intentional crime may not become a member of the Council of Higher Education if this person has not been rehabilitated or the criminal record has not been extinguished or withdrawn.

Section 68. Term of Office of Members of the Council of Higher Education

The term of office of members of the Council of Higher Education shall be six years. The term of office of a student representative shall be two years. The Minister for Education and Science shall submit the candidatures of members of the Council of Higher Education to the Saeima for approval not later than one month prior to the termination of the term of office of members of the Council of Higher Education.
[23 November 2000]

Section 69. Decisions of the Council of Higher Education

(1) All decisions made by the Council of Higher Education shall be available to all interested persons.
(2) The Council of Higher Education has the right to take decisions, which are related to higher education only in cases prescribed by this Law. In accordance with this Law, the decisions taken by the Council of Higher Education shall be binding to institutions of higher education.
[23 November 2000]

Section 70. Basic Tasks, Competence and Functions of the Council of Higher Education

The Council of Higher Education shall:

1) formulate a national concept for the development of higher education and institutions of higher education, making provisions for the development of institutions of higher education founded by the State, other legal persons and natural persons, and promote the equal and balanced development of institutions of higher education of all types and higher academic and higher professional education;

2) formulate long-term plans and proposals for the development of education and science in the system of higher education;

3) formulate proposals for the improvement of the quality of the scientific work of institutions of higher education, staff qualification and study programmes;

4) forecast the number of students in the State as a whole necessary for the development of the State and formulate proposals for the number of students financed from the State budget in each branch;

5) formulate proposals for changes in the structure of institutions of higher education in the State;

6) formulate proposals regarding the number of professors in institutions of higher education and recommendations in other issues related to higher education;

7) formulate proposals for the improvement of higher education and the study fee;

8) provide an opinion to the Minister for Education and Science and the Cabinet regarding the draft State budget for the financing of institutions of higher education;
9) take a decision on the accreditation of institutions of higher education as a whole and submit it for approval to the Ministry of Education and Science; 
10) [23 November 2000]; and 
11) maintain relations with the institutions of other countries, which deal with issues of higher education. 
[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006]

Section 71. Rights of the Council of Higher Education

The Council of Higher Education has the right to:
1) become acquainted with the assessment and accreditation materials of any study direction of an institution of higher education;
2) request extraordinary accreditation for any institution of higher education or a study direction thereof; and
3) request from institutions of higher education and State authorities the information necessary for the performance of the activities thereof. 
[14 July 2011]

Section 72. Organisation of the Operations of the Council of Higher Education

(1) The operations of the Council of Higher Education shall be regulated by a by-law. 
(2) Meetings of the Council of Higher Education shall take place as appropriate. Special meetings shall be convened within three days if they are requested by at least three members of the Council of Higher Education. 
(3) The secretariat shall provide information regarding the agenda of a meeting of the Council of Higher Education and the decisions made therein in the official newspaper “Latvijas Vēstnesis” and in the mass media. True copies of decisions shall be sent to institutions of higher education and other institutions to which these decisions apply.

Section 73. Financing of the Council of Higher Education

(1) The Council of Higher Education shall be financed from the State budget. 
(2) The Council of Higher Education shall publish a report once a year regarding the financial activities thereof in the official newspaper “Latvijas Vēstnesis”. 
(3) A paid secretariat shall be established for ensuring the activities of the Council of Higher Education.

Section 74. Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education

(1) The position of the Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall be his or her primary employment. The Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall not concurrently hold another managerial position. 
(2) The Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall be responsible for the operations of the Council of Higher Education and the fulfilment of the functions thereof. 
(3) The Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall: 
1) represent the Council of Higher Education in State authorities, as well as in relations with natural persons and legal persons in Latvia and foreign states, participate in Cabinet meetings in the capacity of an advisor in the examination of issues within the competence of the Council; 
2) handle the finances of the Council of Higher Education; 
3) hire and release from work the employees of the secretariat of the Council of Higher Education; and
4) enter into agreements with natural persons and legal persons for ensuring the operations of the Council of Higher Education.

(4) The salary of the Chairperson of the Council of Higher Education shall be determined in accordance with the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[2 March 2006; 1 December 2009]

Section 75. Report of the Activities of Institutions of Higher Education and Colleges

(1) Each year, for the promotion of co-operation among institutions of higher education and colleges, State authorities and local government institutions and society, an institution of higher education and college shall prepare a report of the activities thereof in the reporting year (a year-book) which shall be published as a separate issue and kept on the Internet home page of the institution of higher education and college.

(2) In accordance with the procedures and the time period prescribed by the Cabinet, an institution of higher education and college shall submit information regarding the activities thereof to the Ministry of Education and Science, and this information shall include data about:

1) the structure of the institution of higher education and college;
2) the number and composition of students and other staff of the institution of higher education and college;
3) options for study and the number and composition of enrolled students;
4) the offered study courses, study modules and study programmes, as well as information regarding the study directions;
5) the allocation and utilisation of State budget funds;
6) economic activity, own income and utilisation thereof;
7) international relations;
8) as well as information regarding the subsequent course of work of graduates in the next three years after completion of the relevant study programme of the institution of higher education or college.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Chapter X

Property, Budget and Economic Activity of an Institution of Higher Education

Section 76. Property of Institutions of Higher Education

(1) The property of institutions of higher education may be land, movable property, immovable property and intellectual property, as well as funds in Latvia and foreign states in accordance with the legislation in force.

(2) The property of State institutions of higher education shall be formed by:

1) movable property and immovable property which has been gifted to them, which they have inherited or also which they have purchased with their own funds;
2) property purchased with State budget funds. Immovable property shall be recorded in the Land Register as property of the institution of higher education;
3) the intellectual property of institutions of higher education; and
4) immovable property which has been handed over thereto, without remuneration, by another derived public person or the State.

(3) State institutions of higher education have the right to make use of their property for achieving the aims indicated in the constitutions thereof. The property of State institutions of higher education shall be administrated separately from the State property, which has been transmitted into the possession thereof.
(4) With a decision of the Cabinet State property may be transferred to the possession or use of State institutions of higher education.

(5) [2 March 2006]

(6) The activities with the property referred to in Paragraph two, Clause 4 of this Section and the conditions for subsequent use thereof shall be determined by this Law and the Law On the Alienation of a Public Person’s Property. An institution of higher education shall use immovable property, which has been transferred to the institution of higher education, without remuneration, by the State, for ensuring its activities and development in accordance with the objectives specified in the constitution of the institution of higher education. The institution of higher education has the right to recommend the alienation of such property and alienate it with a permission of the Cabinet.

(7) A State-founded institution of higher education may recommend the alienation of such immovable property which another derived public person has transferred into the ownership of the institution of higher education, without remuneration, and alienate it with the permission of the relevant derived public person. Permission shall not be necessary if another derived public person has not specified in the decision on the transfer of immovable property into the ownership of the institution of higher education without remuneration, for the performance of which functions the immovable property is being handed over.

(8) The alienation of property of an institution of higher education provided for in Paragraphs six and seven of this Section shall take place in accordance with the procedures specified in the Law On the Alienation of a Public Person’s Property, insofar as it is not in conflict with the provisions of this Law. The funds acquired through alienation shall be the property of the institution of higher education, the use of which shall be determined by the institution providing the permission for alienation upon recommendation of the institution of higher education in the decision on the authorisation for alienation.

[2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 77. Financial Resources of Institutions of Higher Education

(1) Institutions of higher education shall be financed by the founders thereof. The founder of an institution of higher education shall provide financial resources and the control of the utilisation thereof for the continuous operation of the institution of higher education, as well as for the fulfilling of the tasks determined by the founder. The financial resources of State institutions of higher education shall be formed from the resources of the State general budget, as well as other income, which institutions of higher education earn by performing activities for the realisation of the aims specified in the constitutions thereof. Institutions of higher education shall operate with this income, taking into account the regulations, which are pursuant to non-profit-making organisations. An institution of higher education has the right to receive and use the donations and gifts of banks, other credit institutions, as well as organisations and natural persons. An institution of higher education has the right to receive and use credits from banks and other credit institutions. The senate thereof shall determine the structure of the financial resources of an institution of higher education. The rector shall submit an annual report on the implementation of the budget to the senate, the Minister for Education and Science and the minister of the relevant field or the founder of the institution of higher education.

(2) An institution of higher education shall transfer the financial resources which natural persons and legal persons assign for the financing of separate target programmes and measures directly to that structural unit, natural person or legal person which implements such programme or measure.

(3) The financial resources of the separate structural units of an institution of higher education shall be included in the budget of the institution of higher education as an independent part.
(4) An institution of higher education shall open a special budget account if it has received a donation or gift with or without the aim indicated.


Section 78. State Financing

(1) State-founded institutions of higher education shall receive the following financing:

1) from the State general budget for education – basic financing which complies with the optimal list of study programmes and the number of students and which includes resources for payments of utilities, taxes, the maintenance of infrastructure, the purchase of inventory and equipment, scientific research work or artistic creation and the salaries of the staff;

2) from the study fee which is covered by the State or which is received in the form of repayable and non-repayable credits in accordance with the Cabinet regulations regarding the crediting of studies; and

3) from resources which are anticipated for the implementation of definite goals.

(2) The State shall provide institutions of higher education financially and materially to such an extent, which guarantees the reproduction of the potential of higher education and science therein and promotes the raising of the level of culture and education in Latvia.

(3) State-founded institutions of higher education may receive additional financing from other sources of science financing.

(4) The Ministry of Education and Science, other ministries and State authorities may enter into agreements with State-accredited institutions of higher education founded by other legal persons and natural persons about the preparation of specific specialists or the conducting of research, allocating the respective State financing. Any State authority and private structure may enter into agreements independently with institutions of higher education about the preparation of specific specialists or the conducting of research, paying for it from resources which are at the disposal thereof, if this does not contradict with the legislation in force.

(5) As taxpayers, institutions of higher education and colleges shall be equated to foundations, and they have the right to receive tax relief in accordance with the legislation in force.

(6) Institutions of higher education shall be released from customs duties and fees, as well as from taxes for the import of reconstruction materials and equipment.

(7) The Cabinet, upon submitting the draft annual State budget to the Saeima, shall provide for therein an annual increase in funding for studies in State-founded institutions of higher education by not less than 0.25 per cent of the gross domestic product, until the State-granted funding for studies in State-founded institutions of higher education reaches at least two per cent of the gross domestic product.


Section 79. Crediting of Students and Studies

(1) Students in accredited study programmes have the right to qualify for:

1) a study loan – a loan from the resources of the State budget or credit institutions with a government guarantee for students in order to pay for studies; and

2) a student loan – a loan from the resources of the State budget or credit institutions with a government guarantee for the provision of the social needs of students.

(2) The procedures for the allocation and repayment of a study loan and student loan from the State budget resources, as well as of study and student loans from the resources of credit institutions with a government guarantee, shall be determined by the Cabinet.

[23 November 2000]

Section 80. Economic Activities of Institutions of Higher Education
(1) In fulfilling the tasks thereof, an institution of higher education has the right to perform the following activities in Latvia and foreign states:

1) to open departments, branches and representative offices;
2) to enter into agreements with natural persons and legal persons, as well as to perform other legal activities in accordance with this Law and other laws;
3) to announce competitions, purchase and sell movable and immovable property, different goods and securities in accordance with the legislation in force and pursuant to the aims of the activities of the institution of higher education; and
4) to engage in economic activities pursuant to the profile of the institution of higher education, the income from which shall be transferred into the budget of the institution of higher education for the development thereof, as well as to invest the obtained resources in other undertakings in accordance with the aims of the institution of higher education.

(2) An independent sworn auditor shall examine the compliance of financial and economic activities of an institution of higher education with regulatory enactments each year. A written opinion prepared by the sworn auditor regarding the financial and economic activity of a State-founded institution of higher education or a report by the auditor regarding the use of State budget funds by an institution of higher education which has received funds from the State budget shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science and to the ministry to which the relevant institution of higher education is subordinated.

[23 November 2000; 2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Chapter XI
International Co-operation of Institutions of Higher Education

Section 81. International Co-operation

(1) The Government of the Republic of Latvia and institutions of higher education themselves shall promote international co-operation, inter-state exchange programmes of students and academic staff, exchange programmes between institutions of higher education and international co-operation programmes of institutions of higher education for research.
(2) In determining the amount of financing of an institution of higher education in the State budget, the participation of each institution of higher education in European international co-operation programmes shall be taken into account. If international co-operation programmes of institutions of higher education finance part of the study tasks of an institution of higher education or the work tasks of scientific research work, the financing of an institution of higher education from the State budget shall not be reduced.
(3) The agreements of the government in issues related to any institution of higher education shall be binding to such institution. When drafting such an agreement, the implementing provisions of the agreement shall be co-ordinated with the institution of higher education.

Section 82. Studies in Other Countries

(1) Latvian citizens and persons who have the right to a non-citizen passport issued by the Republic of Latvia, as well as persons who have been issued a permanent residence permit may enter and study in institutions of higher education outside Latvia in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet. Students studying in other countries may be allocated credits or scholarships, which are determined by the Cabinet.
(2) [19 April 2007]
[3 June 2004; 19 April 2007]
Section 83. Studies by Foreigners in Latvia

(1) Foreigners who are not referred to in Section 45, Paragraph two of this Law may be admitted to Latvian institutions of higher education and colleges as full-time students in accordance with the Education Law and this Law on the basis of the general provisions. If other procedures are not prescribed in international agreements, foreigners may be admitted to Latvian institutions of higher education and colleges, observing the following provisions:

1) the secondary education documents of foreigners shall be in conformity with the standards of Latvia. The secondary education documents of foreigners shall be checked following the procedures prescribed in Section 85 of this Law;

2) the knowledge of foreigners shall correspond to the admission regulations of the relevant institution of higher education or college;

3) foreigners shall have a sufficient knowledge of the languages in which studies take place;

4) foreigners shall pay the study fees to an institution of higher education or college in accordance with the agreement, which the institution of higher education or college has entered into with them, however it may not be smaller than the study costs;

5) [14 July 2011].

(2) Foreigners who have not been issued a permanent residence permit may acquire a part of a study programme in Latvian institutions of higher education and colleges in accordance with international (between institutions of higher education) exchange agreements or within the framework of international co-operation programmes of institutions of higher education and colleges in accordance with the admission regulations. If the studies of foreigners in Latvia take place within the framework of exchange programme between institutions of higher education and colleges and the equivalent number of students from Latvian institutions of higher education and colleges study abroad, Latvia shall finance the studies of foreigners from the resources of the State budget of the Republic of Latvia assigned to an institution of higher education or college.

(3) Persons who acquired a secondary education abroad may be admitted to Latvian institutions of higher education and colleges taking into account Paragraph one, Clauses 1 and 2 of this Section.

[2 March 2006; 14 July 2011]

Section 83.¹ Scholarships for Foreigners

In accordance with the entered into international agreements and funds granted from the State budget the institution specified in regulatory enactments may allocate funds to an institution of higher education or college for ensuring a scholarship for the studies of a foreigner. The covering of other expenditure related to the maintenance of a foreigner may also be included in the scholarship. The Cabinet shall regulate the conditions for allocating and the procedures for administrating scholarships, as well as the criteria by which a foreigner may apply for a scholarship.

[14 July 2011]

Section 84. Recognition of Part of the Higher Education Acquired in Other Countries

Recognition of part of the higher education acquired in other countries shall be performed by that institution of higher education in which the student continues his or her education. The institution of higher education shall determine:

1) to which study programme the part of higher education acquired in other countries corresponds;
2) in what way the student may continue his or her studies in the relevant study programme; and
3) if necessary – what additional requirements shall be met in order to continue studies in the relevant study programme in Latvia.

Section 85. Academic Recognition in Latvia of Academic Degrees and Education Documents Acquired in Other Countries

(1) An expert-examination of academic degrees and education documents acquired in other countries, as well as documents attesting to secondary education, shall be performed by the Academic Information Centre.

(2) During an expert-examination of submitted documents, the following shall be determined:
   1) whether the education document acquired in another country conforms with any higher education document awarded in Latvia (hereinafter in this Section – diploma);
   2) to which academic degree or diploma awarded in Latvia it may be equated; and
   3) what additional provisions shall be met so that the education document obtained in another country could be equated to any academic degrees or diplomas awarded in Latvia, if the academic degree or education document obtained in another country does not meet the requirements of any academic degree or diploma awarded in Latvia.

(3) As a result of an expert-examination of an education document, the owner thereof shall be issued a statement regarding the academic degree or diploma awarded in Latvia to which the education document obtained in another country corresponds.

(4) The expenses related to an expert-examination of an academic degree or education document obtained in another country shall be covered by the owner of the education document.

(5) If education is continued in Latvia, the relevant institution of higher education shall take a decision, on the basis of the statement of the Academic Information Centre, regarding the recognition of the academic degree or education document obtained in another country for the continuation of studies.

[23 November 2000]

Section 86. Operation of Foreign Institutions of Higher Education in Latvia

(1) Foreign institutions of higher education may open branches and representative offices in Latvia if the relevant institution of higher education is accredited (nationally recognised) in the state thereof.

(2) Branches of foreign institutions of higher education in Latvia shall operate in observance of the provisions of this Law and other regulatory enactments. Studies in a branch of foreign institution of higher education shall take place in study programmes, which are accredited in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this Law.

(3) Diplomas awarded by branches of foreign institutions of higher education shall be recognised in Latvia in observance of the provisions of Section 85 of this Law and in accordance with the Lisbon Convention and the documents of the European Council, European Union and UNESCO in the field of transnational education.

(4) A permit received from the Ministry of Education and Science in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet shall be required for the opening and operation of a representative office of a foreign institution of higher education.

(5) The representative office of a foreign institution of higher education may perform only the following activities in Latvia:
   1) advertising of the foreign institution of higher education;
   2) dissemination of information and teaching aids; and
Section 87 Academic Staff Register

(1) In the Academic Staff Register shall be recorded information regarding persons who occupy academic positions in institutions of higher education and colleges. The Academic Staff Register shall be a component of the State Education Information System, and shall be managed by an official authorised by an institution specified by the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter – official responsible for the Academic Staff Register).
(2) In the Academic Staff Register shall be recorded the following information regarding a person:
   1) given name and surname of the person;
   2) personal identity number;
   3) the name of the academic position to which the person is elected;
   4) the name of the institution of higher education or college in which such person occupies an academic position (indicating if the position is occupied in a branch thereof);
   5) the name of the structural unit if there is such;
   6) the commencement time period of fulfilling the academic position in the relevant institution of higher education or college; and
   7) the name of the branch of science, sub-branch and educational programme group in conformity with the academic position.
(3) Information regarding their academic personal shall be submitted by institutions of higher education or college to the Academic Staff Register. The rector of an institution of higher education or director of a college shall be responsible for the preciseness and conformity to reality of the information submitted to the Register.
(4) Updated information regarding changes in the information requested in Paragraph two of this Section shall be submitted by an institution of higher education or college to the Academic Staff Register not later than one week after changes, entering it into the Academic Staff Register electronically.
(5) The information referred to in Paragraph two, Clauses 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this Section the official responsible for the Academic Staff Register shall publish on the Internet not later than within two weeks from the receipt of such changes.

Chapter XII
Integration of Institutions of Higher Education and Scientific Institutions
[23 November 2000]

Transitional Provisions

1. Institutions of higher education shall co-ordinate the constitutions thereof with the requirements of the Law On Institutions of Higher Education and submit them to the Ministry of Education and Science by 1 October 2001. In a case of non-compliance with this requirement, the provisions of Section 10, Paragraph four or Section 11 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education shall be applied.
[23 November 2000]

2. Within three months after the approval of the constitution of institution of higher education in the Saeima or the Cabinet, institutions of higher education shall co-ordinate all the
regulatory enactments thereof (by-laws, regulations, rules of procedure, etc.) with the constitutions thereof and this Law.

[23 November 2000]

3. The terms of office of all elected positions and bodies shall not be changed if they do not exceed six years beginning with the day of election.

4. Institutions of higher education, the constitutions of which have been approved by 2 December 1995, but not later than 17 November 2001, shall be equated to accredited institutions of higher education until accreditation and they have the right to issue an education document in accordance with the provisions of Section 7, Paragraph three of this Law, as well as to participate in the work of the Council of rectors.

[23 November 2000]

5. The Council of Higher Education, in co-operation with the Latvian Council of Science and the Academy of Science, shall formulate proposals to the Minister for Education and Science about the list of staff positions for professors and the schedule for the announcement of the competition within one year after the coming-into-force of this Law.

[23 November 2000]

6. The Minister for Education and Science shall submit to the Saeima the candidatures for the personnel of the Council of Higher Education not later than within two months after the coming-into-force of the amendments to Section 66, Paragraph one of this Law (regarding the proposal to approve 12 members of the Council of Higher Education in the Saeima).

[23 November 2000]

7. Within three months, the Council of Higher Education shall formulate and submit to the Cabinet for approval a reform programme for universities, prescribing therein the consecutive integration of higher education and science (founding of scientific research institutes or inclusion of the existing institutions in the main study and research directions), in-service training of academic staff, attraction of the new generation of scientists, new procedures for financing and work remuneration.

8. The Cabinet shall provide annual additional financial resources for the implementation of university reform.

9. Within two months from the day of the coming into force of this Law, the Cabinet shall accept provisions for the licensing and accreditation of institutions of higher education, which comply with the requirements of this Law.

10. Licensed institutions of higher education shall have to renew their licence within six months from the day of the coming into force of this Law.

11. As regards the Latvian National Defence Academy, the Cabinet is entitled to specify other procedures for the matters of the autonomy of this institution of higher education (Section 4), the representation and student self-governance of the institution of higher education (Sections 12, 53), the approval of the rector (Section 17), the recruiting of students (Section 45) and the approval of study programmes (Section 55) if it is required by the military or professional specificity of such educational institutions.

[27 December 1996; 2 March 2006; 18 February 2010]

11.¹ In relation to colleges existing within the Ministry of the Interior system, the Cabinet is entitled to specify other procedures regarding issues of the representation of such colleges
(Section 10.1), the admission of students (Section 45) and the approval of study programmes (Section 55) if it is required by the professional specificity of such educational institutions.

[2 March 2006]

12. Enrolment in study programmes on the basis of the results of centralised examinations (Section 46, Paragraph three) shall be initiated in the year 2004.

[23 November 2000]

13. Institutions of higher education shall announce admissions requirements by 1 April 2001 in those study programmes which are already implemented on the day of the coming into force of this Law and in which admission is also planned in the time period up to the year 2004.

[23 November 2000]

14. Section 55, Paragraph two of this Law regarding the number of full-time students in study programmes of academic education shall not relate to those study programmes which are already being implemented on the day of the coming into force of this norm – until the moment when the relevant study programme is to be accredited in accordance with the requirements of this Law.

[23 November 2000]

15. Section 55, Paragraph six of this Law regarding the licensing of every study programme shall not relate to those study programmes, which are already being implemented on the day of the coming into force of this norm. These study programmes shall be regarded as licensed study programmes.

[23 November 2000]

16. Doctors Habilitus have the rights of a doctor of the relevant branch.

[23 November 2000]

17. By 1 November 2004, the Cabinet shall determine the mandatory provisions to be included in the study agreement (Section 46, Paragraph two), the procedures for the drawing up and updating of the personal file of a student (Section 46, Paragraph eight), the procedures for the initiation of studies in further stages of studies (Section 47, Paragraph three) and the procedures for the registration of persons studying outside of Latvia (Section 82, Paragraph two).

[3 June 2004]

18. Institutions of higher education shall co-ordinate the constitutions thereof with the requirements of Section 13, Paragraph three and Section 15, Paragraph four of this Law about the changes of the proportion of students in the constitutional assembly and the senate of an institution of higher education and submit them for approval to the Ministry of Education and Science by 10 June 2005. The Constitutional Assemblies and senates of institutions of higher education, which have been elected by 10 June 2004, shall continue to operate until the termination of the term of office of the relevant constitutional assembly or senate, preserving the proportion of students determined in the constitution of the institution of higher education.

[3 June 2004]

19. An institution of higher education shall ensure the conformity of the constitution thereof to the requirements specified in the Law On Institutions of Higher Education and by 1 September 2006 shall submit the constitution to the Ministry of Education and Science. State-founded institutions of higher education shall become derived public persons after the
approval of the constitution by the 
Saeima. Up to the approval of their constitutions by the 
Saeima, the institutions of higher education shall continue to operate in their current status – State budget institutions. State-founded universities and institutions of higher education the constitutions of which have been approved by the Saeima shall be deemed to be derived public persons. Colleges shall ensure the conformity of by-laws to the requirements specified in the Law On Institutions of Higher Education and by 1 May 2007 shall submit the by-laws thereof to the Ministry of Education and Science. The Cabinet shall issue regulations regarding the by-law of the relevant college by 1 September 2007. Until the issuance of such Cabinet regulations, but not later than until 1 September 2007, the provisions of Section 9, Paragraph two, Clause 3 of this Law shall not apply to the relevant college.
[2 March 2006; 15 February 2007; 19 April 2007]

20. The rectors of institutions of higher education after agreement with the representatives of academic staff shall by 1 February 2006 submit to the Ministry of Education and Science the list of elected academic staff of the relevant institution of higher education.
[2 March 2006]

21. The criteria specified in Section 3, Paragraph three of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2007. Up to 31 August 2007 in Latvia there are the following universities: Daugavpils University, University of Latvia, Latvia University of Agriculture, Rīga Stradiņš University and Rīga Technical University.
[2 March 2006]

22. Employment contracts, which have been entered into with the academic staff of institutions of higher education up to 31 August 2005 shall be in effect until the end of the time period specified in the relevant employment contract.
[2 March 2006]

23. Section 48 and Section 49, Paragraph three of this Law shall be repealed after the revocation of mandatory military service.
[2 March 2006]

24. [19 April 2007]

25. The provisions of Section 3, Paragraph one of the Law On Institutions of Higher Education regarding the proportion of persons with doctoral degrees in institutions of higher education shall come into force on 1 July 2010.
[2 March 2006]

26. The provisions included in the third sentence of Section 3, Paragraph five of this Law shall not apply to institutions of higher education, which up to the coming into force of this Law have registered in the Register of Institutions of Higher Education and in the names of which (as well as the names of institutes established by them) is included the word “institūts” [institute].
[2 March 2006]

27. In accordance with this Law the remuneration determined by State and local government institutions (monthly salary, bonuses, gratuities, allowances, etc.) in 2009 shall be determined in accordance with the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities in 2009.
[12 December 2008]
28. Bonuses shall not be paid to the academic staff of institutions of higher education and colleges founded by the State in 2011, but the material incentive thereof shall be performed and allowances paid in accordance with the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[1 December 2009; 23 December 2010]

29. Amendments to Section 3, Paragraph one and Paragraph three, Clause 2 of this Law providing that, in institutions of higher education, at least 40 per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees, in academies, at least 50 per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees and at least 65 per cent of persons elected to academic positions shall have doctoral degrees, as well as amendments to Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of this Law determining that not less than five doctors shall take part in the implementation of the doctorate study programme, of which at least three are experts in the relevant branch approved by the Latvian Council of Science, shall come into force on 1 September 2013.

[14 July 2011]

30. The provision of Section 3, Paragraph seven of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2014. From 1 September 2013 institutions of higher education shall ensure that, during the preceding five years, the number of foreign visiting professors, associate visiting professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers and visiting assistants in an institution of higher education, employed in academic position in one of the institutions of higher education of the European Union states, except Latvia, shall be at least 3 per cent, calculating from the number of the academic staff.

[14 July 2011]

31. Amendments regarding the licensing of study programmes and the accreditation of study directions shall come into force:

1) in respect of study directions, for which the corresponding study programmes of institutions of higher education or colleges fall within the thematic groups specified in Section 3, Paragraph one, Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of this Law – on 1 September 2012;

2) in respect of study directions, for which the corresponding study programmes of institutions of higher education or colleges fall within the thematic groups specified in Section 3, Paragraph one, Clauses 4, 5 and 6 of this Law – on 15 November 2012; and

3) in respect of study directions, for which the corresponding study programmes of institutions of higher education or colleges fall within the thematic groups specified in Section 3, Paragraph one, Clauses 7 and 8 of this Law – on 31 December 2012.

[14 July 2011]

32. Within six months after the time periods specified in Paragraph 31 of these Transitional Provisions the institution specified by the Cabinet shall take a decision on the accreditation of the study direction of an institution of higher education or college or a decision on the refusal to accredit the study direction of the relevant institution of education or college. If a decision is taken on the refusal to accredit any study direction of an institution of higher education or college, the study programmes corresponding to such direction, which have been accredited in accordance with the existing regulatory enactments and the accreditation time period of which has not expired until the day of taking the decision, shall be considered to be accredited until the expiry of the time period specified in the accreditation form of the relevant study programme.

[14 July 2011]
33. The accreditation time period for study programmes which are accredited until 1 August 2011, shall be extended until the moment when a decision is taken on the accreditation of the study direction of an institution of higher education or college or decision on the refusal to accredit the study direction of the relevant institution of higher education or college, if the accreditation time period of the study programme has expired in the time period referred to.

[14 July 2011]

34. Amendments to Section 76, Paragraphs six, seven and eight of this Law shall come into force concurrently with amendments to the respective laws.

[14 July 2011]

35. The provision of Section 78, Paragraph seven of this Law regarding the action of the Cabinet when submitting the draft annual State budget, shall come into force on 1 June 2013.

[14 July 2011]

36. The provision of Section 87, Paragraph four of this Law regarding the submission of information to the Academic Staff Register not later than week after the changes, entering them into the Academic Staff Register electronically, shall come into force on 1 September 2012.

[14 July 2011]

37. In 2012 bonuses shall not be paid to the academic staff of institutions of higher education and colleges founded by the State, but the material incentive thereof shall be performed and allowances paid in accordance with the Law On Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[15 December 2011]

Informative Reference to the European Union Directives

This Law contains legal norms arising from:


[14 July 2011]

This Law has been adopted by the Saeima on 2 November 1995.

President

G. Ulmanis

Rīga, 17 November 1995
Transitional Provisions Regarding Amendments
to the Law On Institutions of Higher Education

Transitional Provision
(regarding amending law of 2 March 2006)

With the coming into force of this Law, Cabinet Regulation No. 635, Amendments to the Law On Institutions of Higher Education (Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Cabineta Zinotājs, 2005, No. 21) issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia is repealed.