

26.05.2022

The Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education decided:

To consider that the secondary condition set for the assessment decision of the first and second levels of the Journalism and Information Study Programme Group of the University of Tartu has been fulfilled.

Based on clauses 42 and 42.4 of the document "Quality Assessment of the Study Programme Group at the First and Second Levels of Higher Education," established on the basis of § 53 (3) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and § 10 (4) of the University Act and § 24 (5) Statutes of the Education and Youth Authority, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter the Council) states the following:

1. § 53 (1) 2) of the APA provides that *an additional duty related to the principal regulation of the administrative act*, and § 53 (2) 2) and 3) provide that *a secondary condition may be imposed on an administrative act: if the administrative action cannot be issued without the secondary condition or if the issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of the administrative right of discretion*. On 29.09.2017, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter the Council) adopted a decision to approve the assessment report¹ and to carry out the next quality assessment of the first and second levels of higher education of the Journalism and Information Study Programme Group of the University of Tartu after seven years, with the secondary condition that the University of Tartu submits a report to the Council no later than 29.09.2019² on the rectification of the deficiency referred to in clause 11 of the assessment decision.
2. On 27.04.2020, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education decided that the deficiency that was the basis for setting the secondary condition had not been eliminated to a sufficient extent and decided to introduce a new secondary condition to the

¹ The assessment report is an integral part of the decision and is available on the EKKA website.

²The assessment report is available on the EKKA website.

Council decision of 29.09.2017, which obliged the university to submit a report on the fulfillment of the secondary condition by 27.04.2022 at the latest.

3. The deficiency underlying imposition of the secondary condition was as follows: Pursuant to § 3 (7) 1) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Standard of Higher Education" (SHE), *the organization of teaching meets the requirements if there are academic staff for teaching who meet the qualification requirements laid down in the legislation and whose number, based on their tasks, the volume of teaching and research work and the number of students supervised, is sufficient to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programme.* At the University of Tartu, the number of academic staff with a doctoral degree in information science and the volume of information science research is not sufficient to ensure the quality of teaching and learning outcomes in the professional higher education study programme of information management and the Master's degree programme in information and knowledge management. It is necessary to plan measures to strengthen the academic profile of information science at the University of Tartu and to increase the number of academic staff with a doctoral degree in the field of information science.
4. On 27.04.2022, the University of Tartu sent the following documents to the Council: 1) *Report on the fulfillment of the secondary condition*
5. The University of Tartu informed the Council of the following in the report on the fulfillment of the secondary condition:
 - 5.1 There has been no admission to the study programme of information and knowledge management for three years, and the study programme will be closed according to the decision of the Senate of the University of Tartu (18.06.2021 no. 17) as of 31.08.2022;
 - 5.2 Of the 17 lecturers teaching the study programme of professional higher education, nine have a doctorate degree, and four are enrolled in a doctorate programme, which is sufficient for teaching in professional higher education;
 - 5.3 Since the study programme is interdisciplinary, the lecturers who teach it do not have to be only narrowly qualified in information science;
 - 5.4 The amount of research work of lecturers teaching in the study programme of professional higher education is sufficient.
6. Taking into account that the studies of the Master's program are coming to an end and the qualifications of the teaching staff of the professional higher education study programme are sufficient, the Council

DECIDED:

To consider that the secondary condition set for the quality assessment decision of the first and second study levels of the Journalism and Information Study Programme Group of the University of Tartu adopted on

29.09.2017 has been fulfilled and to maintain the decision to carry out the next quality assessment after seven years.

The decision was adopted by ten votes in favor and none opposed.

7. A person who finds that the decision of the Assessment Council has violated his or her rights or restricted his or her freedoms may file a challenge pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act. The challenge shall be submitted to the Assessment Council of EKKA within thirty (30) days after the person who filed the challenge became aware of or should have become aware of the contested act.

The Assessment Council shall send the challenge to the challenge committee of the Assessment Council of EKKA, which shall submit a written, impartial opinion to the Assessment Council on the reasoning of the challenge within five (5) days of receipt of the challenge. The Assessment Council shall resolve the challenge within ten (10) days of receipt, taking into account the reasoned position of the appeal committee. If the challenge needs to be further investigated, the Assessment Council may extend the term for reviewing the challenge by up to thirty (30) days.

Challenging a decision of the Assessment Council of EKKA is possible within thirty (30) days of its service by submitting an appeal to the Tallinn Courthouse of the Tallinn Administrative Court pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Court Procedure Act.

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council