

Decision of fulfillment of the secondary conditions
of the Business and Administration Study Programme Group
of the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences

27.04.2020

The Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education decided to consider the secondary condition imposed on the quality assessment decision of first and second levels of higher education of the Business and Administration Study Programme Group of Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences to be met.

Based on § 53 (3) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and § 10 (4) of the Universities Act and bearing in mind clauses 41.1 and 42 of the document "Quality Assessment of the Study Programme Group at the First and Second Levels of Higher Education" established on the basis of the authorization contained in clause 3.7.3 and clause 3.7.1 of the Statutes of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education, 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 act cannot be issued without the secondary condition or if an issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of the administrative right of discretion*. On 12.06.2017, 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 report,¹ and to carry out the next quality assessment of the first and second levels of higher education of the Business Administration Study Programme Group of the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences after seven (7) years, with the secondary condition that the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences submits a report to the Council no later than 12.06.2019² on the rectification of the deficiency referred to in clause 11 of the assessment decision.

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

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2. On 12.06.2019, the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences sent the following documents to the Council: 1) *Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences Report to the Business Administration study group evaluation decision.*
3. EKKA involved the following members of the committee in the assessment of the fulfillment of the secondary condition:

Anne Perkiö	Head of Business Administration Programme, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
Markus Breuer	Professor, SRH University Heidelberg (Germany)

4. The evaluation visit to the University took place on 10.12.2019.
5. EKKA sent a preliminary report to the University on 15.01.2020, to which the University submitted a reply on 29.01.2020. On 03.02.2020, the assessment committee submitted a report to EKKA on the elimination of the deficiency described in clause 11 of the decision of the Council of 12.06.2017. The assessment was as follows:

Deficiency underlying imposition of the secondary condition	Assessment
Pursuant to § 6 (7) 1) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Standards of Higher Education" (SHE), <i>the conduct of studies conforms to the requirements if: ordinary teaching staff and research staff are available for the studies, who meet the qualification requirements established in legal instruments and whose number is, based on their responsibilities, the volume of conducted studies and research and the number of supervised students, adequate for achieving the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programme;</i> Although the University has a practical orientation, the number of lecturers with doctoral degrees is still too small, especially considering the implementation of master's programs. It is necessary to support lecturers in obtaining a doctoral degree and to raise the requirements for lecturers, including publication in scientific journals. Currently, some lecturers have no publications at all.	<p>The deficiency has been substantially remedied.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Compared to 2017, the number of lecturers with doctoral degrees has significantly increased, there are now 11 of them. 2) Seven lecturers are currently studying for a doctoral degree, and 2-3 of them should complete it within a year. 3) From the autumn of 2018, all lecturers with a research obligation must publish an average of one research article in order to successfully pass the assessment. <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Research publications are still unevenly distributed among lecturers, and some lecturers do not have research publications. As strengthening research is part of the University's strategy, management needs to provide more support and stronger incentives for non-publishing lecturers.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) The number of research publications is still small and some of them are in Estonian or Russian. Given the University's focus on English-language curricula, the number of English-language articles should also increase. 3) It is strongly recommended to fill the position of research manager. As an initial intermediate step, one of the existing lecturers could be appointed for this position to ensure the administration and valorization of the research. 4) Although the possibility of a free semester is provided at the University, no one has used it, not even lecturers who are currently in the doctoral programme. The management of the University should ensure that all lecturers are aware of this possibility and that it is feasible in practice. 5) There is a need to strengthen research collaboration between teachers and students, for example, students could support teachers in their research projects by collecting different data.
<p>Pursuant to § 6 (3) of SHE, the objectives and learning outcomes of a study programme shall be equal and comparable with the learning outcomes of the cycles of higher education level described in Annex 1 to SHE. According to clause 3.1 of Annex 1 of SHE, in order to obtain a master's degree, <i>students must have a systematic overview and a broad knowledge of the concepts, theories and research methods of the field of study, know the theoretical development directions, current problems and application possibilities of the specialty, and be able to independently and creatively recognize and formulate problems and/or research issues related to the specialty and be able to solve them within a given time frame and in conditions of limited information, using appropriate methods, taking advantage of the knowledge from other fields as necessary.</i> The main focus of the Master's programmes in business management is the application of practical knowledge; research and its methodology are</p>	<p>The deficiency has been substantially remedied.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All master's programs include a module of 41-50 ECTS (incl. dissertation), which is clearly dedicated to research methods. 2) Master's programmes also include general elements of business management. 3) The study programmes of Start-up Entrepreneurship and applied higher education in Creativity and Business Innovation have been updated and merged into one study programme. The new study programme includes a wider range of business subjects before students specialize in start-up entrepreneurship or business innovation. The role of research in the study programme has also been strengthened (e.g., quantitative methods, capital market simulations). <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p>

under-represented. Graduates of the Start-up Entrepreneurship and Creativity and Business Innovation Applied Higher Education study programmes can continue their studies in the Master's programme, so they should also have a better understanding of the theoretical aspects of the field and how to use them in their research.	1) It is recommended that lecturers publish a list of possible topics for dissertations, which is in line with their research directions, from which students can choose a suitable topic. 2) It is necessary to develop a detailed description of the master's seminar. 3) Cooperation with companies for student research should be expanded and standardized.
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6. Considering that, in the opinion of the assessment committee, the deficiencies underlying the imposition of the secondary condition have been remedied, the Council

DECIDED:

To consider that the secondary condition set for the quality assessment decision of the first and second study levels of the Business and Administration Study Programme Group of the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences adopted on 12.06.2017 has been fulfilled and to maintain the decision to carry out the next quality assessment after seven years.

The decision was adopted by 12 votes in favor, 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 of a decision of the Assessment Council of EKKA is possible within thirty (30) days as 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 Procedure Act.

Eve Eisenschmidt
Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council