

22.11.2019

The Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education
Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education
adopted the following decision:

To impose a new secondary condition on the assessment decision of 12.06.2017 of first and second cycle of studies in the Architecture and Building study programme group at Tallinn University of Technology.

Based on subsection 53 (3), clause 66 (2) 3) and on the basis of subsection 10 (4) of the Universities Act, point 3.7.3 of the Statutes of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter referred to as 'EKKA') and point 41.1/41.2 of the document, 'Quality Assessment of Study Programme Groups in the First and Second Cycles of Higher Education', and authorised in point 3.7.1 of the above-mentioned EKKA Statutes; the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council') affirms the following:

1. According to clause 53 (1) 2) of the Administrative Procedure Act, *a secondary condition of an administrative act is an additional duty related to the principal regulation of the administrative act*, and clauses 53 (2) 2) and 3) establish that *a secondary condition may be imposed on an administrative act if the administrative act cannot be issued without the secondary condition, or if issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of an administrative right of discretion*. On 12.06.2017 the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council') adopted the decision to approve the assessment report¹ and to conduct the next quality assessment of the Architecture and Building study programme group in first and second cycle of higher education at Tallinn University of Technology in seven years with the secondary condition that Tallinn University of Technology would submit to the Council a report on eliminating the shortcomings referred to under point 11 of the assessment decision, by 12.06.2019.
2. On 12.06.2019 Tallinn University of Technology submitted to the Council the following documents: 1) An action plan for the Architecture and Building study programme group; 2) A list of teaching staff for the architecture study programmes; 3) Appendices for the Landscape Architecture study programmes. EKKA invited the following assessment committee members to evaluate the progress made on the secondary condition imposed:

¹ Assessment report is an integral part of the decision and can be found on EKKA website.

Philippe Bouillard, Professor, Head of BATir (Civil, Arch. And Urban Eng.) Dept., Université Libre de Bruxelles; Belgium

Adri van den Brink, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, Wageningen University; The Netherlands

3. EKKA sent the preliminary report to Tallinn University of Technology on 25.09.2019, the university replied on 10.10.2019 by submitting the document *Follow-up report on Assessment Report on Meeting the Requirements of the Secondary Condition On the Study Programme Group of Architecture and Building*. The assessment committee submitted a report on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in point 11 to EKKA on 19.10.2019. The verdict was as follows:

The shortcoming underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition	Verdict of the committee
<p>According to the Regulation of the Government of the Republic 'Standard of Higher Education' subsection 6 clause 7 (1) The conduct of studies conforms to the requirements if: <i>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>. The staff composition of core architecture teaching staff is at present not adequate for conducting high quality studies in four study programmes. Number of core teaching staff is subpar first and foremost on the Landscape Architecture and European Architecture study programmes. Teaching staff on the study programmes needs to be enforced with more teachers with</p>	<p>Shortcomings have been partially eliminated.</p> <p><u>The assessment committee brought out the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The University has acknowledged the need to strengthen research in the field. 2) The TUT Academy for Architecture and Urban Planning has made significant progress in raising the number of PhD students (from 2 to 8 over the last two years) and teachers with a PhD as well as involving teaching staff from other units of the University. <p><u>Shortcomings and recommendations for future development activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The number of core speciality teachers with a PhD on the Landscape Architecture study programme is still very low. 2) The student numbers on the Landscape Architecture study programme (both on bachelor's and master's level) show a clear downward trend. The action plan submitted by the University fails to address this issue. 3) The research strategy needs to be amended by adding specific and measurable objectives, which include requirements for the volume and level of research conducted

PhDs. Moreover, the teaching staff of the Landscape Architecture study programme fails to demonstrate adequate engagement in research.	by members of teaching staff as well as requirements for research projects by doctoral students and Postdocs.
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4. Subsection 53 (3) of the Administrative Procedure Act stipulates that if an administrative act becomes unlawful after a secondary condition expires, the administrative authority shall promptly repeal the administrative act or establish a new secondary condition. The Council deemed that Tallinn University of Technology has failed to comply with the requirements in the secondary condition pertaining to the shortage of speciality teaching staff with PhDs on the Landscape Architecture study programme. On the basis of the above mentioned, the Council

DECIDED:

To impose a new secondary condition on the assessment decision of 12.06.2017 of first and second cycle of studies in the Architecture and Building study programme group at Tallinn University of Technology:

According to the Regulation of the Government of the Republic 'Standard of Higher Education' subsection 6 clause 7 (1) 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.* There is a shortage of core speciality teachers with PhDs on the Landscaped Architecture study programme.

Tallinn University of Technology shall submit by 22.11.2020 in English a report on the teaching staff of the Landscape Architecture study programme. Members of the assessment committee shall be invited to evaluate the progress made on the secondary condition.

The decision was adopted by 7 votes in favour and 0 against.

5. If Tallinn University of Technology fails to fulfil the secondary condition by the set deadline, the Council shall repeal the assessment decision and shall set a new deadline for the next quality assessment of the study programme group; or shall impose a new secondary condition on the assessment decision.
6. A person who finds that his or her rights are violated or his or her freedoms are restricted by assessment procedures conducted by EKKA or by a decision made by the EKKA Quality Assessment Council may file a challenge pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act. The challenge shall be filed with the EKKA Quality Assessment Council within 30 days after the person filing the challenge became or should have become aware of the

contested

finding.

The Assessment Council shall forward the challenge to the Appeals Committee who provides the Assessment Council with an unbiased opinion regarding the validity of the challenge within 5 days after receiving the challenge. The Assessment Council shall adjudicate the challenge within 10 days after the challenge is delivered to the Council, taking into account the justified opinion of the Appeals Committee. If the challenge needs to be further examined, the Assessment Council may extend a term for review of the challenge by up to 30 days.

A decision by EKKA Quality Assessment Council may be challenged within 30 days after its delivery, filing an action with the Tallinn courthouse of the Tallinn Administrative Court pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Code of Administrative Court Procedure.

Tauno Otto
Vice-Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council