

Decision of fulfillment of the secondary condition of the Study Programme Group of Journalism and Information of the University of Tartu

27.04.2020

To establish a new secondary condition to the decision of the first and second levels of higher education of the Study Programme Group of Journalism and Information of the University of Tartu on 29.09.2017.

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 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 report,¹ and to carry out the next quality assessment of the first and second levels of higher education of the Study Programme Group of Journalism and Information 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 30.09.2019, the University of Tartu sent the following documents to the Council: 1) *Action plan for considering the improvement proposals and recommendations specified in the evaluation decision on the curriculum group*

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.

Journalism and Information, and on 28.10.2019 the following document: 2) *UT Information Sciences APPENDIX-STAFF*.

3. EKKA involved the following members of the committee in the assessment of the fulfillment of the secondary condition:

Agusta Palsdottir	Professor, University of Iceland, Iceland
Margus Viher	Director-General, Patent Office, Estonia

4. EKKA sent a preliminary report to the University of Tartu on 17.12.2019, to which the University submitted a reply on 3.01.2020. On 6.01.2020, 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 29.09.2017. The assessment was as follows:

Deficiency underlying imposition of the secondary condition	Assessment
<p>Pursuant to § 6 (7) 1) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Standard 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>; There is a clear lack of full-time lecturers with a background in information science in the study programme of professional higher education of information management and the master's programme of information and knowledge management. A solution to this problem must be found quickly. Lecturers need to be given more time for research.</p>	<p>The deficiency has been partially remedied.</p> <p><u>The Assessment Committee highlighted the following positive developments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The structure of the study programme of information management has been simplified. Studies have been terminated in full-time format, continuing only in open university format. It should also reduce the high teaching workload of lecturers and allow more time for research. 2) It is positive that one lecturer has completed doctoral studies, and one has entered doctoral studies. <p><u>Recommendations for further development activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Assessment Committee considers it necessary to emphasize that there must also be academic staff with information science qualifications for the study programme of information management. It is still desirable to design measures to strengthen the academic profile and further activities of information sciences. In the opinion of the Assessment Committee, the number of full-time lecturers with a doctoral degree with a

	background in information science is not sufficient.
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5. § 53 (3) of the HMS provides 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.
6. Based on the report of the Assessment Committee, the Council considered that the deficiency on which the secondary condition was based had not been sufficiently remedied.

Consequently, the Council

DECIDED:

To establish a new secondary condition to the decision of the first and second levels of higher education of the Study Programme Group of Journalism and Information of the University of Tartu on 29.09.2017:

Pursuant to § 3 (7) 1) of the Government of the Republic Regulation "Standards of Higher Education" (SHE), *the organization of studies complies with the requirements if there are academic staff who meet the qualification requirements established by legislation and whose number is based on their tasks, the volume of studies and supervised students sufficient to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes of the study programme.* At the University of Tartu, the number of academic staff with doctoral degrees 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.

The University of Tartu shall submit a report on the fulfillment of the secondary condition to the Council in English by 27.04.2022 at the latest.

The members of the Assessment Committee will be involved in assessing the fulfillment of the secondary condition.

The decision was adopted by ten 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 Procedures Act.

Eve Eisenschmidt
Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council