

Higher Education Act

Promulgated, State Gazette No. 112/27.12.1995, amended, SG No. 28/2.04.1996, 56/15.07.1997, corrected, SG No. 57/18.07.1997, amended, SG No. 58/22.07.1997, amended and supplemented, SG No. 60/2.07.1999, effective 2.07.1999, corrected, SG No. 66/23.07.1999, amended, SG No. 111/21.12.1999, effective 1.01.2000, amended and supplemented, SG No. 113/28.12.1999, SG No. 54/4.07.2000, effective 4.07.2000, amended, SG No. 22/9.03.2001, SG No. 40/19.04.2002, effective 19.04.2002, amended and supplemented, SG No. 53/28.05.2002, effective 28.05.2002, SG No. 48/4.06.2004, effective 4.06.2004, supplemented, SG No. 70/10.08.2004, effective 1.01.2005, amended and supplemented, SG No. 77/27.09.2005, effective 27.09.2005, SG No. 83/18.10.2005, effective 18.10.2005, amended, SG No. 103/23.12.2005, amended and supplemented, SG No. 30/11.04.2006, effective 12.07.2006, amended, SG No. 36/2.05.2006, effective 1.07.2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 62/1.08.2006, effective 1.01.2007, amended, SG No. 108/29.12.2006, effective 1.01.2007, amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/22.05.2007, SG No. 13/8.02.2008, effective 8.02.2008, amended, SG No. 43/29.04.2008, supplemented, SG No. 69/5.08.2008, SG No. 42/5.06.2009, amended, SG No. 74/15.09.2009, effective 15.09.2009, amended and supplemented, SG No. 99/15.12.2009, effective 1.01.2010, amended, SG No. 38/21.05.2010, amended and supplemented, SG No. 50/2.07.2010, amended SG No. 56/23.07.2010, effective academic year 2010/2011, amended and supplemented, SG No. 63/13.08.2010, effective 13.08.2010, SG No. 101/28.12.2010, SG No. 61/9.08.2011, SG No. 99/16.12.2011, effective 1.01.2012, SG No. 60/7.08.2012, effective 7.08.2012, supplemented, SG No. 102/21.12.2012, effective 1.01.2013, amended, SG No. 15/15.02.2013, effective 1.01.2014, SG No. 63/16.07.2013, effective 16.07.2013, SG No. 68/2.08.2013, effective 2.08.2013, supplemented, SG No. 101/22.11.2013, effective 1.01.2014, SG No. 54/1.07.2014, effective 1.07.2014, amended, SG No. 66/8.08.2014, effective 8.08.2014, SG No. 107/24.12.2014, effective 1.01.2015, SG No. 56/24.07.2015, effective 24.07.2015, SG No. 79/13.10.2015, effective 1.08.2016

*Note: An update of the English text of this Act is being prepared following the amendments in SG No. 17/1.03.2016

Text in Bulgarian: Закон за висшето образование

Chapter One

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Act regulates the constitution, functions, management and financing of higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 2

The objective of higher education is to train specialists of high qualifications above the secondary school level and to develop science and culture.

Article 3

The higher secular education is independent of ideologies, religions and political doctrines. It shall be provided in keeping with universal human values and national traditions.

Article 4

No privileges or restrictions shall be allowed in higher learning in connection with age, race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, social background, political convictions or religious denomination, except for the cases expressly stated in a particular higher school's Rules of Operations on grounds relating to certain peculiarities of the training process and the future profession.

Article 5

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

Higher education shall be attained at higher schools which have been accredited and established under terms and conditions provided by this law.

Article 6

(1) Higher schools are legal entities whose nature of business is:

1. training of specialists competent to develop and apply scientific knowledge in all various areas of human activities;
2. upgrading the qualifications of specialists;
3. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) development of science, culture and innovations.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 53/2002, SG No. 48/2004) Any higher school shall be entitled to engage in scientific research, development and manufacture, artistic and creative production, sports and health services congruent with its specific nature.

(3) (New, SG No. 60/1999) Any academic, instructional, scientific, artistic, creative and other activities congruent with a higher school's specific nature shall be assigned to and carried out by highly qualified teaching, scholarly, research, or artistic and creative staff having academic rank hereinafter referred to as "faculty".

(4) (New, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) A higher school shall ensure the quality of education and research through an internal system for assessment and assurance of the quality of academic instruction and

faculty, including also student-opinion polls conducted at least once a year.

(5) (New, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007)

The objective of the system under para 4 shall be to supervise, maintain and manage the quality of education in the available spheres of higher education and professional areas, as well as that of the faculty. The functions and structure of the quality assurance system under para 4 and the terms and conditions for the conduct of student-opinion polls and the disclosure of the findings thereof shall be regulated in the rules of operation of the higher school.

Article 7

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) A higher school shall grant diplomas conceding the completion of a particular level of higher learning and qualifications, an European diploma annex, a certificate of professional qualifications and other basic documents set out in an ordinance adopted by the Council of Ministers.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The European diploma annex under para 1 shall be issued to the persons upon request.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, amended, SG No. 48/2004) Diplomas shall be recognised by the state providing the instruction shall have been congruent with this law and the state standard requirements.

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 48/2004) A seal bearing the state coat of arms shall be affixed to all diplomas granted under the terms set forth in paragraph 3.

Chapter Two FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Article 8

(Supplemented, SG No. 41/2007)

The State shall provide conditions for unrestricted development of higher learning, as well as conditions for access to higher education through:

1. elaborating and implementing national policies for the development of higher learning and ensuring higher schools' academic autonomy;

2. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) overseeing the quality of specialist training and research;

3. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 48/2004) subsidising tuition at public higher schools; providing, under certain conditions, scholarships and dormitories for students;

4. (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 41/2007)

creating and maintaining a system of granting loans for the purposes of paying tuition fees and for support and providing, under certain conditions, social benefits for undergraduate and graduate students, doctoral candidates (doctoral candidates), and trainees engaged in specialised and professional studies;

5. providing property to public higher schools and granting tax and other concessions to all higher school in the performance of the activities set forth in Article 6 hereof;

6. (new, SG No. 60/1999) organising the operations of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation;

7. (new, SG No. 60/1999) prescribing the terms of formal recognition applicable to diplomas granted by institutions of higher learning both in this country and abroad.

Article 9

(1) The State shall exercise its functions in the management of higher education through the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers.

(2) The National Assembly shall:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) render decisions to establish, transform, rename or close higher schools, as well as affiliates and faculties offering tuition in the specialties related to regulated professions;

2. (amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) allocate annually the transfer provided to each public higher school via the State Budget Act;

3. (new, SG No. 41/2007) adopt a Higher Education Development Strategy which shall contain the national priorities and objectives for the development of higher education, as well as measures for their attainment.

(3) The Council of Ministers shall:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) validate the main national policy guidelines in the field of higher education and propose the Strategy under para 2, item 3 to the National Assembly for adoption;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) make motions to the National Assembly to establish, transform, rename or close down higher schools, as well as propose the amount of transfer from the executive budget to be allocated to each public higher school;

3. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) open, transform or close down faculties, institutes, affiliates, and colleges under the public higher schools, except for the cases under para 2, Item 1 on the grounds of a request made by the respective higher school and/or on a motion of

the Minister of Education and Science, whereby the professional areas of tuition shall be specified for the affiliates and faculties;

4. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 53/2002) approve the Classifier of Academic and Professional Areas;

5. (amended, SG No. 53/2002, SG No. 48/2004) approve the state requirements for conferring higher education by educational degrees and qualifications and for the specialties related to regulated professions, as well as the state requirements for the organisation of distance learning;

6. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 113/1999, SG No.

53/2002, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 41/2007) approve annually before 30 April:

a) (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) the number of students and doctoral candidates to be admitted to public higher schools at the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of the proposals of the public higher schools in accordance with the capacity of higher schools, the professional areas and the specialties of the regulated professions therein;

b) (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) the number of students and doctoral candidates to be admitted to private higher schools at the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of the proposals of the private higher schools in accordance with the capacity of higher schools, the professional areas and the specialties of the regulated professions therein;

c) (amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010, SG No.

107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) the number of doctoral candidates in the organisations under Art. 47, para 1, on the basis of which the funds for support of instruction, except for those admitted under Art. 21, para 5;

7. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 41/2007, SG No. 74/2009, SG No. 63/2010, effective

13.08.2010, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) approve annually before 30 April, at the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of the proposals of public higher schools, the amount of application and tuition fees to be charged by public higher schools, except for students and doctoral candidates enrolled under Art. 21, paras 2, 3 and 5;

8. validate the terms and procedures of granting scholarships at public higher schools, of hostel accommodation and use of other welfare allowances by students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies at all higher schools;

9. (amended, SG No. 77/2005) validate state requirements for recognition of higher education with professional qualifications acquired at foreign institutions of higher education;

10. (new, SG No. 60/1999) validate state standard requirements for student admission;

11. (new, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) validate state requirements for the contents of all principal documents issued by a higher school;

12. (new, SG No. 60/1999) validate, on a motion of the Accreditation Board, the Rules of Operations of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation;

13. (new, SG No. 77/2005, amended, SG No. 62/2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 13/2008) adopt by a decision the List of Regulated Professions in the Republic of Bulgaria specifying the name of the regulated profession, the regulatory act defining it as a regulated profession and the requirements regarding the practicing of such a profession under the Bulgarian legislation and the authority that is competent to recognize the legal capacity to pursue the respective regulated profession. The said decision shall be promulgated in the State Gazette;

14. (new, SG No. 77/2005) determine the conditions and procedure of keeping up the List of Regulated Professions in the Republic of Bulgaria;

15. (renumbered from Item 10, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Item 13, SG No. 77/2005) represent the interests of the Bulgarian higher education and science before other states and international organizations and enter into international treaties and agreements.

Article 10

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The state authority vested with the implementation of national policies in the area of higher learning shall be the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Minister of Education and Science shall:

1. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) make proposals to the Council of Ministers as per Article 9, para 3, Items 1 through 11, whereby the proposals under Items 2 and 3 on the opening and transformation of higher schools, their primary units and affiliates, except for the opening of an institute, shall be made upon a positive assessment given to the respective project by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation;

2. perform co-ordinating functions in the relationship between the autonomous higher schools and the state;

3. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) make arrangements for keeping an information system, including:

(a) a register of higher schools recorded wherein shall be data concerning their primary units, affiliates and the professional areas and specialties opened by them;

- (b) a register of the full- and part-time faculty of higher schools;
- (c) a register of all existing students and doctoral candidates and drop-outs by educational degrees and professional areas;
- (d) a register of the alumni;
- (e) (new, SG No. 69/2008) register of the banks which grant loans under the Granting Loans to Student and Doctoral Candidate Loans Act;

4. make arrangements for recognition and legitimisation of diplomas of persons who have graduated abroad;

5. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) appoint acting Rectors[1] of new or transformed public higher schools to serve until elections are held for the office but no longer than six (6) months;

6. (new, SG No. 48/2004) appoint acting Rectors for up to six months:

- (a) upon expiration of the term of office under Article 24, para 4;
- (b) upon the commitment of a violation under Article 31, para 2 as established in a statement of findings;
- (c) upon early termination of the term of office under Article 31, para 3;

7. (new, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Item 6, amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) exercise control over higher schools and the organisations under Article 47, para 1 as regards compliance with this Act, whereby statements of findings shall be drawn up within a month of the inspections with recommendations and time limits prescribed for the removal of the violations; in the case of failure to fulfill the recommendations within the prescribed time limits, the Minister of Education and Science shall make a proposal to the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation to withdraw the accreditation;

8. (new, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 11

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation under the Council of Ministers is the specialised state authority vested with the assessment, accreditation and quality control of the activities referred to in Article 6, para 1 hereof.

(2) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation is a legal entity supported by the budget with principal office in Sofia.

(3) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall perform its activities in compliance with the provisions of this Act and under Rules approved by the Council of Ministers.

(4) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall exercise post-accreditation monitoring and supervision of:

- 1. the capacity of the institution and its primary units and affiliates to ensure high quality of education and research through an internal system for quality assessment and assurance;

2. the fulfillment of the recommendations given in the course of the assessment and accreditation;

3. (new, SG No. 41/2007) the observance of the capacity of the higher school and the capacity of professional areas and specialties of regulated professions.

Chapter Three

TYPES OF HIGHER SCHOOLS, OPENING, TRANSFORMATION AND CLOSING

Article 12

Higher schools are public and private.

Article 13

(1) (Previous Article 13, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) Public higher schools shall be established and function on the basis of the state property given at their disposal and the transfer from the executive budget.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Public higher schools may acquire title to real estate or receive proceeds thereof for the performance of the activities under Article 6, paras 1 and 2.

Article 14

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) Private higher schools shall be established at the request of individual citizens and/or legal entities, hereinafter referred to as "founders".

(2) The founders shall hold title to the real estate, movable property and buildings needed for the performance of the activities under Article 6, paras 1 and 2, and they shall have a financial project for the support of the operations of the higher school.

(3) The founders under para 1 shall grant the higher school the right to use the real estate under para 2 for the term of existence of the higher school or may transfer the title to the properties under para 2 upon the promulgation of the decision of the National Assembly on its establishment in the State Gazette.

(4) The founders shall be responsible for the overall activities, management and financial condition of the higher school opened at their request in the cases, where they take part in the management..

Article 15

(1) A higher school shall be established or transformed on the grounds of a project:

1. specifying socially acceptable objectives to be attained by the higher school at issue;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) containing a description of the higher school's primary units and/or affiliates, essential educational documentation and details about the faculty, facilities and funding schemes;

3. providing for a management style ensuring adherence to basic academic freedoms;

4. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) ensuring compliance with the state requirements.

(2) The project as per para 1 above shall need to have received a positive assessment by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation.

(3) A project for establishing a private higher school must be supplemented by an act of incorporation comprising the following details:

1. type, name and location;

2. objects (nature of business);

3. name (appellation) of the founder(s);

4. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) property furnished by the founders for supporting the activities under Article 6, paras 1 and 2 and funding schemes;

5. management and representative powers;

6. rights and obligations of the founders;

7. (new, SG No. 48/2004) responsibility of the founders, where they take part in the management.

Article 16

(1) The decision of the National Assembly shall specify:

1. the type, name and location of the higher school;

2. the objects;

3. the property and funding schemes.

(2) Higher schools shall be established as legal entities upon the promulgation of the decision of the National Assembly on its establishment in the official State Gazette.

Article 17

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Higher schools are universities, specialised higher schools and self-contained colleges.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) A university is a higher school which:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) provides training in a wide range of subjects in professional areas within at least three of the four major branches of science - humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technical sciences;

2. employs full-time faculty required to conduct no less than half of all lecturing and practical sessions under the academic curriculum in each major, whereas the habilitated^[2] faculty members deliver no less than seventy percent (70%) of all lecturing courses in each major;

3. holds adequate facilities to ensure that practical training is also conducted in compliance with the state standard requirements;

4. (amended, SG No. 53/2002) offers bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees in the respective major branches of science;

5. has ample scientific and artistic potential and through its activities contributes to the development of major branches of science and culture;

6. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) provides the faculty, the students and the doctoral candidates with adequate conditions for printing of scientific works, textbooks, monographs, as well as for the achievement of typical creative accomplishments;

7. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) owns a library and other means for information services to instruction and research;

8. maintains international contacts both in the provision of academic instruction and in its creative activities;

9. (new, SG No. 48/2004) has an academic information centre for administrative services to students and doctoral candidates.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) A higher school offering academic courses in one or two major branches of science or culture and meeting all requirements set forth in para 2, Items 2 through 9 above may be a university with its appellation signifying its specific nature.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) A specialised higher school conducts scientific research or artistic and creative activities and offers courses of training in one of the major areas of science, arts, physical culture, and military science while meeting the requirements set forth in para 2, Items 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Its appellation shall signify the specific area in which it trains specialists.

(5) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The higher school under para 4 may also offer instruction for the educational and qualification degree of "master" and the educational and academic degree of "doctor".

(6) Renumbered from Paragraph 5, supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 41/2007) A self-contained college shall provide instruction for the bachelor's educational and qualification degree as per Article 42, Para 1, item 1, letter "a", and meet the requirements under para 2, Items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The college shall have full-time faculty, holding at least a half of the classroom teaching and practical exercises in each specialty. Full-time habilitated persons shall give at least 50 percent of the lecture courses in each specialty.

(7) (Renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) A college may be also established within the structure of a university or of a specialised higher school accredited for the professional areas or specialties of regulated professions for which instruction shall be offered. The college shall provide instruction for the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under Article 42, Para 1, item 1, letter (a).

Article 18

(1) Higher schools shall be closed by the National Assembly:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) in case a higher school operates in violation of the requirements hereof or of other statutory instruments regulating higher education and the violation has been established pursuant to Article 10, para 2, Item 7;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) in case a higher school has been rejected grant of accreditation twice in a row, or has not requested institutional accreditation within the time limits laid down hereby;

3. at the request of a private higher school's founders;

4. on a motion of the Council of Ministers as regards public higher schools.

(2) Motions to close higher schools as per para 1, Items 1 and 2 above shall be submitted by the Council of Ministers.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) The formal act pronouncing a higher school's closure as per para 1, Items 1, 2 and 4 above, shall lay down the terms and procedures whereunder students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies shall continue their training.

(4) (New, SG No. 60/1999) The formal act pronouncing the closure of a public higher school shall settle also all issues regarding its property.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 60/1999) In all instances referred to in para 1, Item 3, the founders must have previously settled all issues concerning property and the rights of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies.

Chapter Four ACADEMIC AUTONOMY

Article 19

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Higher schools shall enjoy academic autonomy. It shall be such autonomy where the intellectual freedom of the academic community and the creative nature of academic instruction, research and artistic creation shall find expression as supreme values.

(2) (New, SG No. 60/1999) The academic community comprises of all faculty, students, doctoral candidates, and specialising trainees.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 60/1999) Academic autonomy shall include academic freedoms, academic self-government and inviolability of the territory of the higher schools.

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 60/1999) Higher schools shall perform their overall activities in adherence to the principle of academic autonomy and in compliance with the laws of this country.

Article 20

(Amended, SG No. 61/2011)

Academic freedom finds expression in the freedom of teaching, freedom of research, freedom of acts of creativity, and freedom of learning, freedom of cooperation for purposes of joint teaching together with other higher schools and academic organisations, education franchise with other higher schools, as well as joint research, creative work,

projects and innovative work, in collaboration with other organisations and higher schools in the country and abroad.

Article 21

(1) (Previous Article 21, SG No. 53/2002) The academic self-government finds expression in:

1. the electiveness of all bodies with a fixed term of office;
2. the right of any higher school to regulate its constitution and activities in its own Rules of Operation (Rulebook) in keeping with this Act;
3. the independent choice of faculty, admission requirements and forms of training students and postgraduates;
4. the independent development and implementation of curricula and research projects;
5. the choice of specialties to be taught;
6. the right to announce competitions and appoint faculty under the terms and conditions set forth in the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act;
7. the right to raise funds and independently decide on the terms and conditions for their appropriation;
8. (amended, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 61/2011)

the right to independently conclude contracts with the state or with other users for basic and applied research, for artistic, creative and innovative work and projects, as well as for upgrading the qualifications of specialists of higher education;

9. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) the right to association with Bulgarian and/or overseas higher schools accredited according to the legislation of the relevant country, with the aim of joint teaching of students, doctoral students and trainees, including education and lifelong learning, education franchise, as well as the right to association with higher schools and other organisations in the country and abroad while performing the activities under Item 8;

10. (new, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 41/2007) the right to conclude contracts with the organisations under Article 47, Para 1 for:

a) the training of specialists in the master's educational and qualification degree under Article 42, Para 1, item 2, letters (b) and (c) within the capacity of the professional areas for which the higher school has been accredited, as well as the training at the organisations under Article 47, para 1 may include only practical exercises and seminars, self-preparation at laboratories, libraries and other auxiliary units of research organisations;

b) (amended, SG No. 61/2011) the training of specialists in the doctor's educational and research degree in doctoral programmes for

which the higher school and the organisation under Art. 47, para 1 have been accredited;

c) research, artistic, creative, sports and health activities in accordance with the specificities of the higher school;

11. (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Item 10, SG No. 48/2004) the right to construct, hold or use facilities requisite for educational and research activities, or for provision of welfare services to students, faculty staff, doctoral candidates and employees;

12. (renumbered from Item 11, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 61/2011) the right to participate in international co-operation and seek membership of international organisations, the right to sign agreements for joint teaching and education franchise with overseas higher schools, in compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in Article 4, Paragraph 4 of the Additional Provisions, as well as agreements for joint research, artistic, creative and innovative work and projects, including other forms of joint activity, with overseas higher schools and organisations accredited according to the legislation of the relevant country;

13. (new, SG No. 61/2011) the right to recognise, in compliance with the national standards, higher education degrees which have been conferred abroad, or periods of study at overseas higher schools accredited according to the legislation of the relevant country, with a view to continuing the process of education at the higher school which recognises the documents.

(2) (New, SG No. 63/2010, effective as from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 academic years (*), amended, SG No. 61/2011) Higher schools with scores of 6.00 to 10.00 from the institutional accreditation shall be entitled, following a decision by the Academic Board, to provide paid tuition in bachelor's and master's educational and qualification degrees, following acquired secondary education in professional area specialties and regulated professions that have scored from 6.00 to 10.00 in the programme accreditation. The admission of students for training against payment shall be carried out under the procedure of Article 68 as their number exceeds the number determined under Art. 9, para 3, item 6, letter (a) and within the capacity determined under Art. 83, para 3, item 1 of the respective professional area or specialty related to regulated professions, but not exceeding 5 per cent of the capacity. The training shall be carried out under the terms and conditions laid down in the Rules of the higher school and the contract between the students and the higher school.

(3) (New, SG No. 53/2002, renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010, amended, SG No. 61/2011) Higher schools with scores of 6.00 to 10.00 from the institutional accreditation shall be entitled to provide paid tuition in master's programmes to those who have acquired a bachelor's or master's degree in specialties that have

scored from 6.00 to 10.00 in the programme accreditation process under terms and conditions laid down in the Rules of the higher school and the contract between the student and the higher school.

(4) (New, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010, SG No. 61/2011) The eligible persons under para 3 shall be those with score at least "good" in their university degree diploma.

(5) (New, SG No. 53/2002, renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010, amended, SG No. 61/2011) Higher schools with scores of 8.00 to 10.00 from the institutional accreditation and the organisations under Art. 47, shall be entitled to provide paid tuition in doctor's programmes that have scored from 8.00 to 10.00 in the accreditation process under terms and conditions laid down in their Rules and their contracts with the doctoral candidates.

(6) (New, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 5, amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010) The right under para 5 shall be granted to persons with score at least "very good (4.50)" in their competitive exams for doctoral candidates.

(7) (New, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010, renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010) Higher schools may also deliver educational services against payment in the event of directing students, doctoral candidates and post-graduate students in accordance with the procedure of Article 18, paragraphs 3 and 5, as a result of the closing down of a private higher school, where the directing to a state higher school is the only possibility for continuing their education.

Article 22

It shall be inadmissible to violate any higher school's autonomy by way of:

1. interference in the higher school's activities, apart from such cases that are expressly stipulated in a statute;
2. entry or stay of security and public order authorities on the premises without the consent of the academic authorities, except for the prevention of impending, upcoming or current offence, apprehension of its perpetrator, as well as in case of natural calamities or accidents;
3. establishment and operation of political or religious organisations at higher schools;
4. activities infringing upon any constitutional rights of the members of the academic community based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, social background, religion, convictions or political affiliation.

Article 23

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) The authority vested with the right to assert the common interests of higher schools before the state and government authorities shall be the Board of Higher School Rectors[3].

(2) The Board of Rectors shall:

1. put forward viewpoints and recommendations as to issues relative to higher learning and science;
 2. express an opinion about the draft state budget in its section concerning higher education and science;
 3. (amended, SG No. 53/2002) express an opinion about the draft Classifier of Academic and Professional Areas;
 4. (repealed, SG No. 101/2010).
- (3) The Board of Rectors shall be represented by a Chairperson elected from among its members.

Article 24

- (1) The governing bodies of higher schools are the General Assembly, the Academic Board and the Rector.
- (2) The governing bodies of higher schools shall be elected for a four-year term.
- (3) The powers of higher schools' governing bodies shall not be discontinued by the conduct of by-elections. The tenure of office of any members elected at such by-elections shall terminate with the expiration of the respective governing body's mandate.
- (4) (Supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) The term of office of a higher school's Rector shall be terminated with the expiration of the mandate of the General Assembly that elected him/her. The Rector shall continue to perform his/her functions until a new Rector is elected but for not more than two months.

Article 25

(Amended and supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 53/2002, SG No. 48/2004)

- (1) Higher schools shall have primary and auxiliary units and affiliates.
- (2) Primary units are all faculties^[5] (schools), departments, institutes and colleges.
- (3) Auxiliary units are all sections, centres, libraries, laboratories, experimental stations, printing and publishing facilities, production units and other self-contained units. The constitution and the functions of auxiliary units' governing bodies shall be laid down in higher schools' Rules of Operations (Rulebooks).
- (4) Affiliates are the territorially detached structures of the higher school.
- (5) The powers of any primary unit's governing bodies shall not be terminated by the conduct of by-elections. The tenure of office of any additionally elected members shall be terminated with the expiration of the respective governing body's mandate.

Article 26

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

- (1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 83/2005) A faculty (school) is a higher school's primary unit, which unites several chairs to provide training of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in

specialised studies in a single or in a group of professional areas in those spheres of science for which the higher school is accredited to conduct the training. The faculty shall employ forty (40) full-time faculty members of whom habilitated holders of academic rank give at least 70 percent of the lecture courses in each specialty.

(2) A faculty's governing bodies are the General Assembly, the Faculty (School) Board and the Dean. All shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. Their tenure shall not be discontinued when by-elections are conducted.

(3) A faculty's General Assembly shall be made up of all full-time faculty members, administrative staff delegates, and delegates of all students and doctoral candidates enrolled in the faculty (school). Faculty members shall account for minimum seventy percent (70%), while students' and doctoral candidates' delegates shall account for minimum fifteen percent (15%) of all listed General Assembly members.

(4) The General Assembly's composition shall be determined by the Faculty (School) Board in correspondence with para (3) above.

(5) The faculty's General Assembly shall:

1. elect by secret ballot from among its habilitated members a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson for the term of its powers;

2. elect by secret ballot a habilitated person to serve as faculty's Dean;

3. determine the number of persons to serve on the Faculty (School) Board and elect the Board members by secret ballot;

4. discuss and adopt the Dean's Annual Report on the instructional and creative activities as well as on the state of the faculty (school);

5. (new, SG No. 48/2004) be represented by its Chairperson.

(6) The faculty's General Assembly shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairperson pursuant to a resolution of the Faculty Board, at the Dean's request or at the request of a quarter of all listed GA members.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The Faculty Board shall be made up of at least 25 members and shall comprise representatives of all full-time faculty members, students and doctoral candidates. No less than three fourths of all Faculty Board members shall be habilitated persons having academic rank.

(8) The Faculty Board:

1. elects by secret ballot a Deputy Dean on a motion of the Dean;

2. puts forth proposals to the Academic Board as to:

(a) projects to establish, transform or close chairs and auxiliary units operating under the faculty (school);

(b) draft curricula and qualification descriptions by degrees and specialties;

(c) announcement of competitions pursuant to Article 50 hereof;

3. elects and promotes in position (pay grade) the non-habilitated faculty members;

4. makes proposals to the higher school's Rector for dismissals (i.e. cessation of employment) under Article 58, para 2 hereof;

5. makes proposals to the faculty's General Assembly and/or to the higher schools' governing bodies regarding issues relative to the operations and the state of the faculty (school);

6. adopts the curricula in the various majors (specialties) offered by the faculty (school) and the individual programmes of study of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies;

7. annually approves and oversees the teaching workload of faculty members;

8. recommends scientific works, textbooks, monographs, and other creative achievements for printing in the higher school's publishing facilities and sees to it that they are timely issued from the press;

9. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) discusses and approves the results from the assessment of faculty members and, in the cases under Article 58, para 1, Item 6, submits them to the Rector to render a decision;

10. discusses, makes recommendations and takes decisions regarding the operations of all faculty's units;

11. sees to the state of the faculty's library and information-service facilities and takes measures to ensure their improvement;

12. takes decisions regarding the faculty's financial matters;

13. adopts the Annual Report on the instructional, research, artistic and creative activities carried out within the faculty (school);

14. takes various other decisions relating to the faculty's operations.

(9) The Dean:

1. is vested with the faculty's management and has also the authority to represent it;

2. is by right a member of the Faculty Board and its Chairperson;

3. puts forth to the Faculty (School) Board the candidacies of habilitated faculty members for Deputy Deans;

4. performs functions arising out of the law and the higher school's Rules of Operations (Rulebook).

(10) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The requirement under para 1 concerning the number of faculty members shall not apply to faculties (schools) offering instruction in "Art" as a sphere of higher education.

(11) (New, SG No. 30/2006) The rapeutic activities may be conducted at the dentistry departments of the higher medical schools apart from the activity under Para 1 as part of the practical training of dentistry students, post-graduate students, PhD fellows and while carrying out research work.

Article 26a

(New, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) A department is a higher school's primary unit tasked with provision of training in one or more subjects that do not constitute a specialty. A department must employ minimum fourteen (14) full-time faculty members.

(2) A department's structure, as well as its governing bodies' constitution and functions shall be laid down in the respective higher school's Rules of Operations (Rulebook).

Article 26b

(New, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) An institute is a higher school's primary unit bringing together faculty staff assigned to conducting long-term scientific research.

(2) An institute's structure, as well as its governing bodies' constitution and functions shall be prescribed by the higher school's Academic Board.

Article 26c

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) An affiliate (subsidiary) is a territorially detached structure of the higher school established in regions missing the requisite university structure for the purpose of satisfying the need for a particular kind of training in certain professional areas. Training shall be given only in the areas for which the higher school has been accredited.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) An affiliate shall be required to employ minimum ten (10) full-time faculty members, whereby habilitated persons at the higher school shall give at least 70 percent of the lecture courses in each speciality.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 48/2004) An affiliate's composition, structure, and governing bodies shall be prescribed by the higher school's Academic Board.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 53/2002, repealed, renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 48/2004) An affiliate shall be managed by a Director, who must be a habilitated faculty member. The Director shall be elected by the Academic Board for a term of four (4) years.

Article 26d

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) A college is a higher school's primary unit employing faculty members, holding at least a half of the classroom teaching and practical exercises in each speciality. Full-time habilitated persons shall give at least 50 percent of the lecture courses in each speciality.

(2) A college's governing bodies are its General Assembly, the College Board and its Director. All shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

(3) The Director must be a habilitated faculty member having academic rank in the respective branch of science.

(4) A college's structure, as well as its governing bodies' constitution and functions shall be laid down in the respective higher school's Rules of Operations (Rulebook).

Article 26e

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) A chair is a unit of a faculty, a department, an affiliate, or a college carrying out instructional and research (artistic and creative)

activities in a single or in a group of cognate subjects. A chair involves minimum seven (7) faculty members working full-time in the respective higher school's employ.

(2) A chair's governing bodies are the Chair's Board and the Head of the Chair. The Chair's Board shall comprise of all faculty members working full-time for the chair.

(3) (Repealed, SG No. 48/2004).

(4) (Amended, SG No. 54/2000, SG No. 53/2002, amended and supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 41/2007) The Head of a Chair shall be a person habilitated in the chair's respective subject or scope of subjects who shall be elected by secret ballot for a term of four (4) years by the Chair's Board, the election being subject to approval by the Board of the affiliate and/or the self-contained college. The position shall be occupied under a full-time contract of employment with the Rector of the respective higher school.

(5) (Repealed, SG No. 54/2000, new, SG No. 53/2002) The Head of a Chair in a clinical subject or scope of subjects at higher medical schools shall manage and supervise the academic and research activities and coordinate the treatment and diagnostics offered by the respective clinic at the university hospital.

(6) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The requirement under para 1 concerning the number of faculty members shall not apply to faculties (schools) offering instruction in "Art" as a sphere of higher education.

Article 27

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) A higher school's General Assembly shall be made up of delegates of all full-time faculty, of administrative staff delegates, and of delegates of the students and doctoral candidates enrolled in all of its units.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 53/2002) Habilitated persons shall account for no less than seventy percent (70%), while the representatives of students and doctoral candidates shall account for minimum fifteen percent (15%) of all General Assembly members.

(3) The total number of General Assembly members and the procedures of electing them shall be laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operations (Rulebook).

(4) (Repealed, SG No. 60/1999).

Article 28

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) A higher school's General Assembly shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairperson pursuant to a resolution of the Academic Board, at the Rector's request or at the request of one quarter of all listed GA members.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) The General Assembly of a newly opened or transformed higher school shall be convened by its acting Rector.

(3) The General Assembly shall make decisions by simple majority of all members attending, except for the adoption of the higher school's

Rules of Operations requiring a majority of the full body of General Assembly members.

Article 29

(1) (Previous Article 29, SG No. 48/2004) A higher school's General Assembly shall:

1. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) elect by secret ballot a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson of the General Assembly from among the habilitated GA members for the term of its powers;

2. adopt or amend the higher school's Rules of Operations;

3. (new, SG No. 60/1999) determine the number of Controlling Board members and shall elect by secret ballot the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, and the members of the Controlling Board for the term of its powers;

4. (renumbered from Item 3, SG No. 60/1999) elect the Rector by secret ballot;

5. (renumbered from Item 4, SG No. 60/1999) determine the number of the Academic Board members and elect such members by secret ballot;

6. (renumbered from Item 5, SG No. 60/1999) discuss and adopt the Rector's annual report on the state of the higher school;

7. (new, SG No. 48/2004) be represented by its Chairperson.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The Chairperson of the General Assembly shall conclude a contract with the elected Rector under Article 107 of the Labour Code.

Article 30

(1) The Academic Board is the authority vested with the governance of a higher school's educational and research activities through:

1. determining the higher school's educational policy, adopting the programme for the term of its powers and supervising its implementation;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) adopting an annual report on the activities and an annual report on the financial and physical indicators of the higher school;

3. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) making proposals in the instances as per Article 9, Para 3, Item 3;

3a. (new, SG No. 60/1999) taking decisions as to the establishment, transformation or closure of departments, chairs and auxiliary units of the higher school;

4. (amended, SG No. 41/2007, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) determining the specialties, forms and degrees of learning and proposing annually to the Minister of Education and Science the number of students and doctoral candidates to be enrolled under Article 9, para 3, item 6, letters (a) and (b);

5. approving or changing the qualification descriptions and curricula of specialist training for the various degrees or at the higher school's colleges;

6. determining the higher school's research policies and taking decisions on major issues as to the organisation and contents of research activities;

7. determining the General Assembly's composition and the manner and organisation of electing its members;

8. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) determining the higher school's human resources policy, approving the job descriptions of the faculty and adopting rules for the assessment of faculty members;

9. electing Vice Rectors on a motion of the Rector;

10. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 61/2011) taking decisions on:

a) associating with Bulgarian and/or overseas higher schools for purposes of joint teaching of students, doctoral students and trainees, for purposes of education and lifelong learning, or for purposes of education franchise, as well as associating with higher schools and other organisations in the country or abroad in carrying out the work referred to in Article 21, Paragraph 1, Item 8;

b) signing agreements for joint teaching and implementing joint education programmes with overseas higher schools, agreements for opening units abroad, as well as agreements for joint research, artistic, creative and innovative work and projects, including other forms of joint activity, with overseas higher schools and organisations accredited according to the legislation of the relevant country;

c) membership in international organisations;

d) recognising higher education degrees conferred abroad, with a view to continuing the process of education at the relevant higher school;

11. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) adopting annually the higher school's budget and overseeing its implementation;

12. (new, SG No. 41/2007, supplemented, SG No. 99/2011,

effective 1.01.2012, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) proposing annually to the Minister of Education and Science the amount of the application and tuition fees for students and doctoral candidates under Art. 9, para 3, item 7. For certain categories of students and doctoral candidates the Academic Board can set tuition fees in a reduced amount compared to the fees approved by the Council of Ministers;

13. (repealed, SG No. 83/2005, renumbered from item 12, SG No. 41/2007) awarding the doctor honoris causa honorary title;

14. adopting the rules for particular educational, scientific, creative or research and production activities carried out by the higher school;

15. (new, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) validating a system of assessing and maintaining the quality of instruction and faculty's performance at the higher school in accordance with Article 6, para 4 hereof, and exercising control over its application and improvement;

16. (new, SG No. 41/2007) electing members of the Board of Trustees.

(2) (New, SG No. 60/1999) The Academic Board shall be made up of 25 to 45 members and shall comprise representatives of all full-time faculty members in the higher school's employ, students, doctoral candidates, and employees (i.e. administrative staff).

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) At least 70 percent of all Academic Board members shall be habilitated faculty members having academic rank, and 15 percent of all Academic Board members shall be representatives of students and doctoral candidates..

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 60/1999) The Rector alone shall be a member of the Academic Board by right.

Article 31

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Elected to the offices of Rector, Dean and Director of an affiliate or college shall be habilitated persons who, upon their election, shall occupy the position under a full-time contract of employment with the higher school.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 53/2002) Any persons elected to the managerial positions of Rector, Dean, Director of department, affiliate and college, as well as their deputies may not be re-elected to one and the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, amended, SG No. 54/2000, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 83/2005) The term of office of the persons under paragraph 2 shall be discontinued earlier in the cases under Article 35. The body which elected them shall elect a replacement within 2 months.

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 54/2000) In the event of discontinued term of office, one term of office shall be recognised if the respective person has occupied the position for more than two years.

Article 32

(1) (Previous Article 32, SG No. 48/2004) The Rector shall:

1. represent the higher school;
2. be by right a member of the Academic Board and its Chairperson;
3. conclude and terminate employment contracts;
4. (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999) render final decisions on any matters regarding the admission, dismissal or transfer of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies;
5. (amended, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007)

draw up and submit to the Academic Board for consideration and approval the higher school's annual report with the financial and physical indicators, as well as the results of the operation of the internal quality assessment and assurance system; the reports and the annual report with

the financial and physical indicators of the higher school shall be published within three months of their adoption;

6. put forth the candidacies of habilitated faculty members to the Academic Board to elect one or more Vice Rectors;

7. (new, SG No. 41/2007) appoint and dismiss an Assistant Rector who may be from outside the faculty of the higher school;

8. (new, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Item 7, SG No. 41/2007) may convene, if need be, the governing bodies of the higher school's primary units and affiliates;

9. (new, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Item 8, SG No. 41/2007) appoint acting executives to fill in vacant elective positions for a period of up to three months;

10. (renumbered from Item 7, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Item 9, SG No. 41/2007) perform other functions arising out of the laws and the resolutions of the Academic Board or of the General Assembly.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Upon the expiration of the term under Article 24, para 4 and in the cases under Article 31, paras 2 and 3, the Rector shall not represent the higher school and may not exercise the powers under para 1.

Article 33

(1) The Vice Rector shall:

1. assist the Rector in the performance of his duties and have the power to represent the latter in any case when explicitly authorised by him;

2. organise and be responsible for all activities in a specific area of the higher school's operations;

3. participate in the meetings of the Academic Board in a non-voting capacity, unless elected by the General Assembly as a member of the Academic Board.

(2) The term of office of the Vice Rector shall expire simultaneously with the term of office of the Rector who has nominated him to the Academic Board.

Article 33a

(New, SG No. 41/2007)

The Assistant Rector shall assist the Rector with regard to matters related to the administrative and financial management, as well as the management of the property of the higher school.

Article 34

Higher schools shall establish auxiliary consultative bodies at their discretion. The terms and conditions of their establishment shall be laid down in each higher school's Rules of Operation (Rulebook).

Article 34a

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) The authority vested with internal controlling functions as to a higher school's overall operations shall be the Controlling Board.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The Controlling Board shall be made up of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and members of whom

one is a representative of the Student Council and the others are habilitated persons. The members of the Controlling Board may not be:

1. members of the higher school's Academic Board;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) Vice-Rectors, Assistant Rector, Deans or Directors of primary units and affiliates.

(3) The Controlling Board shall:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) examine the lawfulness of all elections for choosing the higher school's and the governing bodies of its primary units and/or affiliates within one (1) month of election day and reports to the Academic Board on the findings of such reviews;

2. draw up viewpoints as to the higher school's draft budget and its implementation and report them to the Academic Board and the General Assembly;

3. partake in probes under Article 58a hereof;

4. submit minimum once a year an account of its controlling activities to the General Assembly.

(4) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The Controlling Board shall operate on the basis of rule adopted by the higher school's General Assembly.

Article 35

The Rector, the Vice Rectors, the Deans and the Heads of units as well as the members of the Academic Board and of a Faculty Board at a higher school shall be discharged at their own request or recalled before the expiration of their term of office pursuant to a resolution of the body that has elected them by a majority of more than one half of all its members.

Article 35a

(New, SG No. 41/2007)

- (1) Each public higher school shall have a Board of Trustees.

- (2) The Board of Trustees shall assist the higher school in the efficient and transparent management and in the provision of high-quality education and instruction.

- (3) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven members who are donors to the higher school, personalities of active public stance, representatives of employers, professional, sectoral and trade union organisations, representatives of the Student Council and of the Minister of Education and Science.

- (4) The following may not be members of the Board of Trustees:

1. The President, the Vice President, Members of Parliament, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Chairpersons of state agencies and their deputies, members of State Commissions, Executive Directors of executive agencies and their deputies, Regional Governors, Regional Vice Governors, Municipal Councillors, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, heads of government institutions established by law or by an act of the Council of Ministers who perform executive functions and their deputies;

2. Members of the leading bodies of political parties and trade union organisations;

3. Members of the faculty and the administrative staff of the higher school, except for the persons who occupied the position of a Rector of the higher school.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Five of the members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the Academic Board at the proposal of the Rector and the other two shall be nominated by the Minister of Education and Science and by the Student Council respectively.

(6) The Board of Trustees shall elect its Chairperson from among its members.

Article 35b

(New, SG No. 41/2007)

The Board of Trustees shall give its opinion on:

1. key issues related to the development of the higher school;
2. the draft programme for the term of office;
3. the draft budget of the higher school;
4. the draft amendments to the rules of the higher school;
5. the draft proposals under Article 30, para 1, items 4 and 12 concerning the number of students and doctoral candidates admitted for instruction and the amount of the application and tuition fees;
6. the annual report on the condition of the higher school, the annual report with the financial and physical indicators of the higher school, the annual financial report and the report on the execution of the budget revenues and expenditures;
7. proposals for the introduction of scholarships by the higher school.

Article 35c

(New, SG No. 41/2007)

(1) The Board of Trustees shall hold meetings at least on a quarterly basis.

(2) The meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be convened by the Chairperson at his or her own initiative or at the request of any member or the Rector of the higher school.

(3) The Board of Trustees shall adopt its rules of operation.

(4) The members of the Board of Trustees shall not receive any remuneration for their work.

Article 36

Private higher schools shall be allowed to have different structure, management model and mode of designating their governing bodies providing they do not thuswise violate academic freedoms.

Article 36a

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) Any meeting of the collegiate governing bodies of a higher school, its primary units and/or affiliates

shall be deemed duly convened and legally conducted only when attended by two thirds of all their listed members.

(2) In determining the quorum as per para 1, excluded from the list of members shall be all persons on a leave of absence due to temporary incapacity for work (sick absentees), or due to pregnancy, childbirth, adoption and infant raising (on maternity leave), or on assignment abroad. The aggregate number of such absentees, however, may not exceed one fourth of all listed members.

(3) All decisions of the collegiate governing bodies shall be taken by simple majority, unless otherwise stipulated herein.

(4) In the event of changes in the number of members of a collegiate body leading to violation of the quotas as provided by this Act and the Rules of Operations, by-elections shall be held prior to the ensuing meeting.

Article 37

(Supplemented, SG No. 60/1999)

Any issues regarding a higher school's constitution and activities that are not stipulated herein shall be regulated by the higher school's Rules of Operation and by other sets of rules set up by such school.

Article 38

Any acts of a higher school's governing bodies shall be appealable to the competent court under the terms and procedures laid down in the Administrative Procedure Code.

Chapter Five STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION OF STUDIES AT HIGHER SCHOOLS

Article 39

(1) (New, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007, amended, SG No. 61/2011) Tuition in Bulgarian higher schools shall be conducted only in the higher school's primary units and affiliates established pursuant to Article 9, para 2, Item 1 and para 3, Item 3, or in the relevant structural units accredited according to the legislation of the country where tuition is carried out, when tuition is delivered abroad by an overseas higher school, under a joint teaching agreement or an education franchise agreement.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, previous Article 39, SG No. 48/2004) Higher-school tuition shall be conducted pursuant to tuition documentation for each specialty, comprising the qualification descriptions by degrees, the curriculum, the programmes of study in all subjects and courses offered and the annual tuition schedule.

Article 40

(1) The programme of study for each subject shall be organised in relatively discrete modules.

(2) Each module must include minimum 15 academic hours of classroom instruction. An academic hour is 45 minutes long.

Article 41

(1) Higher-school tuition shall be conducted in mandatory, elective and optional (facultative) subjects (courses).

(2) Higher schools shall be required to offer each student an opportunity to elect subjects (courses) within the approved curriculum in the respective major (specialty).

Article 42

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, corrected, SG No. 66/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 41/2007) The system of higher education shall offer academic training beyond the secondary level. Higher education comprises the following levels:

1. Bachelor's educational and qualification degree for the acquisition of which the following shall be required in accordance with the curriculum;

a) at least 180 credits with a minimum length of studies of three years - "professional bachelor in...";

b) at least 240 credits with a minimum length of studies of four years - "bachelor";

2. Master's educational and qualification degree for the acquisition of which the following shall be required:

a) at least 300 credits in accordance with the curriculum with a minimum length of studies of five years;

b) at least 120 credits after the acquisition of a bachelor's educational and qualification degree under item 1, letter (a);

c) at least 60 credits after the acquisition of a bachelor's educational and qualification degree under item 1, letter (b);

(2) (New, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 41/2007) The instruction for the bachelor's degree under para 1, item 1 in accordance with the curriculum shall provide comprehensive training or specialised professional training in professional areas and specialties.

(3) (New, SG No. 60/1999) Instruction at the second level, up to the master's degree, provides profound fundamental training in combination with specialisation in a particular specialty.

(4) (New, SG No. 60/1999, corrected, SG No. 66/1999, amended, SG No. 53/2002, SG No. 61/2011) Instruction at the third level, for the educational and qualification degree of "doctor" (doctor's degree), is carried out in doctoral programmes.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 41/2007) The colleges under Article 17, paras 6 and 7 shall conduct instruction in the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under para 1, item 1, letter (a) which shall provide specialised professional training in the respective professional areas and specialties.

(6) (New, SG No. 41/2007) The persons who have acquired the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under para 5 may continue their education in the master's educational and qualification degree only in the same professional area under terms and conditions set out in the rules of the higher school or the state requirements.

(7) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 41/2007, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) In accordance with the educational traditions and the specific nature of instruction the discrete educational degrees for various specialties may have specific designations. Such designations shall be approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

(8) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 7, SG No. 41/2007) Diplomas for a completed degree under Article 7 shall be issued upon the successful performance of all duties set in the curriculum, regardless of the calendar continuance of training.

(9) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 8, SG No. 41/2007) Higher schools shall be required to provide opportunities and stipulate the terms of:

1. (amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 53/2002) earning a second or a new major (specialty) within the programme of study for one educational degree in keeping with the requirements laid down in para 7 above;

2. (new, SG No. 60/1999) transition from one level of higher education to another;

3. (renumbered from Item 2, SG No. 60/1999) earning a higher educational degree;

4. (renumbered from Item 3, amended, SG No. 60/1999) early completion at the request of the trainees;

5. (renumbered from Item 4, amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 53/2002) earning a new specialty in keeping with the requirements laid down in para 7 above;

6. (renumbered from Item 5, SG No. 60/1999) partial training of Bulgarian and foreign students at a higher school or faculty, or in a specialty (major) of their choice;

7. (renumbered from Item 6, SG No. 60/1999) transfer of students to another higher school, faculty, specialty (major) or form of learning;

8. (renumbered from Item 7, SG No. 60/1999) interruption of tuition on the part of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies, as well as its subsequent continuation;

9. (new, SG No. 48/2004) choice of a teacher by the students, where more than one faculty member give instruction in the same subject.

(10) (Renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 9, SG No. 41/2007) The forms of higher-school instruction shall be full-time, part-time, evening attendance and correspondence (distance) courses.

(11) (New, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 10, SG No. 41/2007) Distance learning shall be conducted only by those higher schools which have been accredited and established under the terms and conditions of this Act.

Article 43

(1) Higher schools may offer training for upgrading qualifications.

(2) Training offered in academic courses for qualifications upgrading shall be conducted pursuant to tuition documentation the requirements wherefor shall be laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operation and other rulebooks.

(3) No training courses for qualifications upgrading shall serve as sufficient grounds for earning a degree or a specialty.

Article 44

(1) Higher schools shall adopt Rules to specify the manner of conducting examination procedures.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 41/2007) The forms of assessing and grading students' knowledge and skills shall be laid down in the curricula and the programmes of study. The basic form of knowledge assessment at higher schools is the written examination, unless the specific features of the subject and/or module require otherwise. The written materials from the checking of the knowledge and skills shall be stored for at least a year after the conduct of the assessment.

(3) Students' knowledge and skills shall be graded on the basis of a six-grade system comprising of: Excellent (6.00), Very Good (5.00), Good (4.00), Fair (3.00) and Poor (2.00).

(4) The grade of at least Fair (3.00) is required for an examination to be successfully passed.

(5) Any higher school shall have the right to introduce through its Rules of Operations different grading system whereas it shall be required to ensure comparability with the grades as per para 3 above.

Article 44a

(New, SG No. 48/2004 - effective as from the 2004/2005 academic year)

(1) Higher schools shall provide a system for gaining and transferring credit points for grading the knowledge and skills acquired by the students in the course of studies.

(2) The objective of the system is to provide students with an opportunity to choose subjects, self-preparation and mobility on the basis of mutual recognition of certain periods of studies, which correspond to elements of the curriculum of the speciality and the educational and qualification degree.

(3) Credit points shall represent the grading of the obligations which students have to fulfill in a certain subject or module as part of the overall obligations required for the successful completion of an academic year or semester.

(4) Credit points in each specialty shall consist of the total number of lectures, practical exercises and seminars, self-preparation (at

laboratories, libraries, through papers, homework, and others), examinations passed and other forms of grading as established by the higher school. Credit points may also be awarded for participation in practical courses or course or diploma papers, where these activities constitute elements of the curriculum.

(5) The credit points under para 3 shall be awarded to students who have successfully completed the respective subject and/or module through an examination or another form of grading established pursuant to Article 44, para 5.

(6) The system under para 1 shall be based on 60 credit points per academic year or 30 credit points per semester, allocated by subjects and/or modules in accordance with the curriculum of the specialty and the educational and qualification degree, or another number of credit points compatible with this system.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The terms and conditions for the application of the system for gaining and transferring credit points shall be established in the ruled adopted by the Minister of Education and Science.

Article 45

(1) (Amended, SG No. 41/2007) The course of studies in each specialty of the bachelor's or master's educational and qualification degree shall be completed with a final state examination or defence of a diploma thesis.

(2) (Supplemented, SG No. 60/1999) The state examination or the diploma thesis defence shall be conducted pursuant to the state diploma-granting requirements before a state board of examiners made up of habilitated persons having academic rank. As an exception members of the board of examiners may be also professors holding the educational degree and the scientific title and rank of a "doctor". Outside persons shall also be co-opted to boards of examiners.

Article 46

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) A higher school shall be entitled to offer training for the third level educational and scientific degree, i.e. for a doctorate, solely in accredited specialties under the terms laid down in Article 80, para 2 hereof.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Studying for a doctorate shall be conducted pursuant to an individual programme of study and shall comprise instruction and passing of certain examinations, teaching practice and defence of a doctoral dissertation.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) The Faculty Board of the higher school offering training to a doctoral candidate shall select and appoint the scientific supervisor, approve the individual programme of study, and give him or her annual evaluation.

(4) A doctoral candidate's supervisor may be a habilitated person or a Doctor of Science.

(5) (New, SG No. 60/1999) Studying for a doctorate may be conducted also by way of self-training in which case tuition shall be provided in correspondence with the other forms of doctorship learning.

(6) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) The doctoral educational and academic degree shall be conferred upon a doctoral candidate who has passed the examinations envisaged in the programme of study and has defended a doctoral dissertation under the terms and procedures laid down in the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

Article 47

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 113/1999, supplemented, SG No. 70/2004, effective 1.01.2005, amended, SG No. 61/2011) The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Agricultural Academy, the national centres for public health and other scientific organisations shall be allowed to offer training for the educational and scientific degree of "doctor", i.e. for a doctorate, in accredited doctoral programmes and in compliance with the terms laid down in Art. 46, paras 2, 4 and 6 hereof.

(2) The Academic Board of the unit offering training to a doctoral candidate selects and appoints the scientific supervisor and approves the programme of study.

(3) Doctoral candidates receiving training in scientific organisations shall enjoy the status and the rights as per Article 67 and 70 hereof.

Chapter Six HIGHER-SCHOOL FACULTY*7 (Title amended, SG No. 60/1999)

Article 48

(1) The following positions shall exist for higher-school faculty:

1. for habilitated persons - associate professors and professors.

2. (amended, SG No. 38/2010) for non-habilitated persons - assistant professors and chief assistant professors.

(2) The positions occupied by non-habilitated persons assigned solely to instruction of non-specialists in languages, sports, arts and suchlike shall be those of lecturers and senior lecturers.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 38/2010) The academic posts of "assistant", "senior assistant", "associate professor" and "professor" shall be held under the terms and conditions laid down in the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the statutes of the institutions of higher education.

(4) (New, SG No. 53/2002) Faculty positions shall include also the positions of habilitated and non-habilitated faculty working at university hospitals.

Article 49

(Supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, repealed, SG No. 38/2010).

Article 50

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) The decisions to announce competitions for occupying the positions referred to in Article 48 shall be taken by the Academic Board on a motion of the higher school's primary units and/or affiliates.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 38/2010) All competitions for habilitated teaching staff shall be announced in the official State Gazette minimum two (2) months prior to the deadline for filing the documents required for participation in the competition.

(3) (New, SG No. 53/2002) The decisions to announce competitions for occupying the positions referred to in Article 48, para 1 at university hospitals shall be taken by the Academic Board of the respective higher medical school in consultation with the Manager or Executive Director of the hospital.

Article 51

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999, repealed, SG No. 48/2004).

Article 52

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 48/2004) At a decision of a higher school's Faculty Board, scientists and instructors from this country and from abroad may be co-opted to teaching and research activities for a certain period of time as visiting instructors.

(2) No competition shall be held for co-optation of visiting instructors.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) The relationship between a visiting instructor and a higher school shall be stipulated in a contract valid for a period of up to one (1) year, which shall be subject to extension.

(4) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Higher schools may also hire faculty on the basis of services contracts under terms and conditions laid down in the higher schools' Rulebook.

Article 53

(1) (Supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) A higher school shall appoint specialists and experts to assist research or artistic and creative activities.

(2) The terms and conditions of selecting and appointing such persons as well as the specific titles of their positions shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the higher school's Rules of Operation.

Article 54

(1) (Amended, SG No. 58/1997, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 101/2010) All positions as per Article 48, para 1, except for the position of "assistant", shall be occupied under contracts of employment for an indefinite term.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) All positions as per Article 48, para 2 shall be occupied under contracts of employment either for a fixed or for an indefinite term under terms and procedures laid down in the respective higher school's Rulebooks.

(3) (New, SG No. 101/2010) The position of "assistant" shall be occupied under a contract of employment for a fixed term.

(4) (Repealed, renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 58/1997, renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 101/2010) Employment relations between the higher school and the winner in the competition shall come into effect as of the date of the approval of his or her election. The Rector shall sign the contract of employment within one (1) month following the approval of the election.

Article 55

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Higher-school faculty members shall be entitled to:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) elect and be elected to the higher school's governing bodies, unless they are faculty members under Article 52;

2. develop and teach their subject freely and in accordance with the curriculum and the programme of study;

3. conduct research freely, on the basis of their interests, and publish the results thereof;

4. provide consultancy and other services related to their objects of activity at the higher school under terms and conditions laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operation;

5. use all the facilities and opportunities offered by the higher school for their academic development.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Faculty members under Article 48, para 1 shall be entitled to sabbatical leave of one academic year for their academic development. No teaching workload shall be assigned to them during this year. The time for academic development comprises also any specialised studies outside the higher school lasting more than three (3) months. The decision shall be taken by the Faculty Board.

Article 56

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Faculty members shall be required to:

1. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) discharge their duties in accordance with a brief description of the job or work under Article 127, para 1, Item 4 of the Labour Code and the approved individual programme of academic activities;

2. observe the academic and professional ethics;

3. abide by the higher school's Rules of Operation;

4. refrain from performing political or religious activities at the higher school;

5. (new, SG No. 41/2007) develop and announce, in an appropriate manner, the description of the course of lectures they hold, including the number, heading and sequences of the topics in the content, the recommended literature, the way in which the grade is formed and the form of checking of knowledge and skills.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Higher schools shall be entitled to set additional conditions and requirements in regard to faculty members in the higher school's Rules of Operation or in their employment contracts.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) A higher school's Rules of Operation (Rulebooks) shall prescribe faculty members' working hours, the type and volume of their teaching and other assignments, and the conditions for their performance.

Article 57

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) Higher schools shall evaluate each faculty member's contribution to the instructional, research, artistic and creative, administrative and other activities and shall make performance assessment of non-habilitated faculty members once in three (3) years, and of habilitated instructors - once every five (5) years.

(2) Evaluation and performance assessment shall be conducted in accordance with pre-announced standards and criteria laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operation, which must invariably comprise:

1. adherence to the teaching-workload norms as approved by the Academic Board;

2. development of new seminar and/or laboratory exercises, textbooks and teaching-aid literature;

3. scientific (artistic and creative) production, involvement in contracts for scientific research and international scientific co-operation;

4. supervision of graduating seniors, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies;

5. (new, SG No. 48/2004) student-opinion polls.

Article 58

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Faculty members shall be dismissed by an executive order of the Rector in any of the following events:

1. at their request;

2. conviction for a premeditated crime;

3. (supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) where no conditions can be provided for them to carry out teaching and no opportunities exist for transfer or retraining in a similar subject at a decision of the Board of the primary unit and/or affiliate;

4. proven plagiarism in academic works;

5. (amended, SG No. 101/2010) withdrawal of the academic degree;

6. two consecutive negative performance assessments;
7. violations punishable by disciplinary dismissal;
8. legal disability.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, repealed, SG No. 48/2004).

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 60/1999) Faculty members dismissed pursuant to para 1, Item 3 shall be entitled to compensation in the amount of their remuneration until the expiration of their contract of employment but no more than twelve (12) months following their dismissal.

Article 58a

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) Any faculty or other staff member shall be subject to termination for premeditated commission of either of the following offences:

1. assigning an examination grade without conducting an examination;

2. giving an examination and assigning a grade to a person who has no right to take an examination with the offender;

3. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) issuing a document on behalf of the higher school, any of its primary units and/or any of its affiliates giving an inaccurate account of completed stages in the training of a student, a doctoral candidate, or a specialising trainee.

(2) The procedure of ascertaining the offences under para 1 above shall be laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operations.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 101/2010) Any faculty member who has been provenly involved in corruption shall be terminated.

Article 59

The provisions of the Labour Code shall apply to any matters which are not regulated in this Chapter.

Chapter Seven HONORARY TITLES

Article 60

(1) Academic Boards of higher schools may confer upon Bulgarian or foreign citizens the honorary title of "doctor honoris causa" for contributions to the advancement of science and higher education.

(2) The holders of the title "doctor honoris causa" shall be entitled to deliver a public lecture at the higher school that has awarded the honorary title.

Chapter Eight ORGANISATION OF RESEARCH AT HIGHER SCHOOLS

Article 61

(1) Research at higher schools shall aim at the advancement of science or applied research products as well as at the advancement of education.

(2) The organisation and governance of research shall be regulated by the higher school's Rules of Operation.

Article 62

(1) Higher schools shall encourage research work and projects in high priority spheres.

(2) Higher schools shall be entitled to plan and conduct joint research projects with other higher schools, scientific organisations and institutions, depending on their interests and the interests of research.

Article 63

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) Research work shall be an integral part of the activities of faculty members.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 60/1999).

(3) Research work shall be conducted also by the specially appointed persons, as well as by the students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies.

(4) The terms and conditions of employment, operations and dismissal of persons specifically appointed to carry out research shall be regulated by the higher school's Rules of Operation, the provisions of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Labour Code.

Article 64

(1) (Amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) Research shall be financed in accordance with the financial rules under Arts. 90 and 91.

(2) Higher schools shall be entitled to use the funds allocated for research purposes to pay salaries to faculty members and researchers working under fixed-term contracts, as well as to remunerate students and postgraduates involved in the financed research assignment.

(3) The terms of spending the funds shall be laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operation.

Article 65

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) A higher school shall organise annually a session at which the faculty shall report scientific achievements throughout the year.

(2) In his annual report to the General Assembly the Rector shall include inter alia information about the organisation, the outcomes and the cost of all research activities conducted.

Article 65a

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

Artistic and creative activities in the higher schools of arts shall be organised and carried out within the meaning and under the terms of Article 61 through 65 hereof.

Chapter Nine

STUDENTS, DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND SPECIALISING TRAINEES

Article 66

(1) Higher schools provide training to students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 41/2007) A student is anyone studying to earn the educational degree of a bachelor and a master.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 113/1999, effective 28.12.1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) A doctoral candidate is any holder of a master's degree in preparation for earning a doctorate.

(4) A specialising trainee is anyone upgrading his/her qualifications under a specialised programme of study without seeking a higher degree or a new specialty.

Article 67

(Supplemented, SG No. 48/2004)

The status of a student, a doctoral candidate, or a specialising trainee shall be acquired upon enrolment in a higher school and lost upon discharge or during the suspension under Article 74, para 2.

Article 68

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, effective academic year 2000/2001, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) The admission of students and doctoral candidates shall be conducted by way of entrance examination within the admission quotas sanctioned pursuant to Article 9, para 3, Item 6, letters (a) and (b) and in strict adherence to:

1. the state standard requirements;
2. the requirements set forth in the higher schools' Rulebooks providing these are not contradictory to the state requirements;
3. (new, SG No. 41/2007) the capacity of the higher school, the professional areas and the specialties of the regulated professions as determined by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Higher schools may hold a general entrance examination or recognise the results of the entrance examination under para 1 given at another higher school.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 2, amended, SG No. 48/2004) Applicants who have successfully partaken in the admission competition to a higher school shall be admitted under easier terms and conditions as established in the higher school's Rulebook in any of the following cases:

1. applicants who scored equally;
2. disabled persons with long-term disabilities and reduction of the ability to work by 70 percent or more;
3. (supplemented, SG No. 54/2014, effective 1.07.2014) disabled war veterans and victims;

4. orphans;
5. mothers of three or more children;
6. twins where both have concurrently applied to the same higher school and for the same professional area and one of them has been admitted.

(4) (New, SG No. 53/2002, renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007, amended, SG No. 79/2015, effective 1.08.2016) At a decision of the Academic Board, higher schools may admit applicants without any entrance examination provided that the applicants have successfully passed the state matriculation exams under the Pre-school and School Education Act within the framework of the numbers set forth in Article 9, Para 3, Item 6, letters (a) and (b).

(5) (New, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) Applicants who are winners at national or international competitions completing their secondary education in the year of the competition and medal winners at Olympic, worlds and European championships shall be admitted without any entrance examination and beyond the annual number of students to be admitted under Article 9, Para 3, Item 6, letters (a) and (b) where the entrance examination for the specialty they apply for corresponds to the subject-matter of the competition or championship.

(6) (New, SG No. 50/2010, effective academic year 2011/2012, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) At the proposal of the Minister of Youth and Sports and following a decision of the academic council with the higher school medal holders from Olympic, World and European Championships may be admitted without entrance examination beyond the established under Article 9, para 3, item 6, letters (a) and (b) annual number of admitted students.

(7) (New, SG 83/2005, effective 1.01.2007, renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 50/2010, effective academic year 2011/2012) The admission of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies - citizens of Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, shall be effected under the terms and procedure, prescribed for Bulgarian citizens.

(8) (New, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 6, No. 83/2005, effective 1.01.2007, renumbered from Paragraph 7, amended SG No. 50/2010, effective academic year 2011/2012) Higher schools shall announce the admission terms and conditions under paras 1, 4 and 6 before 31 March of each year.

Article 69

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

The enrolment in a higher school of trainees for specialised studies shall be carried out under terms and procedures laid down in such higher school's Rulebooks.

Article 70

(1) Students and doctoral candidates shall be entitled to:

1. select subjects (courses) under such terms as are set forth in the curriculum;
2. receive qualified assistance and supervision in their academic and professional development;
3. study more than one specialty (major) at a time or take additional courses under terms prescribed by the higher school;
4. participate in the higher school's research activities whereas any rights of theirs arising out of the applicable laws on the protection of copyright, intellectual property rights and the neighbouring rights, as well as any remuneration payable to them shall be guaranteed;
5. elect and be elected to the higher school's governing bodies;
6. use students' hostels, canteens, health-care services, reduced fares for the mass and rapid transit and the intercity transportation and all the higher school's facilities for study, research, sports and cultural activities, as well as other welfare benefits for normal life and studies under terms set by the state and the respective higher school;
7. associate in academic, scientific, cultural and sports fellowships for protection and satisfaction of their interests, as well as to have membership in/of international organisations whose activities are not contradictory to the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria;
8. transfer to another higher school, faculty, department, specialty, level or forms of study in accordance with the higher school's Rulebooks;
9. discontinue their studies and resume them subsequently under terms and procedures laid down in the higher school's Rulebooks;
10. (repealed, SG No. 60/1999);
11. have holidays of minimum thirty (30) days inside of one (1) academic year;
12. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) receive scholarships (stipends);
13. (new, SG No. 60/1999) use credits for payment of (tuition) fees and/or for maintenance during the course of training.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 54/2014,

effective 1.07.2014) Students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies who are orphans, or blind, or deaf, or disabled people with long-term disability or reduction of the ability to work by 70 percent or more or disabled war veterans, and victims or persons raised at orphanages until they become of age, or mothers of children below the age of six, or depending on direct clinical observation shall be entitled to special privileges and alleviations as set forth in the respective higher school's Rulebooks.

Article 71

The obligations of students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies shall be laid down in the higher schools' Rules of Operation.

Article 72

(1) (Supplemented, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 41/2007) The Student Council is the body vested with defending the common interests of educates. It is made up of all students' and doctoral candidates' delegates to the higher school's General Assembly. The term of office of students and doctoral candidates in the higher school's Student Council shall be two years with an opportunity for re-election for one more term of office. The Student Council shall elect from among its members a Chairperson to organise and guide its activities and represent it before the managing bodies of the higher school and the primary and auxiliary units therein.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Students and doctoral candidates shall elect their representatives under terms and conditions set out in the Rules under para 3.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, SG No. 48/2004) The Student Council shall adopt its Rules of Organisation and Activities and submit them to the higher school's Academic Board. The Academic Board may object to certain rules that are contradictory to the laws or to the higher school's Rules of Operation.

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Controversial rules shall not apply until the argument is settled by the Minister of Education and Science.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 4, amended, SG No. 48/2004) The activities of the Student Council shall be financed by the higher school with funds amounting to at least one percent (1%) of tuition fees or at least 0.3 percent in the case of private higher schools. Such funds shall be used for the protection of students' social interests, and for carrying out cultural, sports, research, creative and international activities.

Article 73

(1) (Previous Article 73, SG No. 48/2004) The Student Council shall:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 42/2007) organise the election of its representatives to the higher school's governing bodies and the Board of Trustees;

2. make proposals to include additional subjects (majors, courses);

3. make proposals to invite outside lecturers;

4. organise the establishment of specialised academic communities of students and publish their works;

5. establish, if need be, and manage its own organisational units;

6. establish domestic and international educational, cultural and postgraduate contacts between students;

7. express opinion and make proposals concerning the development of sports activities at the higher school;

8. participate in the management of students' hostels;
9. participate in the organisation of studies, granting of scholarships and allocation of financial aid to students;

10. (new, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) participate, through its representatives, in the monitoring of the internal quality assessment and assurance system and the faculty at the higher school, and in the development of the questionnaires for student-opinion polls.

(2) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The Student Council shall maintain its own web site at the academic information centre under Article 17, Para 2, Item 9 for information services to students and doctoral candidates, its funding being provided from the resources under Article 72, Para 5.

Article 73a

(New, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The national body vested with expressing the common interests of all students and doctoral candidates shall be the National Representation of Student Councils.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The National Representation of Student Councils is made up of the Chairpersons or the delegated representatives of all higher schools' Student Councils.

(3) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) The National Representation of Student Councils is a juristic person. Its activities shall be financed by allowances of 10 percent payable at regular intervals from the Student Councils' budgets.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) The National Representation of Student Councils shall:

1. adopt its Rules of Operations;
2. elect a Chairperson to represent it and govern its activities;
3. put forward viewpoints and recommendations as to issues relative to higher learning and science within higher schools concerning educatees thereat;
4. express an opinion about the draft state budget in its section concerning higher education and science.

(5) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The resources under para 3 shall be used to finance national programmes for education, research, cultural activities, sports and other creativity of students, as well as for international activities.

(6) (New, SG No. 48/2004) The resources received shall be audited by the National Audit Office.

Article 73b

(New, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) A National Council for Student Affairs shall be established as an advisory body to the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The members of the National Council for Student Affairs shall be appointed at an order of the Minister of Education and Science, including:

1. four representatives of the National Representation of Student Councils;

2. three representatives of national student organisations - not-for-profit legal entities working to the public benefit to protect the academic, social and cultural rights and interests of students and doctoral candidates.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 103/2005, SG No. 50/2010, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The organisations under para 2, Item 2 shall be selected on the basis of criteria approved by the Minister of Education and Science and the Minister of Youth and Sports.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 103/2005, SG No. 50/2010, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The structure and activities of the National Council for Student Affairs shall be set out in rules approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

Article 74

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) A student, a doctoral candidate or a specialising trainee shall be discharged from the higher school upon:

1. successful completion of the programme of study;
2. taking leave of the school or moving to another.

(2) A student, a doctoral candidate or a specialising trainee shall be temporarily suspended from the higher school in the event of:

1. provision of incorrect information (misrepresentation) on the grounds of which he/she was admitted to the higher school;
2. systematic failure to fulfil his/her obligations under the curriculum or under the higher school's Rulebooks;
3. imposition of a jail sentence for a premeditated indictable (notifiable) offence.

Chapter Ten (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) HIGHER SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Article 75

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) Accreditation is the recognition by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of the right of higher schools to give higher education by educational and qualification degrees in certain spheres, professional areas and specialties related to regulated professions through the assessment of the quality of their activities under para 6.

(2) The objective of assessment and accreditation is to stimulate higher schools to develop their potential and to upgrade and maintain the quality of the education they offer.

(3) Accreditation results shall be taken into consideration in formulating the state policy in respect to the higher school.

(4) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall evaluate all projects for opening and transformation of a higher school, a faculty, an affiliate and a college, as well as for opening professional areas and specialties related to regulated professions.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 61/2011) The right of higher schools and organisations under Article 47, para 1 to offer instruction for the doctor's educational and academic degree in doctoral programmes shall also be subject to accreditation.

Article 76

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) There shall be institutional and programme accreditation.

(2) Programme accreditation may be requested by the higher school upon receipt of institutional accreditation.

(3) Evaluation of projects for opening of faculties, affiliates, professional areas and specialties related to regulated professional may be requested solely by a higher school that has successfully undergone institutional accreditation.

Article 77

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The institutional accreditation shall:

1. be based on the assessment of the way in which the higher school pursues its mission and objectives in accordance with Article 17;

2. result from the assessment of the efficiency of the higher school in the supervision, assurance and upgrading of the quality of instruction in the spheres of higher education and professional areas it offers.

(2) The assessment in the institutional accreditation is aimed at checking the efficiency of:

1. the internal system for assessment and assurance of the quality of education;

2. the procedures for approval, monitoring and renewal of curricula and programmes;

3. the procedures for undertaking action in connection with and arising out of the results of the programme accreditation and other external independent audits;

4. the overall management and control of the processes of grading at the higher school;

5. the management of the system of gaining and transferring credit points;

6. the management of the cooperation with other higher schools and organizations;

7. the maintenance, management and development of the facilities of the higher school;

8. research and creative activities of the faculty and the participation of students and doctoral candidates in them.

(3) (New, SG No. 41/2007, effective 1.09.2008, amended, SG No. 38/2010, SG No. 101/2010) In the course of the accreditation under para 1 and the assessment of the compliance with the requirements for the full-time faculty, a member of the faculty may participate in the accreditation of not more than two higher schools.

Article 78

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 61/2011) The programme accreditation shall be based on the assessment of the quality of the instruction offered in a specific professional area at a primary unit and/or affiliate of the higher school, of a specialty related to regulated professions, or a doctoral programme.

(2) Within the framework of the professional area, the assessment shall be aimed at checking the quality of instruction of students in all forms of studies in the educational and qualification degrees and in the doctoral educational and academic degree.

(3) Subject to programme accreditation shall be:

1. the structure, organisation and content of curricula and programmes;

2. the profile and qualifications of the faculty;

3. the available facilities for the purposes of education;

4. teaching and grading methods;

5. the quality control of education;

6. research and creative activities of the faculty and the participation of students and doctoral candidates in them.

Article 79

(Supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 61/2011)

(1) Assessment under institutional and programme accreditation procedures shall be carried out on a ten-grade evaluation scale comprising grades from 0 to 10.00. The score for each of the assessment criteria referred to in Article 77, Paragraph 2, and Article 78, Paragraph 3, shall be computed as the average of the scores for each indicator multiplied by its coefficient.

(2) The Accreditation Board of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall approve indicators weighted with coefficients for each criterion involved in institutional and programme accreditation. The criterion of "research" shall carry the greatest relative weight.

(3) Projects for opening a higher school, as well as faculties, affiliates, colleges, professional areas and specialties related to regulated professions shall be given a positive or a negative assessment

(4) Accreditation shall be valid for a period of:

1. six years - where the score is between 9.00 and 10.00;
2. five years - where the score is between 7.00 and 8.99;
3. four years - where the score is between 5.00 and 6.99;
4. three years - where the score is between 4.00 and 4.99;

(5) Accreditation shall be denied if the score is between 0 and 3.99.

(6) Accreditation shall also be denied when the score obtained during the institutional accreditation procedure is between 0 and 3.99 for one or more of the following criteria:

1. the internal system for assessment and assurance of the quality of education;

2. the profile and qualifications of the faculty;

3. the available facilities for the purposes of education;

(7) The outcome of programme assessment and accreditation shall be considered negative in professional areas which have scored less than 4.00 for one or more of the following criteria:

1. teaching documentation and tuition in the professional area or specialty related to regulated professions;

2. the profile and qualifications of the faculty from the relevant professional area or specialty related to regulated professions;

3. the availability of specialised facilities, equipment and databases necessary for instruction in the relevant professional area or specialty related to regulated professions.

Article 79a

(New, SG No. 61/2011)

(1) Higher schools with programme accreditation scores of 4.00 to 4.99 shall only be allowed to offer instruction for the degree of Bachelor in the relevant professional area or specialty related to regulated professions.

(2) If its programme accreditation score is between 5.00 and 10.00, a higher school shall be allowed to offer instruction and confer the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor pursuant to Article 80, Paragraph 2.

(3) Higher schools which have been granted accreditation under the terms and conditions laid out herein, shall be allowed to teach students and doctoral students under joint teaching agreements with overseas higher schools which meet the following criteria:

1. they shall be accredited by an agency which is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and/or listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR); this shall apply to higher schools from EU and EEA member-states.

2. they shall be accredited according to the relevant national legislation; this shall apply to overseas higher schools from third countries.

Article 80

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) Higher schools shall be disallowed to offer training in specialties from unaccredited professional areas or unaccredited specialties related to regulated professions and shall not confer diplomas upon the persons that majored in such specialties as provided in Article 7, para 3.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 61/2011) Higher schools and organisations under Art. 47, para 1 shall be allowed to offer training and confer doctoral degrees in doctoral programmes which have scored between 8.00 and 10.00 in the programme accreditation exercise.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 41/2007, SG No. 61/2011) No admission of students and doctoral candidates shall be allowed at unaccredited higher schools or professional areas, doctoral programmes and specialties related to regulated professions, or in forms of studies which have not been included in the programme accreditation.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) Unaccredited higher schools shall not be financed from the executive budget.

(5) The provisions of paras 1, 3 and 4 shall not apply to newly established higher schools, primary units, affiliates, professional areas or specialties related to regulated professions until the expiry of the term set forth in the decision as per Article 83, para 4, Item 2.

(6) (Amended, SG No. 41/2007) The provisions of para 1 shall not apply to public higher schools whose initial application for accreditation has been rejected, until the expiry of the term set forth in the decision as per Article 83, Para 5, Item 2.

Article 81

(Supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) An accreditation or project assessment procedure shall be initiated for:

1. (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) institutional accreditation - at the request of the higher school and/or the Minister of Education and Science;

2. programme accreditation of:

(a) specialties related to regulated professions; and

(b) (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) professional areas - at the request of the higher school and/or the Minister of Education and Science;

(c) (amended, SG No. 61/2011) doctoral programmes related to regulated professions; and

(d) (amended, SG No. 74/2009, SG No. 61/2011, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) all other doctoral programmes - at the request of the higher schools, the organisations under Article 47, para 1 and/or the Minister of Education and Science;

3. (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) assessment of a project to open a higher school - at the request of the Minister of Education and Science or the founders within the meaning of Article 14, para 1;

4. assessment of a project to transform a higher school - at the request of the higher school or the founders within the meaning of Article 14, para 1;

5. assessment of a project to open a primary unit and/or affiliate - at the request of the higher school;

6. assessment of a project to open:

(a) a specialty related to regulated professions; and

(b) a professional area - at the request of the higher school.

(2) The programme accreditation procedure under para 1, Item 2(b) in a specific professional area shall be opened simultaneously for all applicant higher schools offering education in this area in accordance with a time-table consulted with the Rectors' Council.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Any programme accreditation procedure beyond the time-table under para 2 shall be opened at the request of the Minister of Education and Science and the higher schools.

(4) The procedures under para 1, Items 1 and 2(a) and (c), 3, 4, 5 and 6(a) shall be conducted by the Accreditation Board.

(5) The procedures under para 1, Items 2(b) and (d) and 6(b) shall be conducted by the Standing Committee for the respective sphere of higher education.

(6) The opening of an accreditation or a project assessment procedure at the request of the higher school, the organisations under Article 47, para 1 or the founders under Article 14, para 1 shall begin with a decision of the Accreditation Board or the Standing Committee respectively on the basis of the self-evaluation report of the applicant, including also the quantitative information within the meaning of Article 77, para 2 or Article 78, para 3.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Where the accreditation procedure is opened at the request of the Minister of Education and Science, higher schools shall submit a self-evaluation report of the applicant, including also the quantitative information within the meaning of Article 77, para 2 or Article 78, para 3 to the National Agency

for Assessment and Accreditation within two months of the decision of the Accreditation Board or the Standing Committee respectively on the opening of the procedure.

(8) The Rules of Operations of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation, in conformity with the statutory requirements for the relevant procedure, shall specify all facts and circumstances in respect whereof an applicant shall be required to submit any appropriate documents and requisite information.

(9) (Supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) All costs of accreditation or project assessment procedures, as well as of changes in the capacity determined under Article 83, Para 3, item 1 shall be paid by the applicant at rates approved by the Minister of Finance.

Article 82

(Supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 48/2004)

Within a month of receipt of the request for opening of a procedure, the Accreditation Board or the Standing Committee respectively shall make a decision whether to open the procedure or refuse to open the procedure, where the applicant has failed to produce the information under Article 81, paras 6, 7 and 8.

Article 83

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The accreditation procedure shall conclude with a substantiated decision of the Accreditation Board or the Standing Committee respectively to be rendered within twelve (12) months of the date of payment under Article 81, para 9.

(2) The decision under para 1 shall give an assessment as per Article 79, para 1.

(3) A decision to grant accreditation shall specify:

1. the term of the accreditation validity and the higher school's capacity and, in the case of programme accreditation, the capacity of the professional area or the specialty related to regulated professions;
2. recommendations and time limits for their fulfillment.

(4) (New, SG No. 41/2007) Where the higher school fails to meet the requirements for the full-time faculty or the facilities, the Accreditation Board shall make a decision to deny accreditation.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 41/2007) A decision denying accreditation shall specify:

1. reasons for the denial and recommendations whose implementation on the part of the higher school shall be a prerequisite for the opening of a new procedure;
2. the time limit for undertaking measures to remove weaknesses and upgrade the quality, after the expiration of which the applicant shall be entitled to request initiation of new proceedings; such term shall not exceed eighteen (18) months.

(6) (New, SG No. 41/2007, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Changes in the capacity determined under Para 3, item 1

may be made at the request of the higher school and of the Minister of Education and Science.

(7) (New, SG No. 61/2011) The following measures shall be taken in cases of non-compliance with the recommendations referred to in Paragraph 3, Item 2:

1. reducing the teaching capacity of the higher school - either the overall capacity or the capacity in the relevant professional areas;
2. lowering the accreditation score and accordingly the validity term for the accreditation of the higher school and its professional areas;
3. withdrawing the accreditation of the higher school.

(8) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 41/2007, renumbered from Paragraph 7, SG No. 61/2011) Any decision under para 1 may be appealed under the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Article 84

(Amended, SG No. 113/1999, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) Project assessment procedures under Article 81, para 1, Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall conclude with a substantiated decision of the Accreditation Board or the Standing Committee respectively to be made within five (5) months of the date of payment under Article 81, para 9.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 61/2011) Any decision to give a project a positive assessment shall specify the time limits for requesting accreditation subsequent to the opening of a higher school, a primary unit, an affiliate, a professional area, a specialty related to regulated professions, or a doctoral programme.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 61/2011) Newly established higher schools, primary units, affiliates, professional areas, specialties related to regulated professions, or doctoral programmes offering education shall be regarded as duly accredited for the period under para 2.

(4) Any decision under para 1 may be appealed under the Administrative Procedure Code.

Article 85

(Amended, SG No. 113/1999, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 41/2007) develop criteria of assessment and accreditation and for determining the capacity under Article 83, Para 3, item 1 in accordance with this Act and the state requirements;

2. develop the procedures of assessment and accreditation and all relevant documentation;

3. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) assess the projects for opening and transforming higher schools, primary units, affiliates, professional areas, specialties related to regulated professions, and doctoral programmes;

4. develop criteria and procedures of post-accreditation monitoring of higher schools, primary units, affiliates, professional areas and specialties related to regulated professions within the meaning of Article 11, para 4;

5. assess the overall activities and the quality of instruction offered by higher schools and organisations under Article 47, para 1, and use such assessment to either grant or deny accreditation;

6. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) set up and maintain an information system comprising data about all accredited higher schools, their primary units, affiliates, professional areas, specialties related to regulated professions, or academic specialties, as well as the accredited doctoral programmes at higher schools and organisations under Art. 47, para 1;

7. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) publish annually, no later than the month of May of each calendar year, in the official State Gazette the list of all accredited higher schools, their primary units, affiliates, professional areas, specialties related to regulated professions, or academic specialties, as well as the accredited doctoral programmes at higher schools and organisations under Article 47, para 1, along with the accreditation grades assigned.

(2) The governing bodies of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation are the Accreditation Board and its Chairperson.

(3) The Accreditation Board's Chairperson is at the same time Chairperson of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation. He/she shall be vested with the authority to represent the Agency as well as to manage its overall activities.

Article 86

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The Accreditation Board shall consist of eleven (11) members - a Chairperson and ten (10) members - all habilitated persons having academic rank in the spheres of higher education, one of whom shall be also a Deputy Chairperson in charge of the post-accreditation monitoring and supervision. The membership shall include:

1. six (6) representatives of higher schools;
2. one (1) representative of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and one (1) representative of the Agricultural Academy;

3. (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) two representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science.

(2) The candidates to serve on the Board as higher schools' representatives shall be nominated by the Board of Rectors by secret ballot at the proposal of the higher schools' Academic Boards.

(3) The candidates to serve as representatives of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy shall be nominated by their Managing Boards by secret ballot at the proposal of their Research Boards.

(4) The number of nominees must be twice the number of representatives as prescribed in para 1.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Prime Minister shall appoint the members of the Accreditation Board at the proposals by the Minister of Education and Science, the Board of Rectors, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy on the basis of employment contracts.

(6) (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Prime Minister shall appoint the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation at the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of employment contracts. The Deputy Chairperson shall be nominated from among the members under para 1, Item 1.

Article 87

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The term of office of the Accreditation Board's Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members shall be six (6) years.

(2) The persons under para 1 may not be appointed for more than one term of office.

(3) A half of the Accreditation Board members, except for the Chairperson, shall be replaced on a quota principle pursuant to Article 86 every three (3) years.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 38/2010) The status of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and a member of the Accreditation Board shall be incongruous with occupying the offices of a Rector, a Vice Rector and a Dean and/or a Director of an affiliate at a higher school, and that of a President, Vice President and Institute Director at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy.

(5) The term of office of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson or any member of the Accreditation Board shall be terminated earlier in the case of:

1. Discharge of the person in the event of:

(a) his/her request submitted in writing;

(b) systematic failure to fulfil his/her obligations;

(c) de facto inability to perform his/her duties lasting more than six (6) months;

(d) incongruity between holding any of the offices and the requirements under para 4;

2. (new, SG No. 42/2009) entry into force of an act which ascertains conflict of interest under the Conflict of Interest Prevention and Disclosure Act;

3. (renumbered from Item 2, SG No. 42/2009) death of the person.

(6) The decision to discharge the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson or a member of the Accreditation Board under para 5, Items

1 (b) and (c) shall be taken by a majority of all Accreditation Board members and submitted to the Prime Minister.

(7) Vacancies in the Accreditation Board shall be filled up pursuant to Article 86 until the end of the term of office within a month of the discharge of the person in the case of early termination of the term of office of the persons under para 5 or as from the date of the death.

Article 88

(1) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004, previous Article 88, SG No. 61/2011) The Accreditation Board shall:

1. develop criteria of assessment and accreditation;

2. develop the specific procedures of assessment and accreditation and all the relevant documentation;

3. make decisions to open procedures under Article 81, para 1, Items 1, 2 (a) and (c), 3, 4, 5, and 6 (a);

4. set up standing committees on spheres of higher education and groups of experts to work under them and, at the proposal of the standing committees, approve the tasks and the composition of such groups of experts in accordance with the established procedures;

5. make decisions on the procedures under Article 81, para 1, Items 1, 2 (a) and (c), 3, 4, 5, and 6 (a) on the basis of the reports submitted by the standing committees;

6. (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) advise the Minister of Education and Science, as well as the higher schools of the assessments and accreditations made;

7. (amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) draft the Rules of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation and submit them to the Council of Ministers for approval through the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) (New, SG No. 61/2011) A group of experts referred to in Paragraph 1, Item 4 may be comprised of Bulgarian and/or overseas experts appointed by the Accreditation Board of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation, including representatives of professional and industrial organisations and employers' confederations.

Article 88a

(New, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) The standing committees by spheres of higher education and the Standing Committee for Post-accreditation Monitoring shall consist of three to seven members, appointed by the Chairperson of the Accreditation Board for a three-year term of office.

(2) The status of a Chairperson and a member of a standing committee shall be incongruous with occupying the offices of a Rector, a Vice Rector and a Dean and/or a Director of an affiliate at a higher school, and that of a President, Vice President and Institute Director at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy respectively.

(3) (New, SG No. 61/2011) Upon request from the relevant higher school, the assessment referred to in Article 81, Paragraph 1, Item 1, Item 2, letters (a) and (c), Items 3, 4, 5 and Item 6, letter (a), may also be carried out by overseas agencies which are members of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and/or are listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 61/2011) Standing committees shall supervise the activities of the groups of experts and adopt their reports.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 61/2011) Standing committees

by spheres of higher education shall:

1. adopt decisions on programme accreditation in the cases under Article 81, para 1, Items 2 (b) and (d), and 6 (b);

2. draft and submit to the Accreditation Board a report on the results of the assessment in the procedures under Article 81, para 1, Items 1, 2 (a) and (c), 3, 4, 5, and 6 (a).

(6) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 61/2011) Depending on the type of procedure requested, the report under para 4, Item 2 shall include an assessment with reasons on the correspondence of the evidence produced by the higher school with the criteria for programme or institutional accreditation within the meaning of Article 77, para 2 or Article 78, para 3.

Article 88b

(New, SG No. 48/2004)

The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall publish a bulletin, featuring:

1. the general criteria for admission and opening of assessment and accreditation procedures;

2. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) the criteria for the assessment and accreditation of higher schools, their primary units, affiliates, professional areas, specialties related to regulated professions, or academic specialties, as well as the accredited doctoral programmes at higher schools and organisations under Article 47, para 1;

3. the annual report of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation on the results of its activities;

4. materials to give publicity to the best achievements of higher schools, as well as materials of methodological nature.

Article 88c

(New, SG No. 48/2004)

(1) In the performance of its functions under Article 11, para 1, the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall be assisted by the Standing Committee for Post-accreditation Monitoring and Supervision.

(2) The Standing Committee shall draw up statements of findings for its audits.

(3) In the event of non-performance of the recommendations in due course or material breach of the law, the Standing Committee shall make a decision, proposing to the Accreditation Board to withdraw the respective institutional or programme accreditation.

(4) The Accreditation Board shall rule on the proposal under para 3 within three months of its receipt with a decision confirming or withdrawing the accreditation.

(5) The decision to withdraw the accreditation shall specify:

1. reasons for the withdrawal of the accreditation and recommendations whose implementation on the part of the higher school shall be a prerequisite for the opening of a new procedure;

2. the time limit for undertaking measures to remove weaknesses and upgrade the quality, after the expiration of which the applicant shall be entitled to request initiation of new proceedings; such term shall not exceed eighteen (18) months.

(6) Any decision under para 1 may be appealed under the Administrative Procedure Code.

Chapter Eleven

PROPERTY AND FINANCES OF HIGHER SCHOOLS

Article 89

(1) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, previous Article 89, SG No. 54/2000) A higher school's property shall involve title and other interest, estate and property rights.

(2) (New, SG No. 54/2000) The real properties granted to the higher schools by the State shall be state-owned public property.

(3) (New, SG No. 54/2000, amended, SG No. 36/2006) Differentiated parts of the real properties under paragraph (2) may be granted on lease terms under the terms and procedure of the State Property Act.

Article 90

(1) (Amended, SG No. 15/2013, effective 1.01.2014) A public higher school shall draw up, implement, finalise and report its budget.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, supplemented, SG No. 48/2004) Within the consolidated budget the Academic Board approves annually the budgets of the higher school's primary units and affiliates. The rules of drawing up the budgets of the primary units and affiliates shall be laid down in the higher school's Rules of Operations.

(3) The budget revenues of higher schools shall consist of:

1. (amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) state budget transfers;

2. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) financial assistance from municipalities;

3. donations, bequests, inheritance, sponsorship;
4. own revenues from:
 - (a) research, consultancy, creative, therapeutic and sports activities as well as industrial property rights, copyright and other related rights;
 - (b) (amended, SG No. 60/1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010) proceeds from application and tuition fees, as well as proceedings from tuition under Article 21, paras 2, 3, 5 and 7;
 - (c) postgraduate degree;
 - (d) (new, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 60/2012, effective 7.08.2012) administrative services to non-students, the amounts of which may not exceed the necessary material, technical and administrative costs for providing the service;
 - (e) (supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Letter (d), SG No. 53/2002) other activities related to the process of learning;
5. (new, SG No. 48/2004) revenues under Article 13, para 2 and Article 89, para 3.
 - (4) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999) The income and expense sides of the budget shall be drawn up in congruity with the income and expense items on the state budget.
 - (5) (New, SG No. 48/2004) Within the time limits for the submission of the annual financial statement, the higher school shall publish the report on the execution of budget revenues and expenditures in accordance with the classification of central government budget revenues and expenditures.
 - (6) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 48/2004) Any excess of profit over expenditures as at the end of the year shall be transferred as a reserve in the higher school's budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

Article 91

- (1) (Amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) The state budget transfers shall provide funds for:
 1. maintenance cost of tuition;
 2. (amended, SG No. 60/1999) the scientific or artistic and creative activities characteristic of the higher school;
 3. (new, SG No. 60/1999) publication of textbooks and scientific works;
 4. (renumbered from Item 3, amended, SG No. 60/1999) welfare costs of students;
 5. (renumbered from Item 4, SG No. 60/1999) capital investment.
- (2) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, SG No. 41/2007, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) The resources for the maintenance of tuition shall be determined on the basis of:

1. the differentiated rates per student by professional fields as approved by the Council of Ministers;

2. (amended, SG No. 41/2007) the number of students and doctoral candidates admitted under Article 9, Para 3, Item 6, letter (a);

3. (amended, SG No. 99/2011, effective 1.01.2012) complex assessment of the quality of education and its correspondence with the labour market needs, formed on the basis of criteria determined with an act of the Council of Ministers, also including the results of the assessment at the time of accreditation of the higher school and its specialties.

(3) (New, SG No. 41/2007, amended, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) The resources for the maintenance of the tuition of doctoral candidates in the organisations under Article 47, Para 1 shall be determined on the basis of:

1. (amended, SG No. 61/2011) differentiated rates per doctoral candidate in doctoral programmes as determined by the Council of Ministers;

2. the number of doctoral candidates admitted under Article 9, Para 3, Item 6, letter (c);

3. (amended, SG No. 99/2011, effective 1.01.2012) complex assessment of the quality of education and its correspondence with the labour market needs, formed on the basis of criteria determined with the act referred to in para 2, item 3 including the results of the assessment at the time of accreditation of the doctoral programmes.

(4) (New, SG No. 41/2007) The resources under Para 1, Item 1 shall be disbursed to public higher schools on the basis of the students and doctoral candidates admitted for tuition in accordance with the data provided by higher schools to the register under Article 10, Para 2, Item 3, letter (c).

(5) (New, SG No. 41/2007) The resources under Para 1, Item 1 shall not be disbursed for the maintenance of the tuition of:

1. (amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010) students and doctoral candidates admitted under Article 21, paras 2, 3, 5 and 7;

2. students and doctoral candidates trained for the acquisition of the same or lower educational and qualification degree;

3. students and doctoral candidates beyond the time limits of their tuition in accordance with the curriculum;

4. foreign students and doctoral candidates, except for students and doctoral candidates who are citizens of Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, students and doctoral candidates who are Bulgarian expatriates and students and doctoral candidates admitted under intergovernmental agreements providing for tuition maintenance costs at the expense of the Bulgarian State.

(6) (New, SG No. 41/2007) Where the capacity of the higher school, the capacity of the professional area or the specialty of regulated profession has been exceeded, the resources under Para 1, Item 1 shall be reduced for the following year by the amount for the maintenance of the tuition of the surplus students and doctoral candidates.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 41/2007) The funds allocated to higher schools as per Para 1, Item 2 shall be fixed in the amount of minimum ten percent (10%) compared to the overall maintenance cost of tuition.

(8) (Amended, SG No. 60/1999, renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 41/2007) Funds allocated to cover welfare costs shall be determined pursuant to the applicable statutory instruments.

Article 91a

(New, SG No. 102/2012, effective 1.01.2013, amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015)

(1) In the event of discrepancies between the estimated number of students and postgraduates, based on which the resources referred to in Article 91, paragraph 1 are planned in the State Budget Act for the corresponding year, and the data in the register under Article 10, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 3, letter "c" regarding the number of enrolled students and postgraduates, compensated changes shall be made between the budgets of the state higher education institutions and the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science while maintaining a uniform base standard for all state higher education institutions and all professional qualifications regarding the amount of funds required to eliminate such discrepancies.

(2) The resources referred in Article 91, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2 shall be provided depending on the results achieved. The resources from the executive budget on financing the research and art activities of higher educational institutions shall be planned, allocated and spent under terms and conditions and in accordance with a procedure stipulated in an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science.

(3) Depending on the assessment of the results from the research activities, compensated changes shall be made between the budgets of the state higher education institutions and the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science with regard to the resources referred to in Article 91, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2.

Article 92

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004)

The Council of Ministers shall adopt the rules for determining the remuneration of persons working at public higher schools.

Article 93

(Amended, SG No. 48/2004, repealed, SG No. 108/2006, new, SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010)

Higher Schools own revenues under Article 90, para 3, item 4, letter (b) shall be spent only for tuition maintenance costs of students and

doctoral candidates according to a procedure set out by the Academic Board

Article 94

(1) Students and postgraduates shall be entitled to apply for scholarships from the state budget, scholarships established by the higher school or scholarships granted by individuals or legal entities.

(2) The amount, terms and procedures of granting scholarships to students and doctoral candidates under para 1 shall be determined by the Council of Ministers, the higher schools' Rules of Operation (Rulebooks), or the will of the donor, respectively.

Article 95

(Amended, SG No. 60/1999)

(1) (Effective academic year 1999/2000) Students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies shall be required to pay tuition.

(2) (Effective academic year 1999/2000, supplemented, SG No.

99/2011, effective 1.01.2012) The Council of Ministers shall set the yearly tuition payable for instruction at public higher schools. For certain categories of students and doctoral candidates the Academic Board can set tuition fees in a reduced amount compared to the fees approved by the Council of Ministers. Students shall pay such tuition in equal instalments at the beginning of each semester.

(3) (Effective academic year 1999/2000, amended, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010, SG No. 56/2010, SG No. 99/2011, effective

1.01.2012) Fee amounts as per para 2 shall not exceed two thirds of the norms set pursuant to Art. 91, para 2, Item 1.

(4) (New, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective academic year 2011/2012, regarding the tuition fees under Article 21,

para 3, SG No. 61/2011) The tuition fees under Article 21, para 2 shall be established as follows: to the rate, specified under the procedure of Article 91, para 2, item 1 shall be added the fee under para 2 for the respective professional area or specialty related to regulated professions, and the tuition fees under Article 21, para 5 may not be lower than 70 percent of the rates established pursuant to Article 91, para 3, Item 1.

(5) (New, SG No. 99/2009, amended, SG No. 63/2010, effective

13.08.2010) The tuition fees under Article 21, paragraph 7 shall be in the amount paid by the students, doctoral candidates and post-graduate students before they were directed to the state higher school.

(6) (Effective academic year 1999/2000, renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) The following categories shall be exempted from paying any fees for studying at public higher schools:

1. orphans;

2. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) disabled persons with long-term disabilities and reduction of the ability to work by 70 percent or more; orphans;

3. (supplemented, SG No. 54/2014, effective 1.07.2014) disabled war veterans and victims;

4. (amended, SG No. 48/2004) persons raised at orphanages until they become of age;

5. (amended, SG No. 40/2002) cadets in military higher schools;

6. doctoral candidates in the final two years of their doctorate;

7. (new, SG No. 41/2007) students and doctoral candidates admitted under terms and conditions set out in an act of the Council of Ministers, where the act provides for such exemption,

(7) (Effective academic year 1999/2000, renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 6, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) Foreign students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies shall be required to pay fees that in public higher schools shall not be any less than the differentiated norms of tuition maintenance costs.

(8) (New, SG No. 83/2005, effective 1.01.2007, renumbered from Paragraph 7, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) Students, doctoral candidates and trainees engaged in specialised studies - citizens of Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, shall pay tuition fees under the terms and procedure, prescribed for Bulgarian citizens.

(9) (New, SG No. 54/2000, renumbered from Paragraph 6, amended, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 7, SG No. 83/2005, effective 1.01.2007, renumbered from Paragraph 8, amended,

SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) Persons with dual citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, who have applied and have been admitted under terms and procedure specified by the Council of Ministers, shall pay 50% of the amount of the fee referred to in paragraph 7.

(10) (Renumbered from Paragraph 6, amended, SG No. 54/2000, renumbered from Paragraph 7, amended, SG No. 48/2004, renumbered from Paragraph 8, No. 83/2005, effective 1.01.2007, renumbered from

Paragraph 9, amended, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) Fees under para 7 shall not be payable by students, doctoral candidates and trainees admitted under inter-governmental agreements where this issue is settled on the reciprocal basis.

(11) (New, SG No. 41/2007, renumbered from Paragraph 10, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) Bulgarian expatriates shall pay tuition fees under the terms and conditions applicable to Bulgarian citizens, unless an international agreement provides otherwise.

Article 96

Students and doctoral candidates shall be entitled to receive loans to pay tuition fees and support themselves under statutorily prescribed terms and procedures.

Article 96a

(New, SG No. 41/2007, effective as of the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Act)

(1) Higher schools shall not be subject to corporate taxation under Part Two and revenue taxation under Part Five of the Corporate Income Tax Act for their main activities under Article 6, Paragraph 1.

(2) The organisations under Article 47, Para 1 shall not be subject to corporate taxation under Part Two and revenue taxation under Part Five of the Corporate Income Tax Act for the training of doctoral candidates.

Chapter Twelve

(New, SG No. 77/2005, effective the date of entry of the Agreement on Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union, repealed, No. 13/2008)

RECOGNITION OF THE LEGAL CAPACITY TO PURSUE A REGULATED PROFESSION BASED ON PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ACQUIRED IN A FOREIGN STATE

(Title amended, SG No. 62/2006)

Section I

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008)
Recognition of right to practice a regulated profession based on professional qualifications acquired in a EU Member State

Article 97

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 98

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 99

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 100

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 101

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Section II
(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008)
The recognizing authorities may not simultaneously apply provisions contained in Articles 99 and 100

Article 102

(Amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 103

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Section III
(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008)
Other Provisions

Article 104

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 105

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 106

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

Article 107

(New, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. The academies and higher schools under the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Territorial Development and Public Works shall apply this Act in accordance with the statutory instrument as to their establishment and the provisions of the special laws regulating their organisation and activities.

§ 2. (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013, SG No. 107/2014, effective 1.01.2015) The draft transfers from the executive budget for the higher schools under the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Territorial Development and Construction shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers by the respective Minister in consultation with the Minister of Education and Science.

§ 3. (1) (Previous Paragraph 3, SG No. 60/1999) Theological higher schools and faculties shall apply this Act in accordance with the official government document allowing their establishment (charter) and

the statutory instruments regulating the relationship between the state and the religions.

(2) (New, SG No. 60/1999) The provisions of Article 26, paras. 1 and 7 shall not apply to the faculties as per para. 1 above.

§ 4. (1) Foreign higher schools shall not be allowed to open their subsidiary units in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 48/2004) Bulgarian higher schools may open new units in their structure together with international higher schools pursuant to the provisions of this Act in accordance with:

1. international agreements;
2. agreements with foreign higher schools.

(3) (New, SG No. 61/2011) Bulgarian higher schools may open overseas units under the terms and conditions laid out herein, and in compliance with the legislation of the host country.

(4) (New, SG No. 61/2011) Bulgarian legislation shall apply in cases of agreements for joint teaching and research, as well as joint artistic, creative and innovative work and projects, including education franchise, except where the document certifying the teaching is issued only by the overseas higher school which is party to the agreement.

§ 4a. (New, SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 48/2004) The provisions of Article 68, para. 1 shall not apply to applicants for admission who are laureates of national and international Olympiads (contests), as well as to applicants for a self-training doctorate.

§ 4b. (New, SG No. 54/2000) The teachers under a full-time contract of employment at the respective university hospitals may also be considered in setting the number of the teachers who are under a full-time contract of employment at higher schools' units.

§ 4c. (New, SG No. 53/2002, amended, SG No. 77/2005, supplemented, SG No. 62/2006) Within the meaning of this Act, "regulated profession" is an activity or activities, appearing on the List of Regulated Professions in the Republic of Bulgaria, which is of importance to society and/or of significant importance to the life and health of the people, and the right to pursue which is stipulated by the provisions of the primary or secondary legislation on the holding of specific qualifications attested to by documents of education and legal capacity or on the membership of a professional organisation working for the maintenance of high level in the respective professional area specially recognised by the state.

§ 4d. (New, SG No. 53/2002) Contracts of employment with teachers at university hospitals shall be concluded and terminated by the Rector of the respective higher medical school in consultation with the Manager or Executive Director of the hospital.

§ 4e. (New, SG No. 48/2004) Within the meaning of this Act:

1. (Supplemented, SG No. 61/2011) "Full-time faculty" shall mean the faculty working on the basis of employment contracts concluded pursuant to Article 67, para 1, Item 1 of the Labour Code, or employment

contracts pursuant to Article 67, para 1, Item 2 of the Labour Code for the academic post of "assistant".

2. "Capacity of the higher school, professional area or specialty related to regulated professions" shall mean the maximum number of students and doctoral candidates that can be trained at the higher school, professional area or specialty related to regulated professions in the course of an academic year in accordance with the assured quality of education and the available faculty, documentation, facilities and space.

3. "Renaming" shall mean a change of the name of the higher school.

4. "Score from the diploma on a completed degree of higher education" shall mean the score calculated as the mean of the scored in the subjects included in the curriculum and the average score of the state examinations or the defence of the diploma thesis.

5. "Existing students and doctoral candidates" shall mean those directly participating in the studies and fulfilling the plan of studies for the respective academic year.

6. (New, SG No. 41/2007) "Bulgarian expatriates" shall mean the persons within the meaning of the Bulgarian Resident Outside the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

7. (New, SG No. 61/2011) "Education franchise" shall be taken to refer to a set of intellectual property rights over trademarks, company logos, specially devised models, designs, copyright, know-how, patents, or study programmes and curricula, which have been granted by one higher school (the franchisor) to another higher school (the franchisee) in return for a fee, so that the rights may be used for training highly qualified professionals at the post-secondary level who are able to apply and develop academic skills in various areas of human activity, with the aim of boosting the qualifications of professionals and promoting science, culture and innovation.

8. (New, SG No. 101/2013, effective 1.01.2014) "Halls of residence" are residential buildings designated for long term occupancy by students and faculty staff of higher schools which consist of autonomous rooms, studios or apartments for accommodation, laundry rooms, canteen, sports facilities, as well as other premises needed for performing the activities under Article 6(2) and (3).

§ 4f. (New, SG No. 48/2004, amended, SG No. 41/2007, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) Higher schools shall provide the requisite information under Article 10, Para 2, Item 3 on a semi-annual basis or at the request of the Minister of Education and Science.

§ 4g. (New, SG No. 77/2005, effective the date of entry into force of the Agreement on Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union, amended and supplemented, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

§ 4h. (New, SG No. 77/2005, effective the date of entry into force of the Agreement on Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union, amended, SG No. 62/2006, repealed, SG No. 13/2008).

§ 4i. (New, SG No. 83/2005, effective as of the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union, amended, SG No. 41/2007) After the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union as a full member, foreign higher schools, established lawfully in a Member State of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, may open units on the territory of the country pursuant to the terms and conditions for establishment of higher schools and as per the procedures for establishment of a main division of a higher school, laid down in this Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

§ 5. Diplomas for semi-higher (junior college) education issued by semi-higher institutes prior to this Act's entry into force shall confer on the graduates the rights of the degree "a specialist in ...".

§ 6. Higher education diplomas issued by higher schools prior to this Act's entry into force shall confer on the graduates the rights of a master's degree.

§ 7. Holders of the degree "candidate of sciences" shall be entitled to the rights of the holders of a doctoral degree.

§ 8. Graduates of higher schools who have not sat for the final state examinations prior to this Act's entry into force shall complete their studies in accordance with the law valid as of the date of their enrolment and shall have the rights of a master's degree.

§ 9. Students enrolled prior to this Act's entry into force shall continue their studies and receive a degree depending on the schedule of their studies and the curriculum.

§ 10. (1) (Repealed, SG No. 60/1999).

(2) Term tuition fees paid by students enrolled prior to the entry into force of this Act shall not be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of Article 90, para. 3, item 4, item (b).

§ 10a. (New, SG No. 99/2009, effective 1.01.2010) The semester fees paid by the students until 1 January 2010 shall not be recalculated in accordance with the procedure specified in Article 95, paragraph 3.

§ 11. (Amended, SG No. 28/1996, SG No. 58/1997, SG No. 54/2000, SG No. 48/2004, SG No. 83/2005) By proposal of the Chair Board and the Board of the primary unit and/or the affiliate, after a decision of the Academic Board, the employment contracts of the habilitated faculty members who occupy the position of "professors" may be extended for one more year but not more than three years, after reaching the age under Article 328, para 1, Item 10 of the Labour Code,

and for the habilitated faculty members who occupy the position of "associate professors" - for one more year but not more than two years.

§ 12. (Amended, SG No. 56/1997, SG No. 60/1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 53/2002) Higher schools shall introduce educational and qualification degrees subsequent to the validation of the state standard requirements for the specialties in the regulated professions or professional areas.

§ 13. (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Council of Ministers shall issue a decree on the rules of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation and its staff at the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science within six months after the entry into force of this Act.

§ 14. (Amended, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) The Council of Ministers shall transform or close the existing semi-higher learning establishments on a motion of the Minister of Education and Science within one (1) year after this Act's entry into force pursuant to the provisions of Article 17 hereof.

§ 15. Higher schools and their primary units which have not participated or expressed their willingness to participate in an accreditation or assessment procedure for three years following this Act's entry into force shall not receive state subsidies or any other financing by the state.

§ 16. Higher schools may conduct studies in unaccredited specialties for up to three years after this Act's entry into force.

§ 17. Higher schools shall adopt their Rules of Operation (Rulebooks) within one year of this Act's entry into force.

§ 18. This Act's entry into force shall not terminate the term of office of any higher school's elected bodies.

§ 19. The following amendments shall be made to the Academic Degrees and Academic Ranks Act (promulgated, SG No. 36 of 1972; amended No. 43 of 1975, No. 12 of 1977, No. 61 of 1981, No. 94 of 1986, No. 10 of 1990 and No. 59 of 1992):

1. The words "candidate of sciences" shall be replaced by the word "doctor";

2. The words "a postgraduate studying for a candidate's degree" and "postgraduate instruction for a candidate's degree" shall be replaced by the words "doctor and doctoral candidate" (a candidate for a doctorate) and "postgraduate instruction for a doctoral degree";

3. The words "establishments of higher learning" shall be replaced by the words "higher schools".

§ 20. This Act shall repeal:

1. The Higher Education Act (promulgated, Izvestiya, No. 12/1958, amended, SG Nos. 99/1963, 36 65/1972; amended, No. 81/1972; amended, Nos. 58/1978, 68/1988, 82/1989, 10/1990 and No. 100/1992);

2. The Academic Autonomy Act (promulgated, SG No. 10 of 1990; amended, No. 12 of 1990; amended, No. 90 of 1993);

3. The Decree on the Recognition of Higher Education Diplomas Issued by Foreign Establishments of Higher Learning (promulgated, SG No. 95/1949, amended, SG No. 68/1988).

§ 21. This Act's implementation is assigned to the Council of Ministers.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement to the Higher Education Act

(SG No. 60/1999, amended, SG No. 111/1999, SG No. 113/1999, SG No. 54/2000, SG No. 22/2001, SG No. 53/2002)

§ 56. (1) The provisions of Article 95, paras. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall take effect as of the beginning of academic year 1999/2000.

(2) All students and doctoranddoctoral candidates admitted prior to this Act's entry into force shall continue their studies under the terms applicable at the time of their admission for the period provided for completion of their programme of studies under the curriculum.

(3) The provisions of Article 68, para. 1 as to the admission of students and doctoranddoctoral candidates by way of entrance examination shall take effect as of the beginning of academic year 1999/2000.

§ 57. (1) The Accreditation Board shall be constituted in correspondence with the requirements of Article 84 within two (2) months of this Act's entry into force. The powers of the hitherto Accreditation Board shall be terminated with the approval of the new Accreditation Board's composition.

(2) Any hitherto instituted evaluation and accreditation proceedings shall be suspended with this Act's entry into force and no new proceedings shall be instituted.

(3) The new Accreditation Board shall continue the hitherto instituted proceedings in correspondence with the requirements hereof.

§ 58. Chosen by lots to be replaced during the first tenure of the Accreditation Board shall be half of the representatives from the quotas of the higher schools and of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy, as well as half of the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

§ 59. The Council of Ministers shall be required, within four (4) months of this Act's entry into force, to validate the Rules of Operations of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation as well as to determine its employed strength.

§ 60. (1) (Amended, SG No. 113/1999) All higher schools shall be required, within one (1) year of this Act's entry into force, to adjust their structure in correspondence with the requirements stipulated herein, as well as to submit its pattern to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 54/2000) Any hitherto existing private colleges comprised within the structure of public higher school must, within eighteen (18) months of this Act's entry into force, be transformed

into self- contained colleges as per Article 9, para. 2 and subsequent to project evaluation under Article 15 hereof. Colleges that have not been transformed within such time-limit shall be closed down.

§ 61. (1) (Amended, SG No. 54/2000) Unaccredited higher schools that have failed to request institutional accreditation within eighteen (18) months of this Act's entry into force shall receive no state subsidy and shall not be financed by the state in any way whatsoever.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 54/2000) Unaccredited private higher schools that have failed to request institutional accreditation within eighteen (18) months of this Act's entry into force shall not be allowed to admit any students for training.

§ 62. (1) (Amended, SG No. 22/2001, SG No. 53/2002) Public higher schools that have been granted institutional accreditation shall be allowed to conduct training in unaccredited specialties as well for a period of up to three (3) years of this Act's entry into force.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 53/2002) Private higher schools that have been granted institutional accreditation shall be allowed to conduct training in unaccredited specialties as well for a period of up to three (3) years of this Act's entry into force.

§ 63. (Repealed, SG No. 111/1999).

§ 64. Throughout the Higher Education Act the words "Ministry of Education, Science and Technologies" and "Minister of Education, Science and Technologies" shall be substituted for "Ministry of Education and Science" and "Minister of Education and Science", respectively.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement to the Higher Education Act

(Promulgated, SG No. 54/2000)

§ 7. The provision of § 4b of the Supplementary provisions shall also apply to the teachers under a full-time contract of employment at the hospitals and other diagnostic and medical establishments prior to their acquisition of the status of university hospital under the procedure of the Medical-Treatment Facilities Act, but not later than July 1, 2001.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement to the Higher Education Act

(Promulgated, SG No. 22/2001)

§ 2. The term as per Article 81, para. 1 shall be prolonged with six months for the institutional accreditation proceedings for which requests were received by December 31, 2000.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement to the Higher Education Act

(SG No. 53/2002, effective 28.05.2002)

§ 23. The Council of Ministers shall adopt the instruments as per Article 9, para. 3, items 4 and 5 within three months of the effective date of this Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement to the Higher Education Act

(SG No. 48/2004, effective 4.06.2004)

§ 73. (1) Within a month of the effective date of this Act, the Accreditation Board shall be established pursuant to Article 86. The term of office of the incumbent Accreditation Board and its Chairperson shall be terminated upon the appointment of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the members of the new Accreditation Board.

(2) The membership of the new Accreditation Board, except for the Chairperson, shall be renewed by casting lots in three years by three representatives from the quota of higher schools, a representative from the quota of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy and a representative from the quota of the Ministry of Education and Science.

§ 74. (1) The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall cease to collect requests for opening accreditation procedures, except for the accreditation requests under Article 81, para. 1, item 1 as from the effective date of this Act to 1 January 2005.

(2) The pending programme accreditation procedures under Article 81, para. 1, item 2, for which the higher schools have paid the required funds under Article 81, para. 9, shall be completed by the bodies under Art, 81, paras. 4 and 5 until 1 January 2005 in the sequence of their receipt. All other programme accreditation procedures shall be discontinued.

(3) The pending procedures under Article 81, para. 1, items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall continue in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

§ 75. Within three months of the effective date of this Act:

1. The Council of Ministers shall adopt rules on the state requirements for the organisation of the distance learning form at higher schools;

2. The Minister of Education and Science shall adopt the rules under Article 44a, para. 7

§ 76. Within six months of the effective date of this Act:

1. The Council of Ministers shall:

a) adopt the ordinance under Article 7, para. 1;

b) adjust the rules under Article 9, para. 3, item 12 to the requirements of this Act;

2. The National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall adjust the criteria, procedures and documentation under Article 85, para. 1, items 1, 2 and 4 to the requirements of this Act;

3. The Minister of Finance shall approve the new rates under Article 81, para 9 at the proposal of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation and in consultation with the Board of Rectors;

4. Higher schools shall introduce the system under Article 6, para. 4.

§ 77. (1) Elections for Student Councils shall be held within six months of the effective date of this Act.

(2) Students and doctoral candidates who have been members of Student Councils for four years or more may not seek re-election to the new Student Council.

§ 78. The founders of private higher schools shall adjust their incorporation acts and the rules of the higher schools to the requirements of this Act within three years of the effective date of this Act.

§ 79. Higher schools shall issue the European diploma annex under Article 7, para. 1 free of charge as from 1 July 2004 to holders of the educational and qualification degrees of "Bachelor" or "Master" acquired under the Higher Education Act.

§ 80. Persons holding the positions of "extraordinary professor" and "extraordinary associate professor" as of the effective date of this Act shall retain their employment rights but for not more than six months.

.....
§ 82. This Act shall take effect as of the day of its promulgation in the official State Gazette, except for § 33 (concerning Article 44a) which shall take effect as from the 2004/2005 academic year.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS
of the Act on Amending and Supplementing
the Vocational Education and Training Act
(SG No. 77/2005, effective 27.09.2005)

§ 16. By-laws providing for recognition of professional qualifications and/or the legal capacity to pursue a regulated profession acquired in a Member State of the European Union and the European Economic State shall be issued and supplemented within 6 months from the date of entry of this Act in force.

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS
to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement
to the Higher Education Act
(SG No. 83/2005, effective 18.10.2005)

§ 8. The open procedures for accreditation and evaluation of projects under Article 81, paragraph 1, item 1, 4 and 5, shall continue in compliance with the provisions of this Act.

§ 9. The Act shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the State Gazette, with the exception of § 4, 5 and 6 which shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
of the Administrative Procedure Code
(SG No. 30/2006, effective 12.07.2006)

.....
§ 30. Everywhere in the Higher Education Act (promulgated, State Gazette No. 112/1995, amended, SG No. 28/1996, SG No. 56/1997, corrected, SG No. 57/1997, amended, SG No. 58/1997, amended and supplemented, SG No. 60/1999, corrected, SG No. 66/1999, amended, SG No. 111/1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 113/1999, SG No. 54/2000, amended, SG No. 22/2001, SG No. 40/2002, amended and supplemented, SG No. 53/2002, SG No. 48/2004, supplemented, SG No.

70/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 77/2005, SG No. 83/2005, amended, SG No. 103/2005) the words "the Administrative Procedure Act" and "the Supreme Administrative Court Act" shall be replaced by "the Administrative Procedure Code".

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement
to the Higher Education Act
(SG No. 41/2007)

§ 31. (1) The available capacity of public higher schools, professional areas and specialites of regulated professions shall be absorbed on a stage-by-stage basis as follows:

1. in the 2007/2008 academic year - up to 25 per cent;
2. in the 2008/2009 academic year - up to 50 per cent;
3. in the 2009/2010 academic year - up to 75 per cent;
4. in the 2010/2011 academic year - up to 100 per cent.

(2) The available capacity under para 1 shall mean the difference between the capacity of the higher school and the capacity of the professional area and speciality of regulated professions as determined by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation and the respective number of students and doctoral candidates admitted for tuition in accordance with the data provided by the higher schools to the register under Article 10, para 2, item 3, letter (c).

(3) Accredited public and private higher schools which do not have the capacity of the higher school, the capacity of the professional area and the capacity of the speciality of regulated professions determined by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation as of 31 March of the respective year shall have the number of students and doctoral candidates admitted for tuition under Article 9, para 3, item 6, letters (a) and (b) equal to the number of students and doctoral candidates admitted in the previous academic year increased by 20 per cent.

(4) The provisions of paras 1 and 3 shall apply to the drafting of the proposals under Article 30, para 1, item 4 and to their approval under Art 9, para 3, item 6, letter (a).

(5) The provisions of para 3 shall apply to the drafting of the proposals of the private higher schools under Article 30, para 1, item 4 and their approval under Article 9, para 3, item 6, letter (b).

§ 32. (1) The persons who have started and have not completed their studies for the acquisition of the educational and qualification degree of "a specialist in." as of the date of entry into force of this Act shall continue their studies for the acquisition of the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under Article 42, para 1, item 1, letter (a) in accordance with this Act.

(2) The persons who have acquired the educational and qualification degree "a specialist in." prior to the entry into force of this Act shall enjoy the rights of the persons who have acquired the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under Article 42, para 1, item 1, letter (a).

(3) The persons under § 5 of the Transitional and Final Provisions shall enjoy the rights of the persons who have acquired the bachelor's educational and qualification degree under Article 42, para 1, item 1, letter (a).

(4) The pending procedures for programme accreditation under Article 81, para 1, item 2, letters (a) and (b) shall continue under the terms and conditions set out in this Act.

.....
§ 37. The Council of Ministers shall adjust the implementing secondary legislation within six months of the entry into force of this Act.

§ 38. The provisions of § 22 shall enter into force on 1 September 2008 and the provisions of § 29 shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement
to the National Centre for Agrarian Science Act
(SG No. 43/2008)

.....
§ 24. In the Higher Education Act (promulgated, SG No. 112/1995; amended, No. 28/1996, No. 56/1997; corrected, No. 57/1997; amended, No. 58/1997, No. 60 and 113/1999, No. 54/2000, No. 22/2001, No. 40 and 53/2002, No. 48 and 70/2004, No. 77, 83 and 103/2005, No. 30, 36, 62 and 108/2006, No. 41/2007 and No. 13/2008) everywhere the words "National Centre for Agrarian Science" shall be replaced with "Agricultural Academy".

.....
FINAL PROVISIONS
to Student and Doctoral-Candidate Loans Act
(SG No. 69/2008)

.....
§ 3. (1) Within two months of the effective date of this Act the Minister of Education and Science and the Minister of Finance shall endorse the pre-formulated standard-form contract under Article 7.

(2) Within two months following the endorsement of the pre-formulated standard-form contract the Minister of Education and Science shall promulgate in the State Gazette an invitation for conclusion of a pre-formulated standard-form contract with the banks wishing to extend loans to students and doctoral candidates under the terms established by this Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act amending and supplementing
the Vocational Education and Training Act
(SG No. 74/2009, effective 15.09.2009)

.....
§ 5. In the Higher Education Act (promulgated, SG No. 112/1995, amended, No. 28/1996, No. 56/1997, corrected, No. 57/1997, amended, No. 58/1997, No. 60/1999, corrected, No. 66/1999, amended, No. 111 and 113/1999, No. 54/2000, No. 22/2001, No. 40 and 53/2002, No. 48

and 70/2004, No. 77, 83 and 103/2005, No. 30, 36, 62 and 108/2006, No. 41/2007, No. 13, 43 and 69/2008, No. 42/2009) the words "the Minister of Education and Science", "Minister of Education and Science", and "Ministry of Education and Science", shall be replaced by "the Minister of Education, Youth and Science", "Minister of Education, Youth and Science", and "Ministry of Education, Youth and Science".

.....
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Development of Academic Staff
in the Republic of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 38/2010)
.....

§ 12. The Higher Education Act (promulgated SG No. 112/1995; amended, SG No. 28/1996, No. 56/1997; corrected, SG No. 57/1997; amended, SG No. 58/1997, Nos. 60, 66, 111 and 113/1999, No. 54/2000, No. 22/2001, Nos. 40 and 53/2002, Nos. 48 and 70/2004, Nos. 77, 83 and 103/2005, Nos. 30, 36, 62 and 108/2006, No. 41/2007, Nos. 13, 43 and 69/2008 and Nos. 42, 74 and 99/2009) shall be amended and supplemented as follows:

.....
6. Wherever they occur, the words "Academic Degrees and Academic Ranks Act" are hereby replaced with "Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act".
.....

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act amending and supplementing
the Physical Education and Sports Act
(SG No. 50/2010)
.....

§ 62. Paragraphs 20, 21, § 48, item 1, § 52, item 1 and 3 and § 56 shall become effective from academic year 2011/2012.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement
the 2010 State Budget of the Republic of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 56/2010)
.....

§ 20. Paragraph 8, Item 1, effective 1 August 2010, and § 19 effective academic year 2010/2011.
.....

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the Act on the Amendment and Supplement the Higher
Education Act
(SG No. 63/2010, effective 13.08.2010, amended, SG No. 61/2011,
amended and supplemented, SG No. 60/2012, effective 7.08.2012,
amended, SG No. 63/2013, effective 16.07.2013, SG No. 66/2014,

effective 8.08.2014, SG No. 56/2015, effective 24.07.2015)

§ 7. (*) (1) (Amended, SG No. 60/2012, effective 7.08.2012, SG No. 63/2013, effective 16.07.2013, SG No. 66/2014, effective 8.08.2014,

SG No. 56/2015, effective 24.07.2015) The provisions under § 2, item 1 (concerning Art. 21, paragraph 1) shall apply to the 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 academic years.

(2) For 2010/2011 academic year the training under the terms and procedures laid down in Article 21, para 2 shall be performed pursuant to a resolution of the Academic Board of the respective higher school within the respective available capacity under § 31, paragraph 1, item 4 of the Transitional and Final Provisions to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Higher Education Act (SG No. 41/2007), for persons who have applied at the Higher School pursuant to the procedure defined by Article 68, have participated in the ranking, but have not been admitted within the admission number defined under Article 9, paragraph 3, item 6, letter "a".

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 60/2012, effective 7.08.2012, amended, SG No. 63/2013, effective 16.07.2013, SG No. 66/2014,

effective 8.08.2014, SG No. 56/2015, effective 24.07.2015) For the 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 academic years the admission process shall be carried out under the procedure laid down in para 2 and the number of the students under Article 21, paragraph 2 shall not exceed 5 per cent of the capacity defined under Article 83, paragraph 3, item 1 of the respective professional area or the capacity of the respective specialty related to regulated professions, which also includes the capacity that has not been absorbed within the term under § 31, paragraph 1, item 4 of the Transitional and Final Provisions to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Higher Education Act (SG No. 41/2007), as well as the capacity in the cases, where it has been increased under the procedure laid down in Article 83, paragraph 6.

(4) (Repealed, SG No. 61/2011).

.....
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Higher Education Act
(SG No. 61/2011)

§ 23. Procedures for institutional and programme accreditation which have been opened before this Act has become effective shall be finalised under the terms and conditions laid out herein.

§ 24. (1) The institutional and programme accreditation granted to higher schools before this Act has become effective shall remain valid for the time period specified in Article 83, Paragraph 3, Item 1.

(2) The four grades of "very good", "good", "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory", applicable before this Act has become effective, shall be converted to the ten-grade scale referred to in Article 79, Paragraph 1,

following guidelines drawn up by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation.

§ 25. If a procedure related to recognising degrees which have been conferred by overseas higher schools has been opened before this Act has become effective, it shall be considered and finalised according to the terms and conditions prevailing hitherto.

.....
§ 27. No later than 4 months after this Act has become effective, the Council of Ministers shall render compliant with it the Rules of Operations of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation and the ordinance relating to the national requirements referred to in Article 9, Paragraph 3, Item 9.

§ 28. The Accreditation Board of the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation shall draw up the guidelines referred to in Article 24, Paragraph 2, no later than two months after this Act has become effective.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS
to the 2013 State Budget of the Republic of Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 102/2012, effective 1.01.2013)

.....
§ 77. The implementation of the present Act is assigned to the Council of Ministers.

§ 78. This Act becomes effective from the 1st of January 2013 with the exception of § 61, 68 and 73, which become effective from the date of the promulgation of the Act in the State Gazette.

FINAL PROVISIONS to the Act to Amend the Youth Act
(SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013)

.....
§ 6. In the Higher Education Act (promulgated, SG No. 112/1995, amended No. 28/1996, No. 56/1997, corrected No. 57/1997, amended No. 58/1997, No. 60/1999, corrected No. 66/1999, amended Nos. 111 and 113/1999, No. 54/2000, No. 22/2001, Nos. 40 and 53/2002, Nos. 48 and 70/2004, Nos. 77, 83 and 103/2005, Nos. 30, 36, 62 and 108/2006, No. 41/2007, Nos. 13, 43 and 69/2008, Nos. 42, 74 and 99/2009, Nos. 38/50, 56, 63 and 101/2010, Nos. 61 and 99/2011, Nos. 60 and 102/2012 and Nos. 15 and 63/2013) everywhere in the text the words "the Minister of Education, Youth and Science" and "the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science" shall be replaced by "the Minister of Education and Science" and "the Ministry of Education and Science", respectively, and the words "the Minister of Physical Education and Sports" shall be replaced by "the Minister of Youth and Sports".

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