

FACTSHEET

Higher Education
Estonia

Recognition Policy of National Qualifications

The recognition of national qualifications is related to quality assurance, thus to the accreditation of study programmes or study programme groups.

Until 31.12.2008, accreditation was the responsibility of the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre (*Eesti Kõrghariduse Akrediteerimiskeskus*) and the Higher Education Quality Assessment Council (*Kõrghariduse Hindamise Nõukogu*). On 01.01.2009 the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (*Eesti Kõrg- ja Kutsehariduse Kvaliteediagentuur*) as a competent authority for quality assessment and accreditation was established.

A full accreditation decision made in the system in force until 2010 is valid for seven years. Conditional accreditation which is also a positive decision is valid for three years.

Beginning with the year 2009, study programme groups are assessed for quality (accredited). An accreditation decision can remain valid for an unspecified term or for a specified term of one to three years. An assessment decision about the accreditation of a study programme group gives the higher education institution the right to conduct studies according to the respective programmes and issue officially recognised diplomas. In addition to the assessment of study programme groups, institutional accreditation takes place.

Officially recognised higher education qualifications are issued to students who have completed the requirements of an accredited study programme. In addition to diplomas issued after accreditation was granted, diplomas issued up to two years before the accreditation decision was adopted, are also recognised. Besides, diplomas issued by public universities, certifying the completion of a programme entered into the Estonian Education Information System (database) before 01.06.2002, and diplomas issued by state professional higher education institutions, certifying the completion of study programmes entered into the database before 30.06.2003, are officially recognised without accreditation.

Information on the accreditation decisions is available at <http://archimedes.ee/enic/en/haridussustem/korgkoolid/erakorgkoolide-akrediteeritud-oppekavad-kuni-2010/> (Higher education institutions → Accredited study programmes of private HEI (until 2010) and from 2011 onwards on the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education web page at <http://ekka.archimedes.ee/en/korgkoolide-oppekavad-eng/>).

Recognition of qualifications issued in the former education systems

Recognition of qualifications issued in the former education systems of Estonia are regulated by Estonian Government Decree No 120 (RT I, 32, 241) “Correspondence of qualifications issued in Republic of Estonia and qualifications issued in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics prior to 20 August 1991“