

## **8. INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM - 2010**

### **8.1. Access and admission to higher education**

- Access to first cycle (Bachelor degree) and short cycle programmes requires general education (12 years) diploma. Admission to bachelor programmes requires passing the unified national exams. Access to Diploma specialist programmes requires only general ability test.
- Access to second cycle (master) programme formally requires bachelor degree. Admission to master programme requires passing unified masters exam. Additional admission requirements can be defined by Higher education institutions.
- Access to third cycle (doctorate) programme formally requires master or equivalent degree. Admission requirements are defined by Universities

### **8.2. Types of Higher Education Institutions**

From 2009 in Georgia there are the following Higher Education institutions: college, teaching university and university.

*College* – Higher Education institution that provides short cycle (diploma specialist) programmes within first cycle and/or first cycle degree programmes

*Teaching University*- Higher Education institution that can offer first and second cycle programmes. It is obliged to provide second cycle – Master's programme.

*University* - Higher Education institution that provides all three cycle programmes and carries out research.

**Higher Education Institution can be either public or private legal entity**

### **8.3. Qualifications**

Three cycle higher education system was introduced in 2005. Since 2009-2010 academic year all HE institutions provide only three cycle system programmes (except medicine, dentistry and veterinary). There are following cycles: bachelor, master and doctorate. All cycles are linked to European credit transfer system (ECTS).

**First cycle Degree:** Bachelor (BA, BSc, BBA; BEng; BFA; B.Mus etc. ) – 240 ECTS

In 2007 short cycle (diploma specialist) within first cycle was introduced. Short cycle (Diploma specialist) programmes consist of 120-180 ECTS credits and are designed to prepare students for labour market entry. In order to continue and complete first cycle programme diploma specialist should pass unified national exams. ECTS credits earned for short cycle may be recognized by HE institution for bachelor programme.

**Second cycle degree:** Master (MA; MSc; MBA; MEng; MFA; M.Mus etc) – 120 ECTS

**Third cycle degree: Doctorate (PhD) - 180 ECTS**

Degrees in medicine (MD – 360 ECTS), dentistry (DMD- 300 ECTS) and veterinary (DVM-300 ECTS) comprise an integrated programme of study and final outcomes of the qualifications meet the requirements of the second cycle learning outcomes

### **8.4. Quality assurance**

Quality of education is assured by internal and external quality assurance mechanisms. External quality assurance is implemented by national education accreditation center ([www.nea.ge](http://www.nea.ge))

### **8.5. Grading**

The grading system used in all higher education institutions as from 2007 is the 100-point grading scale

### 8.6. National Sources of Information

Ministry of Education and Science

Address: #52 Uznadze Str. Tbilisi, 0102. Georgia

www.mes.gov.ge

E-mail: pr@mes.gov.ge

National education accreditation center

Address: #68, Uznadze Str. Tbilisi, 0102. Georgia

www.nea.ge

E-mail: [info@nea.ge](mailto:info@nea.ge)

### The Structure of the Georgian Higher Education System

