

INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

8.1. Access and admission to a higher education institution:

Georgia has the three-cycle higher education system.

- The right to be admitted to the first cycle of higher education (Bachelor's degree programmes) at a higher education institution can be enjoyed only by a holder of general education state certificate (starting from 2008-2009 academic year the study period is 12 years) or a person equalised thereto. The precondition for the admission to a Bachelor programme is successful taking of the unified national examinations (starting from 2005).
- The right to be admitted to the second cycle of higher education (Master's degree programme) at a higher education institution can be enjoyed by a person having, at least, Bachelor's or equalised thereto academic degree. The admission precondition is successful taking of Master's examination.
- The right to be admitted to the third cycle of higher education (Doctorate) at a higher education institution can be enjoyed by a person having, at least, Master's or equalised thereto the academic degree. The admission preconditions are generally set by the higher institution.

8.2. Higher Education institutions

Since 2009 there are the following types of higher education institutions in Georgia:

College – Higher education institution that offers only the first cycle – Bachelor's degree programmes.

Teaching University – Higher Education institution that offers higher education programme/programmes (except for doctorate). A teaching university is obliged to provide the second cycle – Master's degree programme/programmes.

University – Higher Education institution that offers the higher education programmes of all three cycles and carries out research activities.

A higher education can be a legal entity of both public and private law.

8.3. Qualifications

In 2005 the three-cycle academic higher education system was introduced in Georgia. Since 2007-2008 academic year all the higher education institutions of Georgia are committed to this system. It is necessary to accumulate the respective amount of credits for the accomplishment of each cycle of higher education.

The first cycle – Bachelor's degree programme – at least 240 ECTS credits

From 2007 until 2010 there was a certified specialist's educational programme (vocational higher education) within the framework of higher education, which covered 120-180 ECTS credits. The students were admitted to these programmes commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Georgian law, against a general education certificate. In the case of enrolment of a certified specialist for a Bachelor, Medical Doctor's/ Doctor in Dentistry educational programmes the higher education institution is entitled to recognise the ECTS credits, accumulated by the certified specialist concerned, for the purposes of acquisition of the Bachelor's, Medical Doctor's/ Doctor in Dentistry Degrees.

A higher education institution is entitled to award an interim qualification to a student in the case of taking only a part of the educational programme (in the case of accumulation of ECTS credits envisaged for the short cycle within the first cycle educational programme). An interim qualification can be awarded after the attainment of the learning outcomes envisaged for a part of the respective educational programme, which cannot be less than the half of the net amount of ECTS credits envisaged for the educational programme concerned (from 1 September 2010).

The second cycle: Master's degree Programme – at least, 120 ECTS credits

The third cycle: Doctorate – at least, 180 ECTS credits

Medical/Dental education programme is a one-cycle higher education programme. A successful graduate of the programme is awarded the Medical Doctor's/ Doctor in Dentistry academic degree. The academic degree awarded after the accomplishment of 360-credit Medical Doctor's or 300-credit Doctor in Dentistry educational programme is equalised to Master's degree.

The higher education institutions admitted students to Veterinary Education Programme inclusive 2011-2012 academic year. This is a one-cycle educational programme covering 300 ECTS credits and leading to awarding the Doctor in Veterinary academic degree. The Doctor in Veterinary academic degree is equalised to Master's degree.

8.4 Grading System

Starting from 2007 all the higher education institutions of Georgia use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The attainment of the learning outcomes by a student, envisaged by the educational programme is evaluated according to 100-point grading scale.

8.5 Quality Assurance System

Educational quality is enhanced through internal and external mechanisms. The internal mechanisms of educational quality enhancement are implemented by an educational institution in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by law. The external mechanisms of educational quality enhancement are the authorisation and accreditation – the procedures, implemented by the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement.

Authorisation is the procedure of acquisition of the status of an educational institution, which aims at ensuring the meeting of standards, necessary for an educational institution to carry out educational activities for the issuance of the state-recognised educational document.

Accreditation is the procedure of establishment of the compatibility of an educational programme with accreditation standards, which procedure aims at the introduction of regular self-evaluation for the improvement of educational quality and promotion of the enhancement of quality assurance mechanisms. Allocation of state funding and the implementation of regulated (law, medical, pedagogical) programmes is also related to this process.

The authorisation and authorisation is granted for a period of 5 years. After the expiry or withdrawal of authorisation the accreditation is also withdrawn.

8.6 The national source of information:

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Address: 52 Uznadze street, Tbilisi, 0102

www.mes.gov.ge

E-mail: pr@mes.gov.ge

LEPL National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement

Address: 1 Aleksidze street, Tbilisi 0193

www.eqe.ge

E-mail: info@eqe.ge

Higher Education System of Georgia

