

Basic information	
Number	HO-285-N
Type	Law
Mode of act	Main act (20 October 2025-to date)
Status	In force
Source	Single website 29 September 2025-12 October 2025 Date of official promulgation 10 October 2025
Adopting body	National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia
Date of adoption	11 September 2025
Signing body	President of the Republic of Armenia
Date of signing	9 October 2025
Date of entry into force	20 October 2025

LAW

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Adopted on 11 September 2025

ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Subject matter of the Law

1. This Law shall regulate the relations pertaining to legal, organisational and financial issues within systems of higher education and science of the Republic of Armenia, and shall lay down the principles of formation and implementation of state policy in the fields of higher education and science.
2. This Law shall extend to all higher education institutions and scientific organisations operating in the Republic of Armenia, irrespective of their legal and organisational form.

Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Armenia on higher education and science

1. The relations in the fields of higher education and science shall be regulated by the Constitution, the international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia, the Law “On education”, this Law, other laws and legal acts.

Article 3. Main concepts used in the Law

1. The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:
 - (1) higher education — an educational process which is carried out through higher education programmes at higher education institutions, where upon completion thereof, in a prescribed manner, the student obtains a qualification complying with the particular degree (Bachelor’s Degree, Master’s Degree or PhD);
 - (2) **higher education institution** (hereinafter also referred to as “**the higher education institution**”) — a non-commercial organisation, the key objectives whereof are the organisation and implementation of higher education programmes and scientific and technological activities, preparation and training of professional specialists, as well as fostering of the development of the fields of education, science, technology and culture, that of advancement of the society and the formation of innovative potential.

According to the founder, higher education institutions shall be:

- a. public (state) — state-founded higher education institution;
- b. interstate — higher education institution founded on the ground of an interstate treaty;

- c. private — higher education institution, the founder or one of the founders whereof is a non-state organisation or natural person, including branch of a higher education institution of a foreign State;
- (3) **research university**— a higher education institution implementing educational programmes at all levels of higher education and integrating at least one scientific organisation and other structural units, prescribed by the charter, operating within its composition;
- (4) **field of research and elaboration** — a field of intellectual creative, co-ordinated activities targeted at the creation and expansion of new knowledge or detection of new directions for the use of knowledge, which is classified into the following types:
 - a. **fundamental research** – theoretical or experimental activities aimed at broadening the general knowledge and gaining new knowledge on the laws of nature, human activities, the structure and the basic patterns of development of the society, without taking into consideration certain practical application;
 - b. **applied research** — theoretical or experimental activities that are mainly of practical significance and are aimed at settlement of certain known or defined issues;
 - c. **experimental development** — co-ordinated activities aimed at creating new products or processes or improving existing products or processes, based on knowledge gained through research or practical experiments;
- (5) **scientific and technological activities** — activities which are carried out in the field of research and development, within the meaning of this Law;
- (6) **innovative activities**— activities targeted at the development of significantly more improved or new product or service as compared to the

product or service found in economic circulation;

- (7) **scientific organisation**— an organisation holding the status of a legal person, or an organisation holding the status of an institution provided for by law, or a structural unit operating by the principle of autonomy in the composition of a research university carrying out scientific and technological activities. According to the founder, a scientific organisation shall be:
- a. public (state) — state-founded scientific organisation;
 - b. interstate — scientific organisation founded on the ground of an interstate treaty;
 - c. private (scientific (research)) — an organisation, the founder or one of the founders whereof is a non-state organisation or natural person, including a branch of the scientific organisation of a foreign State;
- (8) **academic unit** — an independent structural unit of a higher education institution, which carries out educational or scientific and technological activities as of certain professions or sector of professions;
- (9) **Academic City** — a modern environment created by the State for education, research, experimental development, innovation, as well as for cultural and intellectual leisure, which ensures simultaneous networked co-operation between educational institutions, scientific and industrial organisations and guarantees the international competitiveness and excellence of respective fields;
- (10) **student (cadet)** — a person learning through an educational programme at any level of higher education;
- (11) **supplementary postgraduate studies** — supplementary practical, and in some cases — also theoretical studies in the working environment,

undergone under supervision of a specialist, for the purpose of carrying out independent professional activities as of regulated professions established by the Government;

- (12) **qualification of higher education (hereinafter also referred to as “the qualification”)** — an educational or academic degree certifying the completion, in a prescribed manner, of studies under an educational programme at the particular level of higher education and is attested by relevant diploma:
- a. **Bachelor’s Degree qualification** — an educational degree certifying the completion of studies under an educational programme at the first level of higher education;
 - b. **Master’s Degree qualification** — an educational degree certifying the completion of studies under an educational programme at the second level of higher education;
 - c. **PhD qualification** — an academic degree certifying the completion of studies under an educational programme at the third level of higher education, including the defence of doctoral thesis;
- (13) **educational programme** — an integrity of instructional and research components proposed by a higher education institution and built in compliance with the established framework and criteria, which is targeted at the acquisition, by a student, of certain educational outcomes, *i.e.* knowledge, abilities and skills, and the recognition, *i.e.* verification of the fact of having reached these outcomes, as a result of which relevant qualification of higher education, or profession is granted, as well as a specialisation is granted, if envisaged, which are reflected in the diploma;
- (14) **regulated profession** — a profession putting forward requirements for supplementary postgraduate studies and requiring work experience as

prescribed by the legislation on and in line with the criteria for carrying out independent professional activities;

- (15) **distance learning** — organisational form of learning for individual academic modules of basic or supplementary educational programmes, which is implemented through synchronous and asynchronous methods and during which communication between the teacher and students is held through telecommunication technologies, as well as the learning and administration are implemented on a protected digital education platform;
- (16) **credit accumulation and transfer system (hereinafter referred to as “the CTS”)** — a system of calculating, accumulating and transferring academic credits, which is applied in the educational area of the Republic of Armenia and which ensures compatibility and transferability of academic credits with those of the organisations of both the Republic of Armenia and the European Higher Education Area, as well as facilitates the mobility of students and is targeted at the transparency of educational programmes and modules;
- (17) **CTS academic credit (hereinafter referred to as “the credit”)** — a conditional unit of measurement of the workload of a student undergoing studies and that of achievement of outcomes of education or research;
- (18) **academic module** — a complete, independent learning unit deemed as a component of educational programme, which pursues clearly defined learning outcomes, based on the assessment whereof a certain quantity of credits is granted to the student;
- (19) **learning outcome** — minimum set of knowledge, capabilities and skills expected upon completion of a course, academic module or educational programme;
- (20) **final proficiency evaluation** — process of verifying and assessing the

compliance of the knowledge, capabilities and skills of a graduate with the learning outcomes defined by the educational programme at the corresponding level of higher education, where relevant qualification is granted based on the positive results thereof;

- (21) **diploma** — official document certifying the fact of granting qualification through an educational programme of higher education (including through an educational programme for joint or dual qualification);
- (22) **joint diploma** — official document certifying the fact of relevant qualification being granted as a result of educational programme for joint or dual qualification, which is implemented by two or more higher education institutions;
- (23) **recognition of qualification** — the official recognition (certification) of the compatibility of qualification of a foreign country in order to authorise the shift of the person holding qualification to the next degree of higher education or to authorise employment activities;
- (24) **quality assurance** — ongoing process of monitoring, assessment and improvement of the higher education institution and its educational programmes, in line with the established criteria for internal (intra-university) and external (state) assessment of quality;
- (25) **institutional accreditation** — co-ordinated process of external assessment and certification of quality, which attests that the higher education institution, taken as a whole, complies in terms of its management, academic, research, administrative and resource-related systems with the criteria and conditions set for accreditation;
- (26) **programme accreditation** — co-ordinated process of external assessment and certification of quality, which attests that certain educational programme of a particular higher education institution complies, in terms of its educational goals and content, practising professional staff, student-

oriented methods and maintenance resources, with the criteria and conditions defined for accreditation, as well as the quality of the given educational programme and the recognised qualification of the graduates are attested at state and international levels;

- (27) **scholarship** — monetary assistance provided gratuitously by the State, higher education institution, private organisations, international institutions, local self-government bodies or individuals to learners in order to ensure the continuity of education or learning, which may be granted in case of a progress demonstrated upon entry examination results for the higher education institution or during studies, as well as other achievements, targeted learning or other cases driven by the status of the particular student;
- (28) **inclusiveness** — system of an educational environment, rules of conduct and processes for organising education, which ensures equal opportunity for students, the academic and scientific staffs, including those with disabilities, for making achievements and taking part in decision-making process by means of ensuring the necessary suitable conditions and reasonable accommodations, as well as a human-oriented environment wherein diversity is welcomed;
- (29) **accessible environment** — environment aimed at ensuring inclusiveness of education and employment, which includes the components of a physical environment (building conditions, vehicle adaptations, food outlets, restrooms, rest zones, other necessary adaptations), those of means of information (information resources, training programmes and materials, including methodical) and means of communication (adjusted tools for communication, including digital applications or other means);
- (30) **scientific (research) grant** — financial or other means granted,

gratuitously and irrevocably, by the Republic of Armenia, foreign States or international organisations, as well as by non-governmental organisations or legal and natural persons to the entities carrying out scientific and technological activities, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, for conducting research or development activities.

- (31) **academic activities** — educational and scientific and technological activities carried out in a higher education institution;
- (32) **academic ethics** — established rules for professional and work ethics and established rules of conduct, in observance and on the ground whereof scientific, educational or other work-related activities are carried out;
- (33) **academic honesty** — a set of rules constituting an integral part of academic ethics, which need to be observed during academic activities and include the creation of original work, accurate reference to original sources, avoidance from plagiarism, forgery, fraud and falsification of data and facts, as well as ensured transparency and reasonableness during preparation, assessment and scientific expert examination of work and tasks in the course of academic activities;
- (34) **academic freedom** — freedom of thought and speech of academic staff and scientific workers, their freedom to choose research and teaching methods, to carry out scientific and technological activities and to publish the results thereof, in the course of carrying out their professional activities;
- (35) **academic mobility** — organisation of individual stages of learning of students and research works, as well as implementation of professional development, research and teaching activities for academic and administrative staffs of a higher education institution or scientific organisation in another higher education institution or scientific

organisation, or holding of internships within the scope of an educational programme in international or private organisations;

- (36) **autonomy of a higher education institution** — competence of independently establishing functions for the management of academic, organisational, human and financial and economic resources of a higher education institution, those for taking and implementing decisions, which guarantees the activities of a higher education institution free from ideological, political and religious interference;
- (37) **scientific worker (researcher, engineer)** — a person carrying out scientific and technological activities within a scientific organisation, holding at least a Master's Degree or a qualification equivalent thereto and creating scientific result;
- (38) **engineering technician** — a person contributing to the implementation of scientific and technological activities and involved in the process of creating scientific outcomes within a scientific organisation;
- (39) **State Register of Qualifications** — a single digital repository for record-registering diplomas, their transcript of records granted to students, and the information related thereto, as well as that for record-registering the graduation documents granted as a result of supplementary postgraduate studies;
- (40) **information system for the management of higher education and science** — single electronic system for data collection, analysis and information dissemination, which includes the electronic register of licences and accreditations, information on the management of higher education institutions and scientific organisations, on economic, educational and scientific and technological activities thereof, as well as on students, clinical residency practitioners and workers (including scientific), where the

information entered in the system is used to ensure the organisation of the processes of licensing, accreditation and state funding, the submission and monitoring of reports and ensuring the transparency thereof;

- (41) **scientific expert examination** — co-ordinated activities carried out for study, analysis and assessment, on a scientific level, of the object of scientific and technological activities in various stages of creation and introduction, as well as for preparation of a reasoned professional opinion for taking a decision on the particular object;
- (42) **opinion on scientific expert examination (hereinafter referred to as “the opinion on expert examination”)** — a document reflecting the results of the study of the object of scientific expert examination and containing the answers to the questions posed for expert examination;
- (43) **micro-qualification** — record-registered document certifying, through assessment, certain professional knowledge and skills gained by the learner through an educational programme not granting qualification or those gained as a result of training by way of informal education, where this document may be recognised as a ground for ensuring employment in a direction requiring the particular professional knowledge and skills, and may be recognised as a component of an educational programme granting qualification, if the particular micro-qualification programme is accredited and CTS credits are granted as a result thereof and if such opportunity is envisaged through the particular educational programme;
- (44) **academic rank** — a status attesting certain level of educational and scientific and technological activities, which is established by relevant diploma and serves as a factor for contending for academic positions;
- (45) **professor** — a worker carrying out educational activities in a higher education institution, who teaches theoretical, practical and professional knowledge to students or learners, as well as contributes to the mastery

and testing of this knowledge. A professor may engage in scientific and technological activities;

(46) **academic staff** — group of professors, scientific workers and engineering technicians of a higher education institution or scientific organisation;

(47) **student experience** — a single result of interaction achieved by a student in the academic, social and personal domains at a higher education institution, which is acquired through educational programmes, academic staff, physical infrastructures, access to services and opportunities for individual development of a student, as well as through the internal regulations and programmes of the particular higher education institution, the social, cultural, athletic and leisure environments thereof.

Article 4. Principles and main directions of state policy in the fields of higher education and science

1. The principles of state policy in the fields of higher education and science shall be as follows:
 - (1) preparing competitive specialists on state and international levels;
 - (2) concentrating on the formation of a comprehensively developed individual armed with skills and capabilities suitable for the times;
 - (3) creative freedom and research freedom;
 - (4) academic ethics;
 - (5) academic mobility;
 - (6) academic freedom and autonomy;
 - (7) transparency and publicism of management;
 - (8) legal equality, tolerance and non-discrimination;

- (9) accessibility and inclusiveness of higher education;
 - (10) continuity of higher education;
 - (11) high standards and international competitiveness in the fields of higher education and science;
 - (12) interprofessional dialogue;
 - (13) formation of transferable knowledge and skills;
 - (14) guaranteeing comparable level of student experience;
 - (15) safety of activities and accessibility of infrastructures;
 - (16) ensuring humanitarian and democratic principles;
 - (17) shaping the awareness of the academic staff in respect of public responsibility;
 - (18) balanced implementation of freedoms and responsibilities;
 - (19) apolitical and secular fields of higher education and science.
2. The main directions of state policy in the fields of higher education and science shall be as follows:
- (1) promoting education and research that foster public and economic progress, technological development and ensured security of the State;
 - (2) developing Armenian Studies;
 - (3) establishing and enhancing an effective system of transfer of knowledge and technologies, including establishment of a system for assessment of technologies;
 - (4) digitalisation of services in the systems of higher education and science;
 - (5) fostering the sustainable development of a society through the formation of competitive and independent individuals;

- (6) developing the scientific potential and using it more effectively;
- (7) protecting intellectual property and obtaining social and economic result to a maximum extent;
- (8) promoting the partnership of organisations, operating in public and private sectors, with higher education institutions and scientific organisations;
- (9) integrating the systems of higher education and science of the Republic of Armenia into the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area by maintaining and enhancing the best traditions and achievements in education and science;
- (10) ensuring equal opportunities and access to receive higher education and to conduct research;
- (11) ensuring accessibility and inclusiveness of higher education, in accordance with the principles of universal design;
- (12) expanding the opportunities of receiving supplementary and continuous education in the higher education system;
- (13) guaranteeing the autonomy of higher education institutions and scientific organisations and the academic freedom of the participants of educational and research processes;
- (14) preparing specialists with higher education, by taking into account the demands a person, the needs of the State, the directions for global development and the requirements of labour market;
- (15) ensuring the development of scientific and innovative activities and fostering its integration with manufacturing, as well as encouraging the application of new scientific results and technologies in the economy and promoting the creation and progress of knowledge-intensive enterprises;
- (16) ensuring social guarantees and provision of scholarships for students of

higher education institutions;

- (17) fostering the expansion of international co-operation in the fields of higher education, as well as research and development;
- (18) increasing the international reputation and attractiveness of higher education and science of the Republic of Armenia;
- (19) promoting the academic mobility of students and academic staff;
- (20) creating favourable conditions for the promotion of employees of higher education institutions and scientific organisations;
- (21) supporting the foreign centres for Armenian Studies and co-operating effectively with higher education institutions and scientific organisations of the Republic of Armenia;
- (22) supporting the entrepreneurial activities of higher education institutions and scientific organisations and the implementation of measures for procuring funds, encouraging investments in the fields of higher education and science and ensuring a favourable investment climate;
- (23) providing, under individual decisions of the Government, state support to higher education institutions and scientific organisations for scientific and technological and innovative activities, as well as for promoting student initiatives, showing social assistance and ensuring the strategic development programmes of higher education institutions through grants, scholarships, credit granting, provision of logistics support and additional funding;
- (24) establishing a higher education system called for arming students with proper working and (or) entrepreneurial skills, as well as providing opportunities for the implementation of intellectual property;
- (25) exercising quality control over a higher education institution by introducing international standards of assessment and accreditation aimed at monitoring and assurance of the quality of educational services being

provided.

CHAPTER 2

SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Article 5. Systems of higher education and science of the Republic of Armenia

1. Systems of higher education and science of the Republic of Armenia shall include the following:
 - (1) the state administration bodies of the systems of higher education and science, as well as the organisations performing relevant functions prescribed by law in the systems of higher education and science;
 - (2) higher education institutions and scientific organisations;
 - (3) students involved in the systems of higher education and science, employees performing academic and administrative management functions, scientific workers and engineering technicians, and other participants;
 - (4) licensing procedures and criteria;
 - (5) institutional and programme-based accreditation processes and criteria;
 - (6) the state registry of licences and credentials;
 - (7) the National Qualifications Framework, sector-based qualifications frameworks, basic and supplementary educational programmes;
 - (8) criteria and processes related to the recognition and assessment of learning

- outcomes, and the award of qualifications and micro-qualifications;
- (9) the state registry of qualifications;
 - (10) the information system for the management of higher education and science.

Article 6. The main functions pursued by the activities of higher education institution

1. The main functions pursued by the activities of higher education institution shall be as follows:
 - (1) the organisation of academic process on different levels of higher education and the provision of high-quality, research-based education;
 - (2) the organisation of activities that are committed to and strictly aligned with the mission of the higher education institution;
 - (3) ensuring the learning outcomes complying, on each level, with the descriptions and other requirements defined by the National Qualifications Framework for educational programmes, and where applicable — by sector-based qualifications framework;
 - (4) ongoing improvement of the quality of higher education, the introduction of contemporary methods of teaching, learning, and assessment, as well as ensuring the diversity thereof;
 - (5) ensuring the continuity and transparency of the educational process;
 - (6) development of modern, competitive, and internationally compatible academic programmes of higher education, based on assessment of the needs of the State and the labour market, as well as with the involvement of students;
 - (7) enrooting civic consciousness, responsibility, national and universal values;

- (8) internationalisation of higher education;
 - (9) mobilization of public and private resources for higher education;
 - (10) engaging in entrepreneurial activities defined by the charter and disposing of the income received for the purposes established by the charter and the mission of the institution.
2. The research universities shall, in addition to the aforementioned, perform the following functions:
- (1) the generation, enhancement and dissemination of new knowledge;
 - (2) the internationalisation of scientific and technological activities;
 - (3) mobilisation of public and private resources for scientific and technological activities;
 - (4) carrying out research and experimental development to serve the needs of the economy of the Republic of Armenia and other state bodies or organisations;
 - (5) engaging in entrepreneurial activities defined by the charter, including the commercialisation of the knowledge created and the disposal of the income gained thereby, for the purposes established by the charter and the mission.
3. The higher education institution shall, in accordance with the powers defined by this Law and the charter thereof:
- (1) organise and conduct the admission process (including for foreign citizens) as of the levels of education and academic programmes of the university;
 - (2) ensure the accessibility of physical environment, information, and communication aimed at organising the education of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

- (3) develop and publish educational and methodological materials and literature;
- (4) organise the educational process by selecting the necessary teaching methods and technologies that support the achievement of all learning outcomes defined by the educational programme, as well as develop research and academic writing skills of students;
- (5) define the internal procedures of higher educational institution for the accumulation, transfer, and reciprocal recognition of credits by students, as well as the forms and frequency of assessment of learning outcomes and final proficiency evaluation;
- (6) implement the suspension studies of students (including removal, dismissal, or termination), their transfer, and the restoration of student rights;
- (7) develop and approve the procedures for the selection and appointment of employees engaged in educational, scientific, administrative, financial, and economic activities, as well as related activities;
- (8) organise training courses and the competence evaluation process aimed at the professional development of personnel performing academic, scientific, and managerial (administrative) functions;
- (9) provide, with the purpose of ensuring inclusiveness, support services which include methodical, psychological, additional educational programmes, as well as the development of individual learning plans, and which are provided both to students and academic personnel;
- (10) determine the directions for the use of financial resources, prepare and approve the annual budget, and make expenditures in compliance therewith;

- (11) engage in scientific and technological, and innovative activities, as well as in works aimed at commercialisation of the results obtained;
 - (12) provide paid educational and other research services, as well as engage in economic and entrepreneurial activities not prohibited by law and directly related to the activities thereof;
 - (13) establish the tuition fees as of the educational programmes;
 - (14) create companies, institutions, branches, and structural units, including those in foreign States, as well as units offering general and vocational educational programmes for the purpose of implementation and dissemination of the intellectual property thereof and those of its employees;
 - (15) dispose of the property allocated thereto and the income derived from the rental thereof, in accordance with the established procedure;
 - (16) dispose of and use, with respect to ongoing programmes, the financial resources allocated from the State Budget, though not used in the given year, unless otherwise provided for by law;
 - (17) encourage, in accordance with its charter and legislation, the sports activity of students and employees, by supporting the activities of student sports clubs;
 - (18) engage in other activities not prohibited by laws or its charter.
4. The higher education institution may, for the purpose of implementation of the outcomes of intellectual activity thereof and those of its employees, engage in entrepreneurial activities by establishing economic companies or taking part therein. The share of participation of higher education institution in the economic company shall be determined by the size of investments of the higher education institution at the time of its establishment. The minimum proportion of the share shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.

5. The research university shall, in addition to educational infrastructures, have at least one scientific organisation within its composition, and may include, in accordance with its charter, organisations implementing educational programmes of lower levels, prototyping workshops for experimental developments, university incubators, and other infrastructures.
6. The organisational structure of the higher education institution must contribute to the organisation of high-quality educational services and scientific and technological activities. The higher education institution shall organise its academic activities through academic units.
7. The following academic units may operate within a higher education institution:
 - (1) faculties and schools;
 - (2) chairs.
8. Research universities may include:
 - (1) PhD schools;
 - (2) scientific institutions or centres.
9. Faculties or schools shall be deemed as primary academic units responsible for the implementation of education and research activities in the academic sector, as well as for ensuring high-quality of education at all levels of higher education.
10. Chairs shall be responsible for the development and management of educational programmes within their professional community, as well as for the development and delivery of academic modules.
11. PhD schools shall be responsible for the centralised organisation of education at the third level of higher education, by ensuring the ties between professions and relevant sectors.

12. Scientific institutes or centres shall be responsible for the organisation and implementation of scientific and technological activities and shall participate in the organisation of the research component on higher education levels as prescribed by the charter and internal legal acts of the higher education institution.
13. A public scientific organisation operating within a public research university shall be considered as an academic unit of the university, where the specific features of its status and the scope of its autonomy are defined by this Law and the charters of the public research university and the public scientific organisation.
14. A higher education institution may, in case of holding an appropriate licence, render educational services on other levels of education through its separate structural units, moreover, in case of providing education on levels of education other than those of higher education, the higher education institution shall be guided by the legislation regulating the field of education on the given level.
15. The higher education institution may, as per its specific features, have a different organisational structure, which must ensure the provision of high-quality educational services and correspond to the accreditation requirements.

Article 7. Autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions

1. The higher education institution shall conduct its activities through exercising the right to self-governance, in accordance with the principles of university autonomy, academic and research freedom, collegiality, and participatory governance, by ensuring at the same time accountability requirements and transparency of decision-making process.
2. The higher education institution shall, in accordance with the requirements established by this Law and other regulatory legal acts, be granted with:
 - (1) academic autonomy — the authority to independently define, organise,

- implement, and manage educational and scientific activities thereof;
- (2) organisational autonomy — the authority to independently determine its structure and the structural units thereof, to establish management and other bodies as prescribed by law, to found a legal entity, as well as to independently approve the internal regulations and procedures;
 - (3) autonomy in management of human resources — the authority to independently define, organise, and manage the functions of selection, appointment, promotion, and dismissal of its academic, administrative, economic, and support personnel;
 - (4) autonomy in management of financial resource — the authority to independently establish its budget, manage financial and other resources, generate income, and carry out expenditures;
 - (5) authority to exercise, through the Board of Trustees, the powers reserved to the Government under the Law “On procurement”, in case of public higher education institutions.
3. The management of academic units of a higher education institution and its financial relations shall be regulated by this Law and the charter of the higher education institution, by establishing, to a certain extent, guarantees for its financial and managerial autonomy.
 4. The compliance of higher education institution with the legislation in force and with the objectives set forth in the charter thereof, shall be supervised by the founder(s) of the higher education institution, the authorised state administration body in the fields of higher education and science (hereinafter referred to as “the Authorised Body”) and by other bodies authorised as prescribed by law.
 5. The higher education institution shall be obliged to ensure non-derogation from its mission set out in its founding document, the supervision whereof is exercised by the founder(s) of the higher education institution, the Authorised Body, the

administration bodies, as well as the self-government authorities and student representative bodies.

6. The higher education institution shall, each year, before 1 May of the current year, publish on its official website a report on the results of implementation of the strategic plan of the higher education institution for the previous year.
7. The higher education institution shall publish on its official website the information on ongoing educational programmes and granted qualifications.
8. The higher education institution shall publish on its official website the strategic and annual development plans, the code of academic conduct, and other internal legal acts.
9. The higher education institution shall guarantee its financial transparency by publishing, each year, information on the sources of funding, expenditures, and balances of the previous year, within the time limits provided for by law, as well as by publishing the opinion of the person conducting audit (auditor) of its financial activities.
10. The higher education institution shall, regardless of its founder or type, be registered in the information system for the management of higher education and science, through which it maintains, in a prescribed manner, records of its infrastructures, administrative and academic personnel, and enrolled learners.
11. In case of non-public higher education institutions, data on students, clinical residency students, and employees (including scientific workers and engineering technicians), contained in the information system for the management of higher education and science, shall include only the personal data such as the first name, last name, patronymic, reference number of personal identification document, information on profession and qualification, recruitment and dismissal, whereas in case of students and graduates — all required information on graduation and that to be included, in a prescribed manner, in the diploma

and the transcripts thereof.

12. The higher education institution shall ensure the quality of its institutional capacities and educational programmes by undergoing institutional and programme-based accreditation with the prescribed frequency.

Article 8. Scientific organisation

1. The scientific organisation, acting within the scope of the powers defined by this Law and its charter, shall:
 - (1) organise and carry out scientific and technological activities, as well as may engage in innovative activities;
 - (2) take part, in a prescribed manner and jointly with a research university, in the organisation of education on the second or third level of higher education;
 - (3) be entitled to establish collaborative networks (consortia) with other scientific organisations or higher education institutions, or join them, for the purpose of jointly addressing scientific, technological, or innovative challenges;
 - (4) independently organise scientific and technological or innovative activities, as well as select the forms and frequency of competence evaluation of scientific workers and engineering technicians;
 - (5) define the staff list for all grades, and independently carry out the competition-based selection and distribution of employees;
 - (6) carry out, as per structural units, the competition-based recruitment of employees in a prescribed manner;

- (7) organise the process of professional development and competence evaluation of scientific workers;
 - (8) be entitled, in the case of public scientific organisations, to exercise, through the Board of Trustees, the powers vested in the Government under the Law “On procurement”;
 - (9) dispose of its budget, aimed at achieving its statutory objectives, which is generated from the funds allocated by the founder, scientific grant-based programmes, revenue from the outcomes of its activities, or other sources not prohibited by law. In the case of scientific organisations operating within the research university, the budget shall be supplemented also by allocations generated from the income of the university. The amount of minimum allocation shall be defined by the internal legal acts of the university and shall be approved by overall budget;
 - (10) manage and use the financial resources allocated from the State Budget, however not used in the given year, designed for the improvement of its infrastructures, as well as for scientific and technological activities or innovations, unless otherwise provided for by legislation;
 - (11) manage, in a prescribed manner, the property allocated thereto and the income derived from the rental thereof;
 - (12) exercise other powers prescribed by law and its charter.
2. A public scientific organisation shall be classified in three types:
- (1) a scientific organisation operating within a public research university — an independent structural unit operating within the research university, which carries out scientific and technological activities in terms of all types of research and development activities, as well as may engage in innovative developments;

- (2) scientific (research) organisation of departmental affiliation — an organisation holding the status of a legal entity, which carries out applied research, experimental development, as well as innovative activities within the scope of the tasks of the given agency, and if necessary — within the scope of the tasks of other state agencies and the private sector, by taking into account the restrictions stipulated by the charter thereof;
 - (3) a scientific (research) institution — a research organisation holding the status of an institution operating within another public organisation (such as a museum, healthcare facility, or manufacturing organisation) and engaged in research tasks inherent to the founding organisation.
- 3. A scientific organisation may carry out joint scientific work and projects with foreign or international organisations, unless otherwise stipulated by the charter thereof.
 - 4. A scientific organisation operating within a public research university shall hold the status of an institution, with the founder being the Republic of Armenia, where the characteristics of the legal status thereof are defined by this Law, its charter and other relevant legal acts.
 - 5. A scientific organisation operating within a research university shall participate in educational programmes of the research university, by providing certain credits, as prescribed by its charter, in terms of academic modules related to research and professional fields of the educational programmes.
 - 6. A public scientific organisation shall, before 1 May of each current year, publish reports on its official website related to its activities for the previous year, including the results of implementation of financial and strategic programme, as well as the opinion of the person conducting audit (auditor) of relevant financial reports.
 - 7. The public scientific organisation shall publish its five-year strategic plan and the code of academic conduct thereof.

8. The compliance of the activities of the scientific organisation with the legislation in force and with the objectives envisaged by its charter shall be supervised by the founder (founders) of the scientific organisation, the Authorised Body and other bodies authorised as prescribed by Law.
9. The public and interstate scientific organisation shall, regardless of the type, be registered in the information system for the management of higher education and science, through which it maintains the records of its infrastructures, administrative personnel, scientific workers and engineering technicians. In order to benefit from state support programmes, the private scientific organisation shall be registered in information system for the management of higher education and science, by providing the data required under the support programme.

Article 9. National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

1. The National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Academy”) is a self-governing foundation established by the Republic of Armenia, represented by the Government, which unites the members of the Academy (academicians and associate members), the scientific departments of the Academy, the staff of the Academy, the honorary and foreign members of the Academy, and the honorary leading and honorary chief researchers of public scientific organisations.
2. The Academy shall carry out its activities through the full exercise of its right to self-governance, based on the principles of autonomy, collegial decision-making, participatory governance, independence, and objectivity on the part of the Academy, with the aim of ensuring the provision of reliable scientific consultation to the State and society, the development of international scientific cooperation, and the popularisation of scientific outcomes.

3. The autonomy of the Academy in its activities shall prove to be the authority to independently define its structure and expert examination functions, to independently determine the forms and methods for evaluating the effectiveness and outcomes of scientific and technological activities, to independently choose the directions and methods of international scientific cooperation, and to independently manage the financial resources thereof.
4. The Charter of the Academy, including the peculiarities of governance and activities thereof, as well as the procedure for selecting the members of the Academy, shall be approved by the Government. An associate member and an academician may be selected from among the scientists holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, who at least meet — by way of competence evaluation of scientific workers and engineering technicians — the requirements established for the grades of leading and chief researcher, respectively. Additional requirements shall be established under the competition procedure approved by the Authorised Body upon the submission of the Academy. The maximum number of Academy members shall be 100.
5. The management bodies of the Academy shall be as follows:
 - (1) the General Assembly of the Academy;
 - (2) the Board of Trustees of the Academy — the Presidency of the Academy;
 - (3) the executive management body of the Academy — the President of the Academy.
6. The General Assembly of the Academy shall include the members of the Academy, as well as representatives from among the honorary leading and honorary chief researchers from public scientific organisations, whose nomination procedure shall be established by the Charter of the Academy.
7. The Presidency of the Academy shall be comprised of eleven members, whose nominal composition is approved by the head of the founding body.

8. The Presidency of the Academy shall be chaired by the President of the Republic. Two of the members of the Presidency shall be nominated by the Government. The other members of the Presidency shall be elected from among the members of the Academy by the General Assembly for a term of five years. The same person may not be elected as a member of the Presidency of the Academy for more than two consecutive terms.
9. The Presidency of the Academy shall elect the President of the Academy from among the academicians of the Academy for a term of five years. The results of election shall be approved by the Government. The same person may not be elected as a President of the Academy for more than two consecutive terms.
10. In public scientific organisations, the remuneration of honorary leading and honorary chief researchers shall, based on competence evaluation results, be administered through the Academy. The participation of honorary leading and honorary chief researchers in the activities of the Academy shall be defined by the Charter of the Academy.
11. The main directions of activities of the Academy shall be as follows:
 - (1) promoting excellence in research through the organisation of discussions and conferences;
 - (2) supporting research on Armenian Studies;
 - (3) participation in expert examination of basic and other state projects on scientific and technological activities and in monitoring of programmes, under the procedure established by the Government;
 - (4) preparation and publication of annual and five-year reports on the field of science of the Republic of Armenia, under the procedure and criteria established by the Authorised Body.
 - (5) providing science-based consultations to the Government and society;
 - (6) publication of scientific journals;

- (7) dissemination of scientific culture, provision of contemporary scientometric and scientific library services, and ensuring confidence against the outcomes of scientific and technological activities;
 - (8) implementation of science popularisation activities, including through programmes aimed at presenting scientific and technological activities among learners and fostering interest in research;
 - (9) ensuring interdisciplinary dialogue;
 - (10) identification of scientific problems of public and universal significance;
 - (11) provision of consultation on sector-based policies in a scientifically balanced, independent and transparent manner, by ensuring the conversion of scientific outcomes into a public and universal value.
12. The Academy may, for the purpose of performing the functions defined by its mission, establish professional (problem-oriented) councils, by involving scientists not only from among the members of the Academy but also from scientific or educational organisations of the Republic of Armenia, as well as foreign scientists, including those from Diaspora.
13. The Academy may, acting as a foundation, apply to various specialised funding institutions of relevant field, including international, in order to perform the functions prescribed by its mission.
14. The state funding allocated for the maintenance of the Academy shall be provided as a separate budgetary item within the framework of the basic financing programme.
15. The Academy may, for the purpose of implementation of its statutory objectives, be funded from the State Budget and other sources not prohibited by law.
16. The Academy shall, as prescribed by its Charter, be accountable to the Authorised Body and the public in respect of the state funding allocated thereto,

as well as any other financial inflows and expenditures.

17. The powers of the person holding a leading position in the Academy shall be terminated upon reaching thereby the age of 75. The list of management positions of the Academy shall be established by the Charter of the Academy. Members of the Academy possessing at least 30 years of service in the field of scientific and technological activities and having reached the age of 75 shall be provided with monthly monetary payment in an amount equal to twice of the minimum monthly salary in the Republic of Armenia for associate members, and three times thereof for academicians.
18. Each year, the Academy shall organise an annual conference, as prescribed by its Charter, during which public scientific organisations shall submit reports on their scientific and technological activities. The Academy shall, upon the results of the session, evaluate the submitted reports and forward relevant opinion to the Authorised Body, as an external evaluation component of scientific organisations.

Article 10. The academic programmes of higher education and the general requirements thereto, the duration of studies

1. The academic programmes of higher education, including the assessment system, shall be drawn up in accordance with the indicators and requirements of relevant levels of the National Qualifications Framework and, where applicable — of sector-based qualifications framework.
2. A higher education institution may implement academic programmes of higher education also in cooperation with other higher education institutions, scientific organisations, or industrial organisations, which are classified, as of their types, as follows:
 - (1) a joint educational programme conducted through the cooperation of the higher education institution and another higher education institution,

scientific organisation, or industrial organisation, upon the completion whereof a qualification in one profession is granted, which is certified by joint diploma issued by all participating organisations;

- (2) a dual qualification educational programme — an educational programme implemented within one higher education institution or through the cooperation of two or more higher education institutions, upon the completion whereof a qualification in two professions is granted, which is certified by dual-qualification diploma, or joint diploma of dual qualification, or two separate diplomas granting different qualifications.
3. The higher educational institution shall, in respect of each educational programme (including joint and dual qualification educational programmes), prepare and approve a syllabus for educational programme, which includes the following general requirements to the programme:
- (1) the purpose of the educational programme, objectives, and the expected learning outcomes thereof;
 - (2) the assessment policy;
 - (3) the input requirements (including minimum study and qualification prerequisites) and output requirements (including the forms of final competence evaluation) to the educational programme;
 - (4) the overall educational load measured in credits, the minimum period of studies, and the form of organising studies or possible combination of the forms thereof;
 - (5) the content of the programme, *i.e.* the list of academic modules ensuring the qualification, their sequence or interrelation, and the number of credits allocated for each academic module;
 - (6) the possibility of organising education remotely, as of academic modules;
 - (7) the granted qualification, the profession, and possible fields of subsequent

professional activities;

- (8) the scope of knowledge and skills, as well as the set of overall assessment tools thereof.
4. The educational programmes of the higher education institution shall guarantee the academic process of students at various levels of higher education, by ensuring the implementation of the CTS and granting of qualification degrees. Public higher education institutions shall implement the CTS, whereas the higher education institutions organising the educational process by another credit system must apply, under the procedure established by the higher education institution, the conversion methodology thereof in order to ensure compatibility with the CTS.
 5. In addition to mandatory academic modules, the educational programmes of higher education institutions may also include selective academic modules enabling the students to shape the educational content, within the framework of the programme concerned, as of their professional interests and preferences.
 6. Educational programmes may, depending on the levels of higher education, be implemented either on full-time or part-time basis.
 7. The language of teaching educational programmes at higher education institution shall be literary Armenian. In accordance with the established procedure of the higher education institution, an educational programme, its academic modules, individual courses, certain topics or research work under these courses may be taught or implemented in a foreign language, provided that there are specialists at the higher education institution capable of teaching the educational programme in the given language and necessary educational resources in this language. The higher education institution must ensure that graduates holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia attain proficiency in literary Armenian within the scope of their profession — either by delivering educational

programmes in literary Armenian or through teaching a programme-accredited professional Armenian at the appropriate proficiency level. The level of proficiency in professional Armenian shall be certified through mandatory checking and evaluation of knowledge.

8. The organisation of education in a foreign language under educational programmes at the first to third levels of higher education shall also be possible:
 - (1) where the professional orientation of the educational programme involves the study of a foreign language;
 - (2) where the course is conducted by a foreign specialist;
 - (3) in case of the educational programmes implemented jointly with the higher education institutions of a foreign country;
 - (4) in case of the educational programmes implemented for foreign citizens.
9. At the third level of higher education, the PhD thesis may be summarised in a foreign language where it is drawn up together with a foreign supervisor or co-supervisor.
10. In order to ensure the integration of foreign students, the higher education institution shall organise an additional introductory course on Armenian language and history, the sample form for developing the respective standard whereof shall be approved by the Authorised Body.
11. The beginning and the end of the educational process as of established durations, as well as the duration of leave of a student shall be defined by the higher education institution.
12. The guidelines for the duration of study and academic leave under educational programmes by all forms of the first and second levels of higher education, as well as the principles and guidelines for organising full-time, part-time, and distance learning, shall be defined upon the decision of the Government “On

organisation of higher education”, by taking into account the requirements of the European Higher Education Area.

13. The procedure for full-time and part-time study, as well as the procedure for organising distance learning, shall be established by the Academic Council of the higher education institution.
14. In respect of education at the first and second levels of higher education, the academic load shall include 180-240 academic credits for educational programmes granting Bachelor’s Degree and 60-120 credits — for educational programmes granting Master’s Degree. In respect of the third level of higher education, the academic load shall include at least 180 academic credits. In case of integrated programmes, the credit loads for two levels shall be combined, amounting to not less than 300 academic credits. In case of dual qualification educational programmes, the credit load at the first level of higher education shall include 240-300 credits, while at the second level — 120-150 credits.
15. A single academic credit shall correspond to 25-30 hours of work completed by a student within the given academic module.
16. Educational programmes may also include internship, practical training, or work-based learning components carried out with private economic entities, state bodies, or other organisations operating in industrial or professional field, which are regulated within the framework of an educational programme and may be granted a maximum of 30 credits.

Article 11. Levels of higher education, qualifications thereof and fields of education

1. Higher education in the Republic of Armenia shall be implemented in three consecutive educational levels by means of basic educational programmes granting qualification, as well as by additional programmes granting no qualification:

- (1) at the first level the education shall be completed by final proficiency evaluation, and the person having successfully completed the studies shall be granted a Bachelor's Degree;
 - (2) at the second level education shall be completed by final proficiency evaluation, and the person having successfully completed the studies shall be granted a Master's Degree;
 - (3) at the third level education and research work shall be summarised with the defence of a doctoral thesis, upon the successful completion whereof the person shall be granted with the academic degree of a Doctor of Philosophy in the field of specialisations of the list of higher education professions and qualifications of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Higher education may, as of educational levels, be implemented through the integrated educational programmes, within the framework whereof studies relevant for two consecutive levels of higher education shall be implemented through one single educational programme, at the completion whereof a qualification corresponding to the higher level of education shall be granted.
3. In case of integrated programmes, the learning outcomes shall correspond to the outcomes set for the graduation level, and the study shall be completed by final proficiency evaluation, whereas the research aimed at obtaining a qualification of Doctoral of Philosophy shall be completed by the defence of the doctoral thesis.
4. A person having completed an integrated programme of the first and second levels of higher education and having passed the final proficiency evaluation shall be granted a Master's Degree, whereas the person having studied under integrated medical programmes shall be granted a qualification of a "physician" or "physician-dentist".
5. The university shall implement, in a prescribed manner, the integrated programmes of third level or those of second and third levels of higher education

in cooperation with a scientific organisation, the scope of which shall be described under relevant educational programme.

6. Only persons having obtained a qualification at the previous level of higher education under an accredited or pre-accredited programme, shall have the right to continue their studies, in a prescribed manner, at the next educational level of higher education.
7. A higher education institution may implement educational programmes granting micro-qualifications, as well as additional educational programmes, in accordance with this Law and the Law “On education”.
8. Upon completion of a micro-qualification programme or additional educational programme, a person shall be issued a certificate or diploma certifying the completion of studies in the sample form established by the higher education institution.
9. A higher education institution may recognise and include, in a specified proportion, the credits acquired by a student under accredited educational programmes granting micro-qualifications, in the educational level of Bachelor’s Degree or Master’s Degree.
10. The Authorised Body shall approve the sample procedure for recognition of micro-qualifications at a higher education institution.

Article 12. Regulated professions

1. Regulated professions shall prove to be professions obtained as a result of studying under separate or integrated educational programme, where in order to carry out independent activities thereunder, the student must, after acquiring a qualification, gain additional specialised theoretical knowledge, practical skills and abilities necessary for the given professional area, through appropriate

postgraduate studies.

2. The list of regulated professions, as well as the requirements to the admission, duration of studies thereunder, form of organisation thereof, final proficiency evaluation and educational process thereunder, the minimum conditions of and requirements to the licensing of educational programmes granting qualifications, accreditation criteria, as well as the professional scope of professional areas and the learning outcomes shall be established by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body, co-ordinated with the authorised state administration body of relevant field, by ensuring the compliance of learning outcomes with the established professional characteristics.
3. Studies by educational programmes granting qualifications under regulated professions shall be completed with final proficiency evaluation, with the successful completion whereof the student shall obtain a qualification and profession corresponding to the given educational programme. The final proficiency evaluation shall be conducted by the Authorised Body in a centralised manner, as prescribed by the Government, and the results of final proficiency evaluation shall be taken into account for obtaining a licence for activities by the given profession.
4. The procedures for organising postgraduate studies under regulated professions, including the list of main professions, narrow and additional specialisations, types of study (clinical residency, supervised practice or other types of study), the conditions for their organisation and implementation and the final outcomes shall, as of the spheres of professional activities, be approved by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body, co-ordinated with the authorised state administration body of relevant field.
5. During additional postgraduate studies under regulated professions, a learner may, in accordance with the legislation regulating the given field of professional

activities, engage in paid professional work (as an intern, trainee or employee in another specified position) under the supervision of licensed specialists. Moreover, a person studying under clinical residency programme may engage in paid professional work only upon availability of a transitional individual licence and in compliance with the volume established by the authorised body in the field of healthcare.

6. A person having undergone studies, in accordance with the legislation of relevant field of professional activities and in a prescribed manner, shall, following the completion of postgraduate studies under regulated professions, be subject to licensing in order to obtain the right to engage in independent professional work. The types of licences and the licensing process shall be established by the legislation of relevant fields.
7. Clinical residency programme (clinical postgraduate training) shall be deemed as a stage of additional postgraduate study following higher medical education which grants an integrated or equivalent qualification, whereafter the learner shall gain professional theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for the given area of medical profession in order to be licensed in a prescribed manner and to carry out activities in the given professional area independently.
8. Studies under clinical residency programme shall, as of the main professional areas, be provided by a higher education institution of respective medical professional orientation, with the involvement of organisations providing medical care and services as prescribed by legislation, whereas narrow and additional specialisations shall be provided both by the higher education institutions of respective medical professional orientation, with the involvement of organisations providing medical care and services as prescribed by the legislation, and the organisations providing medical care and services approved by the authorised state administration body in the given field, which meet the requirements approved by the Government.

9. The main medical or dental specialisation of professional activities in the healthcare sector shall be acquired after completing clinical residency programme (clinical postgraduate training) on the basis of higher professional education. A person having completed clinical residency programme (clinical postgraduate training) shall carry out professional activities in healthcare sector by the main profession within the scope of defined activities.
10. A narrow specialisation shall be deemed as a post-residency stage, which aims to enable the learner to acquire a narrow specialisation in a specific field. A narrow medical or dental specialisation of professional activities in healthcare sector shall be acquired after completing clinical residency programme (clinical postgraduate training) on the basis of the main medical or dental specialisation. A person having acquired a narrow specialisation may carry out professional activities in healthcare sector by the main profession or narrow specialisation within the scope of activities defined therefor.
11. As a result of additional specialisation acquired on the basis of the main medical or dental profession or narrow medical or dental specialisation, a medical worker shall gain new diagnostic or therapeutic knowledge or skills corresponding to the main profession or narrow specialisation, based on which he or she may carry out professional activities within the scope defined.
12. In order to meet the demand for professional human resources in healthcare sector, each year the authorised state administration body in the field of healthcare shall submit to the Authorised Body the required number of learners studying under clinical residency programme (on paid basis, based on a scholarship provided by the State), which shall be approved by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body.
13. Clinical residency programmes shall be subject to accreditation by the Specialised Institution referred to in part 4 of Article 14 of this Law, with the

involvement of a professional commission represented by the authorised state administration body of relevant field.

14. The accreditation criteria for clinical residency programmes shall be established by the procedure designed for organising studies under clinical residency programmes, in accordance with international standards for professional mobility in the respective field.
15. The procedure and conditions for ongoing monitoring of clinical residency programmes shall be established by the Government upon submission of the authorised state administration body in the field of healthcare, coordinated with the Authorised Body.

Article 13. Diploma of higher education and its transcript of records

1. Upon completion of studies in the first and second levels of higher education, as well as under the integrated programme, and based on the successful result of final proficiency evaluation, a person shall be granted a diploma certifying the awarded qualification (with an indication on the profession and, if necessary, specialisation) and a transcript of records (a document of pan-European format attached to the diploma).
2. Upon completion of studies and research work in the third level of higher education, a person shall, based on the successful result of defence of relevant thesis, be granted a diploma certifying the academic degree.
3. The template of a diploma, including that of a joint diploma and transcript of records thereto, the procedure for their completion, ordering, distribution, record-registration, registration and storage shall be established by the Authorised Body by application of digital technologies.
4. The higher education institution shall provide diplomas and their transcript of records free of charge, whereas their digital duplicate copies shall be available to

the graduate through the State Register of Qualifications maintained by the Authorised Body.

5. The requirements to the diplomas (including those of joint or double qualifications) and transcript of records certifying the qualifications awarded under educational programmes of the first to third levels of higher education shall be approved by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body.
6. Data on qualifications granted at the first to third levels of higher education, as well as those on micro-qualifications acquired within the framework of educational programmes granting no qualification or within the framework of components of educational programmes, including digital versions of diplomas or certificates, as well as information on the academic progress of learners shall be stored in the State Register of Qualifications maintained by the Authorised Body.
7. Persons having not completed the main educational programme of higher education shall be issued an academic statement of information of the sample form approved by the Authorised Body, which includes information on the modules studied and accumulated credits, and the digital version whereof is record-registered in the State Register of Qualifications.
8. Only the diploma granted, in a prescribed manner, upon successful completion of studies under accredited or pre-accredited educational programmes or the diploma from higher education institutions of other States, recognised in a prescribed manner, shall be considered as a diploma attesting higher education.
9. The diploma attesting higher education shall include an indication as to the fact of accreditation or pre-accreditation on the part of the educational institution, as well as that of the educational programme.

Article 14. Licensing of higher education institutions

1. All higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia shall, irrespective of type or status, be subject to licensing. The licence shall be issued for an indefinite time period and shall be registered in information system for the management of higher education and science.
2. The licensing procedure of a higher education institution, which defines the mandatory conditions and requirements for the licensing of a higher education institution and includes the licensing procedure, the procedures for applying warning and terminating the licence, shall be approved by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body.
3. The licensing conditions and requirements shall be established in a manner as to ensure and guarantee the implementation of the principles of state policy, established by this Law for the respective field, the compatibility of experience of a student in the system of higher education and the compliance of activities of the higher education institution with the requirements for and legislation on high-quality education.
4. The Authorised Body shall, based on the positive opinion rendered by the licensing commission for higher education operating within the Specialised Institution for Ensuring the Quality of Higher and Professional Education (hereinafter referred to as “the Specialised Institution”) established by the Government, grant the higher education institution a permit, *i.e.* a licence for carrying out educational activities, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the Law “On licensing”, the licensing procedure and the provisions of other legal acts.
5. The licence of a higher education institution shall be issued within six months following the submission of all documents provided for by this Law for obtaining a licence, based on the examination of the documents submitted by the commission provided for in part 4 of this Article and rendered positive opinion.
6. In order to study the documents provided for by this Law and to receive a

professional opinion aimed at obtaining a licence, the Specialised Institution may recommend the Authorised Body to establish professional commissions in accordance with the order established by the licensing procedure.

7. A higher education institution must carry out its activities only in the places (addresses) specified in the licence.
8. The requisites for a licence, prescribed by law, shall be indicated in the licence issued to a higher education institution, the information specified by the licensing procedure shall be indicated in the enclosure of the licence, whereas the detailed description of physical infrastructures and other bases provided for by licensing procedure, including in an image version, shall be separately indicated in information system for the management of higher education and science, mainly in the section of information on higher education institution. In the event of a change in the place (address) of activities, the licence issued to the higher education institution shall be subject to reformulation as prescribed by the legislation.
9. The issue of expanding the place of activities or educational infrastructures of a higher education institution shall be considered within the framework of sector-based state policy and shall be rendered possible only in case of compliance with the concept of development of an academic city.
10. The grounds for issuing licence to the higher education institution shall be as follows:
 - (1) compliance with the requirements to the academic staff and educational process, in particular, the availability of appropriately qualified academic staff holding regular staff positions, modern laboratory and classroom facilities, educational premises and property, facilities of educational and production practice, library and information system, as well as availability of educational and methodological support, the description whereof is defined

by the licensing procedure of higher education institutions;

- (2) compliance with the requirements to physical infrastructures, in particular, the availability of necessary and proper security equipment for carrying out educational activities, as well as the availability of property, educational premises (main and auxiliary premises, buildings, constructions), over which the higher education institution holds the right of ownership or the right to guaranteed use for at least 20 years (long-term lease, gratuitous use);
- (3) the availability of infrastructures that provide properly guaranteed student experience, including ensured accessibility to the physical environment, information and communication aimed at ensuring inclusiveness, in accordance with the description defined by the licensing procedure;
- (4) financial stability and guarantees for activities (insured amount, property or other equivalent means of a specified amount for each seat — equal to the number of seats granted under a licence, and insured in a prescribed manner), reasonable information on financial justification and a plan for financial and economic stability for at least five years, including the necessary amount of endowment and the availability of accountability procedures for the purpose of ensuring financial transparency;
- (5) the compatibility of the proposed educational programmes with the strategy and mission of the higher education institution;
- (6) the internal legal framework and management system, including the five-year strategic plan, the availability of organisational and managerial legal documents for teaching, learning, research activities, the policy on financial support to students, the organisational structure of management and the accountability system consistent with the goals set by the strategy of the higher education institution, documents on internal disciplinary issues, as

well as sufficient human resources necessary to ensure the sustainability of the activities of the higher education institution;

- (7) the official document establishing the mission of the higher education institution and the internal procedures and bodies ensuring its implementation, as well as the quality assurance mechanisms and structure;
 - (8) the justification for the appropriateness of establishing the higher education institution and implementing relevant programme, which includes the initial research document, official letters from professional bodies or agencies, potential benefits for at least five years and respective vision for gaining a competitive advantage;
 - (9) the threshold number of students of the higher education institution, which must correspond to the represented infrastructures;
 - (10) compliance with the principles of state policy in the field of higher education;
 - (11) compliance with other requirements established by the licensing procedure of higher education institutions.
- 11. The threshold number of students established by the licence of the higher education institution may not be less than 4,000.
 - 12. The application for a licence of a higher education institution shall be rejected if it fails to meet the requirements established by this Law and a negative opinion was rendered by the licensing commission.
 - 13. During the licensing process of a research university, the licensing conditions and requirements shall be supplemented also with the data of the scientific organisations operating within its composition.

Article 15. Precautions applied against the higher education institution and termination of the licence of a higher education institution

1. The Authorised Body shall apply warning against a higher education institution or terminate the licence as prescribed by law, in case of violation, in the course of implementation of the activities of the higher education institution, of the mandatory requirements and conditions of the licence prescribed by licensing procedures, the requirements of the legislation regulating the activities of the higher education institution, as well as in other cases provided for by this Law.
2. After granting the licence, the Specialised Institution shall monitor the compliance with the conditions and requirements with a frequency prescribed by licensing procedure of higher education institutions, including through visits. In case of detection of non-compliances, the higher education institution shall be imposed a warning, in a prescribed manner, and shall be provided with a period of up to one year for eliminating them.
3. The higher education institution shall be obliged to annually update or verify, in the informational system for the management of higher education and science, the information on the licence of the higher education institution and the requirements established by the licensing procedures in respect of the licences of its educational programmes, as well as to submit the reports established by the licensing procedures.
4. The Authorised Body shall apply the warning provided for in this Article for the purpose of eliminating, within the specified time limit, the relevant violation committed by the higher education institution and informing the Authorised Body about the elimination of this violation. The time limit set for elimination of the violation, which may not be less than ten days, shall be determined by the Authorised Body upon recommendation of the Specialised Institution, by taking into account the risk of the consequences of the violation, the urgency of eliminating the violation and the capabilities of the higher education institution eliminating the violation.

5. The Authorised Body shall, as prescribed by law, apply warning against the higher education institution by means of proper notification:
 - (1) in case of detection of untrue information in the reports submitted, by the higher education institution, to the Authorised Body during the validity period of the licence;
 - (2) in case of detection of a violation of licensing conditions and requirements;
 - (3) in cases of failure, by the higher education institution, to timely notify the Authorised Body and the inspection body exercising oversight about relevant changes in the cases provided for by the Law “On licensing”;
 - (4) in case of detection of a violation of academic honesty at the institutional level, the procedure whereof is described in the licensing procedure;
 - (5) in case of emergence of inconsistency of the infrastructures with the requirements established by the licensing procedure of the higher education institution;
 - (6) in case of failure, by the higher education institution, to apply for institutional accreditation within the specified time period;
 - (7) in case of detection of risks to the financial stability of and pursuance of further activities by the higher education institution;
 - (8) in case of untrue information submitted, by the higher education institution, in the annual report provided for by the legislation on licensing or failure to observe thereby the established form of the report;
 - (9) in case of failure to pay the annual state duty.
6. The violation shall be considered as eliminated based on the submission of the documents supporting the fact of its elimination and the positive opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution thereon.

7. Upon the decision of the Authorised Body, the licence of the higher education institution shall be terminated:
- (1) in case of simultaneous detection of at least two violations by the higher education institution in the cases provided for in points 1-5 of part 5 of this Article;
 - (2) in case of failure to eliminate the violation recorded by the inspection body exercising oversight in the field of education;
 - (3) in case of transfer of the licence to others for use, pledge or alienation thereof, by the higher education institution, in the cases not provided for by law;
 - (4) based on the application filed by the higher education institution;
 - (5) in case of detection of false or distorted information, bearing essential significance for issuing the licence, in the documents submitted for obtaining a licence;
 - (6) in case of liquidation of the legal entity carrying out licensed activities or termination of activities of the higher education institution;
 - (7) in case of failure to undergo institutional accreditation within the time limit established by this Law or in case of two consecutive refusals of institutional accreditation;
 - (8) in the cases described in the licensing procedure, in case of detection of academic fraud, including in case of granting qualifications in violation of the procedure for organising higher education and the criteria established by the National Qualifications Framework;
 - (9) in case of detection of at least two non-compliances with the grounds for granting a licence and the licensing conditions and requirements;

- (10) in case of failure to eliminate, within the specified time limit, the violation recorded by warning or in case of a negative opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution in respect of the documents supporting the fact of its elimination;
 - (11) in case of deprivation of institutional accreditation;
 - (12) if less than half of the threshold number of seats provided under the licence is filled with students for three consecutive years;
 - (13) 30 or more per cent of educational programmes submitted by the higher education institution failed to receive pre-accreditation or programme accreditation, or the higher education institution implements no educational programmes;
 - (14) in the event of other cases provided for by this Law, the Law “On education” and the Law “On licensing”.
8. The decision on termination of the licence due to a violation of the requirements of the legislation shall be taken not later than within a period of one year from the date of committal of the violation, and in the case of a continuous and persistent violation — within a period of one year from the date of its discovery, whereas in the cases provided for in point 7 of part 7 of this Article — within a period of six months from the date of detection of false or distorted information.
9. In the event of termination of the licence on the ground referred to in point 7 of part 7 of this Article, a person shall have the right to apply for a new licence only one year after the termination of the licence.
10. The licence shall be considered as terminated on the grounds provided for in point 6 of part 7 of this Article from the day following the date of entry into force of relevant decision of the Authorised Body, unless a later time period is provided for in this decision. The Authorised Body shall duly notify the licensee

of termination of the licence, by forwarding, along with the notification, a carbon copy of the decision on termination of the licence.

11. The higher education institution shall be entitled to appeal, through judicial procedure, against the decision of the Authorised Body on the termination of the licence.
12. In the case specified in this Article, the higher education institution shall not be entitled to implement educational programmes after termination of the licence.
13. In the event of termination of the licence of the higher education institution, students studying at the higher education institution shall have the right to continue their studies in relevant educational field by enrolling in educational programmes of another higher education institution holding institutional accreditation, or to participate in the final proficiency evaluation under educational programmes of this higher education institution, as prescribed by the Head of the Authorised Body, including at the expense of the funds insured by the higher education institution.
14. The decisions on warning, referred to in part 5 of this Article, and those on termination, referred to in part 7 of this Article, shall be taken by the Authorised Body based on the opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution, except for the cases of otherwise provided for by law thereon.

Article 16. Licensing of academic programmes of higher education, warning and termination of the licence for educational programmes

1. Educational programmes at all cycles that grant higher education qualifications shall be subject to licensing.
2. Integrated programmes shall be subject to licensing in compliance with the conditions provided for higher educational level.

3. A single higher education institution shall apply for licensing of joint educational programmes, which will implement the programme administration by submitting relevant contract with a partner higher education institution or an organisation. It shall define other peculiarities of distribution of academic modules between the co-operating higher education institutions, holding of internships and organisation of educational programme with a partner organisation, including financial and economic relations etc. When licensing a joint educational programme the capacities of the partner higher education institution or organisation shall be taken into account, pursuant to the co-operation contract.
4. The Government shall, upon submission of the Authorised Body, approve the licensing procedure for educational programmes in higher education institutions, which defines the licensing procedure for academic programmes of higher education and includes the mandatory conditions and requirements for licensing, as well as the procedures for application of warning and termination of licence.
5. The conditions and requirements to the licensing of educational programmes must guarantee the most effective use of time and resources invested by a student in education, appropriate and programme relevant level of academic staff engaged in the programme implementation, the level of property and logistics support used for the programme implementation, as well as the compliance of the final outcomes of the programme with the National Qualifications Framework for the given level and, if available — with the characteristics and requirements prescribed by sector-based qualifications framework.
6. The Authorised Body shall, based on the positive opinion rendered by the licensing commission in the field of higher education operating within the Specialised Institution, grant to the higher education institution a permit, *i.e.* a licence to carry out activities under the given educational programme, in compliance with the provisions of this Law, the Law “On licensing”, licensing

procedure and other legal acts. Educational programmes implemented in a foreign language shall be licensed as separate educational programmes.

7. For the purpose of obtaining an opinion on expert examination for licensing of educational programmes, the Authorised Body shall, upon recommendation of the Specialised Institution, establish professional commissions as of the sectors and directions existing in the list of professions of higher education prescribed by the Government. The head of the Authorised Body shall establish the working procedure for professional commissions.
8. The licence for implementing educational programmes based on the positive opinion rendered by the commission referred to in part 7 of this Article shall be issued within a period of maximum six months following the submission of all documents provided for by this Law.
9. When implementing educational programmes jointly with a scientific organisation, information shall be submitted on human resources, logistics support and research resources, as well as on infrastructures provided, by the research organisation, for the implementation of the programme on a contractual basis, which shall serve as a ground for replenishing the mandatory conditions and requirements for licensing.
10. The ground for issuing a licence to a higher education institution shall be as follows:
 - (1) availability of facilities for training practice, apprenticeship and clinical internship, of property, appropriate equipment, as well as a library and information system required to ensure teaching and scientific works at the given level and under the proposed educational programmes, as well as those owned by the higher education institution, record-registered in its balance and found to be at the appropriate level, and availability of teaching and methodological support;

- (2) availability of academic staff and educational support staff necessary to ensure teaching under educational programmes at relevant educational levels, at least the half whereof must hold regular staff positions at the higher educational institution;
- (3) joint requirements to the implementation of education by two specialisations under dual qualification educational programmes;
- (4) in case of joint educational programmes the human resources allocated by a partner organisation for the implementation of educational programmes are to be introduced, and the proportion of employees holding regular staff position in the academic staff recruited by a higher education institution which obtains a licence for joint educational programmes must be at least 25 per cent;
- (5) the envisaged threshold number of students (per course), which along with the total sum of envisaged threshold numbers of learners enrolled in other educational programmes implemented in the higher education institution, must not exceed the threshold number authorised by licence of the higher education institution;
- (6) study of compliance of the programme with labour market demand and justification of the expediency of implementing the programme, which includes a preliminary research document, official letters of professional bodies or interested agencies, potential benefits for a period of at least five years, and a vision for gaining a competitive advantage;
- (7) compliance of the educational programme with strategic priorities of the State, with characteristics and requirements prescribed by the National Qualifications Framework and, if available, by sector-based qualifications framework, as well as its compatibility with the strategy and mission of the higher education institution;

- (8) quality assurance system which guarantees the compliance of teaching and research quality with the strategy and mission of the higher education institution, as well as with minimum standards prescribed by this Law and other legal acts;
 - (9) teaching and assessment system which guarantees the achievement and certification of educational outcomes, as well as complies with the CTS methodology;
 - (10) compliance with other requirements established by the licensing procedure for academic programmes of higher education.
- 11. When organising separate modules of educational programme through distance learning, the availability of digital tools for distance learning and their security shall also serve as a ground for the issuance of a licence.
 - 12. The threshold number of seats under educational programmes granting qualifications must be at least ten for educational level of Bachelor's Degree, and five — for educational level of Master's Degree.
 - 13. The requisites for a licence, prescribed by law, shall be indicated in the licence granted to a higher education institution for the implementation of educational programmes, the information defined by the licensing procedure shall be indicated in the enclosure of a licence, whereas the detailed description of the grounds defined by the licensing procedure, including the threshold number of students relevant to the educational programme shall be separately indicated in the information system for management of higher education and science, mainly in the section of information on the higher education institution.
 - 14. The licensing procedure for, the licensing conditions and requirements to educational programmes granting qualification and being implemented at a higher education institution, as well as the procedures for application of warning and termination of licence shall be established by the licensing procedure for

academic programmes of higher education, which is approved by the Government upon submission of the Authorised Body.

15. The Authorised Body shall apply the warning provided for by this Article for the purpose of eliminating, within the prescribed time limit, relevant violation committed by the higher education institution and notifying the Authorised Body thereby on the elimination thereof. The time limit set for elimination of the violation, which may not be less than ten days, shall be determined by the Authorised Body upon recommendation of the Specialised Institution, by taking into account the danger posed by the consequences of the violation, the urgency of its elimination and the opportunities of the higher education institution eliminating the violation.
16. The violation shall be deemed as eliminated based on the submission of documents supporting the fact of its elimination and the positive opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution thereon.
17. The Authorised Body shall, as prescribed by law and by means of proper notification, impose warning on the higher education institution in case of detecting any of the following violations:
 - (1) exceeding, by the higher education institution, the threshold number of students prescribed by the licence for the given educational programme;
 - (2) detecting untrue information in the reports, submitted by the higher education institution to the Authorised Body, during the validity period of the licence;
 - (3) failure to comply with the grounds for granting a licence and with the licensing conditions and requirements;
 - (4) detecting violations of the conditions defined by the licensing procedure;

- (5) failure by the higher education institution to notify, within the prescribed time limit, the Authorised Body of the changes, in the cases provided for by the Law “On licensing”;
 - (6) failure to apply, within the prescribed time limit, for programme accreditation of the given programme;
 - (7) detection of non-compliance of infrastructures and academic staff;
 - (8) depriving of programme accreditation;
 - (9) failure to eliminate, within the prescribed time limit, the violation recorded by warning, or in case of a negative opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution in respect of the documents supporting the fact of its elimination;
 - (10) failure to pay the annual state duty.
18. The Authorised Body shall terminate the licence granted to the higher education institution for the implementation of an educational programme of the respective level in the cases prescribed by the Law “On licensing”, as well as:
- (1) in case of being imposed warning not less than twice within one academic year for having exceeded the threshold number of seats allocated, per course, to the higher education institution, based on the application submitted by the latter;
 - (2) in case of failure to apply for accreditation of the given programme within the prescribed time limit, or in case of two consecutive refusals of the given programme accreditation;
 - (3) in case of recording, under the educational programme, admission results of less than half of the threshold seats, for three consecutive years;
 - (4) based on the application filed by the higher education institution;

- (5) in case of failure to eliminate the warning within the prescribed time limit, or in case of a negative opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution in respect of the documents supporting the fact of its elimination.
19. In case of termination of the licence for implementation of an educational programme, the students enrolled in educational programme shall have the right to continue their studies, either by being admitted to the educational programmes of the same or another higher education institution holding relevant institutional and programme accreditation, or by participating, as prescribed by the Authorised Body, in final proficiency evaluation under educational programmes of this higher education institution, including at the expense of the funds insured by the higher education institution having lost its licence.
20. The licence shall be terminated by declaring the licence as invalid upon decision of the Authorised Body.
21. The Authorised Body shall duly notify the higher education institution of imposed warning or termination of the licence, by attaching to the notification also the carbon copy of the decision on warning or termination of the licence.
22. The licence shall be deemed as terminated on the grounds provided for by part 18 of this Article, from the day following the date of entry into force of relevant decision of the Authorised Body. The Authorised Body shall duly notify the higher education institution of termination of the licence.

Article 17. The inspection body conducting supervision in education sector

1. In the course of activities of higher education institution, supervision over the compliance with mandatory requirements and conditions of the licence, prescribed by the licensing procedure of the higher education institution, shall be carried out by the inspection body conducting supervision in education sector (hereinafter referred to as “the inspection body”).

2. The warning provided for by part 5 of Article 15 of this Law may also be applied on the basis of a written motion of the inspection body.
3. The Authorised Body shall terminate the licence of the higher education institution on the grounds provided for by points 2 and 3 of part 7 of Article 15 of this Law, on the basis of a written motion of the inspection body.
4. The inspection body may submit a written motion on termination of the licence of the higher education institution also in case of detecting other grounds, provided for by part 7 of Article 15 of this Law, during supervision.

Article 18. Quality assurance in the fields of higher education and science

1. The quality assurance system of higher education and science shall include:
 - (1) internal quality assurance system of higher education institutions and scientific organisations, aimed at ensuring the oversight over and continuous improvement of the quality of educational services and scientific research;
 - (2) external quality assurance system of higher education institutions, which attests the compliance of educational services and procedures in higher education institutions with established national and international quality standards.
 - (3) external quality assurance system of scientific organisations, which attests the compliance of the activities of scientific organisations with international trends and state requirements;
 - (4) The Specialised Institution established by the State.
2. Higher education institutions and scientific organisations shall be responsible for the quality of educational and research activities and shall be obliged to carry out and publicly introduce self-assessments of their quality, which must include also data on performance indicators approved by the Government.

3. Higher education institutions and scientific organisations shall ensure the compliance with quality standards through their internal quality assurance system.
4. External quality assurance of and attesting by higher education institutions shall be carried out by the Specialised Institution or international accrediting organisations complying with the standards approved by the Government.
5. In quality assurance sector, the Specialised Institution must:
 - (1) have published policies and procedures ensuring the implementation of its activities;
 - (2) operate independently and autonomously;
 - (3) undergo regular external assessment of its activities in a prescribed manner;
 - (4) carry out external assessment and accreditation of higher education institutions and their educational programmes;
 - (5) perform other functions arising from its charter and legislation.
6. In addition to the functions provided for by part 5 of this Article, the Specialised Institution shall also:
 - (1) conduct ongoing monitoring of compliance with accreditation and qualification requirements;
 - (2) organise the activities of the accreditation commission;
 - (3) organise the development and periodic review of the documents of the National Qualifications Framework and the sector-based qualifications framework.
7. External assessment of quality for public scientific organisations shall be carried out by the commissions for scientific expert examination formed by the

Authorised Body, by involving, at least once every five years, reputable scientists from the Republic of Armenia and abroad, the procedure wherefor shall be established by the Authorised Body.

Article 19. Institutional and programme accreditation of higher education institutions

1. Institutional and programme accreditation shall certify:
 - (1) compliance with minimum standards of implementation of higher education activities and educational programmes;
 - (2) availability of an internal structure and procedures for quality control;
 - (3) availability of internal procedures for drawing up and approving educational programmes;
 - (4) availability of student-oriented learning environment;
 - (5) compliance of existing systems on the provision of educational programmes and assessment of students with final outcomes and levels of educational programmes;
 - (6) availability of tool-kits for assessing competitiveness and continuous professional development of academic staff;
 - (7) existence of infrastructures and procedures for education resources and student support;
 - (8) availability of an efficient system for collecting and managing information;
 - (9) availability of procedures and mechanisms for public accountability and the proper provision of information;
 - (10) availability of procedures for regular revision of educational programmes, including through the work with labour market;

- (11) availability of institutional mechanisms related to the issues of ethical standards and integrity;
 - (12) compliance with the standards of financial sustainability;
 - (13) compliance with other standards and conditions provided for by accreditation procedures.
2. The Government shall, upon submission of the Authorised Body, approve the procedures, requirements, and standards of institutional and programme accreditation of higher education institutions.
 3. The Specialised Institution shall, as prescribed by the Government, carry out the institutional accreditation of higher education institutions, including jointly with a foreign accrediting organisation meeting the standards approved by the Government, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the procedures established by the Government.
 4. The Specialised Institution or the foreign accrediting organisation meeting the standards approved by the Government shall carry out the programme accreditation of educational programmes of the higher education institution either independently or jointly, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the procedures established by the Government.
 5. A newly established higher education institution shall undergo institutional accreditation within one year, but not later than five years after obtaining thereby a licence.
 6. The higher education institutions or educational programmes shall, upon being granted a licence, be deemed as pre-accredited prior to their accreditation within a prescribed time limit and in a prescribed manner. The pre-accreditation shall be a temporary status equivalent to accreditation, during which the higher education institution may carry out its institutional activities and organise the learning process within the scope of educational programmes.

7. All higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia shall, regardless of their founder, be subject to institutional accreditation.
8. The branches of higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia shall undergo institutional accreditation simultaneously with the higher education institution, as a structural unit of the higher education institution.
9. The new licensed and pre-accredited educational programmes shall, after being licensed, be subject to programme accreditation not later than within one year following the completion of the duration (first round of educational process) provided for, at the given level, by the licence for education.
10. The higher education institution responsible for administration of the programme shall apply for accreditation of joint educational programme. The grounds for accreditation shall be replenished with the capacities provided by the partner higher education institution or organisation of joint educational programme, as well as with the information necessary for accreditation.
11. For the purpose of accreditation of dual qualification educational programmes, the educational programme granting each of the qualifications needs to be accredited and it must be assured that the educational programmes may be jointly implemented within the scope of workload prescribed for the given level of education.
12. The programme accreditation shall have its aim to assess the compliance with the requirements of quality standards of educational programmes, with the National Qualifications Framework or sector-based qualifications framework, and with the needs of the economy and the State.
13. The educational programmes granting micro-qualifications, upon the successful completion whereof CTS credits are granted, shall be subject to accreditation by the Specialised Institution the procedure whereof shall be established under programme accreditation order.

14. The CTS credits from the lower level of education may be transferred to the first level of higher education, if education with the given academic module and the assessment are organised in a manner compatible with relevant modules of higher education programmes, which shall be certified by the opinion rendered by the Specialised Institution, pursuant to the operational procedure for the CTS.
15. In case of obtaining programme accreditation by the Specialised Institution a higher education institution shall be entitled to conduct self-assessment of educational programmes, by state standards, in the subsequent stage and to submit the results to the Specialised Institution for accreditation.
16. Licences of higher education institutions, institutional and programme accreditations of educational programmes, as well as the credentials of pre-accreditation and programme accreditation of educational programmes granting micro-qualifications, shall be registered in the state registry of licences and credentials, maintained by the Specialised Institution.
17. Institutional accreditation shall be granted for a period of seven years.
18. Programme accreditation shall be granted for a period of five years. For the purpose of improving the compliance with certain standards of accreditation a conditional accreditation may be granted for a period of three years.
19. Upon the results of accreditation the higher education institution shall be granted a certificate of institutional or programme accreditation, the format whereof shall be approved by the accreditation procedure.

Article 20. Recognition of foreign qualifications

1. The qualifications granted by foreign educational institutions shall be recognised and assessed through the Specialised Institution, pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties concluded, in this sector, between the Republic of Armenia and foreign States or international institutions.

2. The qualification of refugees, displaced persons and persons holding a refugee status shall be recognised pursuant to part 1 of this Article, and where the qualification acquired by a person may not be certified through a document, the qualification recognition process shall be held as prescribed by the Authorised Body.

Article 21. Admission to a higher education institution

1. Admission of students to higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia shall be carried out through a competition, as of the levels of higher education and their educational programmes. Admission shall be carried out based on applications from persons having completed at least the previous level of education, as prescribed by legislation.
2. The higher education institutions shall be entitled to announce, only for the given level of higher education, a call for admission only for accredited or pre-accredited educational programmes. The higher education institutions shall be obliged to publish on their official website information on their licences and internal regulations, as well as information on institutional certificate and the certificate of programme accreditation (if any), including the threshold number of seats provided for by the licence for the given educational programme.
3. The higher education institution shall be obliged to familiarise the applicant with its licence, the charter and internal regulations, as well as with the certificate of accreditation or pre-accreditation. Information as to the applicant having been familiarised with the mentioned documents shall be specified in the contract concluded with the student.
4. The procedure for admission under the first level, as well as under the first and second levels of integrated educational programmes of higher education (hereinafter referred to as “first-round admission”), which includes the general

conditions for admission, as well as the procedure for external assessment under the disciplines “Armenian language” and “Mathematics”, shall be established by the Government. Based thereon, the higher education institution shall approve and publish the procedure and the criteria for admission competition.

5. In respect of the first-round admission to a licensed higher education institution or a branch of higher education institution operating in the Republic of Armenia, certificates incorporating grades equivalent to at least “good” grade of external assessment for the disciplines “Armenian language” and “Mathematics” shall be mandatory for persons holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, as well as those not holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia though having studied under general education programmes of the Republic of Armenia.
6. Higher education institutions carrying out first-round admissions shall, not later than three years prior to the respective academic year, publish, as per educational programmes, the admission procedure, including the admission requirements and the assessment methodology, which may include the following:
 - (1) a requirement for the average grade in the graduation document of general education, or
 - (2) a motivation letter for admission under the given educational programme, or
 - (3) a requirement of taking an intra-university exam, or
 - (4) a requirement of holding an interview,
 - (5) or a requirement for assessment of the applicant’s CV (portfolio),
 - (6) or a requirement for volunteering,
 - (7) other requirements or set of requirements.
7. Amendments and supplements to the admission procedure published by higher education institutions may enter into force three years after the publication

thereof, except for the cases where more favourable conditions are established, as well as in the cases where the need for amendments and supplements is caused by the declaration of a state of emergency or martial law.

8. Intra-university exams must be organised only within the scope of knowledge, skills and capacities established by state standards of general education.
9. The admission process must be organised on the basis of the principles of fairness and transparency having also in place approved internal procedures for ensuring an adequate response to complaints.
10. In accordance with the general conditions established by the Government for admission, the existence of a certificate issued by an internationally recognised institution of assessment of language proficiency at the appropriate level in programme teaching is mandatory under educational programmes delivered in a foreign language.
11. The Authorised Body shall, based on the state standards of general education, approve the standards and criteria for external assessment in disciplines “Armenian language” and “Mathematics”, as well as shall define the state body responsible for the development of examination materials.
12. The Authorised Body shall approve the criteria for selection of assessing organisations aimed at organising the external assessment process.
13. Admission to higher education institutions shall be organised by a centralised digital platform, the principles of operation whereof shall be established by the Authorised Body.
14. The citizens of the Republic of Armenia who have studied during at least the last three years in educational institutions of foreign States delivering general or professional education programmes, and have completed them, may be admitted to a higher education institution in accordance with the procedure established by the Government for the admission of foreign citizens.

15. Applicants for educational programmes of the first level or those for integrated educational programmes of higher education may apply for more than one educational programme at one or more higher education institutions and may study, in parallel, two professions, where only one out of those may be studied with full academic load. Studies under regulated professions shall be organised only with full academic load.
16. In case of restoring the status of a student having returned from leave granted thereto due to recruitment to compulsory provisional military service, participation in military exercises, health condition, as well as from parental leave provided for the care of a child under the age of three, the amount of the tuition fee established at the time of admission to the higher education institution shall be maintained (except for the cases of reduction of the tuition fee in the given academic year), which shall not be subject to changes during the whole course of studies, if the student has filed an application for restoring his or her status not later than within two months following the date of elimination of the reason for terminating his or her studies for the period established by the higher education institution.
7. The procedure for admission to the second and third levels of higher education shall be established by the Academic Council of the higher education institution based on entrance qualification requirements set for the given profession, as well as the scope of professions or relevant academic modules and the necessary credits, which are also described in the licensing documents of the educational programme.
18. Admission of applicants appeared to be graduates of foreign educational institutions (foreign citizens or citizens of the Republic of Armenia appeared to be graduates of foreign educational institutions) shall be carried out based on the principles of international mobility, in case of possessing a recognised diploma as to having obtained thereby a qualification corresponding to the level preceding

the admission level, in accordance with the procedure approved by the Government.

19. The graduates of professional educational institutions who have demonstrated high academic performance and have obtained a qualification of a specialist under the basic educational programme may continue their studies at higher education institution as prescribed by the Government.
20. The higher education institution shall conclude with the student a contract for the provision of educational services, the text whereof shall be published along with the call for admission and priorly made available to the applicants.
21. The terms of the contract concluded with the student, including the amount of tuition fee established by this contract, may not be altered during the entire course of studies, except for the case of reduction of the tuition fee. The amount of tuition fee for reinstated students shall be defined equal to the amount of the fee set for given academic year, and a new contract shall be concluded therewith.
22. The contract between the higher education institution and the student shall include the duration of the period of study under the given educational programme and the total amount of tuition fee, distributed by academic years, for each degree of higher education at the given higher education institution.
23. The higher education institution shall be entitled to establish a special admission procedure whereby it may arrange the admission of applicants with special needs for education who are unable to meet the requirements prescribed by point 4 of this Article, thus admitting students not exceeding five per cent of its licensed seats.
24. For the purpose of preparing qualified young specialists in the fields of higher education and science, the Government shall establish a procedure for granting deferrals from compulsory military service to citizens studying at relevant higher education institutions with specialisations in natural sciences, technology,

engineering, and mathematics (NSTE) falling within the scope of priorities of the State. The same procedure shall establish also the conditions for being granted a deferral, as well as the list of higher education institutions and professions.

CHAPTER 3

ENTITIES OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Article 22. Students, the representative bodies and unions of students

1. The student may choose an educational programme at his or her discretion, engage in research in a prescribed manner, interrupt or continue higher education at any level of education in accordance with the charter of the higher education institution and the legislation.
2. The student shall have the right to:
 - (1) study under the educational programme chosen thereby and that he or she was admitted for;
 - (2) draw up an individual learning plan in accordance with the procedure and in the cases established by the higher education institution, by choosing the courses or academic modules provided for under the given educational programme, subject to the entrance conditions of the courses, as well as enrol in any other academic module taught at the given or another higher education institution;
 - (3) propose a topic for final thesis or choose one from the proposed topics;
 - (4) access libraries, databases and laboratories of the higher education institution free of charge, by engaging in the work of research groups;

- (5) receive, in a prescribed manner, consultations on individual organisation of education by a staff member of the higher education institution recommended, in a prescribed manner, by the higher education institution and chosen by the student;
- (6) apply to the higher education institution and receive, a prescribed manner, consultation for settlement of issues arising during the educational process;
- (7) enjoy the right to receive a student scholarship, as prescribed by the legislation;
- (8) receive, in a prescribed manner, an academic leave for a period of up to one year;
- (9) be on leave not less than twice during one academic year;
- (10) be transferred, in a prescribed manner, to another higher education institution or another educational programme in case of ensured compatibility with CTS, aimed at implementing individual stages of study or the whole course of study (including in higher education institutions of foreign States);
- (11) freely express his or her own thoughts and opinion;
- (12) continue studies, as prescribed by the Authorised Body, under the educational programme of the given or another higher education institution, in case of termination of any of the educational programmes studied thereby;
- (13) participate in the work of relevant management bodies of the higher education institution as prescribed by law or the charter of the higher education institution;
- (14) assess the quality of work carried out by the academic staff of the higher education institution and that of the proposed courses;

- (15) participate in the activities of sports clubs operating within higher education institution and accumulate credits from student sports activities as prescribed by the charter of the higher education institution or legislation;
 - (16) initiate and establish student-related institutions, associations, *i.e.* student self-governance bodies, engage in and join them, come up with student initiatives, programmes, participate in volunteer work;
 - (17) request and receive reasonable accommodations as prescribed by legislation.
3. The student shall be obliged to:
- (1) invest his or her capacities in learning and professional progress;
 - (2) fulfil the obligations established by the charter of the higher education institution, internal disciplinary rules and the learning contract;
 - (3) meet the requirements of academic integrity and rules of ethics established by the higher education institution.
4. The student shall have other rights and obligations stipulated by this Law and other laws, as well as the charter of the higher education institution and the learning contract.
5. In case of violation of the obligations provided for by the charter and internal disciplinary rules of the higher education institution, the students may be imposed disciplinary sanctions up to dismissal from the higher education institution.
6. A student may not be dismissed during the academic leave or pregnancy and the maternity leave.
7. A former student having interrupted his or her studies shall, regardless of the reason or duration of the interruption, have the right to restore his or her status of a student, as prescribed by the higher education institution, by filling certain

credits driven by changes in the educational programme. When being reinstated in case of regulated professions, a retake of previously passed exams may be required or a restriction on the possibility of reinstatement may be imposed.

8. In the management system for higher education and science, a student shall have his own individual digital dashboard enabling him or her to track his or her academic progress, to check his or her accumulated credits, as well as shall enjoy the benefits provided thereto and shall have access to his or her documents.
9. Student self-governance bodies may operate within higher education institutions, the procedure for the establishment whereof shall be approved by the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution.
10. A student representative body shall operate within the higher education institution, which shall be set up as prescribed by the charter, *i.e.* through elections, from students or student self-governance bodies, and the scope of activities whereof shall be determined by this Law and the charter of the higher education institution.
11. The student representative body shall be obliged to:
 - (1) have a well-defined organisational structure;
 - (2) have well-defined areas of activities and not to derogate from its mission of representing the best interests of a student;
 - (3) represent a wider student community, by ensuring representation and inclusiveness;
 - (4) be set up on the basis of democratic principles, *i.e.* through elections by the students of the higher education institution with at least 40 per cent of student participation in place, including by using appropriate electronic voting tools;

- (5) ensure accountability for the students of higher education institution through regular conferences, as well as other platforms;
 - (6) ensure shift of the work by maintaining appropriate records management;
 - (7) obey the decisions of the student contingent, adopted by voting;
 - (8) participate, in good faith, in the work of the management bodies of the higher education institution through their representatives.
- 12. The total amount of funding allocated to student self-governance bodies, cases of provision of assets and other resources (including additional funds), the minimum amount, conditions for their use and the accountability procedure shall be established by the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution.
 - 13. Raising funds other than those provided by the higher education institutions, aimed at financing the activities or targeted at the activities of student-related bodies, shall be prohibited.
 - 14. In the event of emergence of circumstances preventing the fulfilment of the obligations referred to in part 11 of this Article, new elections for the student representative body of the higher education institution shall be scheduled upon the decision of the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution.
 - 15. The student self-governance body shall be entitled to receive information from all cycles of governance of higher education institution concerning all issues related to the organisation of education.
 - 16. Students may create sports clubs as of various types of sports and participate in student tournaments in the respective sports.

Article 23. Employees of higher education institutions and scientific organisations, the rights and obligations thereof

- 1. The criteria and conditions on the selection, appointment (hiring), promotion, and re-appointment of employees of higher education institutions and scientific

organisations, as well as the rights, obligations, and related provisions pertaining thereto, shall be established by the charter of the higher education institution and scientific organisation, the internal disciplinary rules, and other internal legal acts, taking into consideration relevant characteristics established by this Law, as well as the requirements of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Positions for academic staff shall be established in the higher education institution, and those for scientific workers and engineering technicians, as well as for educational support staff, for production, administrative and other staff shall be established in the scientific organisation.
3. The grades of and minimum requirements to the office held by the academic staff shall be established by the procedure for awarding academic titles — upon the decision of the Government.
4. The grades for scientific workers and engineering technicians, including the grades of honorary leading and honorary chief scientific workers, shall be established through competence evaluation procedure for academic staff positions.
5. Those holding scientific staff positions in scientific organisations operating within public research universities shall not be subject to proficiency evaluation after being granted, upon the results of competence evaluation, the grade of honorary leading or honorary chief scientific worker.
6. Taking into consideration its peculiarities, the higher education institution or scientific organisation may establish other positions of academic staff.
7. The charter of the higher education institution shall also establish the rights and obligations for the positions of deputies of the Rector (Vice-Rectors, deputy heads of military educational institutions) and those of the heads of structural units.
8. Persons holding an administrative position may also perform a concurrently running academic work compatible with their profession and qualification.

9. A person holding an administrative position may not hold any other administrative position within the higher education institution, except for the position of a member of the Management Board or the Academic Council.
10. The work performed by those holding managerial positions at the academic structural units approved by the charter of higher education institution, shall be deemed as academic work.
11. The head of an academic structural unit of a higher education institution must hold an academic degree in relevant field or in a related profession. The same person may hold this position for a term of five years, for not more than two consecutive terms, including in case of structural changes taken place.

The main powers of the head of an academic structural unit of a higher education institution shall be established by the charter of the higher education institution, whereas the operational powers — by the charter of the respective academic unit.

12. The elected positions within the higher education institution shall include the Rector, the deputy head of the military educational institution on academic affairs, and the head of the academic structural unit. The position of the head of a scientific organisation shall be an elected position within the scientific organisation.
13. Vacant academic staff positions at a higher education institution shall be filled under the procedure and in a manner established by the higher education institution, for a term of three to five years, whereas in case of vacant academic positions at a military educational institution — for a term of up to three years. Based on the assessment of performance of the academic staff, employment relations therewith may be extended for a period of five years without the need for a competition-based selection. If a vacant academic position fails to be filled upon the results of competition, the Rector of the higher education institution may, upon the recommendation of relevant structural unit or the head of

educational programme, conclude an employment contract with the person who meets the requirements of the job description, for a term not exceeding one year.

14. An individual digital domain within the management system for higher education and science shall be made available to the academic staff of higher education institutions and scientific organisations, through which they manage their personal data, apply for state-funded programmes, and monitor the progress of the programmes wherein they take part. The registration in this domain shall be mandatory for the academic staff of public higher education institutions and public scientific organisations.
15. Higher education institutions may also involve a visiting lecturer or researcher in order to deliver lectures or to conduct research, with the specified time period, in his or her professional field, based on the demonstrated achievements of the person concerned in the field of production or research.
16. The amount of remuneration for a visiting lecturer or researcher for the specified time period shall be established upon recommendation of the Academic Council of relevant academic unit of the higher education institution.
17. The powers of a person appointed (elected) to an administrative position at a public higher education institution, as well as to a senior academic position or an administrative position upon the results of election (including the positions of the head of a scientific organisation operating within a research university and the heads and deputy heads of academic structural units), shall be terminated by the decision of the Rector, in case of having attained thereby the age of 65.
18. An employee of the academic or scientific staff of a higher education institution or scientific organisation shall have the right to:
 - (1) develop, at his or her discretion, the content of a course or academic module within the framework of educational programme, choose teaching and learning methods, research topics and implement them by using the methods selected thereby, *i.e.* the National Qualifications Framework on the

given level, as well as ensuring compatibility with the descriptions prescribed by sector-based qualification framework, if any, and the content and outcomes of the professional educational programmes;

- (2) select forms, areas and methods of scientific and technological activities relevant to his or her interests and creative capacities;
- (3) unite with other scientific workers to carry out joint scientific activities and organise temporary research groups;
- (4) refuse, with relevant reasoning, to participate in fundamental or applied scientific research or experimental developments which may negatively affect individuals, society, or the environment, or which contradict the criteria of academic ethics;
- (5) receive remuneration or income from the realisation of products of scientific and technological or innovative activities (intellectual property) created by him or her or with his or her participation;
- (6) participate in research-based competitions funded by the State Budget and other sources not prohibited by law;
- (7) freely use, disseminate and exchange scientific information, publish and disclose the results of his or her own research, if they do not contain information constituting state, official, commercial or other secret guarded by law;
- (8) conduct scientific expert examination and consultancy as prescribed by legislation;
- (9) introduce the scientific results by means of scientific reports, publications and defence of PhD thesis, unless otherwise provided for by legislation or employment contract;

- (10) elect and be elected, as prescribed by the charter of higher education institution or scientific organisation, to relevant positions and management bodies of the higher education institution;
 - (11) participate in discussion and settlement of issues related to the activities of the higher education institution or scientific organisation;
 - (12) avail of other rights deriving from the principles of academic freedom;
 - (13) engage, where necessary, in measures aimed at contributing to dissemination of knowledge and public communication;
 - (14) carry out other activities not prohibited by law.
19. The employee of the academic or scientific staff of the higher education institution or scientific organisation shall be obliged:
- (1) to observe the principle of academic honesty and completeness in his or her work and in the course of performance of his or her obligations, by excluding plagiarism, falsification of data or other academic falsifications, and to prevent their manifestations within the scope of his or her possibilities;
 - (2) to maintain the high-quality of education or research provided thereby and to improve it, by relying on the best international standards in the given field;
 - (3) to comply with the requirements and principles of integrity established by the charter and internal disciplinary rules of the higher education institution or scientific organisation;
 - (4) to conduct professional development trainings under the procedure and within the time period established by the higher education institution;
 - (5) to comply with the requirements of academic integrity and rules of ethics established by the higher education institution or scientific organisation;

- (6) not to cause harm human life, health and environment with scientific and technological activities;
 - (7) to reflect modern academic and professional standards when developing an educational programme or developing or revising a course of academic module;
 - (8) to be guided by fair, transparent methods of assessment and those compliant with educational goals, when evaluating a student;
 - (9) to be guided, when disclosing the results of his or her research (including co-authorship), by the principle of choosing reputable scientific platforms with wide professional readership to a possible extent;
 - (10) to contribute, through his or her activities, to strengthening the reputation of the higher education institution and implementation of development programmes;
 - (11) to undergo competence evaluation in a prescribed manner and frequency aimed at attesting the compliance with the position held thereby;
 - (12) to perform other duties established by the charter of the higher education institution or scientific organisation, other legal acts and the employment contract.
20. An employee of the academic or scientific staff of a higher education institution or scientific organisation shall be subject to mandatory competence evaluation under the procedure established by the charter of the organisation; failure to comply with the conditions of competence evaluation shall serve as a ground for dismissal of an employee from the position held thereby.
21. Competence evaluation of scientific workers and engineering technicians in a scientific organisation shall be carried out at least once within five years. Competence evaluation shall be aimed at assessing the degree of professional

preparedness of a scientific worker and the scientific outcomes obtained thereby in order to determine the compliance of the scientific worker with the position held thereby.

22. The higher education institution and the scientific organisation shall independently determine the form of remuneration and the amount of the salary of their employee, as well as the types, amount of and procedure for applying financial and other incentive measures.
23. The higher education institution and the scientific organisation shall ensure inclusiveness and accessibility by creating relevant structural unit, appointing a responsible officer, or delegating this service to a non-governmental organisation with relevant experience.

Article 24. The remuneration for work performed by and term of service of academic activities of a scientific worker and academic staff

1. The remuneration of academic staff and scientific worker at higher education institutions and scientific organisations shall consist of the basic salary, awards, additional payments granted for academic degrees, as well as other additional payments, supplementary payments and bonuses. The minimum salary threshold, as of grades, for academic staff and scientific workers and engineering technicians at public higher education institutions and public scientific organisations, as well as the minimum conditions for each grade shall be defined by the Government.
2. The structure of official duties of academic staff must also include scientific and research activities as an integral part of the work, the proportion whereof, as compared with teaching activities, is determined by the charter of the higher education institution and employment contract and may be changed based on an agreement.

3. The scientific workers engaged in baseline budgetary funding programmes of scientific and technological activities and the main scientific workers shall be paid monthly additional payments for their academic degrees, the amount and the procedure for calculation whereof shall be established by the Government through baseline funding of scientific and technological activities.
4. If the persons possessing at least 30 years of service in public higher education institutions or public scientific organisations in the field of scientific and technological activities, and an academic degree, have received additional payment for an academic degree for at least 8 years out of the last 10 years as prescribed by the Government, and have attained the age of 70, while not being engaged in state-funded programmes, the State shall grant them a monthly monetary payment equal to the monthly additional payment granted for an academic degree to scientific workers possessing academic degree and engaged in scientific programmes funded from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.
5. Monthly monetary payment prescribed by part 4 of this Article shall be granted within the framework of general allocations provided for by the State Budget in the field of science.
6. In officers (military education) higher education institutions, academic and senior staff may also act as officers of relevant agency, on the part of whom the term of service in these agencies shall be record-registered as well.

Article 25. Organisations and associations within higher education institutions and scientific organisations

1. Professional associations, branches of international professional associations, student self-governance institutions, cultural and sports associations, or trade unions may operate within higher education institutions or scientific organisations, provided that such possibility is enshrined in the decision of the Board of Trustees.

2. The activities of political, party-related, religious organisations and associations, as well as organisations and associations not directly related to education and science shall be prohibited within higher education institutions or scientific organisations.
3. Carrying out political, party-related, religious activities and propaganda at higher education institutions or scientific organisations, including the use of financial, informative, material resources, premises, logos, human resources of the higher education institution or scientific organisation for political, party-related, religious activities or propaganda, as well as acting on behalf of the higher education institution or scientific organisation when engaging in political, party-related, religious propaganda or activities shall be prohibited.
4. Violation of the requirements set forth in parts 2 and 3 of this Article shall be considered in accordance with this Law and internal disciplinary rules of higher education institutions and scientific organisations — by the Office for Ethics and Protection of Rights, and may lead to prescribed liability, as well as shall serve as a ground for dismissal from office or removal from management body.

CHAPTER 4

MANAGEMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATION, FOUNDATION (ESTABLISHMENT), REORGANISATION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATION

Article 26. Management and management bodies of higher education institution

1. The management bodies of the higher education institution shall be as follows:
 - (1) the Board of Trustees;

- (2) the Academic Council;
 - (3) the executive management body — the Rector (Director, Head).
2. In respect of research universities, management bodies shall, in addition to those specified by part 1 of this Article, also include the Management Board (or the Board of Directors).
 3. According to the charter of the higher education institution, other collegial management bodies may operate in its composition, depending on the specifics of activities of the higher education institution.
 4. The Office for Ethics and Protection of Law shall operate within higher education institution, which is an independent body operating in its composition and established through participatory elections and the functions whereof are defined by this Law, the charter of the Office for Ethics and Protection of Law, and the internal legal acts of the higher education institution.
 5. An independent electoral body shall operate within the higher education institution, which is responsible for organisation and proper implementation of democratic and participatory election processes, where the procedure for its formation, the working procedure and the scope of powers thereof are defined by the charter and internal legal acts of the higher education institution, which must guarantee the independent activities of the electoral body.
 6. The management of the higher education institution shall be carried out by this Law, Law “On foundations”, other laws and legal acts and the charter of the higher education institution.
 7. Engaging persons holding membership in a political party or holding public positions or public service positions in the management bodies of a higher education institution and its structural units, as well as in managerial positions of its academic units shall be prohibited. Emergence of such circumstance shall serve as a ground for dismissing the person from the mentioned positions by the

body authorised to appoint or nominate him or her to the given position, upon such circumstance becomes known thereto.

Article 27. Management of the public scientific organisation and management bodies

1. The management bodies of the scientific organisation shall be as follows:
 - (1) The Board of Trustees;
 - (2) the Scientific Board;
 - (3) the executive management body — the Director.
2. The Board of Trustees of the research university shall act as a Board of Trustees of the scientific organisation operating within the research university.
3. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of a scientific organisation with departmental affiliation shall be appointed by the head of the given department, and the majority of the Board of Trustees shall be formed upon proposal of the head of the given department. The procedure for formation of the Board of Trustees shall be prescribed by the charter.
4. The scientific and technological activities of a scientific organisation shall be coordinated by the Scientific Board.
5. The management structure of scientific organisations holding the status of an institution shall be regulated by the founder.
6. Scientific organisations with departmental affiliation, as well as those not operating within higher education institution and holding the status of an institution, must have a Scientific Board, the procedure for the formation whereof shall, within the framework of this Law, be defined by the founding document.

7. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia, possessing a document certifying the completion, with “good” or “excellent” grade, of the academic module for managers in the field of higher education and research, jointly implemented with reputable international higher education institutions and approved by the Authorised Body, or holding a qualification certified by the Authorised Body, or at least an equivalent qualification, may be appointed to the position of the Director of a public scientific organisation.
8. The Director of a public scientific organisation may not be a member of any political party and shall be obliged to demonstrate political restraint and neutrality during his or her nomination and term of office.
9. The powers of the person appointed to the position of the Director of a public scientific organisation shall be terminated upon the decision of competent authority, if he or she has attained the age of 65.
10. The conditions for appointment to the position of a Director of public scientific organisation and for termination of powers of the appointed person shall comply with the requirements set forth in parts 16 and 17 of Article 31 of this Law.
11. The Director of a public scientific organisation shall be selected under the procedure prescribed by this Law and the charter of the organisation, through a competition, for a term of five years, where the competent authority shall conclude an employment contract therewith. The same person may not be appointed in the position of a Director of the same organisation for more than two consecutive terms.
12. In the course of selecting a Director of a scientific organisation operating within a public research university, the data on relevant applicants shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees of the university along with the opinions of the Scientific Board of the scientific organisation, the Academic Council of the university, and of the executive body of the university.

13. The Director of a scientific organisation operating within the public research university shall organise the ongoing activities of the scientific organisation. The administrative and maintenance works of the scientific organisation shall be performed by the university, unless other peculiarities are specified by the charter.
14. The scientific organisation operating within the public research university shall maintain a separate bank account or sub-account and shall independently manage the funds provided thereto from the State Budget, under grants or other programmes, while allocating a designated surcharge from other grant-based and extra-budgetary programmes to the total budget of the university, with the maximum threshold whereof being determined by the charter of the university. The threshold of surcharge, prescribed by the programme, shall apply in case of being stipulated by the programme.
15. The employees of the academic staff of a scientific organisation operating within the public research university shall be selected through a competition, under the procedures established by the organisation, as guaranteed by the Scientific Board of the organisation, where the results thereof shall be approved by the executive body of the university in case of absence of procedural violations (including those of ethics regulations).
16. The procedure for management of a scientific organisation, that for formation of its Scientific Board, the number of Board members, as well as its working procedure and powers shall be defined by the charter of the organisation.
17. The charter of a scientific organisation shall be approved, and any amendments or supplements thereto shall be made as prescribed by legislation.
18. Prior to the appointment, in a prescribed manner, of the Director of a scientific organisation newly founded or reorganised through reformation, separation, or merger, the head of state authorised body for management in relevant field shall appoint an Acting Director for a term of not more than one year.

19. A public scientific organisation not operating within a higher education institution shall be founded only in the cases where it intends to carry out applied research or experimental development activities exclusively within the scope of a state agency or multiple agencies, as well as on issues related to the private sector. The decision on its founding shall be made, where:
- (1) there are grounded justifications as to the impossibility of conducting applied research and development activities within the scientific organisations of research universities;
 - (2) there is analysis related to the capability and demand to entrust research and development tasks of suitable level and workload to the scientific organisation established by relevant agency or the private sector;
 - (3) there is a positive opinion on the conditions set out in points 1 and 2 of this part, rendered by the professional expert council established by the Authorised Body.
20. Public organisations may have scientific organisations with the status of an institution that deal exclusively with the scientific issues of the founding organisation, moreover, their establishment must be justified by the specifics of the founding organisation.
21. The research university shall organise its scientific and technological activities at the scientific organisations operating in its composition.

Article 28. The Board of Trustees of the public higher education institution

1. The Board of Trustees of the public higher education institution shall be a supreme management body of the higher education institution, operating on a permanent basis.
2. The Board of Trustees of the public higher education institution shall be comprised of 20 members.

3. The Authorised Body shall nominate ten members of the Board of Trustees of the public higher education institution from among persons, including foreign citizens, who enjoy high standing in the fields of science, education, the humanities, arts, sports, or business.
4. The higher education institution shall nominate ten members of the Board of Trustees of the public higher education institution, under the procedure and by the proportion prescribed by its charter, from among the representatives of the academic staff, including the scientific organisations operating in its composition, by ensuring, to a possible extent, the representation of various academic units of the higher education institution, as well as shall nominate not more than five members from among the representatives of student representative bodies.
5. The peculiarities of formation and operation the management board staff of an officers (military education) institution shall be prescribed by the charter of the educational institution.
6. The term of powers of each member of the Board of Trustees shall be five years, unless the powers of the given member or those of the Board of Trustees are terminated earlier on the grounds defined by this Law or the Law “On foundations”.
7. At least two months prior to the expiry of the term of powers of a member of the Board of Trustees, the Rector of the higher education institution shall notify thereof the body having nominated this member, which shall, within 30 working days and under the procedure established thereby, submit the candidacy of the new member to the Authorised Body which, in its turn, shall submit this candidacy for approval if it complies with the conditions prescribed by this Law, or shall return it, within a period of ten days, to the higher education institution for reconsideration, by indicating the provision of law or charter, which the proposal fails to comply with.

8. The nominal composition of the Board of Trustees shall be approved by the head of the founding body upon submission of the Authorised Body.
9. The competences of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:
 - (1) approval of the annual budget of the higher education institution and any amendments thereto — upon submission of the Rector, including the budgets of the scientific organisations operating within the research university;
 - (2) approval of the strategic programme of the higher education institution, submitted by the executive body (Rector) upon positive recommendation from the Academic Council and a summary paper of proposals from the academic staff and students;
 - (3) submission, to the founder, of proposals for making amendments to the charter of the higher education institution, upon proposal or approval of the Academic Council;
 - (4) approval of proposals on changing the internal structure of the higher education institution, upon submission of the executive body, moreover, in the case of a research university, any changes in the structure of a scientific organisation shall be submitted upon proposal of the head of the respective organisation;
 - (5) approval of proposals on changing the academic units of the higher education institution, upon the decision of the Academic Council of the higher education institution;
 - (6) approval of procedures for organising the competition-based selection of Directors and election of the Rector of scientific organisations upon positive opinion rendered by the Academic Council, and approval of the additional requirements to the candidates for these positions;

- (7) the election of the Rector and selection of Directors of scientific organisations, and the appointment to or dismissal from positions, with consideration of the opinion rendered by the Academic Council in respect of the candidates;
- (8) approval of internal regulations of the higher education institution covering ethics, integrity, and rules of conduct;
- (9) approval of the staff list of the higher education institution and that of the scientific organisation based on the proposals of the Rector, whereas in case of a scientific organisation operating within a research university — based on the proposal of its head;
- (10) consideration and assessment of annual report on activities of the higher education institution, upon submission of the Rector, by comparing relevant results with the existing strategy;
- (11) approval of technical characteristics and the results of selection of a legal entity performing financial audit;
- (12) discussion and approval of proposals submitted by the Rector in respect of major transactions which exceed the amount established by the charter of the higher education institution;
- (13) approval of the amount of tuition fees based on the educational programmes of the higher education institution;
- (14) discussion of proposals for establishing enterprises based on the developments produced by employees or students of the higher education institution, or on the copyrights thereof, and with the participation of the higher education institution, as well as the approval of extent of participation of the higher education institution therein;
- (15) exercise of other powers provided for by this Law and the charter.

10. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution shall be elected by the members of the Board of Trustees from among themselves, excluding members of the academic staff of the higher education institution and representatives of the students.
11. The Board of Trustees may have sector-based commissions, the procedure for the establishment and operation whereof shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.
12. A person may not be a member of the Board of Trustees if he or she:
 - (1) was convicted by the criminal judgment of the court, having entered into legal force, and the conviction was not cancelled or expired in a prescribed manner, or
 - (2) was recognised as having no or limited active legal capacity, upon the criminal judgment of the court, having entered into legal force, or
 - (3) holds an administrative position in the given higher education institution, or
 - (4) is a member of the Academic Council of the given higher education institution, or
 - (5) is the head of a scientific organisation operating within the structural subdivision of the given higher education institution or within the higher education institution,
 - (6) is a member of a political party or holds a public position or a public service position.
13. Following the appointment, the member of the Board of Trustees shall, at the upcoming session of the Board, sign, in the manner prescribed by the charter of the higher education institution, a public statement attesting his or her unconditional commitment to serve the mission and interests of the higher education institution to the full extent of the abilities thereof.

14. The Board of Trustees shall have a Secretariat operating within the higher education institution and composed of up to three employees, whose remuneration is paid from the budget of the higher education institution, which shall maintain the records management of the Board of Trustees and shall organise the sessions. The Head of the Secretariat shall act as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and shall be elected for a term of up to five years at the first session of the Board of Trustees.
15. The Chairperson and other members of the Board of Trustees shall not be considered as persons holding positions in the foundation and shall perform their obligations without remuneration, on a voluntary basis.
16. The powers of a member of the Board of Trustees shall be terminated upon the motion of the Authorised Body, based on the decision of the head of the founding body:
 - (1) due to failure to participate in three consecutive sessions without a valid reason, or in at least five of the last ten sessions, or
 - (2) in case of improper performance of his or her obligations, upon the decision approved by at least three-fourths of the votes of the remaining members of the Board of Trustees, or
 - (3) based on the opinion rendered by the Office for Ethics and Protection of Law of the higher education institution, attesting the fact of violation of ethics, or
 - (4) due to failure to comply with any of the requirements to the members of the Board of Trustees;
 - (5) in other cases provided for by the Law “On foundations”.
17. The other powers of the Board of Trustees, the rights and obligations of its Chairperson and members shall be stipulated by the charter of the higher education institution.

18. The decisions and the protocols of the Board of Trustees shall be published on the official website of the higher education institution.

Article 29. Academic Council of a higher education institution

1. The Academic Council shall be considered as the management body for educational and methodological, as well as scientific and technological activities of the higher education institution, where the decision-making related to educational and methodological, scientific and technological, as well as innovative activities falls within its competence.
2. The Academic Council shall be established and operate for a term of five years, pursuant to this Law and the charter of the higher education institution.
3. The number of members of the Academic Council shall be established by the charter of the higher education institution and shall involve representatives from academic units.
4. The Rector, as well as the Vice-Rectors for academic affairs and other *ex officio* members provided for by the charter, who must constitute not more than 20 per cent of the total number of members of the Academic Council, shall act as *ex officio* members of the Academic Council.
5. The sessions of the Academic Council of the higher education institution shall be chaired by the Rector of the higher education institution, unless otherwise provided by the charter of the higher education institution.
6. Within the overall composition of the Academic Council:
 - (1) not less than 40 per cent must comprise the representatives considered as regular staff members holding senior positions in the academic staff of the higher education institution, including the representatives of scientific organisations operating within the research university;

- (2) not less than 30 per cent must comprise the representatives considered as regular staff members of mid-level academic staff;
 - (3) not more than 10 per cent must comprise the representatives of the student contingent showing high academic performance. The list of positions and the requirements thereto shall be prescribed under the procedure for establishing the Academic Council, which shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.
7. The competencies of the Academic Council of the higher education institution shall be as follows:
- (1) general decision-making on the issues concerning the organisation of the education process;
 - (2) approval of educational programmes and submission of proposals to the Rector related to their financing;
 - (3) approval of the internal quality assurance policy and supervision over its implementation;
 - (4) approval of internal qualification requirements for academic staff and approval of the requirements of competition procedures for filling positions;
 - (5) consideration of the quality and level of research and development activities conducted in scientific organisations of the research university, based on internal quality assurance and the reports of the Directors of organisations, and submission of proposals to the Rector and the Board of Trustees;
 - (6) consideration of the quality of educational programmes and submission of proposals thereon to the Rector;
 - (7) organisation of symposiums or discussions involving the enhanced academic staff of the higher education institution to address broader issues related to the higher education institution;

- (8) granting of honorary titles of academic staff under the procedure prescribed by legislation and the charter of the higher education institution;
 - (9) submission of opinions and proposals to the Board of Trustees in respect of the strategy of the higher education institution;
 - (10) submission of proposals to the Board of Trustees in respect of making amendments and supplements to the charter of the higher education institution;
 - (11) submission of an opinion to the Board of Trustees in respect of qualifying on the part of nominated candidates for the position of Rector or Director of a scientific organisation;
 - (12) approval of educational programmes granting no qualifications for higher education offered by higher education institution, and performance of other functions reserved thereto by law and the charter.
8. The decisions of the Academic Council shall be made available to the academic staff of the higher education institution and shall be posted on the official website of the higher education institution with relevant access.
9. The working procedure of the Academic Council shall be approved by the Academic Council.

Article 30. Scientific Board of a public scientific organisation

1. The Scientific Board of a public scientific organisation shall be the collegial body coordinating and regulating the scientific and technological activities of this organisation.
2. The Scientific Board shall be established and operate for a term of five years, pursuant to this Law and the charter of the scientific organisation.

3. The number of the members of the Scientific Board shall be defined by the charter of the scientific organisation.
4. The Scientific Board shall *ex officio* comprise the heads of scientific subdivisions of the given organisation, the representatives of the scientific staff holding leading positions and elected by the scientific workers of the scientific organisation, as well as the representatives specified by the charter of the scientific organisation, including those from other organisations.
5. The Scientific Board of the public scientific organisation shall, within the scope of the powers reserved thereto by law and the charter, be entitled to:
 - (1) submit a proposal on the structural change of the scientific organisation;
 - (2) approve the internal documentation related to the scientific and technological activities;
 - (3) exercise supervision over the scope and quality of research and development activities conducted within the scientific organisation;
 - (4) approve the annual report of the Director;
 - (5) approve the development strategy of the scientific organisation, which in case of a scientific organisation operating within a research university must be consistent with the overall strategy of the university.

Article 31. Rector of the public higher education institution

1. The ongoing activities of the public higher education institution shall be managed by the executive management body — the Rector.
2. A person holding an academic degree and possessing at least ten years of experience in academic or scientific and technological activities, including at least five years of experience in a managerial position in the field of education or

science, may be elected to the position of the Rector of a public higher education institution. The additional requirements to the candidate of the Rector, as well as the conditions for election shall be prescribed by the charter of the higher education institution.

3. The powers of the person elected to the position of the Rector of a public higher education institution shall be terminated by the decision of the Board of Trustees, if he or she has attained the age of 65. The same person may not be elected to the position of the Rector for more than two consecutive terms, including in cases of reorganisation or changes to the legal and organisational form of the higher education institution.
4. The Rector of the public higher education institution shall be elected through an international competition by the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution, by secret ballot, for a term of five years, by at least two-thirds of votes of the total number of Board members.
5. The Rector of the public higher education institution must possess a document certifying the completion, with “good” or “excellent” grade, of educational module for managers in the field of higher education and research jointly implemented with reputable international higher education institutions, and approved by the Authorised Body, as well as a qualification equivalent thereto.
6. The Director of a public higher education institution may not be a member of any political party and shall be obliged to demonstrate political restraint and neutrality during his or her nomination and term of office.
7. Following the approval of election results by the founder, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall sign the employment contract with the Rector of the public higher education institution in the manner prescribed by legislation.
8. At least six months prior to the expiry of the term of powers of the Rector, a call for elections, through an open international competition, for the position of the

Rector shall be announced in the manner prescribed by the charter of the higher education institution. The new Rector shall assume his or her obligations on the day of expiry of powers of current Rector of the higher education institution.

9. Where the position of Rector becomes vacant, the Board of Trustees shall, within a period of one month from the date of occurrence of relevant ground, announce a call for open international competition, by establishing the duration of competition for not less than six months. Where the position of Rector becomes vacant, the obligations of the Rector shall, prior to the election of a new Rector as prescribed by this Law and the charter of the higher education institution, be performed by one of the Vice-Rectors upon the decision of the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution.
10. The powers of the Rector shall be established by this Law, the charter of the higher education institution and the employment contract concluded therewith.
11. The position of the head of officers higher education institution (the Head of the Military Medical Faculty of relevant public higher education institution) shall be a military position, where the appointment to this position shall be carried out as prescribed by the Law “On Military Service and the Status of Military Servant”.
12. Prior to formation of the Board of Trustees in the newly established or the reorganised higher education institution, the founder of the higher education institution shall appoint an acting Rector for a period not exceeding one year, who must meet the requirements to the position of the Rector, referred to in this Article.
13. The powers of the Rector shall be as follows:
 - (1) the ongoing management and official representation of the higher education institution;
 - (2) issuance of orders;

- (3) conclusion of contracts with employees, including upon submission of the heads of academic units;
 - (4) admission and dismissal of students in accordance with the charter of the higher education institution and the legislation;
 - (5) submission to the Board of Trustees of a proposal on tuition fees for educational programmes;
 - (6) submission of an annual report on the activities of the higher educational institution to the Board of Trustees and the academic staff;
 - (7) submission of the strategic programme to the approval of the Board of Trustees;
 - (8) conclusion of a contract with the Director of a scientific organisation operating within the research university.
14. The Rector shall be responsible for the financial activities and proper management of the higher education institution, as well as for foundations and other property.
15. The employment contract with the Rector shall be rescinded by two-thirds of the total number of members of the Board of Trustees in case of non-acceptance of the report of the Rector or non-compliance with the requirements to the position of Rector.
16. A person may not be appointed to the position of the Rector if he or she:
- (a) was convicted of a crime and the conviction has not been cancelled or expired;
 - (b) was prohibited from holding leading positions in accordance with law;
 - (c) held the position of the head of an organisation having been liquidated as a result of bankruptcy over the previous three years and having not satisfied the legal claims of creditors.

17. The powers of a person appointed to the position of the Rector upon election results shall be terminated by the decision of competent authority, where:
- (1) the person applied to that regard;
 - (2) he or she has attained the age of 65;
 - (3) the person was elected or appointed to another position upon his or her written consent or was recruited in another employment incompatible with his or her position;
 - (4) he or she failed to appear to work for more than four consecutive months due to temporary incapacity for work;
 - (5) he or she failed to appear to work for more than three consecutive days without a reasonable excuse;
 - (6) he or she was appointed with violation of the requirements of law, or circumstances provided for by part 16 of this Article emerged;
 - (7) he or she, while performing his or her functions, caused damage to the higher education institution due to his or her guilt, the size whereof exceeds five per cent of the annual budget of the higher education institution or scientific organisation;
 - (8) he or she was declared as having no or limited active legal capacity, or missing or dead by civil judgment of the court, having entered into legal force;
 - (9) a criminal judgment of conviction against him or her entered into legal force;
 - (10) he or she was subjected, within a period of one year, to repeated disciplinary liability for violation of the law;
 - (11) other circumstance provided for by this Law emerged.

Article 32. The Management Board of the public research university

1. The Management Board of a public research university shall be a collegial body comprised of the Rector, Vice-Rectors responsible for academic affairs, and the heads of scientific organisations and faculties within the composition of the university.
2. The Chairperson of the Management Board shall, *ex officio*, be the Rector of the research university.
3. The Management Board shall consider issues related to overall management of the university, aimed at maintaining the current proportional management of various academic units and ensuring early detection and resolution of issues.
4. The scope of powers of the Management Board shall be defined by the charter of the research university, and its working procedure shall be approved by the Board of Trustees upon the proposal of the Rector.

Article 33. Office for Ethics and Protection of Law of the higher education institution

1. Each licensed higher education institution must have an Office for Ethics and Protection of Law (hereinafter referred to as “ the Office for Ethics”), which must receive, assess, and propose solutions in case of complaints from students, academic staff, and personnel, which concern academic, operational issues, ethics, or integrity-related issues.
2. The activities of the Office for Ethics shall be based on the principles of impartiality, fairness, and jurisdiction.
3. Issues to be considered by the Office for Ethics shall include:
 - (1) academic issues, including disputes on assessments, and other issues pertaining to teaching, teaching process, or organisation of educational process;

- (2) administrative matters, including admissions, financial aid, or other services provided by the higher education institution;
 - (3) issues on ethics, including issues related to academic ethics, manifestations of discrimination, encroachments or ignorance of law;
 - (4) issues relating to infrastructures or property conditions which impede personal convenience or the educational process;
 - (5) other issues stipulated by the charter.
4. Applications shall be submitted to the Office for Ethics in writing, in electronic form, or through other channels maintained by the higher education institution, nominally or anonymously, provided that they contain sufficient justifications, where the Office shall examine these applications within the time limits prescribed by the charter and shall determine the type of relevant action to be taken.
5. The functions of the Office for Ethics shall be as follows:
 - (1) ensuring impartial resolution of the issue under consideration in accordance with the charter and procedures of the higher education institution;
 - (2) applying, where necessary, to superior competent bodies of the higher education institution, if the body responsible for resolving the issue under consideration fails to resolve it, or recommending the applicant, as the situation requires, to apply to other responsible bodies prescribed by laws;
 - (3) providing consultation to employees or students related to their participation in research or development activities which are problematic from the point of academic ethics;
 - (4) informing the Committee for Higher Education and Science or the higher education institution of the need to revoke the decision on granting an

academic degree or appointing to a position, in case of detection of a violation of norms of ethics in the course of granting the degree;

- (5) other functions established by the higher education institution.
6. All complaints addressed to the Office for Ethics must be examined with strict observance of the principle of anonymity, by ensuring the rights and confidentiality of all parties involved.
 7. In the course of examining complaints, any biased attitude shall be prohibited and may entail disciplinary penalties prescribed by the charter.
 8. The higher education institution shall be obliged to maintain an internal register of complaints through its Office for Ethics, by ensuring its confidentiality and compliance with the legislation on data protection.
 9. Each year, the higher education institution shall publish on the Single Management Platform for Higher Education and Science summary information on the complaints received and the solutions provided thereto, in a format approved by the Authorised Body.
 10. Within the scope of monitoring of external quality assurance, the Specialised Institution may conduct checks in terms of efficiency of organisation of activities of the Office for Ethics.
 11. The non-compliance of activities of the Office for Ethics with the criteria established by accreditation procedure and failure to resolve the issue after warning thereon may lead to withdrawal of accreditation of the higher education institution.
 12. Persons filing complaints may appeal against the decisions of the Office for Ethics to the Board of Trustees of the higher education institution.
 13. The structure, budget, establishment and management procedures of the Office for Ethics, as well as the internal legal acts defining the exercise of its powers and functions, shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

14. The position of Head of the Office for Ethics shall be an elected position.
15. The structure of the Office for Ethics, the budget provided and the internal legal acts must contribute to the smooth operation of the Ethics Committee.

Article 34. Establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of the higher education institution and the scientific organisation

1. The higher education institution and the scientific organisation shall be established, reorganised or liquidated in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The higher education institution and the scientific organisation shall be established upon the decision of the founder.
3. A higher education institution may operate only after licensing.
4. Amendments to the charter of the higher education institution may be made only by the founder.
5. A public scientific organisation operating within the research university shall be established in parallel with the university, by the decision of the Government, as an institution of the research university, with its charter being approved along with the charter of the research university.

CHAPTER 5

POWERS OF STATE BODIES IN THE FIELDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Article 35. Powers of the Government in the Fields of Higher Education and Science

1. In the fields of higher education and science, the Government shall:

- (1) establish, reorganise and liquidate public higher education institution and public scientific organisation and approve their charters;
- (2) approve the lists of specialisations of higher education and their indexes, including the special indication on regulated professions, their teaching forms and the lists of qualifications awarded in compliance therewith, by ensuring international compatibility;
- (3) approve the licensing procedure for higher education institutions, including the conditions and requirements for licensing of a higher education institution and the grounds for terminating the licence;
- (4) approve the licensing procedure for educational programmes in higher education institutions, including the licensing conditions and requirements and the grounds for terminating a licence;
- (5) approve the procedure for institutional and programme accreditation of higher education institutions, which includes the minimum criteria and conditions required for accreditation, as well as the criteria for selecting reputable international accrediting organisations;
- (6) approve the National Qualifications Framework, including the general indicators of its levels (qualifications);
- (7) approve the list of regulated professions and the procedure for studies under them, including the requirements to postgraduate studies (clinical residency programme or other types of study), those to admission and final proficiency evaluation in their field, the minimum conditions and requirements to educational programmes, as well as the final outcomes of professional areas and the requirements to certificates and other regulations provided for by law;
- (8) establish the maximum amount of tuition fees for students receiving state scholarships for full or partial reimbursement of tuition fees, as of specialisations and qualifications;

- (9) approve the procedure for institutional financing of public higher education institutions, including performance indicators;
- (10) approve the procedure for providing scholarships to students by the State, which includes the types of scholarships, requirements and criteria, target groups, including foreign students studying under interstate treaties or having certain achievements;
- (11) approve the new edition of the Charter of the Academy, by making respective amendments and supplements;
- (12) approve the strategy on development of the field of science in the Republic of Armenia, including priority directions for the development of the fields of science and technologies in the Republic of Armenia, as well as medium-term and long-term strategic programmes;
- (13) approve programmes aimed at increasing the efficiency of the fields of higher education and science, including programmes for structural reforms;
- (14) approve the procedures for basic, targeted and grant-based financing of scientific and technological activities, which include the entire financing process, the procedure for scientific expert examination, the performance assessment mechanisms for each form of financing, whereas in the case of basic financing — also the procedure for forming an external evaluation committee, the criteria for the structure of scientific organisations, the performance indicators of activities of organisations, the criteria for differentiation of scientific organisations, as well as the amount and procedure for providing a monthly additional payment for an academic degree to scientific workers involved in basic programmes of budgetary financing of scientific and technological activities, employed under regular working hours and holding regular staff positions in the scientific organisation;

- (15) approve the forms of and procedures for basic and target financing provided to public higher education institutions, including the principles of forming performance indicators and performance-based mechanisms for regulating the financing;
- (16) approve the strategy for development of the sector of Armenian Studies and humanities;
- (17) approve the positions of scientific workers and engineering technicians in state scientific organisations, the minimum criteria to them and the procedure for competence evaluation thereof;
- (18) approve the procedure and criteria for providing, in addition to pensions, monetary payments to persons holding academic degrees;
- (19) approve the decision of the Government on organisation of higher education, which establishes the guidelines for duration of studies and academic leave for all forms of educational programmes implemented in the first and second levels of higher education, the principles and guidelines for organisation of studies with full and partial academic load and distance learning, the general conditions for admission under educational programmes of the first level and under integrated educational programmes of higher education, the procedure for admission of graduates of foreign educational institutions or transfer from foreign educational institutions, the procedure for academic mobility of learners, the principles of interruption of studies by students and restoration of student rights, the procedure and restrictions for the transfer between higher education institutions and educational programmes, the forms of diplomas and their transcript of records certifying qualifications, as well as other regulations provided for by this Law;
- (20) approve the procedure for organising studies and granting academic degrees at the third level of higher education, including the general

- conditions on admission and general requirements for organising studies, as well as the criteria and procedure for granting an academic degree;
- (21) approve the procedure for granting academic degrees, including the minimum requirements thereto and the rules for granting academic degrees;
 - (22) approve the list of public scientific organisations operating within a public research university;
 - (23) establish Specialised Institution with legal and organisational form of a foundation aimed at ensuring the quality of higher and professional education, and approve its charter;
 - (24) exercise other powers specified in this Law and other laws.

Article 36. Powers of an Authorised Body in the field of higher education and science

1. The Authorised Body shall:

- (1) develop state policy in the fields of higher education and science and programmes for reforms aimed at development of the system, exercise control over their implementation;
- (2) approve the CTS methodology, the procedure for introduction and implementation;
- (3) approve the list of educational programmes (including integrated programmes) as of specialisations of higher education;
- (4) approve the scope of sector-based qualifications of higher education;
- (5) approve the procedure for the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications of higher education;

- (6) approve methodologies, guidelines, model form of procedures of advisory nature in order to support the organisation of educational process of higher education institutions, including the model form of regulations on academic ethics;
- (7) approve the methodology for calculation of performance indicators of the activities of public higher education institutions;
- (8) approve the procedure for maintaining the state register of institutional and programme accreditation;
- (9) approve the procedure for maintaining the state register of qualifications;
- (10) approve the charter of the licensing commission in the field of higher education;
- (11) approve the forms of reports on licensed activities submitted to the licensing body by persons licensed in the field of higher education;
- (12) approve the invitation packages for programmes implemented through basic, scientific grant-based and targeted financing of scientific and technological activities, which describe relevant procedures, forms of and procedures for expert examination and guaranteed financing programmes based on their results;
- (13) approve the nation-wide procedure for competence evaluation of scientific workers and engineering technicians;
- (14) approve the educational programmes of postgraduate studies under regulated professions, agreed with the authorised state administration body in the field of the given professional activities;
- (15) approve the procedures corresponding to the forms of state financing of public higher education institutions, and the financing programmes guaranteed under them;

- (16) approve the programme for training of managers in the fields of science and higher education, the academic module implemented jointly with reputable international higher education institutions and the list of qualifications equivalent thereto, and the requirements to higher education institutions granting them;
- (17) approve the minimum criteria for scientific journals published in the Republic of Armenia;
- (18) organise the processes of budgeting and state budget financing of relevant fields;
- (19) approve the principles of academic ethics, including academic honesty and integrity;
- (20) approve the procedure for continuing studies by students enrolled in educational programme in the event of termination of the licence of the higher education institution or the licence to implement the educational programme;
- (21) approve the invitation packages for institutional financing programmes of public higher education institutions, including the procedure for evaluation based on performance indicators and guaranteed financing programmes upon their results;
- (22) perform other functions prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia and the decisions of the Government.

Article 37. Powers of the Committee for Higher Education and Science in the Fields of Higher Education and Science

1. In the fields of higher education and science the Committee for Higher Education and Science shall:

- (1) participate in the development of the Government policy in the fields of higher education and science, as well as develop draft legal acts of the Republic of Armenia on the fields of higher education and science;
- (2) participate, in a prescribed manner, in the development and consideration of international treaties (agreements) on the fields of higher education and science;
- (3) approve the description and procedure for maintaining information system for the management of higher education and science, through which it carries out the collection, analysis of comprehensive information on relevant fields, as well as formation and maintenance of an integral record-registration system thereof;
- (4) approve the composition of professional councils granting academic degrees in compliance with the specialisations in the list of professions and qualifications of higher education in the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the procedure for granting academic degrees;
- (5) approve and certify the academic degree with respective diploma, taking into account the decision of the professional council and the study of the qualification case;
- (6) approve the regulations on the work of professional councils granting academic degrees;
- (7) approve and certify academic titles with relevant diplomas, taking into account the decisions of the scientific boards of higher education institutions and the study of the case;
- (8) support the commercialisation and practical applications of scientific results and the implementation of innovative activities;

- (9) organise grant-based programmes for the popularisation of science, approve their invitations, forms of expert examination and summarise the results;
- (10) organise the processes corresponding to the forms of state financing of public higher education institutions and implement the financing of guaranteed programmes;
- (11) carry out monitoring and evaluation of the systems of higher education and science;
- (12) organise the works under state register of qualifications and those under credit transfer and accumulation system;
- (13) carry out labour market analysis together with relevant bodies and submit proposals on distribution of scholarship-funded seats at higher education institutions as of respective specialisations;
- (14) organise, within the framework of basic financing measure, programmes aimed at modernising the infrastructure and material and technical base of the field of science, as well as programmes for the financial support to the commercialisation of scientific results, their involvement in economic circulation, support for innovative activities and organisation of scientific events, approve the invitation packages for programmes, including the methodology for assessment and the list of guaranteed financing measures;
- (15) organise the forms of basic, scientific grant-based and targeted financing of scientific and technological activities, as well as other state financing processes of the field concerned;
- (16) develop and approve the methodology for monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of basic, scientific grant-based and targeted programmes within the framework of financing of scientific and technological activities from the State Budget, and organise their implementation;

- (17) develop and approve the forms of applications, contracts, agreements and reports for State Budget financing of the fields of higher education and science;
- (18) develop the formats of relevant administrative and statistical reports (questionnaires, statements of information etc.) as prescribed by law and other legal acts, as well as gather, as of these formats, relevant information, and maintain, based on the data obtained and in a prescribed manner, administrative statistical registers;
- (19) organise, within the scope of its powers, scientific expert examination of military and technical and other programmes together with relevant state bodies, or take part therein, as well as participate, in a prescribed manner, in the monitoring of implementation of programmes;
- (20) gather data on the results of higher education and scientific and technological activities, carry out scientific and metric and other types of analyses, establish and maintain the record-registration system, which is based on the information system for the management of higher education and science;
- (21) carry out, within the scope of its competence, the state budgeting process in the fields of higher education and science, including the development of budget applications and financing of higher education institutions and scientific organisations;
- (22) perform the functions provided for under the procedure for granting academic degrees;
- (23) cooperate with relevant bodies of foreign States within the scope of its competence;
- (24) perform other functions prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia and the decisions of the Government.

2. In order to ensure the powers prescribed in part 1 of this Article, as well as its statutory functions, the Committee for Higher Education and Science may establish commissions, working groups, professional and advisory bodies, by approving their working procedures and nominal composition.

CHAPTER 6

MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BASIS FOR THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Article 38. Material and technical basis for the activities of a higher education institution and scientific organisation

1. The founder(s) of a public higher education institution and a public scientific organisation may, with the aim of ensuring the activities provided for by the charter, provide the higher education institution or scientific organisation, under the right of ownership or use for indefinite term (gratuitous use), buildings, constructions, means of transport, land plots, equipment, as well as necessary property of consumer, social, cultural and other significance.
2. Property provided to a higher education institution and scientific organisation, under the right of use for indefinite term (gratuitous use), may neither be pledged, nor be transferred or placed under the ownership of other legal person or natural person, except for the cases provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
3. A higher education institution and a scientific organisation shall have the right of ownership over funds, property and other objects of ownership transferred to the higher education institution by natural and legal persons in the form of

donations or will, over the results of intellectual and creative work considered as outcomes of activities of the higher education institution and scientific organisation, other sources not prohibited by law, as well as income received from their own activities and property acquired at the expense of such income.

4. State government bodies and local self-government bodies may transfer educational premises and land plots and other property to higher education institutions and scientific organisations for gratuitous or non-gratuitous use.
5. Public higher education institutions and public scientific organisations shall direct at least 10 per cent of the profit gained as a result of activities of the reporting year in order to replenish the inviolable capital.
6. Upon the decision of the Board of Trustees, the funds from inviolable capital of a higher education institution or a scientific organisation may be invested in government bonds or commercial banks as a deposit or, in case of relevant investment strategy — in other places. The university may use the income gained from investments for the implementation of its strategic development programme or for statutory goals.
7. The State may also participate in the replenishment of the inviolable capital formed by public higher education institutions.
8. A public higher education institution and a public scientific organisation shall have the right to lease the premises or property, attached thereto or owned thereby, to organisations engaged in educational, publishing, scientific and technological activities, as well as to organisations providing services to the higher education institution or scientific organisation. The fees received from leasing the provided premises shall fall under the ownership of the higher education institution or scientific organisation. The limits for the premises leased shall be approved upon the decision of the Government related to organisation of higher education activities.

Article 39. Financing of the systems of higher education and science

1. The sources of financing of the systems of higher education and science shall be as follows:
 - (1) the financing received from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (2) grants received from other sources;
 - (3) income gained from paid learning services;
 - (4) funds received from entrepreneurial activities of the foundation and those of economic companies established thereby or with its participation;
 - (5) funds generated from the investment and implementation of scientific results;
 - (6) donations and contributions from natural and legal persons, including those formed through donations;
 - (7) financing received from other States;
 - (8) funds received from other sources not prohibited by law.
2. Higher education institutions may be funded from the State Budget in the following manner:
 - (1) institutional financing allocated to public higher education institutions for the purpose of maintaining and developing infrastructures, as well as organising the remuneration of salaries for the academic staff according to the established scale, regardless of the number of state scholarships provided to the higher education institution. The basis for institutional financing shall be the performance indicators of the higher education institution;
 - (2) provision of scholarships — full or partial reimbursement of tuition fee or reimbursement for ensuring the course of study for students who meet the

requirements and criteria established by the Government for receiving a scholarship or have concluded, as prescribed by legislation, relevant contract for targeted studies;

- (3) grant-based financing provided for financing, on a competitive basis, the innovative programmes aimed at the development of higher education institutions.
 - (4) targeted financing — financing provided by the State for the implementation of specific activities.
3. A scholarship from the State Budget may be provided only to students receiving higher education within the framework of accredited educational programmes.
4. The forms of State Budget financing of scientific and technological activities shall be basic, targeted and scientific grant-based financing:
- (1) basic financing shall be allocated to public scientific organisations for the purpose of carrying out scientific and technological activities, maintaining and developing infrastructure and training academic staff. Separate allocations may be provided, within the framework of basic financing, for the maintenance and development of infrastructures of state significance pertaining to scientific organisations, as well as for the maintenance and development of organisations created by the State aimed at implementation of separate programmes in the given field;
 - (2) targeted financing shall be implemented on a competitive basis and shall be allocated to scientific organisations for the purpose of implementing complex programmes corresponding to the priority areas of development in the field of research and development activities and for the purpose of implementing research programmes driven by State needs;
 - (3) scientific grant-based financing shall be implemented on a competitive basis and shall be allocated to scientific workers or scientific groups for the purpose of implementing research projects submitted upon their initiative,

as well as other programmes aimed at the development of the field of science.

5. The basic financing of scientific and technological activities shall be carried out in the following manner:
 - (1) financing for the maintenance of infrastructures, which is provided only to a public scientific organisation for ongoing maintenance of its physical infrastructures, including scientific equipment, and may be reconsidered in the event of changes in property;
 - (2) financing for carrying out fundamental and applied research, as well as experimental developments, which is provided on the basis of scientific expert examination for a period of up to five years, by taking into account the opinions on external performance evaluation and those rendered by the Academy, as well as the results of nation-wide competence evaluation;
 - (3) financing for the maintenance of infrastructures of State significance, which is provided for the maintenance and development of infrastructures of scientific organisations, which, in addition to their scientific significance, also bear State significance;
 - (4) financing for the training of academic staff, which is allocated on a competitive basis for the implementation of scientific mobility programmes for employees of a scientific organisation and the involvement of young personnel;
 - (5) financing within the framework of basic financing, which may be provided also to other organisations for the popularisation of science, activities supporting the field of research, to international institutions — in the form of membership fees, and for the implementation of other programmes aimed at the development of the field.
6. Financing of scientific and technological activities from the State Budget, in the form of grant-based and targeted financing, shall be provided on the basis of

scientific expert examination for a period of up to five years, on a competitive basis — through submission of applications.

7. Within the framework of competition-based programmes of budgetary financing of scientific and technological activities in the form of scientific grant-based financing, the amounts of reimbursement for per diem and overnight accommodation for professional training lasting more than one month shall be determined under the conditions of competition-based programmes.
8. State financing in the forms specified in part 6 of this Article shall be provided, gratuitously and irrevocably, as a grant.
9. When organising financing under competition-based procedure, the forms of scientific expert examination and their combinations shall, based on the goals of competition, be determined by the call for tender.
10. The Government may also approve separate allocations for fundamental and applied scientific research and experimental developments of high importance, based on the programmes approved by the Government, provided that they are guaranteed by the results of scientific expert examination.
11. Financing for the programme for fundamental and applied scientific research and experimental developments shall be provided for the entire period of programme implementation and may not be interrupted in subsequent budget years if the interim results provided for by the programme are ensured.
12. Grant-based funds for conducting research in individual fields of science shall be provided on a competitive basis to:
 - (1) a scientific organisation;
 - (2) individual representatives of the academic staff of a higher education institution or scientific workers of a scientific organisation;
 - (3) groups consisting of representatives of the academic staff of a higher education institution or scientific organisation.

13. The financial and banking and accounting services for research work carried out by the entities provided for in points 2 and 3 of part 12 of this Article shall be provided by the higher education institution or scientific organisation, acting as a party to the contract.
14. The higher education institution or scientific organisation receiving state financing shall be obliged to submit, as prescribed by the Government, an annual report to the Authorised Body on the expenditure of the provided funds.
15. In addition to the above-mentioned financial investments, the State shall also implement capital investment programmes for the modernisation of the system of higher education and science, aimed at the development of large research-related equipment, educational, scientific or service infrastructures, which are provided to public organisations through special programmes, directly or through a competition-based procedure.
16. State budgeting of the fields of higher education and science shall be carried out through separate budgetary programmes.
17. Public higher education institutions and public scientific organisations shall conduct their financial processes through highest-rated commercial banks of the Republic, by declaring all accounts and cash flows thereof.
18. Higher education institutions and scientific organisations shall be prohibited from conducting financial transactions with non-declared accounts.

Article 40. Scientific expert examination

1. The main principles of scientific expert examination shall be as follows:
 - (1) impartiality of expert assessment;
 - (2) responsibility for substantiated, complete and reliable expert opinion;

- (3) independence of an expert from the authors of the object of expert examination;
 - (4) organisation and methodological support of expert activities;
 - (5) consideration given to current level of global scientific and scientific and technological progress, the norms and rules of technical and ecological security;
 - (6) high proficiency of an expert;
 - (7) legal protection of an expert, including from the prosecution related to the fulfilment of obligations of an expert.
2. The main tasks of scientific expert examination shall be as follows:
- (1) complex study of the object of expert examination, as well as preparation and provision of the substantiated expert opinion;
 - (2) assessment of scientific level of the object of expert examination, and in case of its introduction — also the forecast of scientific, social, economic, ecological, financial and legal consequences;
 - (3) complete response to the issues posed to the expert in respect of the object of expert examination.
3. The objects subject to mandatory scientific expert examination shall be as follows:
- (1) projects, programmes, experimental developments, technologies, as well as other outcomes of scientific and technological activities found to be in various stages of creation and introduction (concept, implementation process, outcome) that are subject to financing or being financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia or from foundations established by the community or with their participation;
 - (2) object of scientific and technological activities in relation where to a necessity arose as to receipt of an opinion of expert examination for

justified guarantee of feasibility of its acceptance, introduction, use, financing and dissemination.

4. Scientific expert examination may be organised through the involvement of individual experts (including foreign experts), or establishment of expert boards composed of experts, or engagement of international expert institutions, or the combination of the aforementioned forms.
5. The expert examination for state-funded programmes in the field of science shall be organised by the Committee for Higher Education and Science. Another organiser of expert examination may be determined in the cases provided for by the legislation where the scientific programmes are financed by another state agency.
6. Within the scope of State-funded programmes in the field of science, the methodology of organising expert examination, the form or combination of forms of organising the expert examination, as well as the number of experts to be engaged, the list of targets of expert examination and the issues to be addressed thereby and the choice of methodology shall be vested in the Authorised Body or a state administration body approving the programme announcement.
7. The organiser of expert examination shall involve an expert upon written consent of the latter by introducing the expectations from expert examination, the rights and obligations of the expert.
8. Within the meaning of this Article, a natural person possessing relevant professional qualification and conducting the study, analysis and assessment of the object of scientific expert examination, and being guided, in the course of performing his or her expert work, by the principle of providing a comprehensive, impartial and substantiated opinion on the object of expert examination, shall be deemed to be an expert.
9. In order to prepare an impartial and comprehensive professional opinion on the object of expert examination the expert shall have the right to request additional

information from the organiser, as well as to freely deliver his or her professional opinion on the object of expert examination and to require to refrain from uncovering his or her person, unless already established by the methodology of organisation of expert examination.

10. The expert shall also have the right to reasonably refuse from participating in the expert examination.
11. The rights and obligations of the expert shall arise on the basis of either a contract concluded therewith for the purpose of conducting expert examination or a written consent issued thereby.
12. The main obligations of the expert shall be as follows:
 - (1) conducting expert examination in compliance with the requirements, time limits and established format for conducting expert examination;
 - (2) submitting, upon request of the organiser of expert examination, certificates attesting his or her professional qualification, or other documents substituting them;
 - (3) ensuring substantiated, complete and reliable opinion on expert examination or guarantee for expert examination;
 - (4) refusing to conduct an expert examination in case of a conflict of interests, such as being the author or co-author of the object of expert examination, or other factors affecting the impartiality of the study, assessment and analysis of the object of expert examination;
 - (5) taking consideration of current global level of development in the field of research and developments when conducting the study, assessment and analyses of the object of expert examination;
 - (6) observing the copyright and industrial property right to the object of expert examination, informing the organiser of expert examination on the

copyright and industrial property right contained in additional information related to the object of expert examination within the time limit provided for by the contract;

- (7) not authorising to publish the information contained in the materials submitted for expert examination, unless otherwise provided for by the contract on expert examination;
 - (8) raising, where necessary, an issue on engaging additional independent experts in the sector related to that of scientific and technological activities for the object of expert examination or other sectors of science, technologies or industry.
- 13. The expert shall also have other obligations prescribed by this Law and other legal acts.
 - 14. The relations between the organiser of expert examination and experts shall be regulated by the contract on providing services. The organiser of expert examination shall determine the object of expert examination, shall formulate the tasks and issues of expert examination, approve the time limit of conducting expert examination, the amount to be paid to the experts in return for expert examination, as well as shall discuss the submitted expert opinions.
 - 15. The expert shall conduct the expert examination on the basis of the contract concluded with the organiser, or on the basis of a written consent given on the conditions of expert examination, including the consent provided through digital toolkits, and shall submit the outcome in the format prescribed by the organiser, in the form of an expert opinion, a guarantee for expert examination, or another form.
 - 16. The organiser of expert examination shall determine the source of financing of expert examination.

17. Depending on the methodology of organising expert examination, the expert work may be carried out on a paid basis or free of charge.
18. The conduct of state expert examination shall be financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia — from the funds allocated within the scope of basic financing programme.
19. The Authorised Body may, in respect of individual programmes, establish other options of expert examination, provided that the principles prescribed by part 1 of this Article are observed.
20. Various methods may be applied for obtaining an expert opinion, including interviews, expert examination of printed materials, observation or testing of a prototype, and the study of infrastructures.
21. The expert examination may, in respect of individual programmes, be outsourced to international specialised institutions which possess experience in organising scientific expert examinations and may ensure the compliance with the principles prescribed by part 1 of this Article.

Article 41. Tuition fee of students, the students eligible for a scholarship

1. Higher education institutions may set tuition fees, as of educational programmes, aimed at providing educational services, and determine the amount thereof. Tuition fees for students of Armenian origin who are foreign citizens may not be set higher than those set for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The amount of tuition fees must be indicated in the call for admissions.
3. A higher education institution may also charge service fees for providing additional services as prescribed by the institution.
4. Charge of additional fees for services necessary to organise the studies of persons in need of special conditions for education shall be prohibited.

5. The higher education institution may set higher tuition fees for the provision of educational services to foreign students.
6. The procedure for issuing a state-funded scholarship for studies, including the conditions for its eligibility and withdrawal, shall be prescribed by the decision of the Government.
7. Only students studying, for the first time, under a higher education programme with full academic load, within the scope of accredited educational programme, may be eligible for a state-funded scholarship aimed at full reimbursement of tuition fees. In case of continuing studies with partial academic load, the student shall be deprived of the opportunity to be granted such scholarship.
8. A higher education institution shall, in the amount of at least five per cent of the budget generated from the tuition fees of students, issue a full or partial reimbursement of tuition fees, in the form of student scholarships, to at least ten per cent of the student contingent studying on paid basis under priorly approved and published conditions.
9. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who receive higher education, under specialisations considered as a priority for the Republic of Armenia, at foreign universities recognised by the Government as leading universities may receive state-funded scholarships for targeted education, under the procedure and conditions established by the Government.
10. Foreign citizens may receive higher education, with full reimbursement by the State of tuition fees in the form of educational scholarship, at higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia, either within the scope of scholarship-based seats prescribed by interstate treaties or in case of admission to a higher education institution in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of this Law.

11. Higher education institutions shall submit, by 1 April of the following year, a report to the Authorised Body on reimbursement of tuition fees of students and provision of student financial incentives for the given academic year.
12. Public higher education institutions shall ensure, in the amount of up to 40 per cent of their licensed seats, studies for students receiving state-funded scholarships aimed at reimbursement of tuition fees, moreover, the amount of tuition fees established by the Government as of the professions and qualifications shall be applied for these students.
13. A higher education institution shall organise the studies of citizens having concluded, in a prescribed manner, a contract with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, with full reimbursement, by the State, of tuition fees in the form of educational scholarships.

Article 42. Academic City

1. The Academic City shall be a complex of educational, scientific and related institutions aimed at ensuring communication and co-operation between the fields of education, science and industry along with appropriate multifunctional infrastructures.
2. The “Academic City” Foundation established by the Government shall co-ordinate the activities of implementation of development concept of the Academic City, those on planning, construction and management of its infrastructures.
3. The Academic City shall be located on a territory of with a total area of at least 700 hectares.
4. The Government shall approve the rules of procedure and development concept of the Academic City, which shall define the following:
 - (1) construction rules and restrictions of the Academic City;

- (2) construction rules and restrictions in the areas adjacent to the Academic City;
 - (3) restrictions on the types of activities within the Academic City and in the areas adjacent thereto;
 - (4) restrictions on the traffic of passenger vehicles within the territory of the Academic City;
 - (5) entry of service vehicles into and their movement within the territory of the Academic City;
 - (6) procedure for organising the accommodation of learners and employees within relevant territory including the possibility of private higher education institutions or other organisations to provide accommodation services;
 - (7) concept of economic and urban activities of the Academic City;
 - (8) planning standards and design rules of buildings and constructions in the Academic City;
 - (9) principles of locating infrastructures and establishing new infrastructures in the Academic City;
 - (10) other regulations ensuring unity and smooth operation of the Academic City.
5. The construction failing to comply with the prescribed norms of urban development shall be prohibited in the location designated by the overall plan of the Academic City.
6. A separate land parcel from the territory of the Academic City may be alienated under certain obligations and restrictions prescribed by Article 49 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, which apply to all transactions following the acquisition of a land parcel under the right of ownership after the alienation, by the State, of the land parcel, and shall be subject to fulfilment and observance by

all owners. The following restrictions on the rights shall apply to such land parcels located in the territory of the Academic City, as well as the following obligations and conditions shall be established:

- (1) operational significance and targeted use of buildings and constructions built on the land parcel shall not be subject to modification;
 - (2) during capital repair works of the buildings and constructions built on the land parcel, external (facade) parts of the buildings and constructions shall not be subject to modification;
 - (3) other restrictions prescribed by the rules of procedure and the development concept of the Academic City.
7. Private organisations may, within the territory of the Academic City, organise their activities in the sections allocated thereto, provided that such activities derive from the development concept of the Academic City.
 8. The “Academic City” Foundation shall conduct the management of university-related and scientific infrastructures having become vacant and not used as a result of relocation to the Academic City, including through the involvement of private organisations, and the income gained therefrom shall be used for the implementation of the “Academic City” Programme, whereas funds not used and not allocated for the implementation of certain programmes shall be used to replenish the inviolable capital of the “Academic City” Foundation.
 9. The higher education institution shall be responsible for the maintenance and targeted use of the property transferred thereto with the aim of its use within the Academic City.
 10. The property shall be transferred, under the right of use for an indefinite time period, to public higher education institutions located in the Academic City, in compliance with the goals prescribed by the charter of the given public higher

education institution, whereas to the interstate or private higher education institutions — for a time limit prescribed by the contract.

11. The activities of the “Academic City” Foundation, including its financial flows shall be transparent, which shall be ensured also through the modern media technologies.
12. The “Academic City” Foundation shall organise the co-ordination of infrastructures of joint use and shall be responsible for the maintenance and development thereof.

CHAPTER 7

FINAL PART AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 43. Final part

1. This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following the date of its official promulgation, except for the regulations wherefor other time limits for entry into force are prescribed.
2. Sub-point (c) of point 2 of part 1 of Article 3 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 July 2030. Until 1 July 2029, the operating private higher education institutions shall be re-organised (restructured) or established as a non-commercial organisation and shall apply for licensing of a higher education institution and educational programmes.
3. The organisation of studies in higher education institutions provided for by Article 10 of this Law shall be introduced on 1 September 2027, whereas until then the legal relations pertaining to the studies of students enrolled in these

higher education institutions shall continue to be regulated by the legal acts adopted on the basis of the provisions of point 10 of part 1 of Article 21 of the Law “On higher and postgraduate professional education” and part 6 of Article 14 of the Law “On education”.

4. The organisation of learning process provided for by point 3 of part 1 of Article 11 of this Law must be introduced from 2026. Prior to the entry into force of this part, the process of granting academic degrees to persons enrolled in postgraduate studies or registered as an external researcher or a researcher of post-doctoral studies in the manner and within the time limits prescribed for seeking the academic degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and Post-Doctor of Philosophy shall continue to be regulated by the legal acts adopted on the basis of the provisions of Article 16 of the Law “On scientific and scientific and technical activities” HO-119 of 5 December 2000. Upon the entry into force of this part, within the meaning of part 3 of Article 16 of the Law “On scientific and scientific and technical activities” HO-119 of 5 December 2000, the approval of research topics for seeking the academic degree of Post-Doctor of Philosophy shall be terminated.
5. Part 5 of Article 11 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 September 2026.
6. The Specialised Institution prescribed by Article 15 of this Law shall be established by 1 January 2027.
7. The requirements prescribed by part 5 of Article 21 of this Law shall be published in the first ten-day period of January 2027, whereas the admission provided for by the same part shall be organised from 2029-2030 academic year. Prior to the entry into force of this provision, the legal relations pertaining to the admission to a higher education institution shall continue to be regulated by the legal acts adopted on the basis of part 5 of Article 14 and point 11 of part 2 of Article 21 of the Law “On higher and postgraduate professional education”, as well as on part 5 of Article 15 of the Law “On education”.
8. Part 3 of Article 24 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 January 2027.

9. Parts 3 and 4 of Article 28 of this Law shall enter into force from 2029-2030 academic year; from the mentioned period onwards, the mentioned parts shall be implemented, upon the decision of the Government, in respect of enlarged public higher education institutions.
10. Point 1 of part 2 of Article 39 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 January 2027.
11. Upon entry into force of this Law, the Law “On higher and postgraduate professional education” HO-62-N of 14 December 2004 must be repealed, except for the provisions of parts 4 and 4.1-4.3 of Article 6, point 21 of part 2 of Article 8, Article 14, point 12 part 1 of Article 21 and point 10 of part 2 of the given law, which shall remain in effect by 1 January 2027.
12. Upon entry into force of this Law, the Law “On scientific and scientific and technical activities” HO-119 of 5 December 2000 must be repealed.
13. Upon entry into force of this Law, the Law “On National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia” HO-135-N of 14 April 2011 must be repealed.
14. Upon entry into force of this Law, the Law “On scientific and scientific and technical expert examination” HO-23-N of 7 April 2015 must be repealed.
15. In case of religious higher education institutions, neither the principle on secular nature of the fields of higher education and science prescribed by point 19 of part 1 of Article 4 of this Law, nor the restriction provided for by part 11 of Article 14 shall apply. The educational programmes offered by religious higher education institutions must be aimed at preparing staff for spiritual service.
16. When establishing branches of higher education institutions in the Republic of Armenia, which are ranked in the top fifty of international university ranking tables, the Government may establish conditions for or restrictions on the legal and organisational form prescribed by this Law in respect of their activities, as

well as those other than the conditions or restrictions provided for by points 1 and 4 of part 10 and part 11 of Article 14 of this Law.

Article 44. Transitional provisions

1. After entry into force of this Law, all higher education institutions implementing licensed educational programmes must, as prescribed by law and in compliance with the provisions of Articles 14 and 16 of this Law, apply for licensing of the higher education institution and of programmes by 2028. Higher education institutions having obtained relevant licence shall be deemed as licensed for the first time and shall be subject to accreditation within the time limit and under the conditions prescribed by Article 19 of this Law.
2. Accreditation certificates granted prior to adoption of the Decision of the Government No 978-N of 30 June 2011 shall be valid until 31 December 2027.
3. Educational programmes holding a licence prior to the entry into force of this Law, except for the programmes granting medical qualification and having undergone no programme accreditation as prescribed by the Decision of the Government No 978-N of 30 June 2011, shall, after entry into force of this Law, be deemed as pre-accredited, and the qualifications granted to their graduates shall be recognised by the State.
4. Upon entry into force of this Law, the academic degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and Post-Doctor of Philosophy shall be equivalent to the academic degree of Post-Doctor of Philosophy granted in accordance with point 3 of part 1 of Article 11 of this Law.
5. In compliance with the provisions of Article 27 of this Law, the boards of trustees of scientific organisations shall be formed within a period of eight months following the entry into force of this Law.

6. Prior to the entry into force of the conditions provided for by part 9 of Article 43 of this Law:
- (1) the board of trustees of a public higher education institution shall be formed from among the members of the academic staff, student representatives of the higher education institution, as well as the representatives of the founder and the Authorised Body;
 - (2) five members of the board of trustees of a public higher education institution shall be nominated by the Authorised Body, and five members thereof— by the founder;
 - (3) ten members of the board of trustees of a public higher education institution shall be represented by the higher education institution as prescribed by the charter of the higher education institution, five out of which — from the representatives of the academic staff (including from scientific organisations operating within the higher education institution, by ensuring the representation of various academic units of higher education institution to a maximum extent), and five out of those — from the representatives of student representative body.
7. Part 7 of Article 26 of this Law shall not be mandatory for the founder of the board of trustee and the representatives of the Authorised Body formed on the basis of part 6 of this Article.
8. The provisions of Article 9 of this Law, relating to honorary leading and honorary chief scientific workers at public scientific organisations, shall have effect from 2027. Until then, the Charter of the Academy shall be approved within six months following the entry into force of this Law, as well as the selection of new members of the Academy shall be organised within the time limits prescribed and the Board of Trustees of the Academy — the Presidency shall be formed, the members whereof shall be nominated by the Academy from among the persons meeting the requirements of part 6 of Article 9 of this Law. The

Presidency of the Academy shall organise the election of the President of the Academy and, upon the submission of the President, shall approve the structure and managerial staff of the Academy for the purpose of organising and performing the functions vested in the Academy under this Law.

9. Upon entry into force of this Law, the organisations of the Academy system shall be placed under subordination of state authorised administration body in the fields of education and science, whereto the regulations of point 2 of part 2 of Article 8 and part 19 of Article 27 of this Law shall not extend until they are incorporated into the composition of relevant enlarged public research universities upon the decision of the Government and under the regulations of this Law or are brought into compliance with the types of scientific organisations prescribed by this Law.
10. The restriction on being elected for two consecutive terms prescribed by part 3 of Article 31 of this Law shall have effect after entry into force of this Law and shall not extend to the Rectors elected until then.
11. After entry into force of this Law, all licensed educational programmes and higher education institutions implementing licensed educational programmes shall be deemed as pre-accredited and shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by this Law, be obliged to undergo institutional and programme accreditation.
12. During the formation of enlarged research universities, the property owned by a higher education institution or a scientific organisation under the right of ownership shall, as a result of reorganisation of the higher education institution or scientific organisation, be placed under the disposal of the public higher education institution or public scientific organisation, respectively.
13. The establishment of new university infrastructures outside the territory of the Academic City shall be prohibited, unless it is conditioned by certain natural and climatic or geographical peculiarities of the infrastructure component. Higher education institutions holding a licence prior to the entry into force of this Law

may continue their activities at the place of activities referred to in the licence issued. After entry into force of this Law, the expansion of educational infrastructures shall be possible only where it complies with the concept of the Academic City, approved by the Government, the conclusion whereon shall be issued by the Authorised Body based on the opinion of the “Academic City” Foundation.

14. Immovable property gratuitously provided to public higher education institutions and scientific organisations relocated to the Academic City shall be provided, under the right of ownership, to the “Academic City” Foundation for the purpose of implementing the operation of the property provided thereto, pursuant to the property management strategy approved by the Government, which shall be developed with the consultation of international reputable companies. All income generated from the operation of infrastructures shall be directed to the implementation of the “Academic City” Programme or to replenishment of the inviolable capital of the “Academic City” Foundation.
15. Within a period of three months following the establishment of an independent electoral body in higher education institutions, elections of a new student representative body and the Academic Council shall be organised. The activities of existing student councils and scientific boards shall terminate on the tenth day after the completion of respective elections.

President of the Republic

V. Khachaturyan

9 October 2025

Yerevan

HO-285-N

Date of official promulgation: 10 October 2025.