

Recent Developments in Ukraine Higher Education according to the new Laws of Ukraine “On Education” (2017), “On Higher Education” (2014); Ukraine’ Education System Description

Higher Education Institutions types and statistics (2018/19)*:

	Total	Colleges (Colleges, Technical schools**, Vocational schools**)	Universities (Universities, Academies, Institutes)
Total HEIs	652 (1,522 mln students)	370 (0,200 mln students)	282 (1,322 mln students)
Public HEI	529 (1,393 mln students)	320 (0,178 mln students)	209 (1,215 mln students)
Private HEI	123 (0,129 mln students)	50 (0,022 mln students)	73 (0,107 mln students)

- **127 034** Universities’ and **25 943** Colleges’ **academic staff**

*Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua>

**Technical schools, Vocational schools – VET institutions that offer Junior Specialist study programmes in frame of the higher education system until 2019; after 2019, a new system of education and qualifications will operate (see table, page 7).

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National Qualifications Framework – the **NQF** with **11 levels** of qualifications was approved by the **Law of Education** (2017), and the Ministry developed renovated NQF for submission to Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine in 2019; until 2017 the **NQF** included **10 levels** of qualifications (based on EQF LLL) – was approved by the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine (2011).

The **Law of Higher Education** (2014) is compatible with the Bologna Process (3-cycle HE, ECTS, DS, ESG, NQF implementation).

National Quality Assurance Agency (NQAA) began activity in 2019. The Cabinet approved **NQAA’ members list** (December 2018) (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/prozatverdzhennya-skladu-nacionalnogo-agentstva-iz-zabezpechennya-yakosti-vishchoyi-osviti>).

HERE Iryna ZOLOTARIOVA is selected NQAA member.

Ex-Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Sergiy KVIT is the NQAA Chairman elected by the NQAA members (December 2018).

HERE Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ was appointed on position of the Head of the NQAA’ Secretariat – executive body (February 2019).

Until approval (according to the procedure established by the **Law of Education** (2017) of the regulations about **accreditation** of study programmes (curricula) by the NQAA, such accreditation is performed by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine according to the existing procedure envisaged for accreditation of study programmes (curricula) within the Fields of study. Accreditation procedure is provided by the Accreditation Commission (advisory body) established by the Ministry.

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The *Law of Education* (2017) is compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key provisions:

1. Introduce *12-years complete general secondary school* within 3 stages – for primary education – on September 1, 2018; for basic secondary school – on September 1, 2022; for field-specific secondary school – on September 1, 2027 (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

2. Implement European approach to assure right of equal access to education and inclusive learning for *people with disabilities* (persons with special educational needs) (*Article 19, 20*).

3. Introduce the institute of *Education Ombudsman* for providing good conditions for realization of the right to education within education system (*Article 73*).

4. Present *formal, non-formal and informal education* as means of life-long learning (*Article 8*).

3. Implementation of reviewed *National Qualification Framework* (see Table) – **11 levels** of qualifications (0-10) *incl.* Higher Education (Junior Bachelor (*short cycle*), Bachelor – Master – PhD) and plus so called 4th or postdoctoral cycle – Doctor of Science (*Article 36*).

Determination of *correspondence* between educational levels and levels of *National Qualification Framework* (for Higher education: 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10 levels) (*Article 10*) (see Table).

Introduce *Doctor of Art degree* in frame of the 3th cycle of Higher Education for artistic qualifications / professions along with PhD degree for other qualifications / professions.

4. Introduce definitions for professional and educational qualifications; *descriptions* of the National Qualification Framework corresponding with EQF LLL; *Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks*, *Qualifications Centres* for Learning Outcomes and *Qualifications Recognition* (including via informal and nonformal education) in line with Lisbon and Bologna processes; *National Qualifications Agency* for maintaining NQF implementation in particular (*Article 34, 35, 36, 38*).

5. Widen University *Autonomy* via introducing several legal statuses for HEIs – state-funding institution (present status for state HEIs); non-commercial education institution; commercial education institution (*Article 22*).

6. Establish *obligatory correlation* between *Education Standards* and *NQF* (*Article 32*).

7. QA system *novation* is *Academic Integrity* as well as *Institutional Accreditation* (voluntary procedure by HEI initiative, assessment of quality of educational activity of the HEI) (*Article 42, 46*).

8. Assure *Teaching Quality improvement* – State provides support to advanced training of State HEIs academic staff via additionally allocated funds from the State Budget and the amount of these funds cannot be less than 2 % of the academic staff' salary fund (*Article 78*).

9. On the day this Law enters into force, ***the powers of the members of the NQAA*** in Higher Education delegated by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, national sectoral academies of sciences, elected by congresses from the representatives of HEIs, Joint Representative Body of all-Ukrainian Association of employers' organizations, congress of representatives of students ***are terminated*** (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

10. *The Ministry provides study programmes accreditation* according to the procedure envisaged for accreditation of disciplines and specialities until approval, according to the procedure established by the Law on Education, of the regulations about study programmes accreditation.

11. Some *key amendment* to the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” (2014):

(1) Introduce new approach to *formation* of the ***NQAA – National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*** is composed on 23 persons appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the basis of the decision of the *Selection Committee* following the results of the selection that takes place with due consideration of gender balance and sectoral (field of study) representation principles.

(2) The *composition* of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is formed with safeguarding the representation of no more than 1 person from a Field of Study and includes:

1) 3 persons – selected among representatives of all-Ukrainian employers' organizations;

2) 2 persons – students of the first or second cycles of HE;

3) no less than 1 representative from among persons who work on a permanent basis at:

the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine;

national sectoral academy of sciences (1 representative per each academy – 5 ones);

state HEI;

municipal HEI;

private HEI.

A person may be nominated a candidate to the NQAA via self-nomination also.

(3) The organization and conduct of the selection of NQAA is done by the *Selection Committee* that is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as an advisory body for only 3 years in this composition. The members of Selection Committee perform their duties pro bono.

The *Selection Committee* is comprised on 9 persons, 4 of which as **international members are delegated from the European Higher Education Area organisations ENQA, EURASHE, EUA, ESU** and

per 1 person from the following institutions

- the Ministry – Yuriy Rashkevych, Deputy Minister, **HERE**,
- Joint Representative Body of All-Ukrainian Association of Employers,
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,
- National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine – Volodymyr Lugovyy, First Vice-President, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, **HERE**, as a *Chairman*,
- national students association of Ukraine that is a member of European Students' Union (ESU).

Membership is allowed for persons who have an academic degree and / or academic title or no less than 5 years of work experience in the field except for students' representatives and international representatives.

The **decision** of the *Selection Committee* is considered taken if it is supported by the majority of the international members and majority of national members.

The work of *Selection Committee* is organized as **sessions**, participation for international representatives is allowed with the assistance of *electronic videoconferencing*. International representatives who take part in a session via videoconferencing confirm results of their voting in writing.

The sessions of the *Selection Committee* are *open*. Information about the sessions is published on the *Ministry's website*.

The *Selection Committee* develops a *Regulation* on the contest for the selection of NQAA members that is approved by the Cabinet and formulates qualification requirements to candidates, that foresee the availability of an academic degree or professional work experience no less than 5 years, except for students representatives.

The *Selection Committee* provided selection procedure and formulated list of NQAA members. Regulation of the Cabinet on NQAA approval (27 December 2018) incl. *NQAA members list* is placed at the Cabinet website (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-skladu-nacionalnogo-agentstva-iz-zabezpechennya-yakosti-vishchoyi-osviti>). **HERE** Iryna ZOLOTARIOVA is selected NQAA member. During the first official meeting of the NQAA members the NQAA Chairman was elected, ex-Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Sergiy KVIT took this position. In February 2019 **HERE** Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ was appointed on position of the Head of the NQAA' Secretariat – executive body.

12. According to the Law **the Cabinet** of Ministers of Ukraine **within 1 year** from the day of entry into force by this Law in particularly:

to prepare and submit for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine a proposal regarding bringing laws of Ukraine *in line with* this Law;

to prepare and submit for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine draft laws about *making amendments to the Tax and Customs Codes of Ukraine* with a goal to exempt of education and research institutions from taxes, payment of customs duties for

educational, scientific / research and production equipment and supply that are moved across the customs border of Ukraine for educational and scientific / research goals (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

13. According to the Law of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine formed the Scientific and Methodical Commissions (SMCs) in 2016, which developed more 100 Higher Education Standards projects. HEREs provided methodical expertise of these projects during 2017-2018 and about 40 projects were approved by the Ministry. Established NQAA will providing accreditation taking in account Higher Education Standards according to the Law of Higher Education of Ukraine.

The *Law of Higher Education* (2014) is in line with Bologna process but *finance autonomy* will remain **limited** until appropriate Draft Law on Amendments to Budget Code will be passed.

The National Bank of Ukraine adopted the Resolution on the *exemption* from the **mandatory** sale of exchange for EU projects that have passed state registration (December 4, 2015, № 863).

Now HEIs *cannot* manage their own revenues (non-governmental funding), *incl. international grants*, that is managed by the State Treasury.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (September 2, 2015, № 719) adopted the Regulation on placing revenues of public HEIs and research institutions on bank accounts (*incl. international grants*) that allow HEIs more flexible to manage grants.

The Law is compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key provisions:

- Implementation of *three cycle structure* of Higher Education (Junior Bachelor (*short cycle vs Junior Specialist*), Bachelor – Master – PhD) and plus so called 4th or postdoctoral cycle – Doctor of Science;
- PhD education is provided by structured education and research programs within Aspirantura (similar with *Doctoral School*) at HEI or research institutions, 4 years duration;
- Doctor of Sciences' (postdoctorate) education is provided by Doctorantura of HEI or research institutions (Article 7);
- Determination of correspondence between educational levels, postdoctoral/scientific level (Junior Bachelor – Bachelor – Master – PhD – Doctor of Science) and levels of *National Qualification Framework* (5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9);
- Implementation of *ECTS* (determination of education programs scope in terms of ECTS credits) and *Diploma Supplement* (integral part of documents of HE);
- Decrease of *student workload* from 36 to 30 hours in 1 ECTS credit, and decrease of maximum of *teaching workload* from 900 to 600 contact hours per year;
- Development of *academic mobility*, provide maintenance of job place/study place, scholarship/salary in academic mobility period:

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the Regulation on *academic mobility* (August 12, 2015, № 579);

- University' *academic autonomy* (development new programs *incl.* interdisciplinary, degree awards, *recognition* of degrees/diplomas, etc.), *organizational autonomy* (development of HEI structure, establishment of research and education institutions, innovative productive organizations, clinics, laboratories, etc.), *human resources autonomy* (direct elections of Rectors by secret ballot, personnel arrangements, foreign scholars and academics employment, tangible reward, etc.) and *financial autonomy* (international grants for research and education could be placed on accounts in public banks and not

only in State Treasury, independently command budget *incl.* reallocation between budget items, etc.);

- Establishment of **National Agency on HE Quality Assurance (NQAA)** in the capacity of a public institution; **NQAA** should be established by the Cabinet (*it had to be done till September 6, 2015*). **NQAA** will consist Secretariat for Agency' activity support and Public Council (25 individuals from different stakeholders – academics, students, employers) for making decisions on QA issues (*incl.* accreditation of study programs). According to Article 17 of the Law on Higher Education, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued a decree about the establishment of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and approved the rules of this Agency (15 April 2015). The **NQAA** has not yet started its activities in Ukraine;
- The methods for Quality Assurance are defined by the Law on Higher Education. The procedure for issuing the Certificates of Study Programmes Accreditation by **NQAA** should be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;
- According to the Law on Higher Education, the **Higher Education Standard** is a set of requirements for the content and results of the educational activities of the higher education institutions and the research institutes at each higher education level within each programme subject area (there are 114 programme subject areas (detailed fields) of education and training);
- The Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine has formed **Scientific and Methodical Commissions (SMCs)** in March 2016. Each SMC consists of experts in the relevant *program subject area*, which represent HEIs from over Ukraine. The key objective of SMCs is *development of higher education standards* according to the Law of Ukraine on Higher Education. Training sessions were initiated by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine and performed by Institute of Higher Education, NEO and HERE team with support of British Council and USETI. All in all 430 members of SMC took the trainings on creation of higher education standards in line with new Law and ESG during April 2016;
- SMCs under the Ministry intend to develop higher education standards for each programme subject area (detailed field) taking into account the proposals of sectoral public authorities, industry associations and employers' organizations till September 2016;
- Technical schools and Vocational schools that offer Junior Specialist' programs (ex-level within HE) will be *transfer from Higher Education system* into Vocational Education system during 5 years.

EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN UKRAINE (new Law on Education, 2017)

		LEVELS (DEGREES), education confirming document	PERIOD OF STUDY (years, ECTS credits)	EHEA CYCLES, NQF levels
Higher Education		Doctor of Sciences (Postdoctoral Academic Degree), Diploma	3 years	10 level, NQF
		Doctor of Philosophy, PhD (Academic Degree), Diploma	4 years (30-60 ECTS – education part)	III cycle 8 level, ISCED 2011 9 level, NQF
		Master (Academic Degree), Diploma	90-120 ECTS (300-360 ECTS for program in Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Pediatrics)	II cycle 7 level, ISCED 2011 8 level, NQF
		Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma	180-240 ECTS (Nursing)	I cycle 6 level, ISCED 2011 7 level, NQF
		Junior Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma	90-120 ECTS	short cycle 5 level, ISCED 2011 6 level, NQF
Vocational Education and Training - VET	pre-tertiary vocational education	Vocational Junior Bachelor Diploma	120-180 ECTS (based on complete secondary education) 240 ECTS (based on basic secondary education)	Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 5 level, NQF
	third (upper) level	Junior Specialist Diploma, Certificate	2-3 years (based on complete secondary education) 3-4 years (based on basic secondary education)	Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 4 level, NQF
	second (basic) level	Certificate	1-1,5 years (based on complete secondary education) 3 years (3-4 based on basic secondary education)	Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF
	first (initial) level	Certificate		2 level, NQF
Complete Secondary Education	Field-specific secondary education (Upper secondary general education)	Certificate	3 years	Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF
	Basic secondary education (Lower secondary general education)	Certificate	5 years	Access to VET 2 level, ISCED 2011 2 level, NQF
	Primary secondary education		4 years	1 level, ISCED 2011 1 level, NQF
Preschool education			4 years	0 level, NQF