Law of Georgia on the Development of the Quality of Education

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

The purpose of this Law is to define the legal basis of the mechanisms for promoting the development of the quality of education.

Article 2. Mechanisms for Promoting the Development of the Quality of Education

1. The development of the quality of education is promoted through internal and external mechanisms.

2. The external mechanisms for promoting the development of the quality of education are authorization and accreditation.

3. The internal mechanisms for promoting the development of the quality of education are implemented by the educational institution in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Article 2¹. Definition of Terms

1. For the purposes of this Law, and also for the general education, vocational education and higher education systems, the terms used in this Law have the following meanings:

a) National Qualifications Framework – an instrument that classifies qualifications by learning outcomes for the purpose of integrating and coordinating the subsystems of education (general education, vocational education, higher education, non-formal education), and of improving the quality, transparency, accessibility and development of qualifications, taking into account the interests of the labour market and society;

b) Qualification – the formal result of the assessment and confirmation, by the authorized institution(s), that a learning outcome has been achieved, certified by a certificate recognized by the state, by a state document – a diploma – confirming higher or vocational education, or by a state document confirming general education;

c) Learning outcome – a statement of what a person is to achieve in terms of "knowledge and understanding" (the result of assimilating information, facts, principles, theories, and theoretical and practical methods related to a field of study or activity), "skill" (the ability to apply relevant knowledge to perform a specific task and solve problems) and/or "responsibility and autonomy" (the application of knowledge and skills by a person with the appropriate degree of values and independence);

d) Classifier of fields of study – an instrument that classifies the fields of study existing in Georgia and links the corresponding qualifications to them;

e) Formal education – the part of the lifelong learning system that involves acquiring "knowledge and understanding", "skill" and/or "responsibility and autonomy" within a qualification-awarding educational programme;

f) Non-formal education – the part of the lifelong learning system that involves acquiring "knowledge and understanding", "skill" and/or "responsibility and autonomy" outside formal education;

g) Cluster of higher education programmes – for the purposes of the accreditation process of higher education programmes, educational programmes classified according to the National Qualifications Framework and the classifier of fields of study and grouped by content (programme content, learning aims and outcomes) (except for the joint higher education programme provided for by Article 2(h48) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education and the regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the same Law). The rule and conditions for grouping educational programmes into a cluster are determined by the Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programmes of Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter – the Accreditation Regulation).

2. Other terms used in this Law that are not defined in paragraph 1 of this article have the meaning defined by the legislation of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Chapter II. The Body Authorized to Implement the External Mechanisms for Promoting the Development of the Quality of Education

Article 3. National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement

1. To promote the development of the quality of education, a legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement (hereinafter – the Centre) – is created within the sphere of governance of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (hereinafter – the Ministry).

2. The Centre is independent in its activity. It conducts its work in compliance with the principles of publicity and transparency, in accordance with the Constitution of Georgia, the international treaties and agreements of Georgia, this Law, other legislative acts, the regulations of the Centre approved by the Ministry, and other legal acts.

3. In connection with the activity of the Centre, the Ministry, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia:

a) approves the regulations of the Centre;

b) approves the Regulation on the Authorization of Educational Institutions (hereinafter – the Authorization Regulation) and the authorization fee;

c) approves the Accreditation Regulation and the accreditation fee;

d) approves the rule and fees for confirming the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia and for recognizing education received abroad; is authorized to set, for the administrative proceedings related to confirming the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia and recognizing education received abroad, time limits different from those provided for by the General Administrative Code of Georgia;

e) (Repealed – 20.09.2018, No. 3445);

e[1]) approves the fee for checking the linguistic accuracy of a strict-accountability document – a state document confirming education;

f) determines the time limits for, and/or the fee for, the services provided by the Centre;

g) exercises other powers provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 17 June 2011 No. 4790 – Website, 28.06.2011
Law of Georgia of 25 November 2011 No. 5348 – Website, 06.12.2011
Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013
Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 5 July 2018 No. 3028 – Website, 11.07.2018
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2021 No. 350 – Website, 18.03.2021
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 4. Legal Status of the Centre

1. The Centre is a legal entity of public law created by this Law and operating within the sphere of governance of the Ministry.

2. The Centre is headed by a director, who is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia (hereinafter – the Minister) in agreement with the Prime Minister of Georgia.

3. The rights and duties of the director of the Centre, the structure of the Centre and the competence of its structural units are determined by the regulations of the Centre.

4. State control over the Centre is exercised by the Ministry in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 5 July 2018 No. 3028 – Website, 11.07.2018
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2021 No. 350 – Website, 18.03.2021

Article 5. Main Areas of Activity of the Centre

1. Within its competence, the Centre:

a) promotes the improvement of the quality of education and, for this purpose, develops recommendations;

b) carries out the authorization of higher education institutions (except for the legal entity of public law – Kutaisi International University (hereinafter – Kutaisi International University)) and the accreditation of their educational programmes;

b[1]) carries out the authorization of vocational educational institutions;

b[2]) in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the Authorization Regulation and the Accreditation Regulation, carries out the institutional evaluation of higher education institutions operating abroad and the evaluation of their educational programmes;

b[3]) carries out the authorization of general educational institutions;

c) ensures the confirmation of the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia;

d) carries out the recognition of education received abroad;

e) (Repealed – 20.09.2018, No. 3445);

f) checks the linguistic accuracy of a strict-accountability document – a state document confirming education;

g) exercises other powers provided for by the regulations of the Centre.

2. The Centre provides the information necessary for the apostille certification/legalization of documents issued by the Ministry and bodies within its system, as well as documents issued by educational institutions within their powers, to the legal entity of public law operating within the sphere of governance of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia – the State Services Development Agency. The rule for requesting and providing the information necessary for the apostille certification/legalization of documents issued by the Ministry and bodies within its system, as well as documents issued by educational institutions within their powers, is approved by a joint order of the Minister and the Minister of Justice of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 27 April 2016 No. 5022 – Website, 13.05.2016
Law of Georgia of 5 July 2018 No. 3028 – Website, 11.07.2018
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 1 November 2019 No. 5278 – Website, 04.11.2019
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2021 No. 350 – Website, 18.03.2021
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 6. Property and Funding of the Centre

1. To achieve its goals and perform its functions, the Centre has property, the procedure for forming which is determined by the legislation of Georgia.

2. The property of the Centre consists of fixed and current assets, as well as other material valuables and financial resources, which are reflected on the Centre's independent balance sheet.

3. The sources of funding of the Centre are:

a) earmarked funds allocated from the state budget of Georgia;

b) fees for services provided by the Centre;

c) targeted credits and grants;

d) income from work performed under a contract;

e) income received in the form of gifts and donations;

f) other income permitted by the legislation of Georgia.

4. The funds and income provided for by paragraph 3 of this article are spent entirely on achieving the goals and performing the functions of the Centre.

Chapter III. Authorization

Article 7. Purpose and Content of Authorization. Authorization Standards

1. Authorization is the procedure for obtaining the status of an educational institution, the purpose of which is to ensure that the standards necessary for carrying out the relevant activity of issuing state-recognized documents confirming education are met.

2. The authorization standards for a general educational institution concern:

a) the philosophy of the school;

b) the school curriculum;

c) administrative and infrastructural support for the learning process;

d) support for pupils.

2¹. The authorization standards for a higher education institution concern:

a) the mission and strategic development of the higher education institution;

b) the organizational structure and management of the higher education institution;

c) educational programmes;

d) the personnel of the higher education institution;

e) students and measures for their support;

f) research, development and/or other creative activity;

g) material, information and financial resources.

2². The authorization standards for vocational educational institutions concern:

a) the mission and strategic development of the vocational educational institution;

b) educational programmes;

c) vocational students and measures for their support;

d) human resources;

e) material, information and financial resources.

3. The conditions for meeting the authorization standards and the authorization procedure are determined by the Authorization Regulation.

4. For a general educational institution founded by the state or with its participation, including a general educational institution provided for by Article 27 of the Law of Georgia on General Education, the Ministry may, by the Authorization Regulation, determine different authorization conditions.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 8. Institutions Subject to Authorization

1. The institutions subject to authorization (hereinafter – status seekers) are:

a) a status seeker for the status of a general educational institution;

b) a status seeker for the status of a vocational educational institution;

c) a status seeker for the status of a higher education institution.

1¹. Kutaisi International University obtains authorization in accordance with the Law of Georgia on the Creation of the Legal Entity of Public Law – Kutaisi International University.

2. In the authorization application, a status seeker must indicate that, if authorization is obtained, it will carry out:

a) the educational programme of the primary level of general education;

b) the educational programme of the basic level of general education;

c) the educational programme of the secondary level of general education;

d) a basic vocational educational programme;

d¹) a secondary vocational educational programme;

d²) a higher vocational educational programme;

d³) a short-cycle educational programme;

e) a bachelor's educational programme;

e¹) an integrated bachelor's–master's educational programme for teacher training;

f) a master's educational programme;

g) a doctoral educational programme;

h) another educational programme for the implementation of which mandatory accreditation is established by the legislation of Georgia, as well as educational programmes that entail the issuance of a state-recognized document confirming education.

3. A general educational institution or vocational educational institution is authorized to carry out only the educational programme(s) indicated in the authorization application, as well as an educational programme that this educational institution has added during the period of validity of authorization in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

3¹. A higher education institution is authorized to carry out only accredited higher education programme(s) and the Georgian language preparation educational programme.

4. The following are not subject to authorization:

a) an entity that carries out an educational activity:

a.a) that is not accompanied by the issuance of a document confirming a qualification;

a.b) that is not part of a qualification-awarding educational programme;

a.c) that is related neither directly nor indirectly to a qualification-awarding educational programme and has an independent learning outcome;

a.d) that does not end with the award of a qualification;

b) the individual educational activity of a natural person, including in the field of vocational training.

5. An institution that has obtained the status of a general educational institution, vocational educational institution or higher education institution without creating another, independent legal entity is not authorized to obtain the status of another educational institution. Where the relevant right is obtained, a general educational institution is authorized, in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Georgia on Vocational Education and without creating an independent legal entity, to carry out only basic vocational educational programmes, secondary vocational educational programmes, vocational training programmes and/or vocational retraining programmes. A higher education institution is authorized, without creating an independent legal entity, to carry out vocational educational programmes of any type, short-cycle educational programmes, state language preparation programmes, vocational training programmes and/or vocational retraining programmes. Decisions on these matters are made by the Authorization Council of Vocational Educational Institutions.

5¹. An institution that has obtained the status of a higher education institution is authorized to found a non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity for the purpose of carrying out vocational educational programmes and/or short-cycle educational programmes.

6. Failure to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 3 and 5 of this article may serve as grounds for revoking authorization.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013
Law of Georgia of 25 November 2015 No. 4559 – Website, 08.12.2015
Law of Georgia of 27 November 2015 No. 4585 – Website, 10.12.2015
Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 1 November 2019 No. 5278 – Website, 04.11.2019
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 9. Self-Assessment by the Status Seeker

The first stage of the authorization process is the self-assessment conducted by the status seeker according to a form determined in advance by the Centre for the status seeker.

Amending laws:
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 10. Authorization Expert Group

To ensure the conduct of authorization for general educational, vocational and higher education institutions, the Centre creates, respectively, authorization expert groups for general educational, vocational and higher education institutions; the rule for their creation and activity is determined by the Authorization Regulation. The status seeker is entitled, in accordance with the procedure established by the Authorization Regulation, to exercise the right to challenge experts.

Amending laws:
Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013

Article 11. Decision on Authorization

1. Decisions on the authorization of general educational, vocational and higher education institutions are made, respectively, by the authorization councils of general educational, vocational and higher education institutions (hereinafter – the Authorization Councils). The members of the Authorization Councils are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the submission of the Ministry. Members of the Authorization Councils may not be civil servants, except in the case provided for by paragraph 1² of this article. The powers and rules of activity of the Authorization Councils are determined by the Authorization Regulation, which guarantees their functional independence from educational institutions and state bodies.

1¹. The Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions consists of permanent members and invited members. Invited members take part in the activity of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions only where the authorization application submitted by the status seeker for the status of a higher education institution indicates a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education. The invited members of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions have the right to vote.

1². The invited members of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the submission of the Ministry. In selecting candidates for invited members of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions, the Ministry is guided by the requirements and criteria established by the World Federation for Medical Education concerning the composition of the council.

2. On the basis of the authorization documentation and the conclusion of the relevant authorization expert group, the Authorization Councils make one of the following decisions:

a) on authorization;

b) on refusal of authorization;

c) on revocation of authorization;

d) on withdrawal of the right to carry out a vocational educational programme(s);

e) on withdrawal, from a general educational institution founded as a legal entity of private law, of the right to carry out a general educational programme(s);

f) on applying to the Ministry with a petition concerning the expediency of the functioning of a general educational institution founded by the state or with its participation / of a general educational programme of a general educational institution founded by the state or with its participation.

2¹. In the course of the authorization process of a higher education institution, or of the process of checking the fulfilment of authorization conditions by a higher education institution, the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions is authorized to decide to restrict the right of the higher education institution to admit students/vocational students for a period of not less than 1 year. The rule and conditions for making this decision, as well as the maximum period of restriction of the right of a higher education institution to admit students/vocational students, are determined by the Authorization Regulation.

2². If a decision provided for by subparagraph (b) or (c) of paragraph 2 of this article is made during an academic year, the Authorization Council of General Educational/Higher Education Institutions is authorized, taking into account the petition of the relevant educational institution and the legitimate interests of pupils/students, and for the purpose of continuity of the learning process, regardless of the remaining period of authorization, to allow pupils/students by an appropriate decision to complete the current academic year at the relevant educational institution, and to indicate, as the date of entry into force of the decision on revocation of authorization or on refusal of re-authorization, a date no later than the end of the current academic year.

2³. Where circumstances arise for revoking the authorization of, refusing authorization to, or revoking a general educational programme of, a general educational institution founded by the state or with its participation, the Authorization Council of General Educational Institutions is authorized to apply to the Ministry with a petition concerning the expediency of the functioning of the general educational institution/general educational programme.

3. The Authorization Councils are obliged to substantiate the decisions they make.

4. A decision on authorization or a decision on refusal of authorization is made within 180 calendar days from the official submission to the Centre of the document confirming payment of the authorization fee.

5. A decision provided for by paragraph 2 of this article is published on the website of the Centre within 10 working days of its adoption.

6. The time limits for submitting an authorization application to the Centre must allow the educational institution to maintain the continuity of its status. The legal entity of public law – the Education Management Information System – is obliged to notify the educational institution of the expiry of its authorization no earlier than 1 year and no later than 9 months before the authorization expires.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016

Law of Georgia of 23 December 2017 No. 1933 – Website, 11.01.2018
Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 12. Decision on Authorization

1. A decision on authorization is made if the educational institution meets all the authorization standards.

2. The period of validity of authorization is 6 years.

3. When making a decision on authorization, the Authorization Councils determine for the relevant educational institution, in accordance with the procedure established by the Authorization Regulation, the maximum number of places for pupils, vocational students and students for the period of validity of authorization.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013
Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Article 13. Legal Consequence of Authorization

1. As a result of authorization, a general educational institution or vocational educational institution is authorized, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, to admit pupils and vocational students and to issue a document confirming a qualification.

2. As a result of authorization, a higher education institution is authorized, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, to admit students to an accredited higher education programme and to the Georgian language preparation educational programme and to issue a document confirming a qualification, except in the case provided for by Article 11(2^{1}) of this Law.

3. In the case provided for by Article 11(2^{3}) of this Law, when the Ministry makes a decision on the expediency of the functioning of a general educational institution/general educational programme, the general educational institution/general educational programme continues to function for the remaining period of authorization.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 23 December 2017 No. 1933 – Website, 11.01.2018
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 14. Decision on Refusal of Authorization

A decision on refusal of authorization is made if the educational institution does not meet one of the authorization standards, except in the case provided for by Article 11(2^{3}) of this Law.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 15. Checking Authorization Conditions and Revocation of Authorization

1. The Centre monitors the fulfilment of authorization conditions by the educational institution. If non-compliance with an authorization standard is identified, the Authorization Councils are

authorized to set for the relevant educational institution a period of no more than 60 days to correct the deficiency, except where it is obvious that this will produce no result.

2. Authorization conditions are checked by the submission of a self-assessment report to the Centre, as well as on the initiative of the Centre.

2^1. A self-assessment report of a higher education institution is submitted to the Centre at least once every 3 years. The deadlines for submitting the self-assessment report of a higher education institution to the Centre are determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the director of the Centre.

2^2. A general educational institution or vocational educational institution is obliged to carry out self-assessment in accordance with the procedure established by the Authorization Regulation.

3. On the basis of the results of checking the relevant educational institution, the Authorization Councils are authorized to make a decision on revocation of authorization if the educational institution violates an authorization standard or the norms of the legislation of Georgia in the field of education concerning the origination, suspension or termination of the status of a pupil, vocational student or student of the educational institution, except in the case provided for by Article 11(2^3) of this Law.

3^1. If, when checking the fulfilment of authorization conditions, it is found that any of two or more vocational educational programmes carried out does not meet the standard provided for by Article 7(2^2)(b) of this Law, the Authorization Council of Vocational Educational Institutions is authorized, instead of a decision on revocation of authorization, to make a decision on withdrawing the right to carry out the relevant vocational educational programme(s).

3^2. If, when checking the fulfilment of authorization conditions, it is found that any of two or more general educational programmes carried out by a general educational institution does not meet the authorization standard provided for by Article 7(2)(b) of this Law, the Authorization Council of General Educational Institutions is authorized, instead of a decision on revocation of authorization, to make a decision on withdrawing from the general educational institution the right to carry out the relevant general educational programme(s), except in the case provided for by Article 11(2^3) of this Law.

4. A decision on revocation of authorization and a decision on applying to the Ministry with a petition provided for by Article 11(2^3) of this Law are made within 90 calendar days from the issuance of the order of the director of the Centre on checking the fulfilment of authorization conditions by the educational institution. The running of this period is considered suspended for the duration of the period set by the Authorization Councils for the relevant educational institution to correct the deficiency.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 25 November 2011 No. 5348 – Website, 06.12.2011
Law of Georgia of 20 March 2013 No. 347 – Website, 29.03.2013
Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017
Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 16. Legal Consequences of Refusal or Revocation of Authorization

1. In the case of refusal or revocation of authorization:

a) the institution cannot obtain, or loses, the status of an educational institution from the date on which the relevant decision enters into force;

b) in accordance with Article 11(2²) of this Law, the educational institution continues educational activity within the period set by the Authorization Council, during which its right to admit pupils/students/vocational students/entrants/master's candidates/doctoral candidates/applicants is restricted;

c) a pupil/student has the right, in accordance with Article 11(2²) of this Law, to continue studying at the same educational institution for the period set by the Authorization Council or to transfer to another relevant educational institution;

d) the status of a student is suspended for 5 years from the expiry of the period set by the Authorization Council in accordance with Article 11(2²) of this Law (where such a period exists) or from the entry into force of the decision of the Authorization Council on refusal or revocation of authorization, and the student is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

e) the status of a vocational student is suspended for 5 years from the entry into force of the decision of the Authorization Council on refusal of authorization, on revocation of authorization, or on withdrawal of the right to carry out a vocational educational programme(s), and the vocational student is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

f) an entrant who has successfully passed the unified national examinations and, according to the ranking document approved by the legal entity of public law – the National Assessment and Examinations Centre, has obtained the right to be enrolled at a higher education institution, is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

g) a master's candidate who appears in the ranking document by master's examination coefficients is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

h) an applicant who has obtained the right to be enrolled at an educational institution carrying out the relevant vocational educational programme is entitled to exercise the right of mobility.

2. In the case of a decision on refusal of authorization or revocation of authorization, a legal entity is entitled to submit to the Centre an authorization application for obtaining the same status of an educational institution 1 year after the decision on refusal or revocation of authorization is made.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 16¹. Addition of an Educational Programme

1. An educational institution is authorized, by an application for the addition of an educational programme submitted to the Centre, to add vocational educational programme(s), general educational programme(s), short-cycle educational programme(s) or state language preparation programmes.

1¹. Only an authorized general educational institution has the right to submit an application for the addition of a general educational programme(s).

2. The form of the application for the addition of an educational programme to be submitted to the Centre is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the director of the Centre.

3. The rule, conditions and fee for the addition of an educational programme are determined by the Authorization Regulation.

4. A decision on the addition of an educational programme, or a decision on refusal to add an educational programme, is made within 90 calendar days from the submission to the Centre of the application for the addition of the educational programme.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 16². Increasing the Number of Places for Pupils, Vocational Students and Students

1. An educational institution is authorized to submit to the Centre a written application for increasing the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students.

2. The form of the written application for increasing the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students to be submitted to the Centre is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the director of the Centre.

3. The rule, conditions and fee for increasing the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students are determined by the Authorization Regulation.

4. A decision on increasing the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students, or a decision on refusal to increase the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students, is made within 90 calendar days from the submission to the Centre of the written application for increasing the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017

Chapter IV. Accreditation

Article 17. Purpose and Content of Accreditation

1. The purpose of accreditation is, by determining the compliance of the educational programmes of an educational institution (except general educational programmes, vocational educational programmes and short-cycle educational programmes) with accreditation standards, to establish systematic self-assessment by the educational institution and to promote the development of quality assurance mechanisms, in order to raise the quality of education.

2. The state educational grant and the state master's educational grant are issued to finance an educational programme of a higher education institution (except an Orthodox theological higher education institution) that has undergone accreditation or whose accreditation was carried out by a foreign organization of relevant competence recognized by the Centre, provided that the accreditation granted by that organization is recognized by the Centre in accordance with the procedure established by the Accreditation Regulation.

3. A higher education programme (except the Orthodox theological higher education programme of an Orthodox theological educational institution) and a Georgian language preparation educational programme may be carried out only if it has undergone accreditation.

4. The educational programmes of Kutaisi International University undergo accreditation in accordance with the Law of Georgia on the Creation of the Legal Entity of Public Law – Kutaisi International University.

5. A joint higher education programme may be carried out if it has undergone accreditation. The accreditation of a joint higher education programme is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

6. (Repealed – 26.07.2017, No. 1224).

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 28 December 2012 No. 188 – Website, 29.12.2012
Law of Georgia of 25 November 2015 No. 4559 – Website, 08.12.2015
Law of Georgia of 27 November 2015 No. 4585 – Website, 10.12.2015
Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 1 November 2019 No. 5278 – Website, 04.11.2019
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 18. Accreditation Standards

The accreditation standards are:

a) the aim of the educational programme, learning outcomes and the programme's compliance with them;

b) teaching methodology and organization, and the adequacy of the assessment of programme mastery;

c) student achievements and individual work with students;

d) provision of teaching resources;

e) opportunities for developing the quality of teaching.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 19. Conducting Accreditation

1. Accreditation is conducted by the Centre.

2. To make decisions on accreditation, the Accreditation Council of Educational Programmes (hereinafter – the Accreditation Council) is created, consisting of permanent members and invited members. A member of the Accreditation Council may not be a civil servant, except in the case provided for by paragraph 2² of this article. The powers and rules of activity of the Accreditation Council are determined by the Accreditation Regulation, which guarantees its functional independence from educational institutions and state bodies.

2¹. The invited members of the Accreditation Council take part in its activity only where the accreditation application submitted by the higher education institution indicates a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education. The invited members of the Accreditation Council have the right to vote.

2². The permanent members and invited members of the Accreditation Council are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the submission of the Ministry. In selecting candidates for invited members of the Accreditation Council, the Ministry is guided by the

requirements and criteria established by the World Federation for Medical Education concerning the composition of the Accreditation Council.

3. The accreditation of higher education programmes, including a joint higher education programme, may be carried out by a foreign organization of relevant competence recognized by the Centre. Recognition is carried out in accordance with the rule established by the Accreditation Regulation.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Article 20. Self-Assessment by the Accreditation Seeker and Determining the Compliance of Documentation with the Relevant Requirements

1. The first stage of the accreditation process is the self-assessment conducted by the accreditation seeker according to a form provided in advance by the Centre to the accreditation seeker.

2. Within 7 working days, the Centre checks the self-assessment submitted by the accreditation seeker for the educational programmes within a cluster of higher education programmes, and the compliance of the documentation attached to it with the requirements established by the Accreditation Regulation.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 21. Accreditation Expert Group

To ensure the conduct of accreditation, the Centre creates an accreditation expert group, the rule for the creation and activity of which is determined by the Accreditation Regulation.

Article 22. Decision on Accreditation

1. A decision on the accreditation of an educational programme of an educational institution (except a general educational programme, a vocational educational programme and a short-cycle educational programme) is made by the Accreditation Council in accordance with the Accreditation Regulation, including on the basis of the conclusion of the accreditation expert group, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

2. A decision on accreditation may be of 4 types:

a) on accreditation;

b) on conditional accreditation;

c) on refusal of accreditation;

d) on revocation of accreditation.

[3. The period of validity of accreditation of an educational programme is 7 years. An educational programme that was submitted to the Centre for accreditation during the calendar year in which the educational programmes classified in the field of study of that educational programme do not have to undergo re-accreditation is granted accreditation until the next accreditation deadline of the educational programmes classified in the field of study of that educational programme.

4. With respect to a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, when making a decision provided for by

subparagraph (a) or (b) of paragraph 2 of this article, the Accreditation Council, within the maximum number of places for students established for the higher education institution, determines, in accordance with the procedure established by the Accreditation Regulation, the maximum number of places for students for the period of validity of accreditation.

5. The period of validity of conditional accreditation of an educational programme is no more than 4 years. An educational programme that was submitted to the Centre for accreditation during the calendar year in which the educational programmes classified in the field of study of that educational programme do not have to undergo re-accreditation is granted conditional accreditation until the next accreditation deadline of the educational programmes classified in the field of study of that educational programme, but for no more than 4 years. (To take effect from 1 July 2022)]

6. A decision on conditional accreditation of an educational programme may not be made twice in a row.

7. If the period of validity of authorization expires or authorization is revoked, accreditation is cancelled.

8. In the case of the first and each subsequent accreditation of an educational programme, a decision on accreditation is made in accordance with the procedure established by the Accreditation Regulation if the educational programme fully and/or mostly meets the accreditation standards.

9. In the case of the first and each subsequent accreditation of an educational programme, a decision on conditional accreditation is made in accordance with the procedure established by the Accreditation Regulation if the educational programme partially meets the accreditation standard.

10. A decision on accreditation is made within 180 calendar days from the official submission to the Centre of the document confirming payment of the accreditation fee.

11. If a decision provided for by subparagraph (c) or (d) of paragraph 2 of this article is made during an academic year, the Accreditation Council is authorized, taking into account the petition of the relevant educational institution and the legitimate interests of students, and for the purpose of continuity of the learning process, regardless of the remaining period of accreditation, to allow students by an appropriate decision to complete the current academic year in accredited mode on the relevant educational programme, and to indicate, as the date of entry into force of the decision on revocation of accreditation or on refusal of re-accreditation, a date no later than the end of the current academic year.

12. The time limits for submitting an accreditation application must allow the continuity of accreditation of the educational programme.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 23 December 2017 No. 1933 – Website, 11.01.2018
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 22¹. Increasing the Maximum Number of Places for Students on a Regulated Academic Higher Education Programme Provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education

1. A higher education institution is authorized, within the maximum number of places for students established for it by the Authorization Council, to submit to the Centre a written application for increasing the maximum number of places for students on a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education.

2. The form of the written application for increasing the maximum number of places for students on a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, to be submitted to the Centre, is approved by an individual administrative-legal act of the director of the Centre.

3. The rule, conditions and fee for increasing the maximum number of places for students on a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education are determined by the Accreditation Regulation.

4. The Accreditation Council makes a decision on increasing the maximum number of places for students, or a decision on refusal to increase the maximum number of places for students, within 90 calendar days from the submission to the Centre of the written application for increasing the maximum number of places for students on a regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75(2)(b) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 23. Checking Accreditation Conditions and Revocation of Accreditation

1. The Centre monitors the fulfilment of accreditation conditions by the higher education institution. If a violation of accreditation conditions is identified, the Accreditation Council is authorized to set for the relevant higher education institution a period of no more than 60 days to correct the deficiency, except where it is obvious that this will produce no result.

2. Accreditation conditions are checked by the submission of a self-assessment report to the Centre, as well as on the initiative of the Centre.

2¹. A self-assessment report is submitted to the Centre at least once every 3 years. The deadlines for submitting the self-assessment report to the Centre are determined by an individual administrative-legal act of the director of the Centre.

3. On the basis of the results of checking the higher education institution, the Accreditation Council is authorized to make a decision on revocation of accreditation if the higher education institution violates the accreditation conditions.

4. A decision on revocation of accreditation is made within 90 calendar days from the issuance of the order of the director of the Centre on checking the fulfilment of accreditation conditions by the higher education institution. The running of this period is considered suspended for the duration of the period set by the Accreditation Council for the relevant higher education institution to correct the deficiency.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 25 November 2011 No. 5348 – Website, 06.12.2011
Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016
Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Article 24. Legal Consequences of Refusal of Accreditation, Revocation of Accreditation or Expiry of the Period of Accreditation

1. In the case of refusal of accreditation or revocation of accreditation of a higher education programme of a higher education institution:

a) the higher education institution is restricted in its right to admit students/entrants/master's candidates/doctoral candidates to the higher education programme and the Georgian language preparation educational programme whose accreditation was refused, was revoked, or whose period of accreditation has expired;

b) a student who studies with state funding is entitled, in accordance with Article 22(11) of this Law, for the period set by the Accreditation Council (where such a period exists), to continue studying on the same higher education programme and receive state funding, or to exercise the right of mobility, transfer to another accredited higher education programme, and transfer to that higher education programme the remaining amount of state funding allocated to the student;

c) the status of a student who studies on an accredited higher education programme or on a Georgian language preparation educational programme is suspended for 5 years from the expiry of the period set by the Accreditation Council in accordance with Article 22(11) of this Law (where such a period exists) or from the entry into force of the decision of the Accreditation Council on refusal or revocation of accreditation, and the student is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

d) an entrant who has successfully passed the unified national examinations and, according to the ranking document approved by the legal entity of public law – the National Assessment and Examinations Centre, has obtained the right to be enrolled on a higher education programme, is entitled to exercise the right of mobility;

e) a master's candidate who appears in the ranking document by master's examination coefficients is entitled to exercise the right of mobility.

2. If the period of accreditation of a higher education programme or a Georgian language preparation educational programme expires, a student has the right, on the basis of a decision of the Accreditation Council, to continue studying on the same educational programme until the end of the current academic semester and to receive state funding. The status of the student is suspended for 5 years from the end of the current academic semester and the student is entitled to exercise the right of mobility.

3. (Repealed – 30.03.2022, No. 1464).

Amending laws:
Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022
Law of Georgia of 30 March 2022 No. 1464 – Website, 06.04.2022

Chapter IV¹. The Dispute-Resolving Body

Amending laws:
Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016

Article 24¹. Appeals Council

1. The decisions provided for by Article 11(2) and Article 22(2) of this Law may be appealed to the Appeals Council and/or to a court.

2. The members of the Appeals Council are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the submission of the Ministry. A member of the Appeals Council may not be a civil servant, a member of an Authorization Council or a member of the Accreditation Council. The powers and rules of activity of the Appeals Council are determined by the Authorization Regulation and the Accreditation Regulation, which guarantee its functional independence from educational institutions and state bodies. The Minister is authorized to set time limits for submitting and considering a complaint to the Appeals Council that differ from those provided for by the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

3. A decision of the Appeals Council may be of two types:

a) on upholding the decision of the Authorization Council/Accreditation Council;

b) on returning the matter to the Authorization Council/Accreditation Council for re-examination.

4. Appealing a decision of the Authorization Council/Accreditation Council to the Appeals Council and/or to a court does not suspend the operation of that decision.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016

Chapter IV². The National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Article 24². The National Qualifications Framework and Its Objectives

1. The National Qualifications Framework consists of 8 levels. Each level of the National Qualifications Framework is an element determining the complexity of a qualification, which combines generalized learning outcomes – descriptors – described in terms of "knowledge and understanding", "skill", and "responsibility and autonomy".

2. The objectives of the National Qualifications Framework are:

a) to classify qualifications in compliance with the basic principles of the National Qualifications Framework (compliance of learning outcomes, quality assurance, accessibility of information related to qualifications);

b) to interconnect, manage and develop general education, vocational education and higher education;

c) to promote lifelong learning;

d) to support the quality assurance system;

e) to ensure the compatibility, comparability and transparency of qualifications at the international level;

f) to promote mobility;

g) to promote the recognition of formal education received during the period of study;

h) to promote the recognition of non-formal education;

i) to inform society about existing qualifications;

j) to reflect the constantly changing demands of society in the education system and to stimulate the description of corresponding, updated qualifications.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Article 24³. Approval, Management and Development of the National Qualifications Framework

1. The National Qualifications Framework is approved by the Minister on the submission of the Centre.

2. The rules for the management, development and monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework and for the creation and administration of the electronic register of qualifications, as well as the procedures and rule for the recognition of non-formal education, are approved by the Minister on the submission of the Centre.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Law of Georgia of 16 March 2021 No. 350 – Website, 18.03.2021

Article 24⁴. Classifier of Fields of Study

1. The classifier of fields of study classifies the fields of study existing in Georgia and determines the qualification to be awarded in each field of study.

2. The classifier of fields of study is approved by the Minister on the submission of the Centre.

3. The rule for the management, development and monitoring of the classifier of fields of study is approved by the director of the Centre by an individual administrative-legal act.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3437 – Website, 05.10.2018

Law of Georgia of 16 March 2021 No. 350 – Website, 18.03.2021

Chapter V. Powers of the Centre in the Areas of Confirming the Authenticity of Educational Documents and Recognizing Education Received

Article 25. Confirmation of the Authenticity of Educational Documents Issued in Georgia

When confirming the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia, the Centre establishes the fact that a person has fully or partially completed an educational programme and that an appropriate document on the award of a qualification to that person has been issued, and their compliance with the requirements of the legislation of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 27 April 2016 No. 5022 – Website, 13.05.2016

Article 25¹. Recognition of Education Received in Georgia

1. The Centre recognizes: higher education received in an occupied territory; higher education received by persons enrolled at a licensed higher education institution; the education of persons who received it at an institution that has been liquidated or has ceased educational activity and who are unable to confirm their education or qualification; and education received by persons with international protection and by persons forcibly displaced from the occupied territories of Georgia – internally displaced persons.

2. The Centre is authorized to issue a document – a diploma – confirming the recognition of education provided for by paragraph 1 of this article.

3. The Ministry is authorized to set a fee for issuing the document provided for by paragraph 2 of this article.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 25 November 2011 No. 5348 – Website, 06.12.2011
Law of Georgia of 27 December 2011 No. 5639 – Website, 09.01.2012
Law of Georgia of 1 December 2016 No. 52 – Website, 15.12.2016
Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Article 26. Recognition of Education or Qualifications Received Abroad

1. For the purpose of recognizing education or qualifications received abroad, the Centre establishes:

a) whether the educational document was issued in the name of the person indicated in that document, and whether the educational institution that issued the document is recognized under the legislation of the country in which that institution carries out educational activity (confirmation of authenticity);

b) the correspondence of the qualification received abroad to qualifications existing in Georgia (determination of equivalence).

2. The Centre does not recognize education received abroad if the education was received abroad by distance learning, except where the distance-learning education was received as a result of distance learning conducted in the relevant foreign country because of a pandemic and/or permitted for the purpose of preventing the spread of the pandemic or eliminating its consequences.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6289 – Website, 15.06.2020

Chapter VI. (Repealed)

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Article 27. (Repealed)

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Article 28. (Repealed)

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Article 29. (Repealed)

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 20 September 2018 No. 3445 – Website, 09.10.2018

Chapter VII. General Principles for Determining the Fees and Time Limits for Services Provided by the Centre

Article 30. Fees for Services Provided by the Centre

1. A fee is a mandatory payment, including value added tax, set by an act of the Ministry for a service provided by the Centre.

2. The fee is paid in advance, before the relevant service is provided, by non-cash settlement.

3. The fee is credited to the settlement account of the Centre.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 25 November 2011 No. 5348 – Website, 06.12.2011

Article 31. Payment of Fees for Services Provided by the Centre, Calculation of the Time Limit Set for the Service, and Refund of the Fee Paid

1. The time limits for services provided by the Centre and the fee rates are determined by an act of the Ministry.

2. The interested person is obliged to pay the fee set by the act of the Ministry.

3. The time limit set by an act of the Ministry for a service begins to run on the day after the registration of the application and ends at the end of the last day of the time limit. If the last day of the time limit falls on a non-working day or a rest day, the next working day is considered the end of the time limit.

4. The rule established by paragraph 3 of this article does not apply to the provision of expedited services determined by an act of the Ministry.

5. The rule for refunding the fee paid for a service provided by the Centre is determined by an act of the Ministry.

Chapter VIII. Transitional Provisions

Article 32. Measures Related to the Entry into Force of the Law

1. By 15 September 2010, the Government of Georgia shall ensure the conformity with this Law of Resolution No. 37 of the Government of Georgia of 21 May 2004 "On Approval of the Regulations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia".

2. By 15 September 2010, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure the approval of the legal acts provided for by subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Article 3(3) of this Law, and by 1 March 2011 – the approval of the legal acts provided for by subparagraphs (c) to (e) of Article 3(3) of this Law.

3. By 1 March 2011, the President of Georgia, the Government of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and educational institutions shall ensure the conformity of the relevant legal acts with this Law.

4. The legal entity of public law – the National Education Accreditation Centre shall be reorganized into the legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement. The legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement is the legal successor of the legal entity of public law – the National Education Accreditation Centre.

5. The legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement shall be designated as the successor of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia with respect to the activity carried out and ongoing by the Licensing, Legalization and Apostille Division of the Legal Support Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

6. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be charged with implementing the measures related to the reorganization of the legal entity of public law – the National Education Accreditation Centre into the legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement. Until these measures are completed, the functions of the legal entity of public law – the National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement are performed by the legal entity of public law – the National Education Accreditation Centre, and the functions of the Licensing, Legalization and Apostille Division of the Legal Support Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia are performed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Article 32¹. Authorization of Orthodox Theological Higher Education Institutions

Orthodox theological higher education institutions founded by the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia on the basis of this Law are considered authorized in accordance with this Law until 1 January 2015. From 1 January 2015, these Orthodox theological higher education institutions are subject to authorization in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 28 December 2012 No. 188 – Website, 29.12.2012

Article 32². Re-Authorization of Educational Institutions and Accreditation of Educational Programmes

1. For a higher education institution whose authorization decision was made in 2011–2015, the 5-year period of authorization shall be extended by 1 year.

2. Higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes accredited in 2011–2012 shall be considered accredited by an ordinance of the Government of Georgia in accordance with the stages established for the re-accreditation of these educational programmes. By 1 September 2017, an ordinance of the Government of Georgia shall determine the stages of re-accreditation in 2018–2022 of the higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes accredited in 2011–2012, according to the directions provided for by the "List of directions, fields/specialities, sub-fields/specializations and vocational specializations" (Annex No. 4) approved by Order No. 120/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 10 December 2010 "On Approval of the National Qualifications Framework".

2¹. Bachelor's higher education programmes for teacher training accredited in 2011–2012 and 2014–2015 (the bachelor's educational programme for training teachers of the primary level of general education and the teacher training educational programme that is an integral part of a bachelor's educational programme) shall be considered accredited until the beginning of the 2022–2023 academic year.

2². For a general educational institution whose current authorization period expires in 2020, this period shall be extended through 31 December 2020.

2³. For a higher education institution whose current authorization period expires before 1 March 2021, this period shall be extended until 1 July 2021.

2⁴. For a higher education programme (except an educational programme accredited in 2011–2012) whose current accreditation period expires in 2020, this period shall be extended through 31 December 2020.

2⁵. For the educational programme of a Doctor of Medicine (except an educational programme accredited in 2011–2012) whose current accreditation period expires in 2020, this period shall be extended until 1 July 2021.

3. Until 1 January 2018, the checking by higher education institutions of the fulfilment of the authorization conditions provided for by Article 15 of this Law shall be carried out in accordance with the authorization standards in force until 1 September 2016.

4. Higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes accredited as of 1 June 2022 shall be considered accredited by an order of the Minister in accordance with the stages established for the re-accreditation of these educational programmes. By 1 July 2022, an order of the Minister shall determine the stages of re-accreditation in 2022–2028 of the higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes accredited as of 1 June 2022, according to the fields of study provided for by the classifier of fields of study.

5. A higher education institution is authorized to carry out a higher education programme operating in non-accredited mode as of 1 June 2022 until the expiry of the accreditation period determined for the field of study established by paragraph 4 of this article. After the expiry of that period, carrying out a higher education programme in non-accredited mode is not permitted.

6. A higher education programme and a Georgian language preparation educational programme accredited as of 1 June 2022, whose current accreditation period expires 2 years after the expiry of the time limit of the stage determined for re-accreditation by the order of the Minister provided for by paragraph 4 of this article, shall be considered accredited until the expiry of the next accreditation period determined for the relevant field of study established by paragraph 4 of this article.

7. By 1 July 2022, an order of the Minister shall determine the list of higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes provided for by paragraphs 4 and 6 of this article.

8. The time limits provided for by paragraphs 4 and 6 of this article do not apply to a higher education programme and a Georgian language preparation educational programme in operation as of 1 June 2022 that have been granted conditional accreditation.

9. The time limits provided for by paragraphs 4 to 6 of this article do not apply to a higher education programme whose accreditation was carried out by a foreign organization of relevant competence recognized by the Centre, provided that the accreditation granted by that organization is recognized by the Centre in accordance with the procedure established by the Accreditation Regulation.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 19 February 2016 No. 4784 – Website, 07.03.2016

Law of Georgia of 26 July 2017 No. 1224 – Website, 28.07.2017

Law of Georgia of 13 December 2019 No. 5568 – Website, 19.12.2019

Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020
Law of Georgia of 16 March 2022 No. 1429 – Website, 24.03.2022

Article 32³. Apostille Certification/Legalization of Documents Confirming Education Received after 1 September 2010

Apostille certification/legalization of documents confirming education is not permitted if the education was received at a licensed higher education institution after 1 September 2010.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 27 April 2016 No. 5022 – Website, 13.05.2016

Article 32⁴. Suspension of the Time Limit for Administrative Proceedings on Authorization Applications Submitted to the Centre from 1 January 2020 to 1 October 2020

The time limit for administrative proceedings on an authorization application submitted to the Centre from 1 January 2020 to 1 October 2020 for obtaining the status of a higher education institution, or the time limit of such administrative proceedings provided for by the Authorization Regulation in relation to a higher education institution, the carrying out of which, by decision of the director of the Centre, is impossible without a visit of the relevant authorization expert group to that higher education institution, shall be suspended until 1 January 2021.

Amending laws:

Law of Georgia of 12 June 2020 No. 6284 – Website, 15.06.2020

Chapter IX. Final Provision

Article 33. Entry into Force of the Law

This Law enters into force on 1 September 2010.

President of Georgia M. Saakashvili

Tbilisi, 21 July 2010

No. 3531–RS