

Order No. 198/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

20 September 2019, Tbilisi

On Approving the Rule for Mobility of Vocational Students

On the basis of Article 22(1)(o) of the Law of Georgia “On Vocational Education,” I hereby order:

Article 1

To approve the attached Rule for Mobility of Vocational Students.

Article 2

This Order shall enter into force upon its publication.

Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia
Mikheil Batiashvili

Annex: Rule for Mobility of Vocational Students

Article 1. Scope of Regulation

The Rule for Mobility of Vocational Students (hereinafter – the Rule) regulates the procedure for a vocational student’s transfer from an institution implementing a vocational educational program and a short-cycle educational program (hereinafter – the institution) to another institution (hereinafter – external mobility), and, within an institution, from one vocational or short-cycle educational program (hereinafter – the program) to another vocational or short-cycle educational program (hereinafter – internal mobility).

Article 2. Person Entitled to External Mobility and Internal Mobility

1. A person who acquired vocational student status in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, and who at the moment of exercising mobility is a vocational student of that institution, is entitled to external mobility and internal mobility (hereinafter – mobility).
2. A person whose vocational student status is suspended at the moment of exercising mobility is also entitled to mobility.
3. Suspension of vocational student status is considered to be the release of the institution and the vocational student from performing their rights and obligations without termination of vocational student status.
4. The basis for suspending vocational student status is a personal application stating the reason. The content of the reason may not become a ground for refusing to suspend the vocational student’s status. The institution is authorized to define in its charter other grounds for suspending vocational student status.
5. It is impermissible to suspend the status of a vocational student who has left Georgia under an exchange vocational educational program/short-cycle educational program.
6. Termination of vocational student status is considered to be the release of the institution and the vocational student from performing their rights and obligations without the right to restore vocational student status.

7. The basis for terminating vocational student status is the expiry of a 5-year period from the suspension of vocational student status, except for cases provided for by legislation, or another ground defined by the charter of the institution, which may relate to the impossibility of achieving the learning outcomes provided for by the institution's program or to the commission of an action incompatible with vocational student status.

8. In the case of termination of vocational student status, it may be acquired again in accordance with the procedure established by legislation.

9. A person whose vocational student status is suspended is not considered within the maximum number of students of the institution. For the purpose of recording the number of students, the institution is obliged to ensure the registration of the suspension of vocational student status in the vocational education management information system (hereinafter – the system).

10. The mobility of a vocational student is carried out within the maximum number of vocational students established for the relevant program, except for the case provided for by paragraph 12 of this Article, when exceeding the maximum number by no more than 25% is permitted. In this case, the number of persons enrolled above the total number of vocational students shall be deducted from the number of student places set by the institution for the next admission to the relevant program.

11. Restoration of vocational student status at the institution where the person's vocational student status was suspended is permitted by exceeding the maximum number of vocational students in the specific program. In this case, the number of persons enrolled above the total number of vocational students shall be deducted from the number of student places set by the institution for the next admission to the relevant program.

12. Vocational students whose institutions were liquidated without the determination of a legal successor, or whose institution lost the right to implement the program or the status of an educational institution, or whose institution's authorization term expired, are, for the purposes of this Rule, considered persons with suspended vocational student status, and the conditions established by this Rule apply to them.

13. If, at the moment of restoring a vocational student's status, the institution at which the person's vocational student status was suspended no longer implements the program on which the vocational student's status was suspended, restoration of vocational student status is permitted, in compliance with the conditions provided for by Article 3 of this Rule, by means of mobility to another program.

14. In the case of refusal of authorization of an institution or revocation of its authorization, as well as loss of the right to implement a vocational educational program, vocational students enrolled in that institution's vocational educational program, including those whose vocational student status had already been suspended before the decision of the Council for Authorization of Vocational Educational Institutions entered into force, are entitled to use the right of mobility within 5 years from the entry into force of the relevant decision of the Council.

15. In the case of loss by an institution of the right to implement a program due to the expiry of the institution's authorization term, as well as liquidation of the institution without the determination of a legal successor, vocational students enrolled in that institution's vocational educational program, including those whose vocational student status had already been suspended before the expiry of the authorization term or before the liquidation without the determination of the institution's legal successor, are entitled to use the right of mobility within 5 years from the expiry of the authorization term/liquidation.

(Paragraphs 14 and 15 as set out by Order No. 135/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 13 December 2022 – website, 14.12.2022)

Article 3. Restriction of the Right to Mobility

1. Mobility may be carried out within a vocational educational program awarding a qualification of the same or a lower level of the “National Qualifications Framework” (Annex No. 1), approved by Article 1 of Order No. 69/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia of 10 April 2019 “On Approving the National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study.”
2. A vocational student acquires the right to mobility only to a program for which he/she meets the prerequisite for admission.

(Order No. 135/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 13 December 2022 – website, 14.12.2022)

Article 4. Acquiring the Right to Enrollment at an Institution through Mobility and Issuing the Enrollment Act

1. In order to acquire the right to enrollment through external mobility, the vocational student – or, in the case of a minor vocational student, his/her legal representative – applies to the receiving institution with an application; and in order to acquire the right to enrollment through internal mobility, the vocational student – or, in the case of a minor vocational student, his/her legal representative – applies to the same institution with an application. The application must state the name of the program to which the person wishes to transfer.
2. The receiving institution is authorized to obtain additional information from the system on the vocational student’s status, the grounds for suspension of status (where applicable), and the learning outcomes he/she has achieved.
3. The institution is authorized to refuse enrollment of a person through mobility if:
 - a) the institution has no vacant places within the maximum number of vocational students established for the program;
 - b) the institution cannot ensure the further education of the person wishing to use mobility, taking into account the specifics of implementing the receiving program;
 - c) the person wishing to use mobility does not meet the prerequisites established by the institution for enrollment in the program (where applicable).
4. The application of a person wishing to use mobility is considered, and a decision on the person’s enrollment or refusal of enrollment is made, within the time limits established by the General Administrative Code of Georgia.
5. The institution determines the compatibility of the learning outcomes achieved by the person wishing to use mobility within another educational program with the program offered by it, in accordance with the rule established by the legislation of Georgia and the institution’s internal regulatory act.
6. Recognition is formalized by a reasoned decision of the authorized body of the institution, which indicates the conformity of the educational program completed by the vocational student wishing to use mobility with the receiving program – and, in the case of internal mobility, with another program of the same institution – as well as the recognized learning outcomes and the number of credits. Where necessary, the institution is obliged to draw up an individual curriculum, taking into account the interests of the vocational student.

7. On the basis of the conditions provided for by this Rule and the consent of the vocational student wishing to use mobility, the institution issues a legal act on the enrollment of the vocational student through mobility and reflects the information in the system in accordance with the procedure established by legislation. On the basis of the system data, the institution from which the vocational student is transferring – and, in the case of internal mobility, the institution within which the vocational student is transferring from one program to another – issues a legal act on the termination of the vocational student's status and reflects the information in the system in accordance with the procedure established by legislation.