



**MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
LITHUANIA**

**ORDER  
ON THE AMENDMENT OF ORDER NO. ISAK-2833 OF THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION AND SCIENCE ON APPROVING THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF  
JOINT STUDY PROGRAMMES OF 31 DECEMBER 2009**

3 February 2014 No. V-65  
Vilnius

1. I hereby amend the General Requirements of Joint Study Programmes approved by Order No. ISAK 2833 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on Approving the General Requirements of Joint Study Programmes (hereinafter referred to as “the Requirements”) of 31 December 2009 and set them forth under new version (as appended).

2. I hereby establish **Clause 11 of the Requirements to be effective from 1 September 2015.**

Minister of Education and Science

Dainius Pavalkis

APPROVED

by Order No. ISAK-2833 of the  
Minister of Education and Science of  
the Republic of Lithuania of 31  
December 2009

(Version of Order No. V-65 of the  
Minister of Education and Science of  
the Republic of Lithuania of 3  
February 2014)

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF JOINT STUDY PROGRAMMES

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The General Requirements of Joint Study Programmes (hereinafter referred to as “the Requirements”) shall establish general requirements for the development and provision of joint study programmes and the award of joint degrees.

2. For the purpose of the Requirements:

**Academic mobility** shall mean a process related to physical and/or virtual mobility of students and/or lecturers with its main purpose being to allow students to acquire knowledge, skills and experience, as well as to provide lecturers with a possibility of apprenticeship, sharing professional experience and to improve competences, as well as practical teaching skills within other academic environment.

**Joint study programme** shall mean a study programme approved and jointly provided by at least two higher education institutions (hereinafter referred to as “partner higher education institutions”) with its main components being integrity of content of the parts of study programmes provided by the partner higher education institutions and the learning outcomes, physical and virtual mobility of both students and lecturers, as well as study programme administration based on partnership.

**Joint qualification degree** shall mean a joint professional bachelor, bachelor or master degree awarded upon completion of a joint study programme.

The other terms in the requirements are used in the meaning as defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The main purpose of a joint study programme shall be to create opportunities for students to acquire more knowledge, skills and experience than could be acquired under a study programme provided by a single institution of higher education. The aim of the joint programme provided together with a higher education institution or institutions of another country shall be to create opportunities for students from different countries to study in and for lecturers to teach in different cultural and academic environments, as well as to take over good study practice of different countries or higher education institutions, to encourage international interinstitutional, interdisciplinary collaboration and expand employment opportunities for graduates both within Lithuania and abroad.

4. Joint study programmes shall be developed, evaluated and/or accredited, legitimised and provided according to the procedures established in the national legal acts of the partner higher education institutions. A joint study programme shall be launched as soon as it is legitimised in all the countries of the partner institutions providing the joint study programme.

5. In Lithuania, joint study programmes shall be evaluated, accredited and registered in the Register of Studies, Training Programmes and Qualifications according to the same procedure as all other study programmes. A joint study programme provided by several Lithuanian higher education institutions shall be accorded a single national code.

6. Partner higher education institutions providing a joint study programme shall have a right to provide studies of the same cycle and type, as well as to award a corresponding qualification degree (s) of following the procedure established by legal acts of their countries.

## II. DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF JOINT STUDY PROGRAMMES

7. A joint study programme shall be developed and provided on the basis of the agreement on the provision of a joint study programme concluded between all of the partner higher education institutions (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”). The Agreement shall determine:

7.1. The title of a joint study programme in the language (s) to be used while providing the joint study programme;

7.2. The scope and duration of the study programme at the partner higher education institutions and the language (s) to be used while providing the joint study programme;

7.3. Quality assurance principles and measures for the studies (internal quality system mechanism);

7.4. Admission conditions and procedures for students;

7.5. Provisions and obligations for study financing, as well as granting of scholarships and other support (accommodation, etc.) for students;

7.6. System of assessment of students’ knowledge and skills, as well as recognition of students’ performance in partner higher education institutions;

7.7. The conditions of academic mobility of students and lecturers;

7.8. Administration of a joint study programme;

7.9. Procedures for the award of a joint qualification degree and issue of education document (s);

7.10. Responsibility of partner higher education institutions for their obligations, the term of the Agreement, procedures for the amendment and termination of the Agreement, and dispute resolution;

7.11. Other terms and conditions agreed by the contracting parties.

8. Scope of a joint study programme, considering the cycle and type of the joint study programme in question, shall comply with the requirements for a scope of joint study programme provided for in the legal acts of the countries of partner higher education institutions. There might be a difference between the number of subjects present in a joint study programme during each semester and that provided for in the general requirements of first cycle study, integrated study and master study programmes, where they are subject to different requirements applied under the procedures of legal acts of the countries of partner higher education institutions.

9. If a joint study programme includes at least one foreign higher education institution as a partner higher education institution, the entrants shall be subject to the requirement to have at least level B2 of foreign language (s) knowledge subject to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, thus ensuring that a person seeking for a joint qualification degree shall be ready to study in a language (s) in which the studies shall be provided.

10. Internationality of a joint study programme shall be provided by implementing physical and virtual mobility of the students, exchange of lecturers while writing final research papers under supervision and consultation of lecturers from partner higher education institutions.

11. At least 25 per cent of the joint study programme scope in partner higher education institutions shall be provided on the basis of physical mobility of students by taking subjects or modules during the entire study period.

12. The recognition procedures of partner higher education institutions of Bologna process member countries shall meet the requirements of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Recognition of performance results in higher education institutions of the countries other than the members of Bologna process countries are carried out following other study performance evaluation systems acceptable for the partner higher education institutions.

13. The final examination and/or thesis board shall include representatives of all the partner institutions involved in the award of a joint qualification degree.

14. Studies under a joint study programme shall be completed by the award of a joint qualification degree according to the procedure coordinated between the partner higher education institutions.

15. If the partners include at least one foreign higher education institution, upon completion of a joint study programme, the person shall be issued a joint diploma and diploma supplement (annex) granted jointly by partner higher education institutions according to the procedure established in the national legal acts of respective countries, or diplomas and diploma supplements (annexes) of partner higher education institutions issued following the procedure of legal acts of respective countries and certifying the awarded joint qualification degree.

16. Upon completion of a joint study programme provided only by Lithuanian higher education institutions, a person shall be issued with a joint diploma and diploma supplement (annex).

### **III. FINAL PROVISIONS**

17. In Lithuania, information about the students of joint study programmes is stored and administered according to the procedure established in the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

18. In order to cover the study price and to finance mobility of students studying joint study programmes, funds may be allocated from the state budget, EU funds and other sources according to the procedure established in the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania. Partner higher education institutions shall settle up between them following the Agreement on the provision of a joint study programme.

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