

LAW OF GEORGIA ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1. Scope of the Law

This Law shall regulate the process of conduct of educational and scientific-research activities of higher educational institutions in Georgia, the principles and procedure of management and funding of higher education, establishes the rules and procedure of foundation, performance, reorganisation and liquidation of a higher education institution, as well as the principles of authorisation and accreditation.

Article 2. Definition of Terms

The terms used in this Law have the following meaning:

- (a) Entrant – a person with general secondary education, who has a general secondary educational document, issued in Georgia or an equivalent document and plans to continue his/her studies at a higher education institution;
- (b) Autonomy – the freedom of a higher education institution and its basic unit to independently plan and implement the academic, financial-economic and administrative activities;
- (b)¹ Authorization – the procedure of obtaining the status of a higher education institution, that aims at ensuring the meeting of standards, necessary for the performance of relevant activities to issue the State-recognised educational documents;
- (c) Academic freedom – the right of the academic personnel and students to carry out research, teaching and learning activities independently;
- (d) Academic mobility – free movement of students and academic personnel to ensure the participation in learning, teaching and research activities both in Georgia and abroad, in accordance with Law of Georgia and the rules established by a higher education institution, what is followed by the recognition of qualifications or the education, credits acquired/accumulated during the study period ;
- (e) Academic Council – the highest representative body of a higher education institution – legal entity of public law;
- (e)¹ Academic Higher Education – course of higher education covering educational programmes of Bachelor's Master's and Doctoral studies;
- (e)² Higher Education Qualifications Framework – a part of the National Qualifications Framework, where all the higher education qualifications, existing in Georgia are presented in a systemic manner.
- (f) Academic degree – a degree awarded to a person by a higher education institution upon completion of the relevant cycle of the academic higher education;
- (g) Academic title – a title (honorary doctor, emeritus) conferred to a scholar or public man commensurate with the law of Georgia for outstanding achievements;
- (h) Accreditation – the procedure of establishing the compliance of higher education institution educational programmes with accreditation standards, what aims at establishing regular self-evaluation of higher education Institutions and promotion of the development of quality assurance mechanisms, what is related to the entitlement to state funding, also the implementation of certain educational programmes under this Law;
- (i) Assistant Professor – an academic position at a higher education institution, to which position any person with Doctor's degree or a student of doctoral student who participated in teaching and scientific-research activities can be elected;
- (j) Associate Professor – an academic position at a higher education institution. An Associate Professor participates in the study process and supervises learning and scientific-research activities of students;

- (k) Head of the Administration (Chancellor) – the head of a higher education institution administration in the field of management of financial, material and human resource;
- (l) Bachelor – a person holding an academic degree awarded upon the accumulation of credits, envisaged for the first cycle of an academic higher education programme – Bachelor studies;
- (m) Bachelor Programme – the first cycle of academic higher education, which provides for teaching of the basics in a relevant speciality, essential for pursuing professional activities according to awarded qualification and continuation of studies at master’s level;
- (m)¹ Independent scientific-research unit – a structural unit of a public law legal entity – university, carrying out scientific-research activities and participating in the study process. The scope of autonomy of an independent scientific-research unit, management and performance procedure shall be defined by the statute of the university;
- (n) Diploma – a qualification document awarded by a higher education institution;
- (n)¹ Medical Doctor/Doctor in Dentistry – a holder of an academic degree awarded to a graduate after the accomplishment of medical academic higher education programme and accumulation of the established amount of credits. The programme provides for training a Medical Doctor/Doctor in Dentistry for practical professional activities;
- (o) (Deleted);
- (o)¹ (Deleted);
- (p) Diploma Supplement – a document issued by a higher education institution together with the diploma, testifying to the content of education acquired by student and qualification awarded by the higher education institution;
- (q) Doctoral Thesis – a scientific work defended by a doctoral student for the purpose of obtaining Doctor’s degree;
- (r) Doctoral student – a person enrolled for a doctoral program;
- (s) Doctoral programme – the educational programme of third cycle of academic higher education, the combination of teaching and scientific-research components aiming at training the research personnel and accomplished by awarding Doctor’s degree;
- (t) Doctor – a holder of the academic degree awarded for the accomplishment of the components of a Doctoral programme and defence of Doctoral Thesis;
- (t)¹ E-learning – study process or a part thereof, based on modern information and communication technologies and organised by a higher education institution for persons staying on the territory of Georgia for obtaining qualification, which process does not provide for simultaneous presence of students and a teacher at a specific place. It is mandatory to employ the respective approaches and methods of curriculum planning, organisation and administration of the study process for the implementation of e-learning;
- (u) Unified National Examinations – a procedure establishing readiness of an entrant to accomplish a higher education program;
- (u)¹ National Qualifications Framework – a document, where all the qualifications, existing in Georgia, are integrated, amongst them the higher education qualifications;
- (u)¹ Unified Master’s Examination Network – group of higher education institutions participating in Master’s examinations, where the applicants for Master’s Degree are enrolled in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by this Law, on the basis of Unified Master’s Examination and the examination/examinations set by the Higher Education Institution;
- (v) Individual Study Programme – a programmes designed according to the student’s particular interests and the level of his/her academic training;
- (w) Deleted;
- (w)¹ College – a higher education institution implementing only the first cycle educational programme of academic higher education;

- (w)² College – Learning outcome, which is attained through the accomplishment of a higher education programme and is certified by a diploma or certificate issued by a higher education institution;
- (x) Coefficient (coefficients) – the unit (units) established by a higher education institution at the beginning of an academic year, providing the basis for ranking of the Unified National Examinations results for the enrolment for a particular higher education institution;
- (y) Credit – a unit, which reflects the workload for a student and which can be attained as a result of obtaining the learning outcomes;
- (z) Deleted;
- (aa) Deleted;
- (bb) Master – holder of the academic degree awarded to a person for the accumulation of the number of credits set for the second cycle of the academic higher education;
- (bb)¹ Undergraduate – a student of Master’s programme;
- (cc) Master’s programme – an educational programme of the second cycle of academic higher education, which covers the elements of scientific research and aims at training the post-bachelor level specialist or researcher, also prepares the persons to pursue professional activities according to acquired qualification;
- (cc)¹ Undergraduate candidate – a holder bachelor’s, medal doctor’s/doctor in dentistry or master’s diploma of higher educational facility and or a person equalised thereto person who is going to continues his/her studies at master’s level;
- (cc)² Teacher Training Educational Programme – a higher education programme within the first cycle of higher education or an independent programmes, which is developed on the basis of the respective standard;
- (cc)³ Teacher Training Certificate – a document issued after the accomplishment of teacher training educational programme;
- (dd) Module – an independent and coherent teaching block uniting the related disciplines. A module ensures for the interrelationship between the disciplines and their sequence. Several modules form a curriculum;
- (ee) Professional Association – Independent, membership-based non-profit legal entity established under the law of Georgia, uniting the representatives of a single profession or several related professions and aiming at the promotion of the development of the profession, protection of common interests of its members and ensuring the observance of professional ethics;
- (ff) Full Professor – a person, who holds an academic position at a higher education institution, leads the study process and supervises the research work of students;
- (gg) Ranking by absolute sum of scores – a list of absolute total score/scores obtained by entrants during the Unified National Examinations, determined by the National Examination Centre commensurate with the procedure established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, specifying the names of entrants/student who gained the state study grant;
- (gg)¹ Ranking by coefficients –list of absolute sum of scores obtained by entrants during the Unified National Examinations, determined by the National Examination Centre commensurate with the procedure established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, recalculated according to predetermined coefficients preliminarily. The entrants are assigned to educational programmes of specific higher education institutions according to this recalculation;
- (gg)² Regulated profession – a profession the practicing of which requires passing of a State Certification Test apart from obtaining the relevant qualification;

(gg)³ Regulated educational programme – a programme with special accreditation requirements prescribed by the state and/or a programme through which the state ensures the training of a Master and Doctor through special research programmes;

(gg)⁴ Rector – the Head of a higher education institution, established by State and in the case of a Legal Entity of Public Law – higher education institution – also the Chairperson of the Academic Council;

(gg)⁵ Educational programme (curriculum) – a combination of study courses/modules, providing for programme goals, learning outcomes, study courses/modules with respective credit amounts, student evaluation system and peculiarities of organisation of the study process;

(gg)⁶ Recognition of foreign education – recognition of foreign qualification and/or foreign education acquired within the scope of an educational programme (educational credentials) by a competent authority;

(gg)⁷ Dissertation council – a body awarding Doctor’s degree. A Dissertation Council of a legal entity of public law may operate either within the basic educational unit or University;

(oo) University higher education – a course of higher education consisting of bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral educational programmes;

(gg)⁸ Deleted;

(gg)⁹ Fine arts-creative or sports educational programme – an educational programme aiming at training specialists in one or several specialties of fine arts of sports (amongst them, a artist, musician, actor/actress, sports field specialist) and awarding then the respective qualification;

(gg)¹⁰ State study grant – an amount allocated for a student or a person who enrolled for teacher training educational programme independently from Bachelor’ educational programme, which aims at financing Bachelor studies, Medical Doctor’s/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme or/and teacher training educational programme independently from Bachelor’ educational programme;

(gg)¹¹ Fine arts higher education programme – higher education aiming at training specialists in one or more fields of fine art;

(gg)¹² Sports higher education – higher education aiming at training specialists in one or several fields of sports;

(gg)¹³ Deleted;

(gg)¹⁴ Student – a person who enrolled in a higher education institution commensurate with this Law and the statute of the higher institution concerned and studies for the accomplishment of Bachelor’s, Master’s, Medical Doctor’s/Doctor in Dentistry, Doctoral educational programme;

(gg)¹⁵ Higher education – education following the general secondary education, which ensures the development of competences, relevant for the cycle of education and is certified by relevant qualification document;

(gg)¹⁶ Higher education institution – a teaching or teaching scientific-research institution implementing higher educational programme, the main field of activity of which institution is the pursuit of higher education and research activities or higher education activities, as well as the conduct of creative work. A HEI consists of the basic and auxiliary structural units and awards the relevant qualifications;

(gg)¹⁷ Branch of a higher education institution – a part of a higher education institution, having certain independence, territorially separated from the governing bodies of the institution concerned and implementing the same higher education programme (programmes) as the relevant higher education institution;

(gg)¹⁸ University – a higher education institution, implementing the educational programmes of all three cycles of education, as well as research activities;

(gg)¹⁹ Basic educational unit – basic teaching-scientific or administrative unit of a higher education institution, ensuring the training of students of one or more specialties and awarding them the respective qualifications;

- gg)²⁰ Council of basic educational unit – representative body of the basic educational unit of a legal entity public law – higher education institution;
- gg)²¹ Council of Representatives – a representative body of a legal entity public law – higher education institution;
- gg)²² Quality assurance – internal and external evaluation procedures the implementation of which enhances the improvement of the quality of education in a higher education institution.
- gg)²³ Study Course Programme (syllabi) – a document providing the information about the goals, learning outcomes, credit value, content of a study course/module, teaching and learning methods, evaluation criteria;
- gg)²⁴ Unified Master’s Examination – the procedure, establishing the readiness of a person to accomplish a Master’s educational programme;
- gg)²⁵ Unified Master’s Examination coefficient – unit set by a higher education institution commensurate with the law of Georgia for individual parts of Unified Master’s Examination test;
- gg)²⁶ Minimal competence threshold for Unified Master’s Examination – minimal amount of scores set for individual parts of Unified Master’s Examination test, accumulation of which is necessary for successfully passing the test by an undergraduate candidate and acquisition of the right to participate in the examination/examinations, to be held by a higher education institution;
- gg)²⁷ Ranging of Unified Master’s Examination by absolute score/scores – the list of the absolute score/scores acquired by undergraduate candidates, which list is approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia after the accomplishment of Master’s Examination commensurate with the procedure envisaged by the law of Georgia and which list evidences, whether which undergraduate candidate got entitlement to the state study grant for an accredited higher education programme, within the framework of the percentage of annual amount of Master’s state study grant allocated on the basis of the results of Master’s examinations;
- gg)²⁸ Ranging of Unified Master’s Examination by absolute point/points according to each educational programme direction or/and priority educational programme direction – the list of the absolute score/scores acquired by undergraduate candidates, which list is approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia after the accomplishment of Master’s Examination commensurate with the procedure envisaged by the law of Georgia and which list evidences, whether which undergraduate candidate got entitlement to the state study grant for an accredited higher education programme according to each educational programme direction or/and priority educational programme direction, within the framework of the percentage of annual amount of Master’s state study grant allocated on the basis of the results of Master’s examinations for educational programme directions, amongst them for priority educational programme directions;
- gg)²⁹ Master’s Examination – the procedure for the acquisition of the right to study a Master’s educational programme, which includes the Unified Master’s Examination held by the National Examinations Centre and the examination/examinations, held by the higher education institution;
- gg)³⁰ Sum of Master’s Examination coefficients – sum of Unified Master’s Examination test coefficient or/and the coefficients of the examination/examinations, set by the higher education institution;
- gg)³¹ Ranging of Maser’s Examinations by coefficients – the list of the undergraduate candidates who acquired the right to enrol for the respective educational programme direction of Master’s studies of a specific higher education institution, which list is approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia after the accomplishment of Master’s Examination commensurate with the procedure envisaged by the law of Georgia and is ranged according to the coefficients predetermined by the respective higher education institution;
- gg)³² Master’s state study grant – the amount granted by the state to a student against sitting Unified Master’s Examination or/and for educational programme directions predetermined by the Government of Georgia, amongst them for priority educational programme directions, which amount is designed for

funding of an Master's accredited educational programme, except for art-creative or sports Master's programme, unless the students are admitted to the programme concerned through an Unified Master's Examination;

gg)³³ Teaching University – a higher education institution implementing higher education programme/programmes (except for Doctoral studies). A teaching university is required to implement the second cycle – Master's – educational programme/programmes;

gg)³⁴ Learning outcomes – the knowledge and skills acquired by a student as a result of accomplishment of an educational programme, module, study course;

gg)³⁵ Georgian Language training programme – special educational programme through which the Georgian citizens who enrolled in a higher education institution on the basis of only general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, which programmes aims at the acquisition of knowledge and general skills (writing, reading, listening, speaking) in Georgian language of the level, necessary to continue studies on bachelor's, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programmes;

gg)³⁶ Intermediate qualification – qualification awarded to a student for obtaining credits, envisaged for a short cycle within the first cycle educational programme;

gg)³⁷ Council of Regents – a collegial body set up by the Government of Georgia, implementing supervisory powers under this Law in relation with the activities of a non-industrial (non-commercial) legal entity – higher education institution, established by the state;

gg)³⁸ Higher Education Institution Development Foundation – a non-industrial (non-commercial) legal entity, established by a non-industrial (non-commercial) legal entity – higher education institution, established by the state, delegated with a part of the assets and finances of a higher education institution under management right;

gg)³⁹ Military higher education institution – a higher education institution, with regard to which the state supervision or functions, envisaged by this Law are exercised by the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

Article 3. Goals of Higher Education

1. The main goals of higher education in Georgia are as follows:
 - a) Promotion of the development of Georgian and global cultural values, orientation towards the ideals of democracy and humanism essential for the existence and development of a civil society;
 - b) Satisfaction of the needs of a individual to acquire higher education compatible with one's personal interests and capabilities, to master qualification and be retrained;
 - c) Realization of personal potential, development of creative skills, training of individuals whose competence is compatible with modern requirements, ensuring the competitiveness of graduates on domestic and international labour markets, and offering of high quality education meeting the requirements of the student community and the public at large to the interested persons;
 - d) Training and retraining of new research personnel in order to ensure the sustainability of the country's development and the system of higher education itself; to create, maintain and develop the favourable conditions for research;
 - e) To encourage the mobility of students and academic personnel of higher education institutions.
2. To achieve the goals set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Article the State shall ensure:
 - a) Accessibility and openness of higher education; academic freedom in teaching, learning and research;
 - b) Provision of lifelong learning opportunities;
 - c) Integration of higher education and research;

- d) Establishment of quality assurance systems including authorisation system, accreditation system and quality management (assurance) services at higher education institutions;
 - e) Full participation in the unified European educational and research area of teaching, learning and research and in other international systems of cooperation;
 - f) Autonomy of a higher education institution;
 - g) Involvement of the academic personnel and students of higher education institutions in making decisions and in monitoring their implementation;
 - h) Prohibition of all forms of discrimination in the field of higher education, amongst them on academic, religious and ethnic grounds, and/or views, gender, social origin or any other grounds;
 - i) Publicity and transparency of higher education institution management and the competitions held therein;
 - j) Creation of other conditions that will promote the achievement of the goals set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. To achieve the goals set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Article the higher education institution shall:
- a) Prepare a person for professional activities requiring both theoretical knowledge and research skills;
 - b) Cares about the professional development of its personnel;
 - c) Support the improvement of students' social conditions;
 - d) Cares about creating learning environment for disabled students;
 - e) Encourage the development of sports within its terms of reference;
 - f) Cooperate with the other higher education and research institutions of Georgia;
 - g) Foster international cooperation and student/professor exchange with the relevant foreign educational institutions;
 - h) Encourage the development of research through teaching, learning and professional development in a free, democratic and socially equitable environment;
 - i) Support the dissemination of modern knowledge and technologies;
 - j) Ensure the accessibility and openness of higher education, academic freedom in teaching, learning and research, provision of higher education opportunities over the entire life span, involvement of academic personnel and students in making decisions and monitoring their implementation, publicity and transparency of higher education institution management and competitions held therein, prohibition of all forms of discrimination in the field of higher education, amongst them on academic, religious and ethnic grounds, and/or views, gender, social origin or any other grounds;
 - k) Ensure the creation of the other conditions that will promote the attainment of the goals set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. Restriction of academic freedom shall be admissible only in the following cases:
- a) Freedom of research – with respect to organisational issues and identification of priorities;
 - b) Freedom of teaching – with respect to organisational issues related to the study process, approval of the timetable of the lectures and programmes of the study course;
 - c) Freedom of learning – with respect to organisation of study process and provision of high quality education.
4. No structural units of political and religious organisations can be established within a higher education institution.

Article 4. Language of Higher Education

The language of instruction at a higher education institution shall be the Georgian and in Abkhazia – also the Abkhazian languages (Instruction in other languages, except for individual study courses shall

be allowed whenever so provided by an international agreement or agreed with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.)

Chapter II Management of Higher Education System

Article 5. Powers of the Parliament of Georgia in the of Higher Education

The Parliament of Georgia shall:

- a) Define the key directions of higher education policy and management and adopt the respective legislative acts;
- b) Periodically hear the reports of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on the implementation of the state policy, financial activities and fulfilment of public programmes in the field of higher education.

Article 6. Powers of the Government of Georgia in the Field of Higher Education

1. The Government of Georgia shall:

- a) Implement the state policy in the field of higher education;
- b) Approve the annual volumes and amounts of state study grants and Master's state study grants under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;
- b¹) Approve the directions of Master's educational programmes of higher education institutions on an annual basis, amongst them the priority educational programme directions, and shall allocate the annual volume of state study grant funds between the Unified Master's Examination, each educational programme direction and priority educational programme directions through percentage allocation of state study grants between priority educational programme directions;
- b²) Deleted;
- b³) Deleted; enhancement
- c) Define under the submission Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia the amount and conditions of funding the education of students who enrolled for accredited higher education programmes within the framework of social programme under the submission Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, which funding should not be less than 6% and more than 10% of the annual volume of state study grant funds;
- c¹) Approve under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia the volume and amount of funding of persons with higher education who enrolled for teacher training educational programme independently from Bachelor programme;
- c²) Define under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia the amount and volume of state study grant funding of students, who enrolled only through general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations and who are taking the Georgian language training programme;
- c³) Define under the submission Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia the amount and conditions of funding the education of Undergraduate students, who enrolled for Master's education programmes, within the framework of social programme, which funding should not exceed 10% of the annual volume of state study grant funds;
- d) Establish a legal entity of public law or non-industrial (non-commercial) legal entity with a view to obtaining the status of a higher education institution under the submission Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and approve its provisional statute;
- e) Set up the Council of Regents and approves its Charter;

- f) Establish a legal entity of public law or non-industrial (non-commercial) legal entity with a view to obtaining the status of a military higher education institution under the submission Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and approve its provisional statute;
2. Deleted.

Article 7. Powers of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia in the Field of Higher Education

1. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall:
- a) Pursue the common policy in the field of higher education;
 - b) Deleted;
 - c) Deleted;
 - c¹) Deleted;
 - c²) Deleted;
 - c³) Deleted;
 - d) Deleted;
- Shall appoint and dismiss the Director of the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Examination Centre in agreement with the Prime-Minister of Georgia
- e) Deleted;
 - f) Approve the Regulation for the Authorisation of Educational Institutions and Regulation for the Accreditation of the Educational Programmes of the Educational Institutions under the submission of the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement;
 - f¹) Approve the procedure of accreditation of teacher training centre and service fee under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement;
 - g) Develop and approve the Charter of the Legal Entity Public Law – National Examination Centre;
 - h) Approve the statute of a legal entity of public law - higher education institution under the submission of the Representative Council and deliver opinions on draft statutes of the legal entities of public law – military, sports and fine arts higher education institutions commensurate with the Law of Georgia on Normative Acts;
 - h¹) Approve the statute of a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, established by state under the submission of the higher education institution and deliver opinions on draft statutes of non-profit legal entities – military, sports and fine arts higher education institutions, established by state;
 - i) Approve the regulation for holding Unified National Examinations and the procedure of allocation of the state study grant, the regulation for holding Master’s examinations and the procedure of allocation of the state study grant, the schedule of Unified National Examinations and unified Master’s examinations, the lists of summative scores of Unified National Examinations and the results of unified Master’s examinations; the documents on ranging Unified National Examinations and unified Master’s examinations through absolute score/scores under the submission of the National Examination Centre;
 - i¹) Approve measures for the encouragement of foreign nations to acquire higher education in Georgia;
 - j) Cooperate with international organizations, foreign countries and their educational institutions to monitor and ensure the quality of higher education;
 - k) Deleted;
 - l) Be responsible for the enforcement of normative acts enacted in the field of higher education;
 - m) Approve a list of higher education specialties and the forms of document certifying higher education and its transcript;

- m¹) Approve the procedure of primary elections of the managerial bodies of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution;
 - n) Approve the formats of higher education document and its supplement;
 - n¹) Approve the rules and procedure of enrolment of persons with higher education for teacher training programme independently for Bachelor programmes, granting them the state study grant and issuance of teacher training certificates;
 - n²) Submit to the Government of Georgia for approval the volume and amount of funding of persons with higher education who enrolled for teacher training programme independently for Bachelor programmes;
 - n³) Approve the procedure of accreditation of teacher training educational programme and service fee under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement and in agreement with Teacher Professional Development National Centre;
 - o) Approve service fees for the authorisation of higher education institutions and accreditation of educational programmes;
 - p) Define the procedure and conditions of issuance of the state study grant and Master's state study grant and transfer of state study grant and Master's state study grant from the accredited educational programme of a higher university to that of the other;
 - p¹) Define the procedure of credit valuation of higher education programmes;
 - p²) Define the procedure of and service for the movement from one higher education institution to another, the procedure of and service for the validation of documents issued in Georgia and recognition of foreign education under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement;
 - p³) Approve the procedure of maintenance of the register of higher education institutions under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement, which register should contain data about the educational programmes of higher education institutions, amongst them the data concerning the personnel implementing a higher education programme and persons who enrolled for a higher education programme;
 - p⁴) Approve Higher Education Qualifications Framework;
 - p⁵) Approve the list of international examinations, sitting of which allows a person to participate in examination/examinations set by a higher education institution set for an educational programme direction, amongst them priority educational programme direction of a higher education institution member of the Master's unified examination network;
 - q) Discharge the other functions as prescribed by the law of Georgia legislation and the Charter of the Ministry.
2. The Legal Entity of Public Law – Education Management Information Centre, operating within the framework of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, shall enter the data of the heads and heads of administrations of higher education institutions established by state, and also the data of the speakers of legal entity of public law – higher education institutions.

Article 8. Terms of Reference of the Ministries of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports and Youths Affairs of Georgia in the Field of Fine Arts and Sports Higher Education

With regard to the fine arts and sports higher education institutions, established by the state the Ministries of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports and Youths Affairs shall:

- a) Submit proposals to the Government of Georgia in agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia on establishing public law legal entities or non-profit legal entities for the purpose of acquisition of the status of a higher education institution;

- b) Approve the statute of a higher education institution with due consideration of the opinion of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The statute of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be approved in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Normative Acts;
- c) Shall exert the state control over a legal entity of public law – higher education institution in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Legal Entity of Public Law;
- d) Bear the responsibility for the enforcement of normative acts of Georgia;
- e) Ensure programme funding of fine arts and sports higher education institutions;
- f) Participate in the development of the authorisation and accreditation conditions for fine arts and sports education institutions within their terms of reference, commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by this Law.

Article 8¹. Terms of Reference of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia with Regard to Higher Education Institutions

1. With regard to Higher Education Institutions the Ministry of Defence of Georgia shall
 - a) Submit proposals to the Government of Georgia in agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia on establishing respective legal entities for the purpose of acquisition of the status of a higher education institution;
 - b) Approve the statute of a higher education institution with due consideration of the opinion of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;
 - c) Bear the responsibility for the enforcement of normative acts of Georgia enacted in the field of military education;
 - d) Ensure the programme funding of a military higher education institution or/and procure services from the former;
 - e) Participate in the development of the authorisation and accreditation conditions for a military higher education institution commensurate with this Law.
2. A military higher education institution shall be entitled to:
 - a) Implement military vocational educational programmes;
 - b) ensure the implementation of the necessary study measures for professional development of the personnel of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

Chapter III

Purpose, Types, Foundation, Acquisition of the Legal Status, Reorganization and Liquidation of a Higher Education Institution

Article 9. Types of Higher Education Institutions

1. The types of higher education institution in Georgia are as follows:
 - a) University;
 - b) Teaching university
 - c) College.
2. A higher education institution shall be established as a legal entity of public or private law.

Article 10. Delimitation of Competences within a Higher Education Institution

1. A higher education institution, acting in compliance with this Law, shall:
 - a) Approve the basic directions of study, research and creative activities;
 - b) Draft the statute, approve institution's internal regulations, the rules and basic principles of the Code of Ethics and disciplinary responsibility;
 - c) Approve common rules for the recruitment of the academic and auxiliary personnel;

- d) Approve the coefficients for specific disciplines of the Unified National Examinations under the submission of the basic educational units;
 - d¹) In cases envisaged by the law of Georgia - make decisions of awarding coefficient to Unified Master's Examination under the submission of the basic educational unit. In the case of granting coefficient to Unified Master's Examination the educational institution concerned shall approve the coefficients for separate parts of the Unified Master's Examination test and examination/examinations set thereby and in the case of non-awarding the coefficient – for the enrolment for Master's programme – shall apply the coefficients awarded to the examination/examinations set thereby in the case of overcoming the minimal competence threshold, set commensurate with the procedure envisaged by law of Georgia, by an undergraduate candidate during the Unified Master's Examination;
 - d²) Be entitled to increase the minimal competence threshold, set commensurate with the procedure envisaged by law of Georgia, for individual parts of the Unified Master's Examination. A higher education institution shall not be entitled to set minimal competence threshold for individual parts of the Unified Master's Examination, which will be less than the minimal competence threshold, set by the law of Georgia;
 - e) Elect the institution's managerial bodies and officials;
 - f) Manage the institution's finances and property in accordance with Law of Georgia;
 - g) Be entitled to set an examination for undergraduate candidates in the respective speciality under the submission of the basic educational unit, also shall be entitled to set examination in the other discipline/disciplines;
 - h) In cases, envisaged by the Law of Georgia – approve the procedure of holding the examination/examinations set by the higher education institution under the submission of the basic educational unit commensurate with the procedure, set by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia;
 - d¹) Set minimal competence threshold for the examination, envisaged by the list of international examinations, approved by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, in the case of overcoming of which a person will be entitled to participate in the examination/examinations set by the higher education institution;
 - i) For the purpose of implementation of a Master's educational programme – shall establish the compatibility of the list of speciality/specialities, submitted by the basic educational unit with educational programme directions of higher education institutions, approved by the Government of Georgia, in agreement with the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement;
 - j) Shall establish the list of undergraduate candidates according to educational programme directions, who got entitlement to study a Mater's educational programme at a higher education institution after sitting the examination/examinations, set by higher education institution and submit the list to the National Examinations Centre.
2. A basic educational unit of a higher education institution, acting in compliance with this Law, shall:
- a) Develop main directions of study, research and creative activities, design relevant programmes and plans;
 - b) Develop the academic personnel recruitment procedures;
 - c) Set coefficients for the Unified National Examinations at the beginning of an academic year;
 - d) Be entitled to make a decision on awarding coefficient to Unified Master's Examination, commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia; in the case of awarding coefficient – shall define the coefficients for individual parts of the Unified Master's Examination test, also award coefficients to examination/examinations set thereby;

- e) Hold examination/examinations for undergraduate candidates;
 - f) Elect managerial bodies and officials;
 - g) Establish a study quality assurance mechanism;
 - h) Make decisions regarded funds, attracted thereby and assets under its possession and use of these assets commensurate with the law of Georgia and its statute;
 - i) Develop the procedure of holding examination/examinations set by the higher education institution commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia;
 - j) Define the list of specialty/specialties within educational programme direction with a view to implementation of Master's educational programme.
- 2¹. A legal entity of private law – higher education institution, except for the institution, established by the state, shall individually delimit the competences, envisaged by this Law between the higher education institution and basic educational unit. No delimitation of competences shall be required when there is one basic educational unit within a higher education institution.
 3. A higher education institution shall be required to observe the requirements of Paragraph 2 of Article 52¹ of this Law, provided that it is a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network.

Article 11. Higher Education Institution Established by the State

1. The state shall establish a legal entity of public law or a non-profit legal entity of private law with a view to obtaining the status of higher education institution.
2. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall exert state control over the legal entities of public law – higher education institutions, except for military, fine arts and sports higher education institutions, commensurate with the procedures prescribed by the Law of Georgia on Legal Entities of Public Law and this law, whilst the state control over military, fine arts and sports higher education institutions shall be exercised by relevant Ministries.
3. An act of the Government of Georgia on establishing a legal entity of public law or a non-profit legal entity of private law with a view to acquisition the status of a higher education institution shall specify the name and goals of the institution, the measures related the transfer of assets thereto and also appoint the acting head of the institution. Provisional statute shall specify the powers of the acting head of the institution with respect to authorisation/accreditation procedures and conduct of higher education activities until the election of the managerial bodies.
4. A higher education institution, amongst them a legal entity of public law, shall not be entitled to carry out general education activities without the establishment of another independent legal entity.
5. With a view to promotion of fine arts/sports education in the country a fine arts/sports higher education institution, established by the state, shall be entitled to teach extracurricular arts/sports educational programmes within the framework auxiliary activities, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection/Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and commensurate with the this Law and the statute thereof.

Article 12. Higher Education Institution – Legal Entity of Private Law

1. With a view to acquisition of the status of a higher education institution a legal entity of private law envisaged by the Law of Georgia on Entrepreneurs and the Civil Code of Georgia may be established.
- 1¹ A legal entity of private law shall be entitled to carry out the higher education activities commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Law, without the establishment of another independent legal entity.

2. A self-government authority shall be prohibited from the establishment of a legal entity of private law With a view to acquisition of the status of a higher education institution, ownership of a share (stocks) or membership thereof.
- 2¹ The state shall be prohibited from the establishment of a legal entity of private law With a view to acquisition of the status of a higher education institution, ownership of a share (stocks) or membership thereof.
3. Taking account of their content the provisions of Chapters IV, V (except for Article 32-35) and XIV shall not apply to higher education institutions established as legal entities of private law, except for the institutions, established by the state,.
4. Deleted

Article 12¹. Acquisition of the Status of a Higher Education Institution

The status of a higher education institution can be acquired and relevant educational activities can be carried out only after obtaining authorisation commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by the Authorisation Regulation.

Article 13. Reorganization and Liquidation of a Higher Education Institution

1. A higher education institution may be reorganised or liquidated in accordance with the procedure envisaged by this Law, and respectively by the Laws of Georgia on Entrepreneurs and on Legal Entities of Public Law, and the Civil Code of Georgia.
2. A higher education institution established by the state, also a legal entity established by the state with a view to acquisition the status of a higher education institution can be reorganised or liquidated by the Government of Georgia commensurate with the law of Georgia under the submission of authority the institution/entity concerned was founded by.

Chapter IV

Structure of Higher Education Institution Established by the State

Article 14. Structure of a Higher Education Institution

1. The structure of a higher education institution shall be defined by the Charter of the institution, which should provide for the existence of the basic educational unit.
2. A legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall consist of the basic educational units, higher education institution’s library/libraries and auxiliary structural units: office of the Rector, office of the Chancellor, Chancellery and secretariats of the managerial bodies;
3. The other structural units of a higher education institution, the rules of procedure of the structural units shall be provided for by the statute of the institution and the charter of the respective structural unit.
4. For a branch of a foreign higher education institution to conduct the relevant educational activities on the territory of Georgia, it is necessary to establish its compatibility with the authorisation standards commensurate with the procedure envisaged by the international agreements and other legislative and sublegal normative acts of Georgia, to what end the a foreign higher education institution shall undergo the authorisation against the establishment of the compatibility of the branch with the authorisation standards, envisaged by the Law of Georgia.

Article 15. Management of a Higher Education Institution

1. The managerial bodies of a higher education institution and their competences shall be defined by the statute of the higher education institution.

2. The managerial bodies (managerial entities) of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be: Academic Council, Senate, Rector, Chancellor and the Quality Assurance Service.
3. The managerial bodies (managerial entities) of the basic educational unit of a legal entity of private law – higher education institution shall be: Council of the basic educational unit, Dean of the basic educational unit, and Quality Assurance Service of the basic educational unit.
4. A higher education institution should have the quality assurance mechanism in place.
5. There should be at least one collegial body within a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution established by the State, which should be staffed by the representatives of the academic personnel and students of the basic unit of the educational on the basis of elections.
6. The head of a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution established by the State should be elected.
7. The top manager of a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, established by the State, in the field of financial, material and administrative resources shall be the Chancellor.
8. A higher education institution development foundation may be established for the management of the assets of a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, established by the State.
9. A non-profit legal entity – higher education institution and higher education institution development foundation shall be entitled to procure literature (printed, on electronic or audiovisual media) through a simplified procurement procedure. The other items can be procured through simplified procedure only under the consent of the Council of Regents.

Article 16. Principles of Management of a Higher Education Institution

1. A higher education institution shall ensure:
 - (a) Publicity and accessibility of the decisions of a higher education institution, reports and legal acts of managerial bodies for all the interested persons. The provisions of the General Administrative Code of Georgia on the freedom of information shall apply to a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution. The institution concerned should have in place the transparent procedures of decision-making;
 - (b) Academic freedom of the academic personnel and students;
 - (c) Involvement of the academic personnel and students in decision-making;
 - (d) Equal treatment for all, regardless of one's ethnic or social origin, gender, political or religious beliefs, etc.;
 - (e) Fairness and transparency of elections and the publicity of competitions held at a higher education institution;
2. Neither the statute of a higher education, nor the charters of structural units may provide for any provision restricting the above principles.

Article 17. The Procedure of Election of the Council of Representative

1. The representative body of a legal entity of public law - higher education institution shall be the Council of Representative, which shall be elected from amongst the representatives of the basic structural units of a higher education institution, separately by students and academic personnel, pro rata to their number in basic educational units. The minimal number of the members of the Council of Representatives should not be less than double amount of the members of the Academic Council members, which shall be defined by the statute of the institution.
2. The Council of Representative shall be elected from within the higher education institution on the basis of general, direct and equal elections, by secret ballot, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the statute of a higher education institution.

3. The term of office of the Council of Representatives shall coincide with the normative duration of basic cycle of education and shall be specified in the statute.
4. The students shall comprise one-third of the entire body of the Council of Representatives. An assistant professor, who is a doctoral student, shall participate in the elections as a student. While calculating the number of students the number shall be approximated for the benefit of students.
5. The Council of Representatives shall include a representative of the higher education institution library/libraries as prescribed by the higher education institution statute. The Council of Representatives may also include the persons who were awarded qualification thereby, also the representatives of independent research units and society.
6. The ground for termination of the status of a member of the Council of Representatives shall be the termination of his/her academic or/and labour relations with the higher education institution.
7. In the case of pre-term termination of powers of a member of the Council of Representatives, the vacancy shall be filled up for the remaining period of the term of office of the Council by the member who had the biggest number of votes after the dropped-out member. If there is no such candidate, the new elections shall be held to fill up the vacant position for the same term.
8. The representative of neither the administrative or auxiliary staff nor the members of the Academic Council may be elected to the Council of Representatives.

Article 18. Authority of the Council of Representatives

1. Under this Law the Council of Representatives shall:
 - a) Develop the statute of a higher education institution under the participation of the Academic Council and submit it to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for approval;
 - b) Develop and approve the internal regulations of the institution, code of ethics and procedures for disciplinary responsibility;
 - c) Approve the rule of higher education institution budget planning and the statutes of structural units;
 - d) Elect a Speaker of the Council of Representatives;
Approve the nominee for Chancellor's office under the submission of the Academic Council,;
 - e) Approve the budget of the higher education institution under the submission of the Chancellor;
 - f) Approve the structure Chancellery of the higher education institution under the submission of the Chancellor;
 - g) Approve the annual report of the Chancellor;
 - h) Be entitled to terminate the term of office of the Chancellor before his/her term of office expires upon a sound proposal of the Academic Council or on its own initiative;
 - i) Approve the auxiliary personnel recruitment procedures and the terms and amount of remuneration under the submission of the Chancellor;
 - j) Approve the academic personnel recruitment procedures, terms and amount of remuneration under the submission of the Academic Council;
 - k) Approve the nominee for the Head of Quality Assurance Service under the submission of the Academic Council;
 - l) Discharged the other powers delegated thereon by the law of Georgia.
2. A session of the Council of Representatives shall be called upon the initiative of the Speaker or by, at least 13 of the members of the Council of Representatives. The procedure of arrangement and conduct of a session of the Council of Representatives shall be regulated by the statute of the higher education institution.
3. The Council of Representatives shall make a decision on the election of the Chancellor and approval of the annual report of the Chancellor shall make by the majority of the members of the Council on the list.

4. Deleted.

Article 19. Speaker of the Council of Representatives

1. The sessions of the Council of Representatives shall be organized and presided over by the Speaker of the Senate, who shall be elected from among the members of the Council of Representatives for a her term which should not exceed the term of office of the Council of Representatives. The term of office of the Speaker shall be specified in the statute of the higher education institution.
2. The following shall be the grounds for pre-term termination of the term of office of the Speaker of the Council of Representatives:
 - a) His/her own will;
 - b) Entry into force of the sentence of guilty;
 - c) Death;
 - d) Court decision on legal incapacity thereof;
 - e) Deleted;
 - f) Dismissal from the academic office of higher education institution;
 - g) Any other case envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution.

Article 20. Election of the Academic Council

1. The highest representative body of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be the Academic Council, the members of which shall be elected by all the members of the academic personnel of the basic educational units of the higher education institution and the representatives of students' self-governance – members of the basic educational unit through direct, free and equal elections, by secret ballot.
2. Each basic educational unit shall have the equal number of representatives in the Academic Council. This number shall be defined by the statute of higher education institution.
- 2¹. Taking account of the requirements of Paragraph 4 of this Article the statute of higher education institution may provide for the procedure of participation of the representatives of the independent research units in the activities of the Academic Council. The representative quota of the independent research units should not exceed the quota, set for the representatives of a basic educational unit.
3. A member of the Academic Council can be a full or associate professor. A member of the Academic Council can be elected only for two successive terms.
4. The term of office of the Academic Council members shall coincide with the duration of the basic educational cycle, what shall be recorded in the statute.
5. One-third of the Academic Council membership shall be subject to renewed upon the expiry of the normative halftime of the basic educational level.
6. In the case of appointment to an academic or administrative position of another higher education institution the term of office of the Academic Council shall be terminated.

Article 21. Powers of the Academic Council

1. Under this Law the Academic Council shall:
 - a) Draft and approve the strategic development plan of a higher education institution;
 - b) Approve study and research programmes under the submission of a basic educational unit or/and independent research unit;
 - c) Promote integration into the European Space of Higher Education, development of study plans and programmes, cooperation between the higher education institutions, mobility and integrated teaching, development of research programmes;

- d) Elect the chairperson of the Academic Council – the Rector by secret ballot through the majority of its members on the list according to the principle of free and equal elections;
 - e) Propose a candidacy for Chancellor’s office selected on the basis of competition by a majority of its members on the list to the Council of Representatives;
 - f) Submit a well-substantiated proposal to the Council of Representatives concerning the pre-term termination of the powers of the Chancellor by the majority vote of its members on the list;
 - g) Propose a new candidacy for Chancellor’s office to the Council of Representatives within a period of one month following the termination of the term of office of the Chancellor;
 - h) Participate in the discussion of the statute of the higher education institution, charters of the structural units, budget and annual report of the Chancellor, held within the Council of Representatives;
 - i) Approve the coefficients for the Unified National Examinations at the beginning of a new academic year under the submission of the councils of the basic educational unit, as well as the number of students to be enrolled in each basic educational unit;
 - i¹) In cases envisaged by the law of Georgia – approve the Master’s examination coefficients for Master’s examination in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, also number of students to be enrolled in each basic educational unit under the submission of the councils of the basic educational units;
 - i²) Set the minimal competence threshold for examinations, envisaged by the list of international examinations approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia under the submission of the councils of the basic educational units;
 - j) Define the procedure of recognition of credits, awarded by other higher education institutions;
 - k) Approve the charter of a dissertation council upon submission of the council of a basic educational unit or/and independent research unit;
 - l) Propose a candidacy for the head of the higher education institution’s Quality Assurance Service to the Council of Representatives for approval;
 - m) Draft and propose to the Council of Representatives for approval the rules of recruitment, remuneration terms and amounts for the academic personnel;
 - m¹) Deleted;
 - n) Submit annual reports to the Council of Representatives;
 - o) Deleted;
 - p) Elect the head/heads of the higher education institution library/libraries;
 - q) Approve the evaluation procedures for teaching and research activities under the submission of Quality Assurance Service;
 - r) Discharge the other powers delegated thereon by this Law and the law of Georgia.
- 1¹. The Academic Council shall be entitled to discuss the issue of pre-term termination of the term of office of the Rector on request of at least 1/3 of the members of the Academic Council in the case of violation of the law of Georgia by the Rector, inadequate fulfilment of Rector’s obligations or/and conduct of any activity, which is incompatible for the status of a Rector. A decision on pre-term termination of the term of office of the Rector shall be made through secret balloting by the majority of the members on the list. The Rector shall not participate in balloting held under this Article. Appealing of the decisions made with regard to the above issues, shall not result in the suspension of the disputed act.
- 1². In the case of pre-term termination of the term of office of the Rector the Academic Council shall appoint the acting Rector.
- 1³. The Academic Council shall be convened under the initiative of the Rector or at least 1/3 of the members of the Academic Council.

- 1⁴. In the case of pre-term termination of the term of office Rector's membership of the Academic Council will also be terminated.
2. Deleted.

Article 22. Head of a Higher Education Institution (Rector)

1. The head of a higher education institution, established by the state shall be highest academic official (in a legal entity of public law - higher education institution – also the Chairperson of the Academic Council) and represent the higher education institution in academic and research fields both within the country and abroad, to what end he/she will be entitled to enter into agreements and transactions on behalf of the higher education institution. Whenever an transaction or an agreement concerns the financial and economic matters, it should also be signed by the Chancellor.
2. Before approval of the first election of the head of a higher education institution, established by the state the Government of Georgia shall appoint an acting head.
3. A head of a higher education institution, established by the state can not be elected for more than two consecutive terms of office, what should not exceed the duration of two periods of basic educational cycle.
4. The statute of a higher education institution may provide for minimal qualification requirements for a candidate head. Any restriction on any ground such as race, colour, language, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, birth or other status, place or residence, citizenship, academic position shall be prohibited.
5. The person holding Chancellor's office of at a higher education institution may be elected as the head of the of the same higher education institution only after the expiry of full term of office of a Chancellor following the termination of his/her powers as a Chancellor.
6. The head of a legal entity of public law– higher education institution shall be elected by the Academic Council through secret balloting, by the majority of the Council members on the list, commensurate with the procedure envisaged by law of Georgia, for a period envisage by the statute of the higher education institution, but for no longer period than the term of office of the Council.
7. The Academic Council shall publish a statement on opening registration of the candidates for the office of the head of legal entity of public law– higher education institution, at least, one month prior to launching the registration of the candidate, commensurate with the procedure envisaged by the law of Georgia and the statute thereof, in full compliance with the principles of transparency, equality and fair competition.
8. While selecting candidacies for the office of a higher education institution, the Academic Council shall evaluate the action plans submitted by each candidate prior to the elections.

Article 22¹. Council of Regents

1. A Council of Regents shall be created for the supervision of the activities of a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, established by the State.
2. The Council of Regents shall be created, the charter thereof shall be approved and the number of its members shall be determined by the Government of Georgia.
3. The activities of the members of the Council of Regents shall not be remunerable; however the Government of Georgia shall be entitled to provide for the remuneration of their work in the state budget for the respective year.
4. The rights and obligations of the members of the Council of Regents, their liability, pre-term termination of the term of office and the rules of procedure of the Council of Regents shall be regulated by the charter of the Council of Regents.
5. The Council of Regents:

- a) Shall propose the candidacy for Chancellor's office to collegial body, envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution for approval. In the case of non-approval of the candidacy for Chancellor's office by the collegial body for two times successively, the Chancellor shall be appointed by the Council of Regents. The procedure of selection of the Chancellor shall be determined by the Council of Regents.
 - b) Approve the budget of the higher education institution under the submission of the Chancellor of the higher education institution; furthermore, the consent of the Council of Regents shall be required in the case of amendment of over 15% of the Budget items. The other changes shall be made by the collegial body under the submission of the Chancellor.
 - c) Approve the annual accounts of the Chancellor;
 - d) Sanction the candidacy for the director of the higher education development foundation under the submission of the collegial body of the higher education institution, who shall be appointed by the collegial body of the higher education institution;
 - e) Discharge the other powers delegated thereon by the law of Georgia and the statute of the higher education institution, what should not result in the limitation of academic freedom of the higher education institution.
6. A member of the Council of Regents shall be subject to the requirements of the Law of Georgia on the Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Civil Service.

Article 23. Chancellor of a Higher Education Institution

1. The Chancellor of the higher education institution, established by the state, shall represent the higher education institution in financial and economic relationships. The one and the same person can be appointed as the Chancellor only for two consecutive terms, which period should not exceed the duration of 2 terms of the basic educational cycle.
2. A person, who held the office of the head of the higher education institution, may be appointed to the office of the Chancellor of the same institution only after the expiry of one full term of the head of the higher education institution following the termination of his/her powers as the head of the higher education institution.
3. The Chancellor of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be approved by the Council of Representatives under the submission of the Academic Council through secret balloting commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by this Law. The Academic Council shall be entitled to submit the candidacy of one and the same person to the Council of Representatives only twice. In the case of repeated rejection of the candidacy, the Academic Council shall nominate the other candidacy for the office of Chancellor.
4. The Chancellor shall be subject to the requirements of the Law of Georgia on the Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Civil Service.

Article 24. The Powers of the Chancellor

1. The Chancellor shall:
 - a) Be in charge of the administration of the higher education institution;
 - b) Be entitled to enter into financial and economic transactions on behalf of the higher education institution commensurate with the budget of the higher education institution;
 - c) Define and submit to collegial body or the Council of Representatives of the higher education institution for approval the structure of the higher education institution's administration;
 - d) Define and submit to collegial body or the Council of Representatives of the higher education institution for approval the auxiliary personnel recruitment procedures, amount and terms of their remuneration;

- e) Prepare the draft budget of the higher education institution for the next year, agree it with the collegial body of the higher education institution and submit for approval to the Council of Regents in the case of a non-profit legal entity, established by the state, and in the case of a legal entity of public law – shall submit the budget for approval to the Council of Representatives;
 - f) Develop annual progress report and submit it for approval to the Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives, respectively;
 - g) Issue individual acts within its terms of reference;
 - h) Be responsible for lawfulness and efficiency of the higher education institution's financial and economic activities;
 - i) Discharge other functions envisaged by the statute.
2. The Chancellor shall be accountable to the Council of Regents and collegial body of the higher education institution or the Council of Representatives and Academic Council, respectively.
 3. Apart from general reasons for pre-term dismissal of an administrative official, the Chancellor's term of office may be terminated on the following grounds:
 - a) The repeated refusal of the Council of Regents to approve the annual report and the budget;
 - b) The well-reasoned decision of the Council of Regents or Council of Representatives made under the submission of the collegial body of the higher education institution.

Article 25. Quality Assurance in a Higher Education Institution

1. The educational and research activities of a higher education institution, as well as the process of professional development of its personnel shall be subject to regular evaluation, which evaluation shall be conducted under the participation of students and the results of which shall be public and available for any interested person.
2. With the view to of ensuring the regular evaluation of educational and research activities of a higher education institution and professional development of its personnel, there should be the quality assurance in places, amongst them within the basic educational unit, which should operate commensurate with the statute of the higher education institution.
3. A higher education institution shall get into contact and closely cooperate with relevant offices of foreign countries and their higher education institutions in order to establish the transparent criteria for quality control and develop the methodology for meeting these criteria;
4. A higher education institution shall ensure the high level of teaching through the introduction of the modern methodology of learning, teaching and evaluation (modules, credit systems, etc.) and preparation of self-evaluation for authorisation/ accreditation processes.
5. The head of Quality Assurance Service of a legal entity of public law - higher education institution shall be approved by the Council of Representatives under the submission of the Academic Council.
6. The cooperation between the Quality Assurance Service of higher education institution and the Quality Assurance Services of basic educational units shall be regulated by the statute of the institution.

Article 26. Budget of a Higher Education Institution

1. The next year budget of a higher education institution shall be drafted by the Chancellor commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution.
2. The Chancellor shall draft the budget of a higher education institution in consultancy with the basic educational units and other structural units of the higher education institution.
3. In the case of a non-profit legal entity, established by the state the Chancellor shall agree the draft budget for the next year with the collegial body of the higher education institution and submit it to

the Council of Regents for approval and in the case of a legal entity of public law – to the Council of Representatives, in agreement with the Academic Council.

4. The Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives shall review the proposed draft budget and either approve it or return to the Chancellor with relevant remarks.
5. If the Chancellor agrees to proposed remarks, the Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives shall approve the draft budget with due consideration of the proposed remarks.
6. If the Chancellor disagrees with the remarks of the Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives, he/she shall be entitled to return the first draft of the budget to the Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives for approval together with well-substantiated reasoning. The reasoning, submitted to the Council of Representatives should be supplemented by the proposals of the Academic Council.
7. The repeated refusal of the Council of Regents or the Council of Representatives to approve the budget shall result in the termination of the Chancellor's powers. The budget shall then be approved under the submission of the newly appointed Chancellor.

Article 27. The Basic Educational Unit and the Council of the Basic Educational Unit

1. A Basic educational unit of a legal entity of public law – a higher education institution may be comprised of the teaching, research (chair, research institute, laboratory, clinic, programme directions, etc.) and auxiliary (library and other) structural units.
2. The representative body of a basic educational unit of a legal entity of public law – a higher education institution shall be the basic educational unit, which shall consist of all the academic personnel of the basic educational unit and the representatives of students' self-governance, or the elected representatives of the academic personnel and the students' self-governance – in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the statute of a higher education institution.
3. The number of student self-governance representatives in the Council of the basic educational unit shall be defined by the charter of the basic educational unit and shall not be less than 1/4 of the entire membership of the Council.

Article 28. Powers of the Council of the Basic Educational Unit

The Council of the Basic educational unit shall:

- a) Draft the basic educational unit budget and submit it to the Chancellor for approval;
- b) Elect a basic educational unit Dean by the majority of votes of its members on the list through secret balloting on the basis of free and equal elections;
- c) Draft the basic educational unit's strategic development plan, study and research programmes under the submission of the Dean and submit them to the Academic Council of the higher education institution for approval;
- d) Develop the structure and the charter of the basic educational unit under the submission of the Dean and submit them to the Council of Representatives for approval;
- e) Draft the Regulation of the Dissertation Council and submit it to the Academic Council for approval;
- f) Elect a head of the basic educational unit's Quality Assurance Service;
- g) Be entitled to discuss the issue of pre-term termination of the powers of the Dean upon request of at least 1/3 of the members of Council of the basic educational unit due to the violation of the law of Georgia, inadequate performance of assigned duties by the Dean or/and commitment of an action, incompatible with his/her status. A decision on pre-term termination of the Dean's powers shall be made through secret balloting, by the majority of the Council members on the list. The Dean shall not participate in balloting envisaged by this Paragraph. Appealing a decision made on these issues shall not result in the suspension of the relevant act;
- h) Appoint an acting Dean in the case of pre-term termination of the powers of the Dean;

- i) Discharge the other powers delegated thereon by this Law and other legislative and sub-legal acts of Georgia.

Article 29. Dean of the Basic Educational Unit

1. The Council of the basic educational unit shall elect a Dean of the basic educational unit for the term prescribed by the statute of the higher education institution, which term should not exceed four years. One and the same person may be elected as Dean for not more than two consecutive terms. Basic educational unit Council shall publish an announcement on the registration of candidates for Dean's office no later than one month prior to launching the registration and two months prior to holding the elections based on the rules envisaged by law and the own statute and in full compliance with the principles of transparency, equality and fair competition.
2. The charter of the basic educational unit may provide for qualifications requirements for candidate deans. Any restriction on any ground such as race, colour, language, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, birth or other status, place or residence, citizenship, academic position shall be prohibited
3. The Dean of the basic educational unit shall:
 - a) Ensure the efficiency of study and research activities of the basic educational unit;
 - b) Submit the basic educational unit's strategic development plan, and study and research programmes to the Council of the Basic educational unit for review;
 - c) Develop the structure and regulation of the basic educational unit and submit them to the Council of the basic educational unit for approval;
 - d) Be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of Council of Representatives, Academic Council and Council of the basic educational unit within his/her terms of reference;
 - e) Issue the individual legal acts within his/her terms of reference;
 - f) Preside over the sessions of the Council of the basic educational unit;
 - g) Be responsible for the targeted use of the basic educational unit's budget funds in compliance with this Law and the institution's charter;
 - h) Exercise other powers conferred to him/her by this law and the Law of Georgia;
 - i) Discharge the other powers delegated thereon by this Law and other legislative and sub-legal acts of Georgia.

Article 30. Dissertation Council

1. Dissertation Council is a body awarding the academic degree of a doctor.
2. A higher education institution implementing a doctoral programme shall set up the dissertation council within the basic educational unit or University. The dissertation council shall develop the regulation of the dissertation council, which shall provide for the procedures of staffing the dissertation council and election of its chairperson, also the procedure of defending Doctor's thesis. The regulation of the dissertation council shall be approved by collegial body of the higher education institution.
3. Within a legal entity of public law – higher education institution the dissertation council shall be set up within the basic educational unit. The University may set up the university dissertation council by decision of the Academic Council.
4. The procedures of staffing the dissertation council within a legal entity of public law – higher education institution and election of its chairperson shall be defined by the regulation, approved by the Academic Council under the submission of the basic educational unit. The procedure of staffing the university dissertation council and election of its chairperson shall be defined by regulations approved by the by the Academic council under the submission of the Council of the basic educational unit/Councils of the basic education units and independent research unit/independent

research units or Councils of the basic educational units or independent research unit/independent research units.

5. The dissertation council of the basic educational unit of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be comprised of all the professors and associate professors of the basic educational unit having Doctor's degree. The university dissertation council shall be comprised of all the professors and associate professors of the respective field having Doctor's degree.
6. The statute of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution may provide for the rules and conditions for inviting a professor or an associate professor having Doctor's degree into the dissertation council;
7. The dissertation council of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution shall be entitled to enter into a contract with a research institution for the implementation of doctoral programmes.

Article 31. Quality Assurance Service of the Basic Educational Unit

1. With a view to ensuring the regular evaluation of the quality of academic and research activities of the basic educational unit as well as the level of professional development of the academic personnel, a Quality Assurance Service shall be established, that shall operate in compliance with the charter of the basic educational unit.
2. The Quality Assurance Service of the basic educational unit shall establish links and closely cooperate with similar services of foreign countries and their higher education institutions in order to ensure the development of transparent criteria for quality assurance and also methodology for meeting these criteria.
3. The Quality Assurance Service of the basic educational unit shall promote the high quality education through the introduction of modern methods of teaching, learning and evaluation (modules, credit systems, etc.) and preparation of self-evaluation for the authorisation/accreditation processes.
4. Any professor, associate professor - member of the council of the basic educational unit may become a member of the Quality Assurance Service of the basic educational unit.

Chapter V

Personnel of a Higher Education Institution

Article 32. Personnel

A higher education institution shall have academic, administrative and auxiliary positions.

Article 33. Academic Personnel of Higher Education Institution

1. The academic personnel of a higher education institution shall consist of professors.
2. The body of professors shall consist of professors, associate professors and assistant professors.
3. Professors shall be involved and/or lead the study process and research.
4. The threshold workload of a professor shall be defined by the higher education institution. At a legal entity of public - higher education institution this decision shall be made by the Academic Council and approved by the Council of Representatives.

Article 34. Rules for Filling in an Academic Position

1. An academic position may be filled in only on the basis of an open competition based on the principles of transparent, equality and fair competition.
2. The date and conditions of competition shall be made published in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the law of Georgia and the statute of the higher education institution at least one month prior to the acceptance of applications/documents.

3. The procedure of holding a competition shall be defined by the statute of the higher education institution. At a legal entity of public – higher education institution this procedure shall be defined by the Academic Council and approved by the Council of Representatives.

Article 35. Conditions for Filling in the Academic Positions

1. Any person having Doctor's academic degree and at least six years of teaching and research experience can be elected as a professor. The additional conditions shall be defined by the statute of the higher education institution. At a legal entity of public – higher education institution – these conditions shall be defined by the Academic Council and approved by the Council of Representatives.
2. Any person having Doctor's academic degree and at least three years of teaching and research experience can be elected as an associate professor. The additional conditions shall be defined by the Academic Council and approved by the Senate of a higher education institution.
3. A doctor or a doctoral student can be elected as an assistant professor.
4. The statute of a higher education institution may provide for filling in the academic positions envisaged by Paragraph 1, 2, and 3 of this Article by the qualified personnel according to professional merits. In this case the qualification of the person can be evidenced by professional experience, special training or/and publications. A person with relevant qualification shall mean a person, who has competences necessary to attain the learning outcomes envisaged by the programme concerned.

Article 36. Labour Relationships of the Academic Personnel

1. A labour contract with the academic personnel shall be made commensurate with the law of Georgia.
2. No person aged over 65 can be elected to an academic position at a higher education institution having, established by law and a person holding an academic position, who reaches the age of 65, shall be dismissed after the expiry of their term of office.
3. An exemption from Paragraph 2 of Article can be provided for by the statute of the higher education institution.

Article 37. Rights of the Academic Personnel

1. Academic personnel shall be entitled to:
 - a) Participate in the management of higher education institution in accordance with this law and the statute of the institution;
 - b) Carry out teaching, research and creative activities and publish research works without any interference;
 - c) independently determine the contents of study programmes (syllabuses), as well as teaching methodology and means within the framework of the educational programmes;
 - d) Deleted;
 - e) Discharge the other powers delegated thereto by this Law and the law of Georgia.
2. Academic personnel shall be required to:
 - (a) Comply with the requirements of the statute of the higher education institution;
 - (b) Comply with the code of ethics and norms of disciplinary responsibility;
 - (c) Discharge the duties delegated thereto under labour contract;
 - (d) Present a report on the work done after the end of a research-creative vacation.
3. A higher education institution shall ensure the freedom of academic teaching and research for the academic personnel and create adequate conditions for their work.

Article 38. Deleted

Article 39. Academic Ranks

1. A higher education institution shall be entitled to award the rank of a Honorary Doctor or Emeritus to scholars and public figures in recognition of special service.
2. The terms and conditions of awarding the rank of Honorary Doctor or Emeritus shall be defined by the statute of a higher education institution. The statute may also provide for the remuneration of a person having the status of an Emeritus.
3. An Emeritus shall not be entitled to hold an academic position at the same higher education institution.

Article 40. Administrative Positions and other Personnel

1. The following shall be the administrative offices at a higher education institution, established by the state: head of the institution, Chancellor, head of the basic educational unit and their deputies, also the other persons envisaged by the statute. At a legal entity of public – higher education institution the following shall also mean the administrative offices: heads of Quality Assurance Services of the higher education institution and basic educational institutions.
2. No person aged over 65 can be elected or appointed to an administrative position of a higher education institution, established by the state except for the case, when otherwise envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution.
3. The body of teachers shall be comprised of a teacher and a senior teacher.
4. A teacher shall be entitled to conduct practical and laboratory sessions without holding an academic position.
5. The auxiliary personnel shall be comprised of other persons on the institution's payroll whose services are necessary for the performance of a higher education institution.
6. A higher education institution shall be entitled to invite a specialist with relevant qualification for the purpose of participation in or/and leading of teaching or/and research processes without holding an academic position or the position of a teacher.

Article 41. Dismissal from an Administrative Position

A person holding an administrative position at a higher education institution established by the State may be dismissed pre-term on the following grounds:

- a) At his/her own will;
- b) Enforcement of the court ruling regarding his/her conviction;
- c) Death;
- d) Decision of the court that he/she has limited or no legal capacity;
- e) Reaching the age of 65, except for the case, when otherwise envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution;
- f) Dismissal from the academic office at this higher education institution provided that the holding of this academic position is the precondition of holding the administrative office;
- g) Any other case envisaged by the statute of a higher education institution.

Article 42. Impossibility to Combine Offices at a Higher Education Institution

1. A person holding an administrative position shall not be entitled to simultaneously hold either another administrative position or the office of the head of other structural unit at the same higher education institution.

- 1¹. When the precondition of holding an administrative position or membership of a managerial body is holding of an academic position, the expiry of the academic term of office shall result in the termination of the powers of an administrative official or membership of a managerial as soon as the results of the competition announced for filling in an academic position are approved, unless the person concerned was elected to the respective academic position.
2. A member of the Council of Regents shall not be entitled to simultaneously hold an administrative or academic position at a higher education institution, established by the State. A member of the Academic council shall not be entitled to simultaneously hold an administrative position at the same higher education institution, except of the Rector's office or be a member of the Council of Representatives.
3. The Speaker of the Council of Representatives shall not be entitled simultaneously hold an administrative position at the same higher education institution.
4. The combination of office academic, teacher and support personnel shall be determined by the law of Georgia and the statute of the higher education institution.

Chapter VI

Student

Article 43. Rights of a Student

1. A student shall be entitled to:
 - a) Receive the quality education;
 - b) Participate in research activities;
 - c) Make use of higher education institution's material and technical, library, information and other resources in accordance with the procedures envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution, internal regulations and the regulations;
 - d) Deleted;
 - e) Elect a representative and be elected to the student self-governance, also the managerial bodies of a basic educational unit and a higher education institution through secret balloting on the basis of general, direct and equal elections in accordance with statute of the higher education institution;
 - f) Freely establish or/and join student organisations in accordance with his/her own interests;
 - g) Freely express his/her opinion and refuse to share those ideas, proposed thereto during the study process in a well-substantiated manner;
 - h) Move to another higher education institution from the second year of study in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the law of Georgia and the statute of receiving higher education institution and in the case of moving to an accredited higher education programme – take the government funding allocated for him/her with him/her;
 - h¹) Move to Master's programmes of another higher education institution in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia and in the case of moving to an accredited higher education programme – take with him/her the Master's state study grant acquired within the percentage amount of the annual volume of Master's state study grant funds allocated for him/her upon moving to the higher education institution which is a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network. Upon moving to another accredited Master's educational programme a student shall be entitled to take with him/her the Master's state study grant acquired within the percentage amount of the annual volume of Master's state study grant funds allocated for educational programme directions, amongst them for priority programme directions, provided that he/she will continue studies on the same programme direction or priority programme direction of the higher education institution which is a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network

- i) Receive scholarship, financial or material aid and other benefits from the state, higher education institution or other sources in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the Law of Georgia and the statute of the higher education institution;
 - j) Choose the study programmes;
 - k) Take part in the development of an individual study programmes;
 - l) Periodically evaluate the work of the academic personnel;
 - m) Exercise the other powers delegated thereto by this Law and the Law of Georgia.
- 1¹. If higher education institution was liquidated without the identification of a legal successor, the authorisation of the higher education institution was withdrawn or the educational programme is not implemented any more, the student shall acquire the right to student mobility irrespective of the period of study at the institution concerned.
2. Deleted.
 3. A Higher education institution shall provide for benefits for students with disabilities in order to create the necessary conditions for their education, what shall be provided for by the law of Georgia, and the statute of the higher education institution.
 4. The private information stated by the student in the presence of the academic personnel, also the information about student's views, faith and political beliefs, which became known to the academic personnel during the study process, also the information regarding the disciplinary measures against the student shall be confidential, except for the case when the student's permission is in place or the administration has the lawful interest to defend the security of others and the rights guaranteed by law. The information regarding the student's academic performance and the student's disciplinary prosecution shall be kept separately. When keeping records about the student, the administration has the duty to follow the rules and procedures prescribed by the General Administrative Code of Georgia.
 5. A higher education institution shall be forbidden to exercise its powers and use material and technical resources in such a way that may result into the threat of imposing the censorship or restricting the freedom of expression, except for the case envisaged by Paragraph 7 of this Article.
 6. A higher education institution is required to ensure the fair assessment of the student's knowledge, to what end it shall develop the appropriate procedures.
 7. Disciplinary prosecution of the student should be proportionate to the student's misconduct and may be carried out only in cases and in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution and the internal regulations, with due consideration of this Law and through fair procedure. A higher education institution shall be required to design the students' code of ethics, which may impose some restrictions on the student's behaviour if it is related to the study process. A higher education institution is required to thoroughly describe the behaviour, which becomes grounds for disciplinary responsibility.
 8. Disciplinary prosecution of the student should not restrict the student's right to participate in the study process, except for the cases envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution and the internal regulations, if it endangers the rights and health of the others, security and the property of a higher education institution. The question of a student's disciplinary prosecution shall be decided by the higher education institution, the statute of which should provide for the body authorised to make such decisions. The student shall be entitled the right to attend review of his/her case.
 9. The student who is the subject of a disciplinary prosecution shall be entitled to:
 - a) Receive a written substantiated decision regarding initiation his/her disciplinary prosecution;
 - b) Attend the proceeding regarding his/her disciplinary prosecution and enjoy the right of defence;
 - c) Provide the respective body of the higher education institution with the evidences and the information he/she possesses;

- d) Take part in examining the evidence obtained by the respective body of the higher education institution;
 - e) Demand the public hearing of the disciplinary proceedings.
10. During the disciplinary proceedings the burden of proof shall be borne by the prosecution. The resolution regarding the disciplinary prosecution shall be well-substantiated and based on the evidence obtained in accordance with the Law of Georgia, statute of the higher education institution and internal regulations. The respective body of the higher education institution shall examine all the evidences the disciplinary prosecution is based on.
11. A student shall be entitled to appeal the decision of the respective body of the higher education institution with the court.
12. The status of the student shall be terminated upon the completion of a relevant educational programme or in any other case envisaged by the statute of the higher education institution.

Article 44. Duties of a Student

A student shall have a duty to study all the subjects selected thereby at his/her own free will, which subjects are compulsory as laid out in the higher education institution's programme and comply with the statute of the higher education institution and internal regulations.

Article 45. Powers of Student Self-Governance

1. Student self-governance shall be established in a higher education institution according to basic educational units through secret balloting on the basis of general, equal and direct elections.
2. The combination of self-governances elected in individual basic educational units shall constitute the higher education institution's self-governance, which shall draft the student self-governance regulation.
3. The student self-governance, acting in compliance with its statute, shall:
 - a) Ensure students' involvement in the management of the higher education institution;
 - b) Promote the protection of students' rights;
 - c) Elect representatives to the council of the basic educational unit;
 - d) Be entitled to make proposals concerning the improvement of higher education institution management systems and quality of studying and submit them to the competent authority;
 - e) Exercise the other powers as may be defined by the regulation.
4. The Administration of Higher education institution shall not be entitled to interfere into the activities of student self-governance.

Chapter VII Cycles of Higher Education

Article 46. Cycles of Higher Education

1. The higher education shall be comprised of three cycles. The first cycle may include the teacher training programme.
2. The higher education shall be comprised of the following cycles:
 - a) The first cycle (Bachelor's Program) – an educational programme covering at least 240 ECTS credits;
 - b) The second cycle (Master's Program) – an educational programme covering at least 180 ECTS credits (except for the case, envisaged by Paragraph 2² of this Article) ;
 - c) The third cycle (Doctoral Program) – an educational programme covering at least 180 ECTS credits.

- 2¹. At a higher education institution an educational programme shall cover average 60 ECTS credits per year.
- 2². A holder of the certificate envisaged by Paragraph 5 of Article 47² of this Law shall acquire Master's degree in the case of taking 60 ECTS credit educational programme.
3. Upon completion of each educational cycle a relevant diploma shall be awarded together with a standard supplement.
4. Any person who did not/could not complete any of the above cycles shall be given an appropriate certificate.

Article 46. A Short Cycle within the First Cycle Educational Programme

A higher education institution shall be entitled to award an interim qualification to a student in the case of accomplishment a part of the educational programme. An interim qualification can be awarded after the attainment of the learning outcomes, envisaged for the respective part of the educational programme, which should not be less than half of ECTS credits, set for the educational programme concerned.

Article 47. Deleted

Article 47¹. Medical/Dentistry Education

Medical/Dentistry educational programme shall be a one-cycle higher educational programme after the accomplishment of which a graduate is awarded the academic degree of a Medical Doctor/Doctor in Dentistry. The academic degree awarded after the accomplishment of 360 ECTS credit Medical Doctor's educational Programme and 300 ECTS credit Doctor in Dentistry educational programme is equalised to Master's academic degree.

Article 47². Teacher Training Educational Programme

1. A teacher training educational programme can be a part of Bachelor's programme.
2. A teacher training educational programme can be taken by a person having at least Bachelor's or equalised thereto academic degree or respective arts/sports higher vocational education diploma.
3. A teacher training educational programme shall cover 60 ECTS credits and shall be taught for at least 1 year.
4. The procedure of accreditation of a teacher training educational programme and the amount of respective service fee shall be approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement and in agreement with Teacher Professional Development Centre.
5. After the accomplishment of teacher training educational programme a relevant certificate shall be issued, and in cases, envisaged by Paragraph 1 of this Article, the accomplishment of the programme shall also be indicated in the Diploma and Diploma supplement.

Article 47³. Georgian Language Training Educational Programme

1. Accomplishment of Georgian Language training educational programme shall be necessary for students, who enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations to continue their studies on Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme.
2. Georgian Language training educational programme shall be a 60 ECTS credit programme and it mandatory this programme to be taught during the first three years of education.

3. After the accomplishment of Georgian Language training educational programme a higher education institution shall issue a certificate certifying the accomplishment of the programme concerned.
4. After the accomplishment of Georgian Language training educational programme, the students, who enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, shall continue their studies according to a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme.
5. Applicants for the enrolment on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, who are going to study an arts-creative or sports educational programme through taking the Georgian Language training educational programme, shall be required to participate in the respective competition before the Unified National Examinations in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by the institution implementing arts-creative or sports educational programme.
6. After the accomplishment of Georgian Language training educational programme, the students, who enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, shall be required to continue their studies on a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme in the Georgian Language.
7. All the higher education institutions, established by the state shall be required to admit students, who are taking the Georgian Language training educational programme on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations.

Article 47⁴. Electronic Teaching

1. Electronic teaching provides for conduct of the study process via the Teaching Management System. Teaching Management System is the Internet-based software, which is necessary for the organisation and conduct of the study process based on the information and communication technologies, in particular, for the provision of teaching materials, communication with a student or/and teacher, testing, advising, monitoring of student progress, etc.
2. Electronic teaching shall be conducted through asynchronous or/and synchronic communication. Asynchronous communication shall mean the interaction when a sender and a recipient of the information are not communicating simultaneously, and synchronic – when the communication is simultaneous.
3. An electronic teaching programme is designed according to the requirements, set for a higher education programme by this Law. After the accomplishment of such programme a person is awarded a qualification and respective qualification document is issued.
4. A person can enrol for an electronic teaching programme only at the first and second cycles of academic higher education, commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Chapter VIII of this Law.
5. Deleted.

Article 48. Bachelor's and Master's Programmes

1. Only the persons holding the state certificate of full general education or those with equal status shall have the right to take a bachelor's programme.
2. The purpose of undertaking a bachelor's program is the acquisition of deeper knowledge of theoretical aspects of study disciplines in addition to receiving the higher level of professional

training as compared to general education, which programme shall prepare a graduate through the research programmes for further study on a master's level.

- 2¹. The qualification awarded after the accomplishment of bachelor's programme should include the term "Bachelor" with the indication of the respective direction or/and field/speciality.
3. Any person with at least bachelor's or equalised thereto degree shall be entitled to take a master's programme.
4. The purpose of taking a master's programme shall be as follows:
 - a) Preparation for research work and pedagogic activities at a higher education institution;
 - b) Changing of speciality;
 - c) Further improvement of qualification.
5. A master's programme, fine arts and sports higher education specialities may not be comprised of only teaching; it should necessarily include the conduct of an independent research by the student, on the basis of which the latter will be able to produce a qualification thesis.
- 6¹. The qualification awarded after the accomplishment of a master's programme should include the term "Master" with the indication of the respective direction, field/speciality or/and subfield/ sub-speciality.
6. Deleted.

Article 49. Doctoral Programme

1. A person holding a master's or an equalised thereto academic degree shall be entitled to take a doctoral programme.
2. A higher education institution shall provide a doctoral student with a research supervisor, create favourable conditions for conducting research oriented work, which should include theoretical and/or experimental outcomes and facilitate his/her integration into global research community.
3. Upon completion of the doctorate programme and successful defence of doctoral thesis, a doctoral student shall be awarded the academic degree of a doctor, which should include the terms "Master" with the indication of the respective direction or/and field/speciality.
4. The academic degree of doctor shall be awarded by a dissertation council in compliance with the regulations prescribed by relevant regulations.
5. Deleted.

Article 49¹. Joint Programmes

1. The programmes envisaged by Articles 47-49 of this Law can be jointly implemented by several Georgian higher education institutions or/and a higher education institution duly recognised under the legislation of a foreign country. The procedure of implementation of joint programmes shall be provided for by the higher education institution. The programmes, subject to accreditation under this Law, can be implemented only after being accredited.
2. The procedure of implementation of joint programmes may include provisions differing from Subparagraphs "a" and "c" of Article 28 of this Law.
3. In the case of implementation of joint Master's programmes by a Georgian higher education institution and a higher education institution duly recognised under the legislation of a foreign country the Georgian higher education institution shall be entitled to act in accordance with the provisions of Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article.
4. If an undergraduate candidate is willing to enrol for a joint master's programme announced by a Georgian higher education institution, which is a member of Unified Master's Examination Network, he/she shall take the master's examination in accordance with Article 52¹ of this Law.
5. If an undergraduate candidate is willing to enrol for a joint master's programme announced by a higher education institution duly recognised under the legislation of a foreign country, he/she shall

enrol for the joint programme in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the law of the country concerned.

Article 50. Recognition of Foreign Education

1. A qualification acquired at a foreign higher education institution or the education acquired during the period of study at a foreign higher education institution shall be recognised only in the case of establishing their compatibility with the respective qualification, awarded by Georgian higher education institutions. The compatibility can be established on the basis of learning outcomes and awarded qualification irrespective of the difference in programme duration.
2. A qualification acquired at a foreign higher education institution or the education acquired during the period of study at a foreign higher education institution shall be recognised by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by the international agreements of Georgia by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.
3. A decision on the enrolment of an entrant or student having a foreign credential at a Georgian higher education institution shall be made by the respective higher education institution commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by the law of Georgia against a recognition document issued by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement.

Chapter VIII

The Procedure of Admission to a Higher Education Institution

Article 51. National Examinations Centre

1. National Examinations Centre shall be a legal entity of public law, which ensures the holding of Unified National and Unified Master's Examinations and also discharges the other powers delegated thereon by the law of Georgia.
2. The statute of the National Examinations Centre shall be developed and approved by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.
3. The director of the National Examinations Centre shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia under the submission of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.
4. The results of the Unified National Examinations held by the National Examinations Centre shall be binding for every accredited higher education institution and serve as the basis for awarding state study grant to a Georgian citizen or resident. Any interested person, having the state-recognised document certifying their full general education shall be entitled to participate in the Unified National Examinations.
5. Any person who is able to produce a higher education degree document, issued commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by law, shall be entitled to participate in Unified Master's Examination.

Article 52. Grounds for Admission of Students in a Higher Education Institution, to a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme

1. Only the students who have passed the Unified National Examinations in compliance with the procedure, envisaged by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be entitled to enrol in a higher education institution for a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme.
2. Before sitting the Unified National Examinations a student shall participate in a competition:
 - a) According to the procedure, prescribed by a higher education institution, implementing fine-arts-creative or sports educational programme with a view to acquisition fine-arts-creative or sports education;

- b) With a view to acquisition the right to pass the procedures envisaged by the Law of Georgia for the enrolment in a military higher education institution in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by the institution concerned.
3. To encourage entrants and the mobility of students the following persons shall be allowed to enrol in a higher education institution without sitting Unified National Examinations commensurate with the procedure and timelines prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia:
 - a) entrants who acquired general secondary education in a foreign country or have studied the last two years of general secondary education abroad;
 - b) students who stayed in a foreign country for the last 2 years or a longer period and studies at a higher education institution recognised under the legislation of the country concerned.
4. Under the submission of the National Examinations Centre the Ministry of Education and Science shall define the requirements to be met by Georgian citizens, who received general secondary or equivalent education in a foreign country or acquired the right to receive higher education, in order to acquire the right to study in higher education institutions.
5. A higher education institution that is willing to accept students for Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programmes shall announce the coefficients granted by its educational programmes to the results of the entrants in each examination subject. The students shall be admitted for educational programmes according to coefficients granted to examination subjects.
- 5¹. A higher education institution admitting students on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, shall announce the vacancies for the enrolment of students on the basis of only the general skills within the framework of student quota, prescribed by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement, which vacancies m
 - a) 5% - for students to be admitted on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language test of the Unified National Examination;
 - b) 5% - for students to be admitted on the basis of only the general skills Armenian-language test of the Unified National Examination;
 - c) 1% - for students to be admitted on the basis of only the general skills Abkhazian-language test of the Unified National Examination;
 - d) 1% - for students to be admitted on the basis of only the general skills Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examination.
- 5². The percentage distribution envisaged by Paragraph 5¹ of this Article can be changed within their net amount against a well-reasoned decision of a higher education institution and consent of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia with due consideration of the number of students to be enrolled on the basis of only the Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examination, registered for the respective year.
6. A higher education institution may allocate vacancies for foreign nationals and stateless persons within student quota determined as a result of authorisation.
7. Deleted.
8. The Government of Georgia shall be entitled to define the amount and conditions of funding of students, who enrolled in higher education institutions within the framework of a social programme, with state study grants under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, which funding should not be less than 6% and more than 10% of the annual volume of state study grants.

9. The National Examinations Centre shall compile the lists of entrants, who have passed the Unified National Examinations and acquired the right to take a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/Doctor in Dentistry educational programme at the basic unit of a higher education institution and send these lists to the respective basic educational units.
- 9¹. The National Examinations Centre shall compile the lists of entrants, who have passed the Unified National Examinations and are to be enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations, who are to take the Georgian language training programme and send these lists to the respective basic educational units
10. A higher education institution and the basic educational unit shall be required to enrol entrants only according to the lists mentioned in Paragraphs 9 and 9¹ of this Article, except for foreign national and stateless persons, envisaged by Paragraph 3 of this Article.
11. Only the higher education institution shall be entitled to enrol entrants in a branch of a higher education institution. This Article shall not extend to branches envisaged by Paragraph 4 of Article 14 of this Law.

Article 52¹. Grounds for Admission of Students to Academic Higher Education Second Cycle Educational Programmes

1. Only the undergraduate candidates, who have successfully overcome the minimal competence threshold, established by the law of Georgia or higher education institution commensurate with Paragraph 1(d²) of Article 10 of this Law, in full compliance with the law of Georgia and is entered into the list, envisaged by Paragraph 3 of this Article, shall be entitled to participate in the examination/examinations set by the higher education institution for an educational programme direction, amongst them the priority programme direction, of the higher education institution, which is a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network.
2. A higher education institution – a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network, shall not be entitled to admit undergraduate candidates to the examination/examinations set thereby, who failed to overcome the minimal competence threshold, established by the law of Georgia or higher education institution commensurate with Paragraph 1(d²) of Article 10 of this Law.
3. After taking the Unified Master's Examinations the National Examinations Centre shall compile the list of undergraduate candidates, who have successfully overcome the minimal competence threshold in accordance with the procedure envisaged by law and submit this list to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for approval.
4. Only the undergraduate candidates, who have successfully passed the Master's examination/examinations in accordance with the procedure envisaged by this Law shall be entitled to enrol for educational programme directions, amongst them priority programme directions of Master's studies of a higher education institution, which is a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network, except for fine arts-creative or sports Master's programme unless the undergraduate candidates are admitted to these programmes through a Unified Master's examination.
5. If a higher education institution – a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network awards coefficients to individual parts of Unified Master's Examination Test in the case envisaged by Paragraph 1(d¹) of Article 10 of this Law, the higher education institution shall use the sum of coefficients of Master's examination defined thereby for the enrolment of students for Master's programmes.
6. If a higher education institution – a member of the Unified Master's Examination Network does not award coefficients to individual parts of Unified Master's Examination Test in the case envisaged by Paragraph 1(d¹) of Article 10 of this Law, the higher education institution shall use the coefficients

- awarded to the examination/examinations set thereby for the enrolment of students for Master's programmes.
7. To encourage undergraduate candidates and student mobility the following person shall be allowed to study at a higher education institution without taking Unified Master's Examinations, in accordance and within timelines prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia:
 - a) undergraduate candidates, who stayed abroad for two or more years and who were awarded the respective academic higher education credential;
 - b) undergraduate candidates, who enrolled in a higher education institution commensurate with the procedure, envisaged by Paragraph 3 of Article 52 of this Law;
 - c) students, who stayed abroad for two or more years and studied a master programme at a higher education institution duly recognised under the law of the country concerned.
 - 7¹. The persons, who have overcome the minimal competence threshold in the examination included in the list of international examinations, approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be entitled to study in a higher education institution without taking Unified Master's Examination.
 8. The students shall be admitted to a fine arts-creative or sports educational programme in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the higher education institution, except for the case when the students are admitted to this programme through Unified Master's Examination.

Article 53. Unified National and Master's Examinations

1. The National Examination Centre shall be responsible for preparing and holding Unified National Examinations.
2. The Minister of Education and Science of Georgia shall approve the regulation for holding the Unified National Examinations and the procedure of allocation of the state study grant under the submission of the National Examination Centre, also the regulation for holding the Master's examinations and the procedure of allocation of the state Master's study grant.
3. A person willing to take the Unified National and Master's Examinations shall file an application with the Examination Centre either in writing or electronically, using special software/ The procedure and conditions of filing an application shall be determined by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia under the submission of the National Examination Centre.
- 3¹. Deleted.
4. Deleted.
5. Deleted
6. The unified examination programme shall be approved by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia under the submission of the National Examination Centre.
7. Participation in the Unified National and Master's Examinations shall be subject to payment of the service fee the amount of which shall be defined by a normative administrative law act of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia. The procedure and conditions of exemption from the payment of the service fee shall be approved Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.
8. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be entitled to set different from the General Administrative Code of Georgia timelines for filing and review of an administrative complaint with respect to Unified National and Master's Examinations.

Article 54. Awarding State Study Grants

1. Based on the results of the Unified National Examinations, the National Examination Centre shall make a draft on awarding the state study grant and submit it to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for approval, except for the case, envisaged by Article 54² of this Law.

2. The state study grant shall be awarded to a person, who enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution on the basis of the results of the Unified National Examinations, through ranging of absolute score/scores, except for the case, envisaged by Article 54² of this Law. As a result of ranging students of a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/ Doctor in Dentistry educational programmes through absolute score/scores the document of ranging through absolute score/scores shall be compiled for awarding the state study grant.
- 2¹. As a result of ranging of students through absolute score/scores, who have enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations and who are to take the Georgian language training programme and continue their studies through a Bachelor's programme, Medical Doctor's/ Doctor in Dentistry educational programmes four separate documents on ranging through absolute score/scores shall be drafted for students, who have enrolled on the basis of only the general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations.
3. Along with the list of students who got entitlement to the state study grant, the act on awarding state study grants should also contain the ranging of entrants/students, who have taken the examination according to accumulated absolute score/scores.

Article 54¹. Awarding State Master's Study Grant

1. After the completion of Master's examinations, based on absolute ranging of the Unified Master's examination score/scores the National Examination Centre, acting in compliance with the procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, shall define the list of undergraduate candidates who got entitlement to state Master's grant within the framework of the statutory percentage amount of annual volume of the state Master's study grant funding allocated by the state for undergraduate candidates and submit the list to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for approval.
2. The accredited educational programme directions of Master's studies of a higher education institution. member of the Unified Master's Examination Network shall be equally funded within the framework of statutory percentage amount of annual volume of the state Master's study grant funding allocated by the state for educational programme directions and shall be allocated between the undergraduate students in terms of state Master's study grant according to absolute ranging of the Unified Master's examination in each educational programme direction in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the law of Georgia.
3. The accredited priority educational programme direction of Master's studies of a higher education institution. member of the Unified Master's Examination Network shall be funded according to the procedure, prescribed by the law of Georgia within the framework of statutory percentage amount of annual volume of the state Master's study grant funding allocated by the state for priority educational programme directions and shall be allocated between the undergraduate students in terms of state Master's study grant according to absolute ranging of the Unified Master's examination in each priority educational programme direction in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the law of Georgia.
4. After holding the examination/examinations determined by the higher education institution member of the Unified Master's Examination Network and presentation of the results by the higher education institution the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia shall approve the document of absolute ranging of State Masters Examination score/scores for each educational programme directions, amongst them for priority programme direction, under the submission of the National Examination Centre.

Article 54². Awarding State Study Grant to Persons with Higher Education Who Enrolled for Teacher Training Educational Programme

The persons with higher education who enrolled for teacher training educational programme independently from Bachelor's educational programme shall be awarded with the State study grant in accordance with the procedure, approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Article 55. Deleted

Article 55¹. Unified Master's Examination Certificate

1. In the case of successful sitting of Unified Master's Examination an undergraduate candidate shall be given the Unified Master's Examination Certificate with the indication of accumulated scores.
2. With a view to participating in the examination/examinations defined by a higher education institution the score, accumulated by an undergraduate candidate shall be maintained for a period of three years. The ranging according to the coefficients of the Unified Master's Examination, also for the purpose of obtaining the state Master's study grant shall be done on an annual basis, with due consideration of the competition of the respective year.
3. Deleted

Article 56. The Procedure of Admission to Master's and Doctoral Programmes

The procedures of admissions to master's and doctoral programmes shall be defined by the charter of a relevant basic educational unit of a higher education institution, requirements of this Law.

Chapter VIII¹

Authorisation

Article 56¹. The Essence of Authorisation

1. The authorization shall mean the procedure of obtaining the status of a higher education institution, that aims at ensuring the meeting of standards, necessary for the performance of relevant activities to issue the State-recognised educational documents.
2. The authorisation standards shall be as follows:
 - a) Educational programmes;
 - b) Material resources;
 - c) Human resources
3. The authorisation shall be granted for a period of 5 years.
4. The authorisation shall be undertaken by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement commensurate with the procedure prescribed by the Regulation for the Authorisation of the Educational Institutions.

Article 56². A Decision on Authorisation

1. With a view to ensuring the conduct of authorisation procedures, the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall set up the experts commission, the procedure the setting up and operation of which commission shall be defined by the Regulation for the Authorisation of Educational Institutions.
2. A decision on authorisation shall be made by the Council for the Authorisation of Educational Institutions (hereinafter the – Authorisation Council) the members of which shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime-Minister of Georgia under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. A member of the Authorisation Council cannot be a public servant. The powers

of the Authorisation Council shall be defined by the Regulation for the Authorisation of the Educational Institutions, which shall guarantee its functional independence from the educational institutions and state authorities.

3. Based on the authorisation documents and opinion of the authorisation expert commission the Authorisation Council shall make one of the following decisions:
 - a) On granting authorisation;
 - b) On refusal to authorisation;
 - c) On withdrawal of authorisation.
4. The Authorisation Council shall be required to duly substantiate the decision made thereby.
5. A decision shall be published on the web-page of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement within a period of 10 days following its delivery.

Article 56³ . A Decision on Granting Authorisation and Legal Consequences of Authorisation

1. A decision on granting authorisation shall be made when an educational institution meets all the authorisation standards.
2. In the case of making a decision on granting authorisation, the Authorisation Council shall define the student quota of the educational institution for the authorisation period in accordance with the procedure, envisaged by the Authorisation Regulations.
3. If granted authorisation an educational institution shall be entitled to admit students in accordance with the procedure envisaged by law of Georgia and issue the qualification documents.

Article 56⁴ . A Refusal or Withdrawal of Authorisation and Their Legal Consequences

1. A decision of refusal of authorisation shall be made when an educational institution does not meet with any of the authorisation standards
2. Based on the outcome of the inspection of the educational institution the Authorisation Council shall be entitled to make a decision on the withdrawal of authorisation under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement if the institution concerned violates the authorisation standards or the provisions of the law of Georgia in the field of education, concerning origin, suspension or termination of the status of a pupil, vocational student or student of the educational Institution.
3. In the case of refusal or withdrawal of authorisation:
 - a) The institution will not obtain/lose the status of an educational institution;
 - b) The student status of the student shall be suspended for a period of 5 years and they shall be entitled to enjoy the right of student mobility.

Article 56⁵ . Implementation of Theological Educational Programmes

The institutions implementing only the theological programmes, shall undergo the authorisation and educational programme accreditation procedures in accordance with different rules, prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Chapter IX. Deleted

Chapter X Accreditation Procedure

Article 63. Essence of Accreditation

1. The accreditation procedure shall aim at establishing the regular self-evaluation of higher education Institutions and promotion of the development of quality assurance mechanisms for the educational quality enhancement purposes through the establishment of compliance of higher education institution educational programmes with accreditation standards.
2. The accreditation standards shall be as follows:
 - a) The goals of an educational programme, learning outcomes and the compatibility of the programme with them;
 - b) Methodology and organisation of teaching, adequacy of the assessment of programme mastering;
 - c) Students' achievements, individual work with them;
 - d) Provision with teaching resources;
 - e) Potential to further enhance the educational quality.
3. The state study grant and state Master's study grant shall be issued for funding of only the accredited educational programmes of higher education institutions.
4. Regulated, teacher training and Georgian language training programmes, as well as doctoral programmes can be implemented only in the case of successful accreditation thereof.
5. The conduct of accreditation procedure shall be ensured by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement.
6. The Council for the Accreditation of Educational Programmes (hereinafter the Accreditation Council) shall be set up for making the accreditation decisions, the members of which Council shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime-Minister of Georgia under the submission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. A member of the Accreditation Council cannot be a public official. The terms of reference of the Accreditation Council shall be defined by the Accreditation Regulation that guarantees its functional independence from educational Institutions and governmental bodies.
7. The National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall supervise the observance of the accreditation conditions by an educational institution and in the case of detection of a violation shall be entitled to apply to the Accreditation Council and request the accreditation.
8. The higher education institutions, amongst them the legal entities of public law shall be entitled to jointly establish a legal entity of public law for quality control purposes, the assessments of which entity may be taken into account by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement during the process of accreditation of higher education institution educational programmes.

Article 64. Accreditation Experts Commission

1. To ensure the conduct of the accreditation procedure, the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall set up an accreditation expert commission, the procedure of setting up and performance of this which commission shall be defined by the Accreditation Regulation.
2. The first step of the Accreditation procedure shall be the self-evaluation, accomplished by an applicant for accreditation in accordance with the form, provided by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement to the applicant for accreditation in advance.

Article 65. Deleted

Article 66. An Accreditation Decision

1. Based on the opinion of the accreditation expert commission on the accreditation of the educational programmes of the educational institutions the Accreditation Council shall make a decision according to the procedure, envisaged by the law of Georgia.
2. The Accreditation Council shall make one of the following three decisions:

- a) On granting accreditation;
 - b) On refusal of accreditation;
 - c) On withdrawal of accreditation.
3. The accreditation shall be granted for a period of 5 years. The accreditation shall be withdrawn in the case of expiry of the accreditation period or withdrawal of authorisation.
 4. In the case of refusal to or withdrawal of accreditation:
 - a) The higher education institution shall lose the entitlement to the state study grant and Master's state study grant for the respective educational programme;
 - b) The students who were entitled to state funding, shall be entitled to move to the other accredited educational programme and carry the remaining amount of state funding to the educational programme concerned;
 - c) The higher education institution shall cease the implementation of regulated, teacher training and Georgian language training programmes, as well as doctoral programmes. In this case the student's status of the students shall be suspended for a period of five years and they shall be entitled to enjoy the right to student mobility.
 5. The National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall approve the student quota for academic higher education programme/programmes set by the higher education institution in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, also the student quotas for students who enrol on the basis of only general skills Azerbaijani-language, Armenian-language, Abkhazian-language and Ossetian-language test of the Unified National Examinations.

Article 66¹. Deleted

Chapter XI Deleted

Article 67. Deleted

Article 68. Deleted

Article 69. Deleted

Article 70. Deleted

Article 71. Deleted

Article 72. Deleted

Article 73. Deleted

Article 74. Deleted

Chapter XII

Accreditation of Regulated Educational Programmes

Article 75. Regulated Educational Program

1. A regulated educational programme shall be regulated by the relevant law.
2. The following shall be the regulated educational programmes:
 - a) Law;
 - b) Medicine;
 - c) Pedagogy;
 - d) Deleted.
3. The procedure of accreditation of regulated educational programmes and the service fee shall be approved by the Ministry of Education and Science under the submission of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement.
4. Deleted.

Article 76. Regulated Professions

1. The list of regulated professions subject to academic higher Education and state certification examinations shall be defined exclusively by a Law of Georgia.
2. The procedure and conditions of holding the state certification examination for regulated professions shall be prescribed by relevant legislation.

Article 77. Accreditation of a Regulated Educational Program

1. The National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall develop the regulated educational programme accreditation conditions under the participation of professional associations envisaged by law and present them to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for approval.
2. If there is no legally established professional association in a relevant field of study, the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall develop the regulated educational programme accreditation conditions under the participation of the interested organisation/organisations and stakeholders.
3. An accredited regulated educational programme shall be subject to subsequent accreditation in every five years period following the original accreditation.
4. The National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement shall make the decision prescribed by Paragraph 2 of Article 66 of this law with regard to the accreditation of regulated educational programmes.

Chapter XIII **Types of Activities and Sources of Funding of** **Higher Education Institutions**

Article 78. Economic Activities of a Higher Education Institution

A non-profit legal entity – higher education institution may carry out other economic activities allowed by the law of Georgia.

Article 79. Funding of a Higher Education Institution

1. The budget funding of a higher education institutions shall be oriented towards teaching and research, as well as training, retraining and professional development of the institution's personnel.
2. The sources of funding of a higher education institution shall be as follows:
 - a) Tuition fees which are covered by the state study grant and state Master's study grant (only with regard to an accredited higher education programme);
 - b) Funds received through private grants, contributions or a will;
 - c) Research grants awarded by the state on the basis of competition;
 - d) Deleted;
 - e) Programme financing allocated by the ministries of the relevant fields;
 - f) Any other sources of income allowed by the Law of Georgia, including the revenues from economic activities.

Article 80. Funding of Higher Education through State Study Grant

1. A citizen of Georgia, holder of a neutral ID card or neutral travel document, who is enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution according with the procedure, prescribed by this Law, shall be eligible for a state study grant.
2. The state study grant may be awarded to a foreign citizen within 2% of annual funding allocated for state study grants, within the framework of a special programme defined by the Ministry of

Education and Science of Georgia, based on an international agreement or the principle of reciprocity.

- (1. A citizen of Georgia, holder of a neutral ID card or neutral travel document and a foreign citizen having the status of a compatriot living abroad, who is enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution according with the procedure, prescribed by this Law, shall be eligible for a state study grant.
2. A foreign citizen, except for a foreign citizen having the status of a compatriot living abroad, whose higher education is funded according to the procedure of funding the higher education of a Georgian citizen, prescribed by this Law shall be entitled to the state study grant within 2% of annual funding allocated for state study grants, within the framework of a special programme defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, based on an international agreement or the principle of reciprocity.)
3. No person may receive more than one state study grant for each cycle study.
4. The state shall cover the tuition fee of a student of the higher education institution only within the limits of the state study grant.

Article 80¹. Funding of Higher Education through State Master's Study Grant

1. A citizen of Georgia, holder of a neutral ID card or neutral travel document, who is enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution – member of the Unified Master's Examination Network, according with the procedure prescribed by this Law, shall be eligible for a state Master's study grant.
2. The state Master's study grant may be awarded to a foreign citizen within 2% of annual funding allocated for state study grants, within the framework of a special programme defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, based on an international agreement or the principle of reciprocity.
- (1. A citizen of Georgia, holder of a neutral ID card or neutral travel document and a foreign citizen having the status of a compatriot living abroad, who is enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution – member of the Unified Master's Examination Network, according with the procedure prescribed by this Law, shall be eligible for a state Master's study grant.
2. A foreign citizen, except for a foreign citizen having the status of a compatriot living abroad, whose higher education is funded according to the procedure of funding the higher education of a Georgian citizen, prescribed by this Law shall be entitled to the state Master's study grant within 2% of annual funding allocated for state study grants, within the framework of a special programme defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, based on an international agreement or the principle of reciprocity.)
3. No person may receive more than one state Master's study according to educational programme direction, amongst them priority programme direction.
4. The state shall cover the tuition fee of a student who is enrolled for an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution – member of the Unified Master's Examination Network, which fee is set by the higher institution concerned, only within the limits of the state Master's study grant.

Article 81. Amount of State Study Grant and State Master's Study Grant

1. The tuition fees for accredited educational programme of a higher education institution, established by the state, shall be defined by the higher education institution in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by law.

2. The amount of the state study grant, which shall fully cover the tuition fees for a Bachelor's, Medical doctors'/Doctor in Dentistry accredited educational programmes and teacher training educational programmes of a higher education institution, established by the state, shall be defined by the Government of Georgia. The state shall allocate funding for a Bachelor's programme for 4 years (whenever the Georgian Language training programme is taught together with an accredited Bachelor's educational programme – for 5 years), Doctor in Dentistry 300 ECTS credit educational programme – for maximum 5 years (whenever the Georgian Language training programme is taught together with Doctor in Dentistry accredited programmes – for 6 years), Medical Doctor's 360-ECTS credit educational programme – for maximum 6 years (whenever the Georgian Language training programme is taught together with Medical Doctor's accredited programmes – for 7 years), and teacher training educational programme – for maximum 1 year. The Government of Georgia may also provide for partial amounts of the state study grants, which will partially cover the tuition fees for a Bachelor's, Medical doctors'/Doctor in Dentistry accredited educational programmes of a higher education institution, established by the state.
- 2¹. Deleted.
- 2². Deleted.
- 2³. The annual amount of the state Master's study grant for Master's accredited educational programmes of a higher education institution, established by the state shall be defined by the Government of Georgia according to educational programme directions, defined by the Government of Georgia. The state shall allocate funding for Master's higher education programmes, except for arts-creative or sports Master's educational Programmes, unless the students are admitted to the foregoing programmes through Unified Mater's Examinations for 2 years.
- 2⁴. The amount/amounts of the state study shall not include the expenses related to funding of the period of study, corresponding credits, which were recognised by the higher educational institution in accordance with the law of Georgia. In this case the value of the state study grant within the limits of the amount/amounts of the state study defined by the Government of Georgia shall be calculated in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
3. If the tuition fee of an accredited educational programme of a legal entity of private law is higher than the amount of the state study grant or the state Master's study grant, respectively, defined by the state, the higher education institution shall be entitled to set an additional fee which should be covered by other than state sources. The tuition fee of an accredited Master's programme of a higher education institution, established by the state may exceed the amount of the state Master's study grant only in agreement with the Government of Georgia.
4. If the tuition fee of an accredited educational programme of a higher education institution is less than the amount of the state study grant or the state Master's study grant, the amount of the state study grant or the state Master's study grant shall be equal to the amount of the tuition fee of the education programme concerned.
5. An agreement entered between a higher education institution and a student/vocational student shall provide for the tuition fee for the respective educational programme of the higher education institution, also the conditions of potential amendment thereof in the course of duration of the study period. It shall be inadmissible for the higher education institution to increase the tuition fee envisaged by the agreement in violation of the agreement. The terms and conditions of the agreement related to tuition fee should be known before the commencement of registration of the entrants for the Unified National Examination. Tuition fee, set for the year of enrolment of a student/vocational student in a higher education institution can be unilaterally increased in the

case of essential change of circumstances, what shall be provided for by a resolution of the Government of Georgia.

6. In the case of movement of a student having a state study grant or state Master's study grant to another higher education institution, the state shall fund the state study grant or state Master's study grant within maximum amount of the state study grant or state Master's study grant, except for the case, envisaged by subparagraph "h¹" of Article 43 of this Law.
7. The amount paid to a student, who has enrolled in an art-creative or sports higher education institution and got entitlement to funding allocated from the state budget for controlling body of the institution concerned and the state study grant or state Master's study grant, should not exceed the maximum amount of the state study grant or state Master's study grant.

Article 82. Relationship between a Higher Education Institution and the Issuer of the State Education Grant and State Master's Study Grant

1. The state shall transfer the amount equal to total number of students of a higher education institution having the state study grant and state Master's study grant to the higher education institution concerned in accordance with the procedure and timelines, envisaged by the law of Georgia.
2. A higher education institution shall be required to provide the Ministry of Education and Science with the names of all those students who have entitlement to the state study grant and state Master's study grant, but have for some reason terminated or suspended their studies, in accordance with the procedure and timelines, envisaged by the law of Georgia.

Article 83. State Research Grant

1. The research grant shall be granted to a higher education institution unit on the basis of competition in accordance with the procedures envisaged by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
2. Neither the state research grant nor the state study grant may be used for funding any other activity.
3. The state funding for master's and doctoral programmes shall be provided through the state Research Grant funds, in accordance with the priorities set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, under a special state programme.

Chapter XIV

Property of a Higher Education Institution, Established by the State and Monitoring of the Observance of Normative Acts

Article 84. Property of a Higher Education Institution, Established by the State

1. The property of a higher education institution, established by the state shall comprises the assets transferred thereto by the state, legal entities and private persons, as well as the assets acquired by the institution at its own expense.
2. The taxation of initial transfer of assets to a non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, established by the state shall be regulated by the law of Georgia.

Article 85. Use of Property of a Higher Education Institution, established by the State

1. Acquisition, alienation or leasing of the real estate of a legal entity of public law – higher education institution or a part thereof, also any other decision with regard to property, whenever it is beyond the scope of educational and research activities shall only be permissible under the decision of the Council of Representatives of a higher education institution under the consent of the Ministry of

Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Economics and Sustainable Development of Georgia, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the law of Georgia.

2. A higher education institution development foundation may be created for the management of the assets of a private law non-profit legal entity – higher education institution, to which foundation a part of the assets and finances of the higher education institution shall be transferred.
3. The higher education institution development foundation shall be created and the assets, necessary for its operation shall be transferred thereto by the higher education institution. The taxation of initial transfer of assets shall be regulated by the law of Georgia.
4. The higher education institution shall approve the regulation of the higher education institution development foundation under the consent of the Council of Regents, which regulation shall provide for the rights of the foundation director, the rules of management and disposal of assets, transferred to the foundation.
5. Alienation or encumbrance of the real estate of a private law non-profit legal entity – higher education institution shall require the consent of the Council of Regents.
6. The assets transferred by the state to a art-creative/sports higher education institution, established by the state, in accordance with the procedure, prescribed by the state can be transferred to a non-profit legal entity – general education institution under the right to gratuities ownership and use under the consent of the Council of Regents (of the Ministry of Culture and Protection of Monuments of Georgia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and Ministry of Economics and Sustainable Development of Georgia in the case of a legal entity of public law), which institution is implementing extracurricular educational programmes, envisaged by Paragraph 5 of Article 11 of this Law.

Article 86. Assets Transferred by the State to a Higher Education Institution

1. Upon the establishment of a higher education institution, the state shall transfer thereto the relevant assets in accordance with the procedure envisaged by the law of Georgia in the form of free-of-charge usufruct.
2. The list of assets subject to transfer shall be attached to the act of establishment of the higher education institution.
3. The inventory of transferred assets shall indicate:
 - a) The list of assets;
 - b) The results of audit assessment of the state of assets conducted by an independent auditor.
4. The assets remaining after the liquidation of a higher education institution, established by the state, shall be fully returned to the state in accordance with law of Georgia. The liquidation of a non-profit legal entity, established by the state shall result in the liquidation of the higher education institution development foundation as well, and the remaining assets shall be fully returned to the state in accordance with law of Georgia.

Article 86¹. Monitoring the Observance of Normative Acts in a Non-Profit Legal Entity – Higher Education Institution

1. Monitoring the observance of normative acts shall mean the supervision over the legality of performance of a Non-Profit Legal Entity – Higher Education Institution.
2. The observance of normative acts shall be monitored by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, and Ministry of Culture and Protection of Monuments of Georgia, respectively.
3. The authorities supervising the observance of the normative act shall be entitled to demand the presentation of the material and information necessary for exercising the supervision.

Chapter XV

Transitional Provisions

Article 87. Management of Higher Education Institutions

1. Until this law becomes effective, all higher education institutions having the status of legal entities of public law that were founded under relevant presidential decrees, shall be deemed as established.
2. Entry into force of this law shall result in the termination of responsibilities of rectors and faculty deans of higher education institutions having the status of legal entities of public law. The responsibilities of a rector can be terminated based on a presidential decree. The President of Georgia is entitled to appoint as an acting rector the rector whose responsibilities were terminated or a professor of a higher education institution. The president of Georgia is entitled to terminate the powers of the acting rector until the term expires. The termination of responsibilities of a faculty dean shall be formed by the order of the acting rector, who is entitled to assign the duties of an acting dean to the dean whose responsibilities were terminated or appoint another candidacy.
3. The first elections of management bodies of higher education institutions which are Legal Entities of Public Law (LEPL) is held by the Higher Education Institutions according to the rule established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia no later than two years after the enactment of the law.
4. LEPL - Higher Education Institutions shall present for approval to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia new charters pertaining to this law, not later than six months after the first elections of the management bodies as prescribed by the law.
5. According to the law immediately after the elections of the first composition of the Academic Council, there shall be determined, by casting votes one third of members whose duration of elections shall be defined by a half period of basic education levels.
6. The candidates for Rector, Chancellor and Dean offices, who have been holding the same offices, including those of an acting rector or acting dean at a higher education institution for two consecutive terms, periods of their service in the above offices shall be counted for the purposes of the terms of office referred to in section 3 of the Article 22, section 4 of the Article 23, section 1 of the Article 29 of this law.
7. Higher education institutions shall fully engage in offering educational programmes envisaged by this law (bachelor's, master's, certified specialist, doctoral) and provide relevant academic degrees no later than the beginning of an academic year 2007-2008. Until full transfer of educational programmes (bachelor's, master's, specialized diploma) envisaged by the law for the completion of one level, not less than five-year educational programme, graduates of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will receive higher education diplomas equal to master's degree diplomas. The rule of equivalency to a master's degree diploma, among them, additionally educational modules, is defined by a relevant faculty of the higher education institution.
8. In order to implement educational programmes envisaged by the law Higher Education Institutions should ensure transfer to the European credit transfer system until the beginning of an academic year 2009-2010.
9. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and Higher Education Institutions should ensure the relevance of corresponding legal acts to the law until December 31, 2009.
10. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia until the beginning of an academic year 2010-2011 should ensure the approval of the rule envisaged by the first section "M¹" of the Article 7.

11. Until September 15, 2010 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should ensure approval of the authorization regulation of the educational institutions envisaged by this law Article 7, first section "V" approval of the authorization regulation of educational institutions, and until March 1, 2011 Article 7, first section "V" approval of the accreditation of educational programmes of the educational institutions.
12. President of Georgia, Government of Georgia, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and Higher Education Institutions until March 1, 2011 should ensure the relevance of legal acts to this law.

Article 88. The Status and Financing of Higher Education Institutions

1. The higher education institutions that are accredited according to the presidential decree #418 of July 20, 1998 regarding the Approval of the Educational Institutions Accreditation Council Statute and its Personal Composition, shall be deemed as institutionally accredited before the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia starts institutional accreditation, but not later than the beginning of an academic year 2006-2007. The certifying documents, should be considered as recognized by the State, for completion of an educational programme issued to the students by those Educational Institutions according to the Georgian legislation before the beginning of an academic year 2007-2008 which according to the afore-mentioned order was rejected to receive accreditation.
- 1¹. The certifying document for completion of an educational programme issued before the beginning of an academic year 2005-2006 by licensed or legally recognized as licensed Higher Education Institution is considered by the State despite the accreditation of this particular institution. (21.07.2010. #3528 should be enacted since September 1, 2010).
2. Deleted
3. Before the implementation of programme accreditation, but no later than the beginning of an academic year of 2013-2014, all licensed Legal Entities of Private Law that have institutional accreditation, also Legal Entity of Public Law- Higher Educational Programmes should be considered accredited.
4. Delete.
5. Deleted
6. Since an academic year of 2005-2006 the Government of Georgia provides for a gradual transfer to the financing system of Higher Education given in this law.
7. State teaching grant and State teaching Master's degree grants will be given before September 1, 2010 to institutions that have accreditation or according to the Article 66¹ section 2 of this law to newly established licensed higher education institutions with the remaining terms of institutional accreditation. In case, during the authorization application of higher education institutions there does not exist a capacity for accrediting the relevant programme, this programme will be considered until creating relevant conditions.
8. Since an academic year of 2005-2006 including the academic years of 2012-2013, the Government of Georgia should state maximum, medium and minimum amount of full and partial state teaching grants to educational programmes. To the citizens of Georgia Higher Education Institutions established by the State since an academic year of 2005-2006 including the academic year of 2012-2013 should provide for definition of higher educational programmes' costs according to key educational units.
9. Deleted.
10. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia before the beginning of an academic year of 2011-2012 should develop a new rule on financing and conditions to study at a PhD level.

11. Rules for studying at a master's or PhD levels defined according to this law should be enacted based on this law together with launching of relevant educational programmes where students are received at a Higher Education Institution.
12. Before an academic year of 2007-2008 Legal Entities of Public Law – Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will present suggestions to the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia about the reasonability of establishing their branches as Higher Education Institutions.
13. Legal Entity of Public Law- Higher Education Institution could be reorganised by the Government of Georgia as Legal Entity of Private Law, after which the afore-mentioned legal entity will be considered as a legal successor of a relevant Legal Entity of Public Law.
14. The Government of Georgia in the first month after enactment of this section should provide for establishment the Regent Council and approval of its regulation.

Article 89. National Examination Centre, National Centre for Education Accreditation and Compatibility of Educational Programmes (28.03.2007. #4529)

1. Before the beginning of an academic year 2006-2007, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall approve the regulation for the National Examination Centre.
2. By the beginning of an academic year 2007-2008, the Government of Georgia shall ensure the beginning of activities of the State Accreditation Service.
3. The functions of the National Examinations Centre before its establishment shall be performed by the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Assessment and Examinations Centre, which is a legal entity of public law.
- 3¹. Legal Entity of Public Law –National Examinations Centre is a legal successor of the LEPL- National Examinations Centre, and Legal Entity of Public Law- National Centre for Educational Accreditation is a successor of the LEPL – National Accreditation Office.
- 3². Legal Entity of Public Law – National Centre for Educational Accreditation shall be reorganized to LEPL- National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement. LEPL- National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement is a successor of the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Centre for Educational Accreditation.
4. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for an academic year of 2005-2006 should provide for implementation of the United National Examinations in Georgian Language and Literature, General Skills, Foreign Languages (English, German, French or Russian) and Mathematics, and for an academic year of 2006-2007 – also in other subjects. The rule of implementation of exams and their obligatory/ optional character according to this law is defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
5. Before creating the State Accreditation Service for Educational Institutions its functions shall be implemented by the Accreditation Council of Higher Education Institutions of Georgia established on the basis of the Order #418 July 20, 1998 of the President of Georgia on “the Approval of the Regulation and Personal Composition of the Accreditation Council of Higher Education Institutions of Georgia.”
- 5¹. With Regard to completion of activities related to the reorganization of the Legal Entity of Public Law – State Accreditation Service into National Centre for Educational Accreditation, its functions are fulfilled by the Legal Entity of Public Law – State Accreditation Service, and with the completion of activities related to changing the title of the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Examinations Centre its functions are fulfilled by the LEPL- National Examinations Centre.
- 5². The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be assigned to implement activities related to the reorganization of LEPL – National Centre for Educational Accreditation to LEPL- National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement. Until completion of these activities, functions of LEPL-

National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement is fulfilled by the LEPL- National Centre for Educational Accreditation.

6. Deleted.
- 6¹. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia until the beginning of an academic year 2011-2012 should ensure accreditation of teacher preparation educational programmes.
- 6². The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia until the beginning of an academic year 2011-2012 should ensure development and approval of the rule provided by the Article 7, first section “n¹” subsection and Article 54.² Until approval of this rule, holders of Higher Education diplomas shall be accepted to, independent of bachelor’s educational programme, to teacher preparation educational programme and a certificate of teacher education shall be issued by a Higher Education Institution according to an approved rule.
- 6³. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia until December 31, 2011 should ensure approval of the rule provided by this law Article 7, first section, “v¹” subsection.
- 6⁴. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure the accreditation of educational programmes in Georgian Language Training until the beginning of an academic year of 2012-2013. A Higher Education Institution shall pass accreditation of a programme on Georgian Language Training until the beginning of an academic year of 2012-2013. Until holding the first accreditation in Georgian Language Training Educational Programme an educational programme in Georgian Language Training of a Higher Education Institution is considered accredited.
7. Until the beginning of an academic year 2006-2007 Higher Education Institutions should ensure transfer to a 120 credit master’s degree programme.
8. A Higher Education Diploma is equal to a Master’s Degree Diploma after completion of a first cycle, not less than five-year programme until the beginning of 2005-2006. The Diploma of a first cycle received after completion of an educational programme with less than five years before an academic year 2005-2006 is equal to a Bachelor’s degree diploma.
- 8.¹ Until the beginning of 2007-2008 academic year persons enrolled not less than a five –year programme in medicine (among them, veterinary) after completion of an educational programme will receive a certified specialist (doctor of veterinary) diploma, which is equal to a master’s degree diploma.
- 8.² Diploma of a certified specialist received at the end of academic years 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 after completion of an educational programme of not less than five years is equal to a Master’s degree diploma, diploma of a certificated specialist given after four- year educational programme is equal to a bachelor’s degree diploma, diploma of a certificated specialist given after three-year educational programme is equal to a vocational education diploma. (28.03.2007 #4529).
- 8.³. Before the beginning of an academic year 2005-2006 diploma for completion of one level four year educational programme which was given for acquiring a second specialty and for the purposes of which the learning outcomes of an educational programme within the frames of the first specialty was considered and which was considered identical to a five year educational programme of the same specialty is equal to a Master’s degree diploma.
- 8.⁴. To continue education at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) a diploma certifying vocational education, which according to the law is equal to a higher vocational diploma, should be considered equivalent to the State certifying document of a complete general education.
- 8.⁵. Before enactment of this section Diploma of a certified specialist (in Veterinary) received after completion of a 300-credit educational programme is equivalent to Master’s degree. Person who is enrolled in a 300 –credit educational programme in veterinary has a right to complete studies, after completion she/he shall be granted with an academic degree in certified veterinary which is equivalent to a Master’s degree diploma.

9. After enactment of this law a scientific degree of *Mecnierebata Kandidati* is equivalent to a Ph.D. academic degree.
10. Section 9 of this Article is common to persons, who have become or will become *Aspiranti* or seekers of an academic degree and will receive an academic degree of *Mecnierebata Kandidati*, but not later than December 31, 2006.
- 10¹. Holder of a Ph.D. academic degree has same rights as a person who was granted an academic degree of *Docenti* or a scientific-pedagogic degree of Professor in a relevant field.
- 10². The right to study on a Ph.D. has a person, who completed the one level educational programme and during the implementation of this programme had a right to continue studies in *Aspirantura*.
11. Before the beginning of an academic year of 2006-2007 legal entities of public law – higher education institutions should ensure transfer of Professor-teachers and Scientist- Staff members to an institution to relevant academic positions provided by this law.
12. Before the beginning of an academic year 2006-2007 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should ensure adoption of acts provided by first section “v”, “z”, “i”, “n” and “o” of the Article 7.
- 12¹. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia until April 15, 2009 should ensure the approval of the regulation of holding Master’s Degree and Distribution Rule of State Teaching Master’s Degree Grants.
13. In case of incompatibility with the norms of this law and the law of Georgia “on education” the norms of this law is superior.
14. Higher Education Institutions which in 2006 were granted institutional accreditation for implementation of a higher vocational educational programme will need a reaccreditation in the part of higher vocational education.
15. Before the beginning of an academic year of 2008-2009 the Government of Georgia should ensure the compatibility of LEPL-higher education institutions with this law, Article 2 section “g”, “g¹” and “h¹⁸” and first section of the Article 9.
16. Deleted.
17. During an academic year of 2007-2008 the enrolment in accredited higher education institutions to study on higher vocational education programmes is implemented with a different rule stipulated by this law, based on results of United National Examinations, according to the rule established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
- 17¹. It is not allowed to enrol a certified specialist to an educational programme (of higher vocational education) after an academic year of 2010-2011. The state teaching grant given to persons enrolled in that programme before this date will be distributed according to the acting rule before September 1, 2010.
- 17². In case of continuing education on a bachelor’s, certified medical specialist/stomatologist/veterinary educational programmes a Higher Education Institution may consider credits accumulated by a certified specialist for the purposes to achieve an academic degree of a Bachelor, certified medical specialist/stomatologist/veterinary. To study on a bachelor’s programme, certified medical specialist/stomatologist/veterinary educational programmes a certified specialist should be admitted to a Higher Education Institution according to the Georgian legislation.
- 17³. A Higher Education Institution, which by September 1, 2010 implements vocational education activities, has a right to implement the mentioned educational activities before completion of the educational programme by persons enrolled in vocational education programme. It is not allowed to accept students by Higher Education Institutions to a Vocational Educational Programme after September 1, 2010. (21.07. 2010 # 3528 should be enacted since September 1, 2010).

18. In 2009 Legal Entity of Public Law- Accredited higher education institution and Legal Entity of Public Law provided by this law Article 66¹ section 2 – a newly established licensed higher education institution has a right, not to unite in the network of Master’s Exams and accept candidates for Master’s programme with a different rule provided by the this law in the Article 52¹.
19. In 2009 in case of existence of relevant circumstances an accredited higher education institution has a right prior to the United Master’s Exams to hold exam/exams defined for Master’s degree programme applicants. Accredited Higher Education Institution is obliged, until June 7, 2009 to establish according to the first section “t” of the Article 10 of this law for Master’s degree applicants the rule of holding exam/exams defined by a Higher Education Institution.
20. After enforcement of the Authorization regulation of Educational Institutions provided by the law of the Article 7 first section “v” all licensed higher education institutions, except for, accredited or acting until September 1, 2010 of this law Article 66¹ section two, newly established licensed higher education institutions, in order to accept the right to issue a document certifying education recognized by the State is obliged to pass authorization. Until September 1, 2010 accredited or acting newly licensed education institutions provided by this law Article 66¹ section two higher education institutions are considered authorized with the remaining term of accreditation. After passing this term they are obliged to pass accreditation in order to issue a document certifying education recognized by the State.
21. Until September 1, 2010 for persons enrolled in licensed higher education institutions is spread the legal regime acting until September 1, 2010.
22. For licensed higher education institutions legal results of passing authorization are not spread to persons enrolled to a higher education institution before passing authorization. They are subjected to the legal regime stipulated by the Georgian legislation effective before the authorization. State recognition of education of those persons who were enrolled in licensed higher education institutions in case of admission to a Higher Education Institution according to the rule established by the Georgian legislation is implemented by the Legal Entity of Public Law- National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement according to the rules set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Conditions and Costs for State Recognition of Education received by the persons in licensed Higher Education Institutions are stipulated by the normative administrative-legal act of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
23. All licensed Higher Education Institutions within the term of 10 days from September 1, 2010 except accredited or newly-founded licensed higher education institutions provided by this law Article 66¹ of second section is obliged to present to the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement a list of persons enrolled in this institution (in printed and electronic forms).
- 23.¹ The indicated person registered in the admissions list of licensed higher education institutions has a right to continue studies in those licensed higher education institutions according to this article, section 23, which has presented a list of enrolled persons at the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement.
24. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia implements the enrolment of those applicants without the United National Examinations, who were not able to participate in 2010 United National Examinations due to false activities of the bodies within the afore-mentioned Ministry. The evidence for the false activity should be proved according to a relative case study. Applicants at Higher Education Institutions are enrolled according to an administrative – legal act of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for one year. During this term the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia ensures financing of studies of afore-mentioned persons within the frame of the maximum teaching grant defined by the Government of Georgia. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia in the registration form provides for faculty and higher academic or/and

vocational higher education programme or/and higher education institutions' Georgian language preparation educational programme priority list and within the frame of a total number of students defined for Higher Education Institutions based on accreditation a number of vacant places. These persons will gain a right to enrol in an educational specialty based only on the National Examinations of the next year. In case of passing United National Examinations a higher education institution according to the rule established by the Georgian legislation recognized credits gained by these persons, and granting state teaching grant is administered according to the article 54 section 2 of this law.

25. Before enactment of this section reorganization by merging with the Legal Entity of Public Law-accredited higher education institution of a non-recognized implementer of educational programmes an educational institution causes the legal regime of accredited education institutions to the students enrolled after complete general education according to the Georgian legislation.
26. On those persons, who before enactment of this section in higher education institutions are enrolled as a result of the United National Examinations and for whom was not given a document certifying complete general education – School Leaving Certificate - because of the criminal or administrative case in process, will be subjected to all the legal consequences as for using true School Leaving Certificate.

Article 89¹ Activities to support education of students because of war activities of Georgia

1. Recognition of a Higher Education received on occupied territories occurs according to the rule stipulated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. After recognition of education received on occupied territories a citizen of Georgia, a person holding a neutral identity or neutral travel documents has a right to continue studies in a Georgian higher education institution without passing the United National Examinations, according to the rule stated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
2. As a result of assault by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on August 7, 2008 to fund education of persons damaged in this assault at accredited higher education programmes within the frames of social programmes allotted amount of money may exceed the maximum expected amount of money within the frame of a social programme defined by this law. The amount and conditions for funding with teaching grants of these persons are defined by the Government of Georgia based on the presentation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
3. Citizens of Georgia, who until August 7, 2008 lived in the Russian Federation and were enrolled in recognized higher education institutions of this country, have a right to continue studies to a Georgian higher education institution without passing the United National Examinations, according to the rule set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Chapter XVI Final Provisions

Article 90. Entry into Effect

1. The age limit provided in section 2 of article 36 of this law, subsection “e” of article 38 of this law and sections 3 and 4 of article 39 shall become effective in the beginning of the academic year 2009-2010.
2. Section 1 of article 81 of this law shall become effective in the beginning of the academic year 2008-2009.
- 2.¹Section “g¹” of the Article 6 and Article 7 of the section “n²” of this law should be enacted as rules provided by the Article 7 of the section “n¹” and Article 54² are approved.
- 2.² General skills provided by this law based on the tests results in only Azerbaijani, Armenian, Abkhazian and Ossetian languages admission of students to a higher education institution is a temporal

action directed to civic integration of Georgian citizens for whom Georgian is not a native language and acts including the academic years of 2018-2019.

2.³ Since the beginning of an academic year of 2012-2013 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should ensure enrolment of students in higher education institutions only based on test results in the Abkhazian and Ossetian languages designed for Georgian citizens according to the rule proved by the law.

2.4 Before fulfilment of obligations provided by the section 2³ of this Article Georgian citizens who Abkhaz language speakers have a right to pass General skills tests in Russian language, which spreads the legal regime as provided in case of passing General Skills Test in the Abkhazian language.

3. This law shall become effective immediately upon publication.

Mikheil Saakashvili

President of Georgia

December 21, 2004