
The Hungarian Education system

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Public education is made up of kindergartens, single structure primary schools, upper secondary general schools and different types of secondary vocational schools.

Kindergarten education and care is provided for children between age 3 and entry into school. Pursuant to the new Public Education Act, kindergarten is compulsory for children aged 3. Exemption can be issued by the municipal clerk at the request of the parent. Kindergartens offer both day care and an education programme. Children aged 5 are obliged to attend 4 hours school-preparatory programmes a day.

Basic education (ISCED 1 and 2) is provided in 8-grade single structure schools comprising primary (ISCED 1) and lower secondary education (ISCED 2). Primary education (ISCED 1) comprises grades 1 to 4, while lower secondary education (ISCED 2) comprises grades 5 to 8. However, upper-secondary schools are also allowed to offer secondary programmes comprising lower (ISCED 2) and upper secondary levels (ISCED 3), covering grades 5 to 12 or grades 7 to 12. The successful completion of grade 8 provides basic qualification. After completing basic school, students may continue their studies in an upper-secondary school: in general secondary schools and in different tracks of initial vocational education and training.

General secondary grammar school provides general education in usually 4 years, and prepares for the secondary school leaving examination. Its main goal is to prepare for the continuation of studies in higher education, but students may also continue to study in vocational education programmes requiring secondary school leaving certificate for entry. The secondary school leaving examination is a state examination, which is prerequisite to enter higher education.

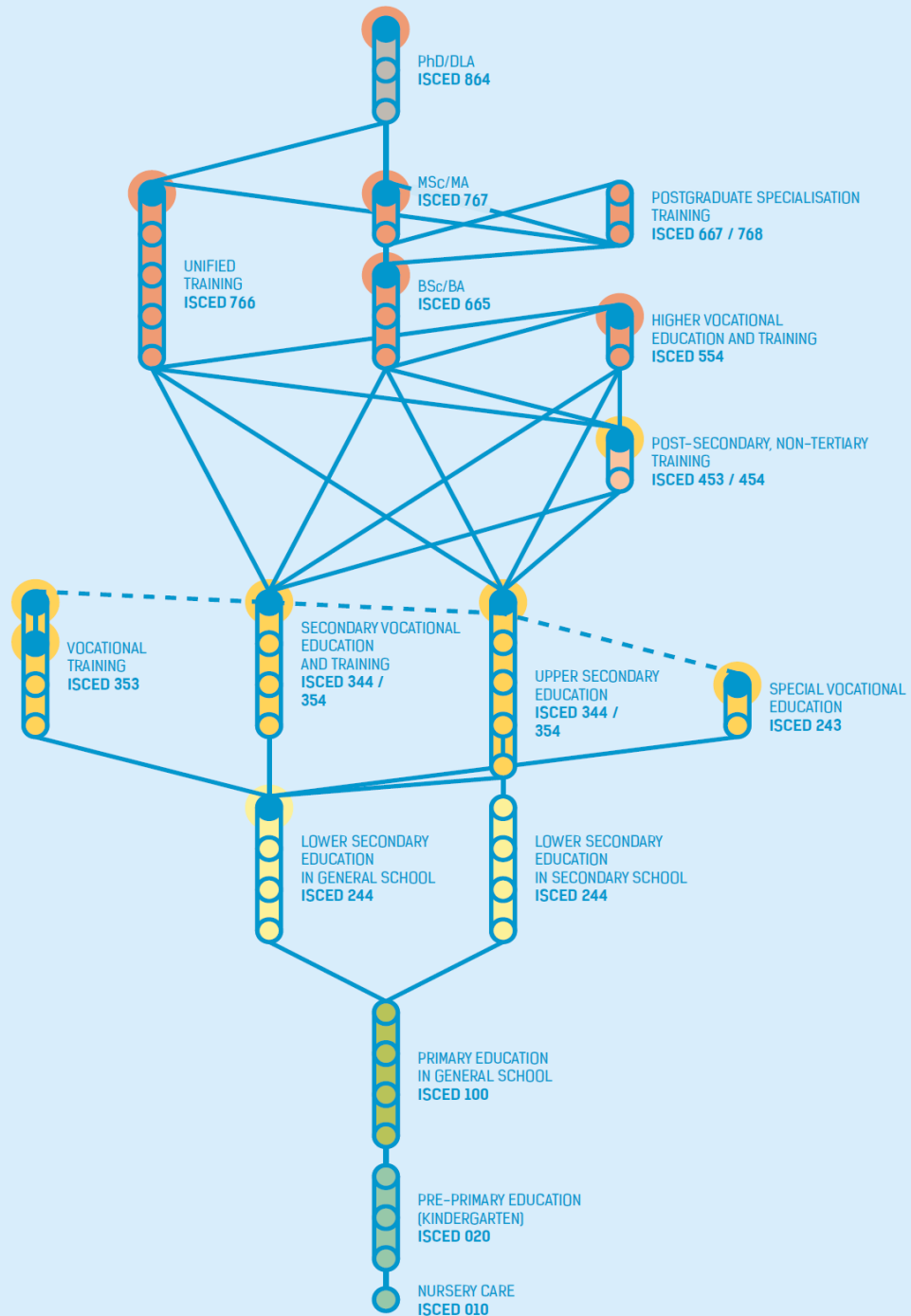
Initial vocational education and training (IVET) pathways at secondary and post-secondary levels: Upon completion of 8 years of basic education, at the age of 14, learners can choose different VET tracks. Vocation-specific content and the choice of profession are advanced to grade 9 as the first year of IVET programmes. Recently the government restructured IVET programmes and schools. The names of all three types of IVET programme were upgraded: secondary vocational schools (ISCED 344-454) became vocational grammar schools; vocational schools (ISCED 353) became vocational secondary schools, while special vocational schools that train students with special needs are now called vocational schools. The new vocational secondary school has a structure of 3+2 years. Vocation-specific content is increased, while the teaching hours of general education content were reduced. In the optional +2 years learners can automatically continue their studies in the same school for a general education programme leading to the secondary school leaving examination, the entry requirement to higher education. As regards the 4+1 year vocational grammar schools, students now get a certificate that entitles them to take up certain jobs on passing the secondary school leaving exam in a vocational subject at the end of the fourth year. In summer 2016 a new core curriculum was adopted for this type of schools, whereby the teaching hours of vocation-specific subjects will be increased at the cost of science subjects. The type of science subjects taught will be selected according to the profile of the vocational programme e.g. health care students will only study biology.

Secondary school leaving examination: General secondary grammar schools and vocational grammar schools prepare students for the secondary school leaving examination. Pursuant to the Public Education Act and the Vocational Training Act, the examination consists of four general subjects that are the same as the subjects of the general secondary school leaving examination and one vocational subject. With the school leaving examination certificate students may enter higher education. However, the certificate in itself does not provide a vocational qualification.

Post-secondary non-tertiary VET programmes: Completion of grade 12 entitles students to continue their studies in a vocational post-secondary non-tertiary programme starting in grade 13 for the vocational examination listed in the National Vocational Qualifications Register. The vocational qualifications are listed in the National Vocational Qualifications Register (NVQR). The NVQR and the vocational examination criteria and regulations are regulated in a government decree. Among post-secondary non-tertiary programmes there are programmes that require a secondary school leaving examination and programmes that only require leaving certificate of secondary vocational school. Preparation for the vocational examination usually lasts one year. The preparation is one year longer for those entering vocational education after the completion of general secondary grammar school.

Tertiary programmes: Higher education institutions offer a variety of tertiary programmes: higher vocational education and training programmes, Bachelor, Master and single-cycle long (in some fields like medicine, architecture, law, veterinary science, forestry, some programmes in art and music and teacher training) programmes and doctoral programmes. The higher vocational education and training programmes do not provide a higher education degree but 30 to 120 of their ECTS credits can be recognised in relevant Bachelor programmes. Higher education programmes are either offered as full time or part time (evening or correspondence) courses or as distance education. Besides the programmes mentioned above, higher education institutions also offer post-graduate specialisation courses. Doctoral programmes (Ph.D., DLA) exist as full-time or part-time programmes. Post-graduate specialist courses are mostly part-time programmes.

Formal education and training in Hungary



ISCED 2011

- Lower Secondary Educational Attainment
- Upper Secondary Educational Attainment
- Higher Educational Attainment

Establishment of higher education institutions

Higher education institutions may be established in Hungary individually or with another rightholder by the state, a nationality government, a church with legal entity registered in Hungary, including its organisational unit with legal entity, a commercial entity with a seat in Hungary, and by any foundation or public foundation registered in Hungary. The individual exercising founder's rights should undertake tasks in connection with the operation of the higher education institution. The network of higher education institutions is quite extensive in proportion to the country's surface, population and the number of students enrolled in higher education, but, compared to other countries, it is of medium size. Higher education institutions can be categorised in the following two ways. On the one hand, there is a clear distinction between state and non-state institutions. Non-state institutions can be founded by churches, business organizations or foundations. The foundation and operation of non-state institutions is subject to the same input (quality) criteria as the foundation and operation of state institutions and compliance is checked in the course of accreditation at the time of foundation. Institutions meeting the criteria are granted state recognition by the Parliament. State and non-state institutions recognised by the state are listed in the Annex of the Higher Education Act.

Establishment and operation of non-state higher education institutions are regulated by the Higher Education Act and related regulations. Non-state institutions also receive state funding, based on an agreement with the government. However, the budget of both state institutions and non-state institution is only partly financed by the state. The state grant provided for institutions maintained by the Roman Catholic church is governed by a concordate concluded between Hungary and the Vatican and the Hungarian government has concluded similar agreements with other historical churches for ensuring funding their higher education institutions.

Foreign higher education institutions may also operate in Hungary. In Hungary, foreign higher education institutions may offer study programmes resulting in a degree if their state-recognition granted in their home country is recognised and the operation is approved by the Hungarian Educational Authority. The Educational Authority recognises the foreign decision, if the principles of the higher education system of the respective state are in line with the educational fundamental principles of the European Higher Education Area.

Governance of higher education sector

The government and the minister responsible for higher education play a key role in the governance of higher education; they fulfil tasks relating to organisation, development and legality control and, in the case of state higher education institutions, exercise operator's rights. Operator control should not affect the autonomy of the higher education institution granted in the matters of the scientific subject and contents of education and research.

Higher education is governed by a sectoral act and a related government decree regulating its implementation. These stipulate the most important provisions and rules applicable to the operation of

higher education. Several other relevant government decrees and ministerial decrees stipulate partial regulations. Furthermore, various acts on the system of public finances and its sub-systems also apply to the operation of higher education institutions depending on their status and whether or not they rely on public funding.

The Educational Authority is an administrative body established by the government, acting as a higher education registration centre: it registers higher education institutions as well as the start or modification of their activities. It also carries out official inspections and keeps an official register on institutions. Furthermore, it operates the higher education information system (a central system based on data provided by HEIs.)

There are several intermediary bodies fulfilling state tasks: the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee promotes the quality control and assurance and the evaluation of education, scientific research and artistic creation in higher education. The Higher Education Planning Committee improves connections between the economy, the world of work and higher education. The National Doctoral Council is a body consisting of the chairs of the doctoral councils of higher education institutions, adopting positions in affairs relating to doctoral programmes and the conferral of doctoral degrees. The Council of National Scientific Students' Study Circles is responsible for the national representation and coordination of students' academic and artistic activities pursued in higher education institutions and the national representation and coordination of the students' study circles movement, as well as the organisation of nationwide scientific and artistic forums for students. The national representation of students is performed by the National Union of Students in Hungary, while the national representation of students pursuing doctoral studies is performed by the Association of Hungarian PhD. and DLA Students.

Degree structure

The three-cycle degree structure, in accordance with the Bologna Declaration, was introduced in September 2006.

The multi cycle system offers education at Bachelor level that lasts 6-8 semesters, which can be followed by Master level courses of a maximum of 4 semesters. Master courses built upon a former obtained Master's degree last 2 semesters. The third cycle provides doctoral programmes. Besides multi cycle courses, there are a few study fields where education remained undivided long cycle (10-12 semesters, 300-360 ECTS credits).

There are also post-graduate specialist trainings for graduates holding a Bachelor or Master degree, launched by higher education institutions, which do not lead to another degree.

Bachelors' programme admission requirements

Every Hungarian citizen has the right to undertake studies in programmes fully or partially financed through scholarships granted by the Hungarian state or pay full tuition. Passing a secondary school leaving examination is a general requirement for admission to higher education. The government defines the

secondary school leaving examination criteria for each Bachelor programme. There are no alternative access routes to higher education.

The higher education institution makes its decision on admission on the grounds of the performance of applicants, based on the standard national ranking in the case of application for entry into higher education vocational trainings, Bachelor programmes and long programmes.

The government ensures equal opportunities for disadvantaged students, for persons on unpaid leave while nursing their children, for persons receiving parental benefit, child care support, maternity aid, maternity allowance or child care allowance as well as for persons with disabilities and persons belonging to a national minority when determining the number of state-funded places and the entrance examination criteria by allocating places and awarding extra points to such persons in the admission procedure.

The government – after consulting higher education institutions – annually publishes the capacity of each institution (that is, the maximum number of students to be admitted) broken down by fields and also the minimum scores required for admission into higher education (as a quality criterion). These values change every year. The number of the students admitted can be regulated with fairly good accuracy with the modification of the scores required for admission on the basis of the scores of previous years. A central computerised algorithm ranks the applicants of each programme and, on the basis of the programme's admission capacity (approved of by the government), it provides a list of successful applicants, which, in turn, determines the minimum score points necessary for entry to the programme concerned.

The admission procedure and admission requirements are regulated in a government decree. Information on admission (including programmes to be launched by institutions and the expected number of entrants) is provided by the Educational Authority (<http://felvi.hu>), which also handles applications and operates the abovementioned computerised system (calculates the scores of applicants and ranks them). The Educational Authority also records and manages official data.

Student Assessment

There is no policy on student assessment at either national or institutional level. Although some institutions have started developing such a policy, it is generally the competence of teachers. Institutions only regulate conditions related to degree thesis and final exam.

Traditionally, oral examinations are held at the end of the terms in the exam periods but where the number of students is high, written examinations are also common. In case of small-group classes (seminars, laboratory practice) there is usually continuous assessment of students.

The Higher Education Act also stipulates that the performance of students is assessed either on a 3-point scale (excellent, satisfactory, fail) or 5-point scale (5 – excellent, 4 – good, 3 – satisfactory, 2 – pass, 1 – fail) or any other evaluation scheme included in the academic and examination regulations of the institution, provided that it ensures comparability.

Certification

It is the state that defines and recognises degrees through the government and the Ministry responsible for higher education. Degrees can only be awarded by state recognised higher education institutions. Degree programmes are defined by programme completion and exit requirements issued in a ministerial decree.

The Higher Education Act regulates the granting of degrees, the conditions to be fulfilled before a final examination and the main elements of final examinations. Higher education institutions regulate the way of registration for the final examination, the rules of organising and holding the final examination and the method of calculation the results. They administer the final examination and, based on the results, issue a diploma certifying the degree as well as a diploma supplement. The diploma is a public document.

The government significantly transformed the previous short cycle programme; as an indication of this transformation the government changed the name of the programme to higher education vocational training. The transformation is still in progress: based on the provisions of the new Higher Education Act and the government and ministerial decrees of October 2012 on the detailed rules of the higher education vocational training the first new programmes started in the academic year 2013/14 (in the autumn of 2013). Students who started the short cycle programme in autumn 2012 are still taught according to the former regulations and relevant practice in a phasing-out system.

Master programmes

The length and structure of Master programmes are regulated by the Higher Education Act and related legal regulations. There are 13 branches of study (with the following ECTS credits): agriculture [120], humanities [120], social sciences [120], IT [120], law and management [120], national defence and military [90-120], economics [120], engineering [90-120], medicine and health [90-120], teaching [90]; sports [120], science [120], arts [120]. A typical Master programme lasts 2 years and is of 120 ECTS credits but in some fields of study there are programmes lasting for 3 terms (one and half years) with 90 ECTS or for 2 terms (1 year) with 60 ECTS. These require obtaining fewer credits because they are built on Bachelor or Master programmes with a higher amount of credits. The programmes are included in the official list of degree programmes issued by the minister responsible for education.

Admission Requirements

The procedure, central organisation, publicising and registration of admission to Master programmes are the same as to Bachelor programmes, admission requirements are entirely different. Pursuant to the Higher Education Act, only Bachelor degree holders can be admitted to Master programmes. However, additional admission requirements are set by the institutions themselves, provided that they apply the same requirements to all applicants (irrespective of where applicants have obtained their Bachelor degree).

Applicants are given scores based on their performance and extra scores may be granted for outstanding performance, disadvantaged or multiply disadvantaged status, disability and applicants with young children. All this and the admission requirements are specified in the internal regulations of institutions. Institutions have varied procedures ranging from considering the results of Bachelor studies to conducting written or oral examinations or aptitude tests.

Programme completion and exit requirements specify the skills and competences to be acquired in the first cycle, which also have a number of credits allocated to them. During the admission procedure, institutions have to check whether applicants to a Master programme graduating from a dissimilar Bachelor programmes have acquired these competences. If they do not, it may be compulsory for them to acquire these prior to or during their Master studies.

The minister responsible for higher education determines the number of state funded places for each branches of study on the basis of the needs and capacity of institutions and also takes into account labour market trends.

Applicants can apply to several institutions and programmes, ranking them in the order of their preferences on the application form. They will be admitted to the highest ranking programme in their list whose requirements they meet.

There are no alternative access routes at present.

Certification

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The Higher Education Act regulates the granting of degrees, the conditions to be fulfilled before a final examination, the main elements of final examinations and the members of the final examination committee (it has to have at least three members, at least two of them with a doctoral degree and at least one of them has to be external, i.e. not employed by the higher education institution).

Higher education institutions regulate the way of registration for the final examination, the rules of organising and holding the final examination and the method of calculation the results. They administer the final examination and, based on the results, issue a diploma certifying the degree as well as a diploma supplement. The diploma is a public document.

Programmes outside of Bachelor and Master's structure

Even after the introduction of the Bologna multi-cycle system, there are a few fields that retained their original programmes, which still have the features of the earlier, dual structure of 3-4-year-long college degree programmes and 5-6-year-long university degree programmes. There are different reasons for

keeping the earlier structure in every field of study but it is typical of regulated professions and is related to the requirements set by external sectoral organisations and the traditions of the programmes.

The admission procedure and admission requirements are identical to those of programmes of the multi-cycle system. Applicants apply in the same procedure and they can apply to programmes of the multi-cycle system and to undivided programmes at the same time. Calculation of the scores needed for admission, regulations on extra scores and other rules are also identical.

There are several 5-6-year long undivided long programmes. Applicants to these apply in the same procedure as applicants to Bachelor programmes but after uninterrupted studies of 10-12 terms they obtain a Master degree. Programmes include medicine (12 terms, 360 ECTS credits), dentistry (10 terms 300 ECTS credits) and pharmacy (10 terms 300 ECTS credits) in the field of medicine and health care; veterinary medicine (11 terms, 300 + 30 ECTS credits) and forestry (10 terms 300 ECTS credits) in the agricultural field as well as architecture (10 terms 300 ECTS credits), law (10 terms 300 ECTS credits), some art programmes (e.g. film studies, theatre studies, stage director, acting, painting, sculpture, graphics, inter-media) and theology studies of some churches.

Doctoral Programmes

Doctoral programmes are mainly offered at universities, since only higher education institutions able to provide doctoral programmes and award a doctoral degree in at least one branch of study may have the name “university”. Doctoral programmes are provided in doctoral schools operating within higher education institutions in branches of study defined by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. (In the field of arts, there are programmes ending in a “Doctor of Liberal Arts” degree.) The operation of doctoral schools and the awarding of doctoral degrees are supervised by the doctoral councils of institutions.

Doctoral schools can operate and doctoral programmes can be offered only if accredited in an accreditation procedure. During doctoral studies 240 ECTS must be gained, the duration of the studies is eight terms. The doctoral studies include two phases: the first phase is the ‘studying and research’ (four terms), the second phase is the ‘research and thesis’ (four terms). At the end of the fourth term, doctoral students must pass a complex exam for closing the studying and research phase and for beginning the research and thesis phase. This exam measures and evaluates the progress in studies and research. Following the complex exam, the doctoral thesis must be submitted within three years. The same regulations apply to doctoral schools/programmes in all branches of study. Doctoral schools operate in all branches of study (e.g. agriculture, humanities, medicine, social sciences); although in each university there are usually a few doctoral schools, e.g. one in every faculty.

Regulations have different provisions for the two phases. To the first phase the same regulations apply as to other degree programmes: it encompasses education, research and assessment (and in many cases internship) related activities conducted either individually or groups, tailored to the particularities of the field of science concerned and meeting the needs of Phd students. The second phase, the doctoral degree award procedure, is regulated by special rules concerning deadlines.

Doctoral students have the legal status of students and are entitled to state-funded grants. However, state-funded places are limited; the half of doctoral students pays a fee and undertakes work in addition to pursuing studies in order to cover the cost of studies.

Participants of the second phase, the doctoral degree award procedure, are called Phd/DLA candidates. Phd/DLA candidates have not necessarily undertaken the first phase, it is also possible to prepare individually for a doctoral degree. The prerequisites are a Master degree and fulfilling the admission requirements to the doctoral degree programme. Higher education institutions cannot reject the application of candidates who have successfully accomplished the first phase at their institution. The candidate status is terminated if the candidate does not submit his/her doctoral thesis in three years after the start of the candidate status.

Admission Requirements

Selection of doctoral students is within the competence of the doctoral schools of higher education institutions. The prerequisite to admission is holding a Master degree. Typically there are oral entrance examinations for doctoral courses.

The number of doctoral students is not limited, the government only limits the number of state-funded places. The National Doctoral Council, consisting of the chairs of the doctoral councils of higher education institutions, defines the principles of distributing the state funded places among higher education institutions.

Assessment

There is no policy on student assessment at either national or institutional level. Although some institutions have started developing such a policy, it is generally the competence of teachers.

Doctoral schools regulate the way of assessment of the research activity and the doctoral thesis of doctoral students.

Doctoral councils also set criteria for the evaluation of doctoral theses and especially for the procedure of evaluation in order to ensure the presence of external evaluators and examination board members.

Certification

Higher education institutions are entitled to granting degrees if they are recognised by the state and are entitled to awarding doctoral degrees after an accreditation procedure.

The doctoral degree is defined in the Higher Education Act and is awarded by the doctoral councils of universities. The doctoral council of a university decides on granting the degree upon recommendation by the committee of the doctoral schools. It is also the doctoral council that determines the requirements to be met for the different grades of doctoral degrees (rite, cum laude, summa cum laude). Following the

decision, the higher education institution concerned hands over the degree (and the certificate certifying it) to the candidate at a ceremony.

Pursuant to the Higher Education Act, Phd degree holders may use the titles “PhD” or “Dr.” before their names and DLA degree holders may use the titles “DLA” or “Dr.”. The doctoral degree is officially recognised by the state.

Quality assurance in higher education

In higher education *quality assurance elements are the following:*

- *quality assurance system operated by higher education institutions;*
- *multi-level and multi-functional accreditation system.*

In compliance with the European quality assurance trends in higher education, in Hungary it is primarily the task and responsibility of the higher education institution to provide the quality of higher education training, scientific research and creative art activities. Pursuant to the act on higher education, each state-accredited higher education institution shall operate quality assurance processes.

A multi-level and multi-functional *accreditation system* is operated in Hungarian higher education:

- The process of establishment and operation control for higher education institutions:
 - = preliminary institution accreditation,
 - = external evaluation of the training, scientific research, creative artistic activity provided within the institutional operation of the higher education institution, and that of the operation of the internal quality assurance system of the higher education institution every five years (institution accreditation);
- The accreditation process of the training programmes of the higher education institution
 - = procedure of programme establishment, inclusion in the special register,
 - = preliminary programme starting procedure, registration of the trainings provided by higher education institutions in the operating permit of the institution,
 - = evaluation of the training, scientific research, creative artistic activity provided within the institutional operation of the higher education institution (subsequent programme accreditation).

The right for granting and issuing higher education qualifications may be obtained by becoming a state-accredited higher education institution, and by obtaining the authorisation for providing a specific training. During the establishment of a higher education institution, following the registration of the institution, *preliminary institution establishment and programme accreditation* shall be conducted within the frame of the authorisation process for operation.

The draft for the establishment of the different qualifications shall be subject to a *programme establishment procedure* during which accreditation aspects are also analysed in addition to fundamental issues (incorporation in the special system, the existence of relevant labour market demands). Only those qualifications may be included in the register of higher education qualifications that received appropriate ranking during the establishment procedure, and only these may be published by the minister. If an applying higher education institution intends to start a new bachelor or master programme based on the training and output requirements elaborated by itself, the higher education accreditation body as stated by the act on higher education, i.e. the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee shall give an opinion as an expert regarding whether the training and output requirements specified for the bachelor (BA/BSc) or master (MA/MSc) programme will expectedly ensure the appropriate output level, with the national linking and international referencing of the degrees also taken into account.

The institutional documentation for starting the institutional training programmes leading to the published qualifications shall be subject to preliminary *programme starting accreditation*. Within the programme starting procedure, the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee gives its opinion regarding whether the local implementation programme as submitted by the higher education institution, the curriculum and the subject programme are in compliance with the training and output requirements of the programme, and whether the institution has the personal and objective conditions for starting the training. Those formerly pre-accredited *training programmes may be started that have been recorded in the operating permit of the higher education institution and registered by the Educational Authority*, which maintains the register of higher education institutions.

Pursuant to the act on national higher education, if requested by the higher education institutions, with the expert opinion of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee provided, the Educational Authority shall act *in a procedure for starting* VET, bachelor education (BA/BSc) and master education (MA/MSc), and doctoral education (PhD, DLA) in higher education. A postgraduate specialisation programme is a qualification that can be established within the competence of higher education institutions. The register of higher education institutions is maintained by the Educational Authority, which acts as an authority in the procedures. The procedural, operational and supervisory order of the Educational Authority is regulated by a decree based on the authorisation of the act on higher education.

Regarding the sectorial control of higher education, the act on higher education orders that the *minister responsible for education* should have the task *to periodically supervise the qualification system* in the case of VET in higher education, bachelor education (BA/BSc) and master education (MA/MSc).

The Educational Authority *shall regularly supervise the operating permits of higher education institutions*, which inspection also includes the external evaluation of the training, scientific research and creative artistic activity implemented at the higher education institution, as well as that of the operation of the internal quality assurance in higher education with the involvement of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee (accreditation). The accreditation of training programmes (*subsequent programme accreditation*) and institutional operation (*institution accreditation*), also including the accreditation of quality assurance processes is regular, it happens every five years within supervisory procedure for the operating permit.

The Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee makes its decisions regarding the accreditation procedures, which are regulated by the higher education act and which affect the higher education institutions and their training programmes, by taking into account the European standards of higher education quality assurance [Standards and Guidelines in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)]. The accreditation of higher education institutions (institution accreditation) evaluates institution control and management, the internal quality assurance mechanism of the higher education institution and its scientific and educational activity. In addition to the above, the parallel accreditation procedure of training and specialization programmes is also conducted, in this a programme that is identical in all institutions is supervised.

The Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee

The Fundamental Law of Hungary declares that “higher education institutions shall be autonomous in terms of the content and the methods of research and teaching; their organisation shall be regulated by an Act. The State shall have no right to decide on questions of scientific truth; only scientists shall have the right to evaluate scientific research.”

Presently Hungary has one independent national quality evaluation body established by the act on higher education. The Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee is a national body of experts to act in issues within the scope of the state. Its activity focusses on quality certification and within the frame of this on providing an expert opinion related to the establishment and operation of higher education institutions. In issues concerning the quality of Hungarian higher education, in a national and international

context as well it participates in forming an opinion on and evaluating the training, scientific research and creative artistic activity in higher education and in the quality harmonisation with the EHEA higher education systems.

The Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee is a founding and full member of the ENQA (European Association of Quality Assurance Agencies), being active today as well, and it also participated among others in the elaboration of the quality document that is the basis of ESG. It received a membership in the INQAAHE (International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education), which is the global organisation of higher education agencies, and it is also a member of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education. The experts of Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee participated in the work of the EUA (European University Association) as well.

The Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee has twenty members. Nine members are delegated by the minister, two members by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, one member by the Hungarian Academy of Arts, three members by the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, two members by legal entities of the church maintaining the higher education institution, one member by the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one member by the National Conference of Students' Union, and one member by the National Association of Doctoral Students. Each member shall have a scientific degree, except for the member delegated by the National Association of Doctoral Students. Delegating organisations shall reconcile with one another during the delegation for the proportional representation of the fields of sciences. A member of the Higher Education Planning Board, a rector, a chancellor or a government official may not be a member of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee. After 2011 employers' representatives were excluded from the members stated by the act on higher education, and the law does not specify the right of consultation of students either, however, the body will try to involve them in the processes in the future as well in different forms, for example as members of the committee. Although higher education institutions do not have direct representation in the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee, the majority of the delegated members have firm institutional bonds as well, which means it functions as a self-regulating body of the sector to some extent.

The Educational Authority

The Educational Authority is an organisation that functions under the supervision of the minister responsible for education, and it has the task to maintain higher education-related registers, to supervise higher education information systems, and to participate in the legal supervision of the institutions. The Educational Authority shall act in issues among others such as those related to the establishment and amendments of institutions, authorisation of the operation of institutions, supervision of operating permits, registration of other data included in the deed of foundation and to be recorded based on a law, data amendments, as well as the issues of the establishment and termination of doctoral schools. The Educational Authority functions as an authority, based on the authorisation for training that the institution intends to conduct, it has the task to include the training programme in the register of the concerned higher education institution, to carry out the procedure for assessing the maximum student number of the institutions, as well as to carry out other procedures. In a procedure for authorising the operation of a higher education institution, supervising the operating permit, and starting training related to a higher education institution, the Educational Authority shall request the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee for an expert opinion. Those training programmes may be started that are registered by the Educational Authority, and specified in the operating permit of the higher education institution. Except for the issues related to doctoral schools and doctoral education, the expert opinion does not have a binding force on the Educational Authority, however, the Educational Authority may only act as an authority related to the registers but it may not participate in evaluating the training from a professional aspect, or regarding the content and quality.

The table below shows a brief summary of the most important external quality assurance procedures.

	Preliminary opinion on foundation, establishment and starting	Approval of foundation, establishment and starting	Subsequent (intra-process) evaluation
institution-accreditation	in the procedure for authorising operation, the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee gives an expert opinion	procedure for authorising operation: procedure for inclusion in the register by the Educational Authority; state recognition by the National Assembly;	supervision of operating permit by the Educational Authority; institution accreditation procedure of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee;
programme	in bachelor and master education, in a procedure for programme establishment, in a preliminary procedure for programme starting, the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee is a participating expert; in VET in higher education, in a procedure for programme establishment, the Higher Education Planning Board is a participating expert; in a preliminary procedure for programme starting the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee is a participating expert;	in bachelor and master education; in VET in higher education; in postgraduate specialization programme; procedure for inclusion in the register by the Educational Authority	in bachelor and master education, parallel programme accreditation procedure of the training programme by the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee
doctoral school	in a procedure for establishing a doctoral school, the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee is a participating expert;	in a procedure for inclusion in the register, the Educational Authority is bound to the opinion of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee	in the case of doctoral schools, the programme accreditation procedure of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee
appointment of a professor	preliminary opinion of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee (if applicant applies to a state higher education institution); supervision of the proposal for title granting by the Supervisory Committee of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee as requested by the minister responsible for education	title is granted by the President of the Republic, to the recommendation of the minister responsible for education	
accreditation of institutional capacity	Educational Authority	Educational Authority	-

VISA

Since 21 December 2007, Hungary has been a member of the Schengen Area, and applies the Schengen legislation in full. (At present, 26 states, 22 of the 28 member states of the European Union, as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are part of the Schengen Area. On the other hand, several

members of the European Union, i.e. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Croatia do not yet participate in the Schengen cooperation. The United Kingdom and Ireland opted out the Schengen area.)

Significant changes subsequent to Hungary's Schengen membership are:

- visas and residence permits issued by one of the Schengen States are valid for Hungary,
- visas issued by Hungarian representations abroad and residence permits issued by Hungarian national authorities are also valid for the entire Schengen Area.

The visa sticker, designed with the same appearance for all Schengen States, bears the words "valid for Schengen States". The Schengen visa and entry regulations are only applicable for a stay not exceeding 90 days within a 180-day-period. Rules relating to stays exceeding 90 days are laid down in the national law of the member states concerned.

Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence

Right of entry and residence for a period not exceeding 90 days Citizens of the EEA (*EU + Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein*) and Switzerland may enter the territory of Hungary with a valid travel document or personal identification document and have the right of residence for a period not exceeding 90 days from the date of entry. Family members of the above mentioned citizens who are not citizens of EEA states but are citizens of third countries and family members of a Hungarian citizen or an EEA citizen may enter the territory of Hungary with a valid travel document and – unless otherwise prescribed by any directly applicable EU legislation or an international agreement – with a valid visa.

Right of residence for a period exceeding three months

Students who are EEA citizens can reside in Hungary for more than three months if they are enrolled at an education institution offering accredited programmes. Within ninety-three days from the time of entry, such students have to register at the regional directorate of the Office of Immigration and Nationality. At the time of registration, students should be able to present a certificate of admission issued by the education institution or any other document for the verification of their student status. The registration certificate has no expiry date, and is valid together with a valid travel document or personal identification document. The spouse and children of students who satisfy the above-mentioned requirements shall have the right of residence for a period exceeding three months.

Third Country Nationals (Non-EU & EEA citizens)

Third country nationals are required to have a visa for entering the territory of Hungary and also for a stay of up to 90 days within a 180-day-period if they come from a country that is under visa obligation according to the Schengen acquis. The visa application has to be submitted to the Hungarian Consulate in the country where the permanent or temporary residence of the applicant is located or in the country of the applicant's nationality. If third country nationals wish to stay longer than three months, they need to have a valid travel document, the necessary permits for return or continued travel and they should be able to verify the purpose of entry and stay, they should have both accommodation and enough financial resources to cover their costs plus a full healthcare insurance or sufficient financial resources necessary for taking out healthcare services. A residence permit authorizes third-country nationals to reside in Hungary for a period of minimum 90 days but not exceeding two years. The application for a residence permit should be submitted to the Hungarian Consulate in the country where the permanent or temporary residence of the applicant is located or in the country of the applicant's nationality and will be judged by the competent Hungarian regional directorate. Those already residing in Hungary can submit their application directly to the competent regional directorate.

Students who are third-country nationals can obtain a residence permit if they have full time legal student relationship with a registered Hungarian public educational institution working in line with the public education information system, or wish to stay in Hungary in order to carry on full time studies organized by a state-recognized higher education institution, or to participate in a preparatory course for studies organized by a state-recognized higher education institution and can prove to meet the language skill requirements.

Researchers can get a residence permit when their purpose of stay is to carry out a research project under a hosting agreement concluded with a research organization accredited in line with specific legislation. For citizens of third countries, the Immigration Office issues a new biometric document, the *EU Blue Card* (see below) a work permit and a residence permit enabling highly-skilled non-EU citizens to work and live EU-wide. The EU Blue Card is valid for a period of minimum 1 year and maximum 4 years. After 4 years, the card can be renewed for another 4 years. Blue Card holders are granted the same social and labour rights as the citizens of the receiving country. Since 1st January 2014, as a result of law changes, a single application procedure aims the authorization of the establishment of a legal employment relationship of the third-country national with a specific employer in the territory of Hungary on the basis of his application for more than ninety days. The single permit is a residence permit, which entitles the third country national to establish residence and legal employment relationship with a specific employer in the territory of Hungary.

Cases of single application procedures:

- In case the stay of the third country national submitting an application for residence permit for gainful activity aims the establishment of a legal employment relationship with a specific employer;
- In case the third-country national intends to establish a legal employment relationship, and he/she submits a residence permit application for family reunification, or submits an application for EU Blue Card;
- In case the third-country national intends to establish a legal employment relationship, and he/she is in possession of a residence permit issued for family reunification, or is in possession of an EU Blue Card.

Work permission for students from third countries:

Students from a third country carrying out regular studies in Hungary as part of a cooperation programme can work in their term-time for a maximum of twenty-four hours weekly, and sixty-six working days beyond their term-time or during a period not exceeding ninety days.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

School Education

Act CXC of 2011 on Public Education

Act LXXIX of 1993 on Public Education

Government Decree 229/2012. (VIII. 28.) on the implementation of the Act on Public education

Government Decree 362/2011. (XII. 30.) on certificates used in education

Government Decree 328/2009. (XII. 29.) on scholarships available for vocational school pupils

243/2003. (XII. 17.) Government Decree on the issuing, introduction and implementation of the National Core Curriculum

4/2013. (I. 11.) Ministerial Decree (Ministry of Human Resources) on the issuing of the principles of bilingual school education (Effective from 1 September 2013)

26/1997. (VII. 10.) Ministerial Decree on the issuing of the principles of bilingual school education

Vocational Education and Training

Act CLXXXVII of 2011 on Vocational Education

Higher Education

Act CCVI. of 2015 on amendment of the Acts concerning the regulation of education

Act CCIV of 2011 on Higher Education

Government Decree 266/2016 (VIII.31.) on amendment of Government decree 387/2012 (XII. 19.) on doctoral schools, the doctoral degree award procedure and habilitation and of Government decree 87/2015. (IV.9.) on the implementation of Act CCIV of 2011 on Higher Education

Government decree 423/2012 (XII. 29.) on the admission to higher education institutions

Government decree 387/2012 (XII. 19.) on doctoral schools, the doctoral degree award procedure and habilitation

Government decree 283/2012 (X. 4.) on initial teacher education, specialisation and the register of degree courses in teaching

Government decree 248/2012 (VIII. 31.) on measures required for the implementation of Act CCIV of 2011 on Higher Education

Government Decree 1/2012 (I. 20.) on the Student Loan

Government decree 362/2011 (XII. 30.) on identification documents used in education

Government decree 156/2010 (V. 6.) on the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS III.)

Government decree 51/2007 (III. 26.) on grants available for higher education students and fees payable by

Government Decree 289/2005 (XII. 22.) on bachelor and master programmes in higher education and the rules of launching a programme

Ministerial Decree 39/2012 (XI. 21.) on the outcome requirements of tertiary vocational programmes

Ministerial Decree 15/2006 (IV. 3.) on the outcome requirements of the bachelor and master programmes

Ministerial Decree 10/2006 (IX. 25.) on the general requirements for providing post-graduate specialisation courses

Government resolution 1007/2012 (I. 20.) on the number of state funded places in higher education in the academic year 2012/13