



Guarantor: Rector's Office

Košice on 03.03.2025.2025

Ref. REK00002/2025-UPA/220

## **Rector's Decision No. 3/2025, issuing the Accreditation Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice**

This Accreditation Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (the "Accreditation Regulations of UPJŠ") has been issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 15(1)(b) of Act no. 131/2002 on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (the "Higher Education Act" or "HEI Act") and Article 25 of the Statute of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (the "UPJŠ Statute") and is an internal regulation of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (the "University" or "UPJŠ") regulating the internal system of assuring and verifying the quality of education, the quality of research, development, artistic or other creative activities (hereinafter "creative activities") and support activities at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter the "internal quality system" or "IQS").

### **Article 1 Recitals**

1. The UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations are issued in accordance with the Higher Education Act, Act no. 269/2018 on Quality Assurance of Higher Education and on the Amendment of Act no. 343/2015 on Public Procurement and on the Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended (the "Act on the Internal Quality System" or "IQS Act"), the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic No. 614/2002 on the Credit System of Studies, as amended (hereinafter referred to as Decree No.614/2002), by the Decree of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic No. 244/2019 on the System of Fields of Study of the Slovak Republic, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Decree No. 244/2019").
2. The UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations set out the rules for creating, approving, modifying, suspending and cancelling each study programme at UPJŠ in the 1st, 2nd, combined 1st and 2nd and 3rd levels of higher education.
3. The implementation of higher education at UPJŠ is regulated by the following internal regulations of UPJŠ:
  - a) Study Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice for the 1st, 2nd and combined 1st and 2nd level of study (the "Study Regulations of UPJŠ")<sup>1</sup>
  - b) Study Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter also "Study Regulations for Doctoral Studies at UPJŠ").<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Study Regulations of UPJŠ in Košice for the 1st, 2nd and combined 1st and 2nd level of study

<sup>2</sup>Study Regulations for Doctoral Studies of UPJŠ in Košice

## **Article 2**

### **Basis and Objectives of the Programme**

1. A study programme (hereinafter referred to as “SP”) is a set of subjects and a set of rules for their implementation compiled in such a way that its successful completion enables the obtainment of university education. The study plan determines the time, content and sequence of modules and the forms of evaluation of study results. The details are determined by the Higher Education Act.
2. The rules for the creation of study programmes at UPJŠ are based in particular on:
  - a) internationally recognised practices, in particular the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area;
  - b) generally binding legal regulations, especially the provisions of the HEI Act, IQS Act, Decree No. 614/2002, Decree No. 244/2019,
  - c) the Standards for the study programme from the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education<sup>3</sup> (the “Standards for the SAAHE study programme”) and other recommendations of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as “SAAHE”), from other internal regulations of UPJŠ, in particular from the Statute of UPJŠ<sup>4</sup> and Rector’s Decision No. 2/2025, which issues rules for the internal system of quality assurance and verification of educational, scientific, research, developmental, artistic or other creative and supporting activities at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice<sup>5</sup> (hereinafter RD 2/2025”).
3. The aim of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations is so that study programmes and the study plans belonging to them, created at UPJŠ in accordance with the provisions of sections 50 to 54a of the HEI Act:
  - a) are subject to a transparent and demanding institutional approval process;
  - b) comply with quality assurance standards and guidelines (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area
  - c) are in accordance with the current level of scientific knowledge and the level of creative activity of UPJŠ in the relevant field of study,
  - d) are in line with the mission and strategic goals set out in the long-term plan of UPJŠ
  - e) have clearly designated persons responsible for the implementation, development and quality assurance of the programme (hereinafter “PRSP”), persons responsible for profile subjects (hereinafter “PRPS”), and also a clearly specified profile of the graduate, including defined learning outcomes, i.e. acquired knowledge, skills and competences in accordance with the required level of the qualification framework,
  - f) are prepared in cooperation with students and other stakeholders to meet professional expectations;
  - g) are clear, understandable, balanced and form a logical whole,
  - h) define the conditions for admission to study,
  - i) define the expected student workload and requirements for successful graduation, including an emphasis on adherence to the principles of academic or professional ethics;
  - j) are student-oriented and ensure students an administratively and organizationally smooth course of study and the opportunity to achieve the declared graduate profile,
  - k) are adequate provisioned in terms of personnel, spatial, material, technical and information resources required.
4. A person responsible for the implementation, development and quality assurance of a study programme (PRSP) is a person with competences and responsibility for the

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<sup>3</sup>Standards for the SAAHE programme

<sup>4</sup>Statute of UPJŠ in Košice

<sup>5</sup>Rector's Decision No. 2/2025 issuing rules for the internal system of quality assurance and verification of education, scientific, research, developmental, artistic or other creative and support activities at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

- implementation, development and quality assurance of a programme, who works as a professor or associate professor in the relevant field of study for a set weekly working time.
5. The PRSP is appointed on the basis of expertise and fulfilment of valid criteria by the dean of the relevant faculty, or by the rector if the programme will be provided by the university.
  6. Persons responsible for profile subjects (PRPS), who have demonstrated sufficient results in creative activity in the relevant field of study and at the relevant level of education, also participate in ensuring the implementation of the programme (guarantors)
  7. The PRPSs participating as guarantors of the SP are, after consultation with the PRSP, appointed by the dean of the relevant faculty or the deans of the relevant faculties, if the study programme will be provided at several faculties, or by the rector if the programme is to be provided by the university.
  8. The status, competence and obligations of persons involved in quality assurance of study programmes (PRSP and PRPS) are regulated by RD 2/2025<sup>6</sup>, Article 13 and specified in the Rector's Decision No. 6/2025, which issues rules for the staffing of programmes at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice<sup>7</sup> (hereinafter "RD 6/2025").
  9. The accreditation and quality assurance of programmes, which are to be provided with a substantial share at several faculties, is performed jointly by the authorities of the respective faculties

### **Article 3** **Creation and Approval of a Study Programme**

1. A study programme can be created:
  - a) in a field of study ("FoS") and the level of study in which UPJŠ is authorized to create, implement and modify study programmes,
  - b) in a field of study or level of study in which UPJŠ is not authorized to create, implement and modify study programmes, and therefore must apply for accreditation from the SAAHE.
2. In a field of study and level of study in which UPJŠ is authorised to create, implement and modify programmes in accordance with (1)(a) of this Article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations, the dean of the relevant faculty or deans of the relevant faculties, if the programme will be implemented at several faculties, or the director of the university pedagogical or research workplace, if the programme is to be implemented at the university (the "submitter"), shall submit the intention and proposal for the programme in accordance with the IQS Act, and related legislation. The intention and proposal of the programme is submitted to the Internal Quality Verification Board at UPJŠ (the "IQVB") in accordance with internal regulations.<sup>8</sup>
3. The submission of a proposal for a new programme or a proposal for the submission of an application for accreditation of a new programme by the SAAHE is preceded by the development of an intention to accredit a new programme, which is submitted to the IQVB for discussion.

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<sup>6</sup>Rector's Decision No. 2/2025 Issuing Rules for the Internal System of Quality Assurance and Verification of Education, Scientific, Research, Developmental, Artistic or Other Creative and Support Activities at UPS in Košice

<sup>7</sup>Rector's Decision No. 6/2025 Issuing Rules for the Staffing of programmes at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

<sup>8</sup>Rector's Decision No. 4/2025 Issuing Rules for the Activities of the Study Programme Board at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

4. The intention to create a new study programme or the intention to submit an application for accreditation of a new programme by the SAAHE will be prepared by the candidate for PRSP in cooperation with the candidates for PRPS in the proposed programme on the basis of a mandate from the Dean/Rector. The intention is:
  - a) submitted to the faculty or university management if the programme will be provided by the university,
  - b) prepared in cooperation with the workplaces of faculties/university, which will provide the PRSP with the necessary support in obtaining and preparing the information necessary for its creation.
5. The intention to create a new study programme (New SP Intention Form<sup>9</sup>) includes:
  - a) the name of the programme in Slovak and English,
  - b) assignment of the programme to a field of study or a combination of two fields of study from the system of fields of study, or more than two fields of study from the system of fields of study in the case of interdisciplinary studies,
  - c) level of study,
  - d) the form of study and the language(s) in which the programme is to be delivered;
  - e) the standard length of study and the academic title awarded;
  - f) the profile of the graduate, the justification of the social need for the proposed SP and the requirements for the employment of graduates of the new programme in the labour market,
  - g) the name and workplace of the candidate for PRSP, including their scientific/artistic and pedagogical characteristics<sup>10</sup> and the characteristics of the outputs of creative activity (OCA)<sup>11</sup>,
  - h) names and workplaces of candidates for PRPS, i.e. teachers who will provide profile subjects of the programme, their scientific/artistic and pedagogical characteristics<sup>12</sup> and the characteristics of their outputs of creative activity<sup>13</sup> (OCA) in accordance with the rules for the staffing of study programmes,
  - i) a complete assessment of the level of OCA of persons participating as guarantors of the study programme, <sup>14</sup>,
  - j) the level of material, technical and spatial provision of the implementation of the new study programme under the conditions the programme requires,
  - k) names and workplaces of candidates for members of the study programme board.
6. The management of the faculty or university, if the programme will be provided by the university, will assess whether the intention to create a new programme is in line with the long-term vision of the faculty/university, in particular with its intentions and objectives regarding education. Subsequently, the Dean/Rector submits the intention to create a new programme for discussion to other bodies of the faculty/university, if so required by the statute of the faculty/university.
7. After approval, the Dean/Rector submits the intention to create a new programme to the IQVB meeting.
8. After the IQVB approves the intention to create a new programme, the Dean appoints the PRSP and PRPS providing the programme and the Study Programme Board (the "SPB").
9. The Study Programme Board under the leadership of the PRSP prepares a proposal for the creation of the new programme or a proposal for the submission of an application for

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<sup>9</sup>Annex 1, Rector's Decision No. 4/2025 on the Rules of Operation of the Study Programme Board at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

<sup>10</sup>Attach as a separate document generated from AiS2

<sup>11</sup>Attach as a separate document generated from AiS2

<sup>12</sup>Attach as a separate document generated from AiS2

<sup>13</sup>Attach as a separate document generated from AiS2

<sup>14</sup>Document available on the IQVB UPJŠ website (excel)

accreditation of the new programme by the SAAHE (the “proposal for a new programme”) in accordance with the standards for the internal system of quality assurance and verification of higher education (the “Standards for the Internal Quality System”) and the standards for the programme.

10. The programme proposal (New SP Proposal Form<sup>15</sup>) usually includes:
  - a) evaluation of the fulfilment of SAAHE standards for the study programme, internal evaluation report on the SP (SAAHE Standards Evaluation Form),
  - b) evaluation of the attractiveness of the programme, the profile of the graduate and applicability in practice, if relevant also the opinion of representatives of professional institutions,
  - c) evaluation of the national and international significance of the programme,
  - d) evaluation of staffing, information provision and quality of educational infrastructure,
  - e) evaluation of the level of creative activity (including involvement in project solutions) and its connection with educational activities in the programme,
  - f) determining the conditions of the admission procedure,
  - g) setting the conditions for successful completion of studies,
  - h) the opinion of the Scientific Board of the faculty or university, if the programme is not implemented at the faculty, on the proposal to accredit the new programme.
11. The chairperson of the SPB of the programme submits a proposal for the new programme to the dean/rector, who then submits it to the scientific board of the faculty/university. The proposal is accompanied by the opinion of the IQVB on the intention and the opinion of the SPB. The Dean/Rector invites the PRSP who prepared the proposal for the creation of a new programme to the meeting of the Scientific Board of the faculty/university.
12. After approval by the Scientific Board of the faculty/university, the Dean/Rector immediately submits the proposal for the new programme to the Internal Quality System Board at UPJŠ in Košice (the “IQVB”) for assessment of the compliance of the programme with the standards for the internal quality system and the standards for the programme.
13. The IQVB is obliged to discuss the draft SP no later than 60 days after its delivery by the submitter (dean/rector).
14. The proposal is discussed at a meeting of the IQVB with the participation of the PRSP. The dean/rector of the faculty/university or the director of the relevant university workplace, or a representative authorized by them, also has the right to participate in the meeting. The meeting may also be attended by a representative of the relevant academic senate and student representatives.
15. In the case of less serious deficiencies, the IQVB may invite the applicant to supplement or modify the programme proposal. In the event of serious deficiencies in the proposal or in the event of failure to supplement or modify the programme proposal within a reasonable period of time determined by the IQVB in accordance with the invitation, the IQVB discontinues the procedure, of which it informs the submitter.
16. After discussing the proposal for the study programme, the IQVB issues and deliver to the submitter a decision:
  - a) on the approval of a programme, if the IQVB decides to grant the authorization to provide a programme in an accredited field of study and level of study,

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<sup>15</sup>Annex 2, Rector's Decision No. 4/2025 on the Rules of Operation of the Study Programme Board at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

- b) on the rejection of the programme proposal, stating the justification of the decision and instructing the applicant on the possibility of reviewing the decision.
17. In a decision under paragraph 16(a) of this Article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations, the IQVB states all the necessary elements in accordance with the IQS.
  18. The IQVB rejects a proposal for a programme mainly on the grounds of:
    - a) non-compliance with generally binding legal regulations and internal regulations of UPJŠ,
    - b) failure to meet the standards for an SAAHE programme,
    - c) non-compliance with the long-term vision of the university or the relevant workplace;
    - d) serious formal deficiencies.
  19. The submitter may request the Rector of UPJŠ (the “Rector”) to review a negative decision by the IQVB. After review, the Rector will either confirm the decision or return the proposal to the IQVB for new discussion. The decision of the IQVB after a new discussion of the same intention or proposal is final.
  20. In the event of interest in accrediting a programme in a field of study or level of study in which UPJŠ is not authorised to create, implement and modify programmes (paragraph 1(b) of this Article), the university is obliged to apply for SAAHE accreditation.
  21. In the case of joint programmes under the provisions of Section 54a of the HEI Act, the IQVB will discuss the draft agreement of higher education institutions on the joint programme and will comment separately on those parts of the study programme proposal where UPJŠ will be responsible for implementation.
  22. The application for accreditation of a programme is submitted by the Rector to the SAAHE.
  23. After the approval of the proposal for a new programme by the Internal Quality Verification Board of UPJŠ, it:
    - a) creates the new programme and enters data about it in the register of programmes in the case of a field of study in which UPJŠ is authorised to create, implement and modify programmes,
    - b) submits an application for accreditation of the programme to the agency under Section 30 of the Act on the Internal Quality System in the case of a field of study in which UPJŠ is not authorised to create, implement and modify programmes or under Section 36(2) of the Act on the Internal Quality System.
  24. A programme becomes accredited by its entry in the register of study programmes under Section 54b(9) of the Higher Education Act.
  25. Upon its entry in the register of study programmes in the case of a field of study in which UPJŠ is authorised to create, implement and modify programmes, or by a positive decision of SAAHE for the field of study or level of study for which UPJŠ applies for SAAHE accreditation, the faculty/university acquires accreditation, i.e. the right to implement the programme and award its graduates the corresponding academic degree.

#### **Article 4**

#### **Modification and Implementation of a Study Programme**

1. Modification and change of the implementation of a study programme means:
  - a) a change in a study programme that requires the addition or deletion of compulsory modules or compulsory elective modules, a change in the conditions for the proper completion of studies or an amendment to the information sheet of a compulsory module or a compulsory elective module, except for updating the teacher, recommended literature or the type, scope and method of educational activities.

- b) change of the person responsible for the programme (PRSP) and persons providing profile subjects (PRPS) who demonstrate the outputs of creative activities under Article 13 of OG 6/2025,
  - c) a change in the programme, which creates a prerequisite for meeting the standards for the programme within the scope of the Agency's decision to suspend the implementation of the programme under Section 27 of the Act on the Internal Quality System.
2. A proposal for modification of the study programme is submitted by the dean of the relevant faculty or deans of the relevant faculties, if the programme is provided by several faculties, or by the director of a university pedagogical or research workplace, if the programme is provided by the university in accordance with the methodological instruction of the IQVB.
  3. The submitter of the proposal for the modification of the programme is obliged to submit the opinion of the Study Programme Board and any other documents that may be necessary based on the nature of the modification. In justified cases, in the event of a change in the guarantor (change of the PRSP or PRPS), the proposal for this modification to the programme is submitted to the IQVB directly by the Rector/Dean.
  4. The IQVB decides on the modification of the programme by resolution. The IQVB will deliver to the submitter its decision on the approval or rejection of the modification of the programme. In the event of rejection of the application, it shall state the reasons for the decision.
  5. The resolution of the IQVB under (4) of this article is final.

#### **Article 5**

#### **Suspension and Cancellation of the Implementation of a Study Programme**

1. The suspension of the implementation of a study programme means that it is not possible to admit applicants to the programme, to take state examinations in it or to create another programme in the relevant field of study and level.
2. It is possible to suspend the implementation of a programme:
  - a) by decision of the SAAHE under the provisions of Section 27 of the IQS Act,
  - b) by decision of the IQVB.
3. The IQVB decides to suspend the implementation of the programme if it finds that the programme does not meet the standards, while the identified deficiencies can be eliminated by modifying the programme. In such a case, the IQVB will invite the submitter in writing to submit a proposal for the modification of the programme within the set deadline in accordance with the provisions of Section 27 of the IQS Act.
4. After the suspension of the implementation of the programme, the submitter of the programme, in cooperation with the PRSP, submits either a proposal for the modification of the programme that creates the basis for meeting the standards, or a proposal for the cancellation of the programme.
5. After discussing the proposal for modification of the programme, the IQVB will issue and deliver to the submitter:
  - a) decision on granting consent to the submitted proposal for modification of the SAAHE programme in the case of a programme suspended by SAAHE,
  - b) a decision on the approval of the modification of the programme and the cancellation of the suspension to implement the programme after the implementation of the modification in the programme suspended by the IQVB, or,
  - c) a decision on the rejection of the proposal for a modification of the programme with a justification and a request for the submission of a new proposal for the modification of

the study regulations, stating in the decision the deadline for submitting a new proposal, no more than twice.

6. The decision of the IQVB under (5) of this article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations is final.
7. After the approval of the proposal for the modification of the programme and the consent of the IQVB to submit the proposal for modification of the SAAHE programme under (5)(b) of this Article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations, the Rector is obliged to submit the proposal to SAAHE without undue delay.
8. The cancellation of the programme will be ordered by SAAHE under the provisions of Section 28 of the IQS Act or by the IQVB.
9. The IQVB orders the cancellation of a programme if:
  - a) the submitter fails to propose modification of the programme within the set deadline after the suspension of implementation,
  - b) The IQVB rejects the proposal for modification of the programme in accordance with (5)(c) of this Article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Regulations, or
  - c) The submitter applies for the cancellation of the programme.
10. Upon the entry into force of the decision on the cancellation of a programme, the teaching of subjects of the cancelled programme is stopped and state examinations may not be held in it.
11. The submitter of a cancelled programme is obliged to ensure that students enrolled in studying this programme have the opportunity to continue their studies in a programme provided in the relevant field.

## **Article 6**

### **Final provisions**

1. This decision was approved by the Academic Senate of UPJŠ in Košice on 27.02.2025.
2. Upon the entry into force of this Decision, **Rector's Decision No. 7/2021** issuing the Accreditation Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, No.: REK000420/2021-UPA/795 of 22.03.2021, the **Methodological Instruction** determining the method of implementation of the Rector's Decision No. 7/2021 issuing the Accreditation Regulations of UPJŠ in Košice in the modification and extension of the programme, the modification of the course information sheet and the change of persons responsible for ensuring the quality of the study programme, Ref. No.: REK000793/2024UPA/2875 of 21.06.2024 with effect from 26.06.2024, - **Article 2** - Change of responsibility for a programme or profile subject or change of staffing of the field of habilitation and inauguration procedure of the **Methodological Instruction** determining the method of implementation of Rector's Decision No. 7/2021 when modifying and expanding a programme, modifying the course information sheet and changing the persons responsible for ensuring the quality of the programme, or Field of Habilitation and Inauguration Procedure in the time until the approval of the Internal Quality Assurance and Verification System of UPJŠ by the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education of 14.03.2021, No. REK000391/2023-UPA/905, are repealed.
3. This Decision shall become valid and effective on the day of its signature by the Rector of UPJŠ.

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Prof. MUDr. Jana Kaťuchová, PhD., MBA  
*Chairwoman of the Academic Senate of UPJŠ in Košice*

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Prof. MUDr. Daniel Pella, PhD.  
*Rector of UPJŠ in Košice*