



Guarantor: Rector's department

Košice 22th March.2021

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Rector's decision no. 7/2021 issuing the Accreditation Rules of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

The Accreditation Rules of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter referred to as the "UPJŠ Accreditation Rules") were issued in accordance with Art. § 15 par. 1 letter b) of Act no. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Certain Acts as Amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Higher Education Institutions" or "Higher Education Act") and Art. 18 par. 1 letter b) of the Statute of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice as amended (hereinafter "Statute of UPJŠ") and is an internal regulation of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter "university" or "UPJŠ") regulating the internal system of ensuring and verifying the quality of education, research quality, development, artistic or other creative activity (hereinafter "creative activity") and support activities at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter "internal quality system" or "IQS").

Article 1 Introductory provisions

1. The Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ are issued in accordance with the Act on Higher Education Institutions, Act no. 269/2018 Coll. on Quality Assurance in Higher Education and on Amendments to Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on Amendments to Certain Acts as Amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the Internal Quality System" or "ZVSK"), Decree of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic no. 614/2002 Coll. on the study credit system as amended (hereinafter only Decree No. 614/2002 Coll.), Decree of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport Slovak Republic no. 244/2019 Coll. on the system of study departments of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Decree No. 244/2019 Coll.").
2. The Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ set out the rules for the creation, approval, modification, extension, suspension and cancellation of each study programme at UPJŠ in the 1st, 2nd, joint 1st and 2nd and 3rd level of higher education.
3. The implementation of studies at UPJŠ is regulated by the following internal regulations of UPJŠ:
 - Study Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice for the 1st, 2nd and Combined 1st and 2nd Degree of Study (hereinafter also "Study Regulations of UPJŠ")
 - PhD Study Regulations at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter also "PhD Study Regulations at UPJŠ").

4. The provisions of the Accreditation Regulations of UPJŠ apply to study programmes that will be submitted for approval after the implementation of the principles of the internal quality system at UPJŠ in accordance with the Act on the Internal Quality System.

Article 2

Starting points and aims of the study programme

1. The study programme is a set of subjects and a set of rules compiled in such a way that its successful completion allows to obtain a university degree. The study plan determines the time and content sequence of subjects and forms of evaluation of study results. Details are determined by the Higher Education Act.
2. The rules for creating study programmes at UPJŠ are based mainly on:
 - a) from internationally recognized practices, in particular the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area,
 - b) from generally binding legal regulations, especially from par. ZVŠ, ZVSK, ann. no. 614/2002 Coll., Ann. no. 244/2019 Coll.,
 - c) from the Standards for the Study Programme of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Standards for the Study Programme of SAAVŠ") and other recommendations of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter "SAAVŠ"), from other internal regulations of UPJŠ, especially from the Statute of the Rector of UPJŠ, which issues the Rules of the Internal quality assurance and verification system of education, scientific, research, development, artistic or other creative and supportive activities at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
 - d) Rules of the Internal quality assurance and verification system at UPJŠ.
3. The aim of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ is that the study programmes and study plans that belong to them are created at UPJŠ in accordance with Art. § 50 to 54a ZVŠ were:
 - a) subject to a transparent and demanding institutional approval process,
 - b) reflecting the objectives of higher education recommended by the Council of Europe,
 - c) in accordance with the current level of scientific knowledge and with the level of creative activity of UPJŠ in the relevant field of study,
 - d) in accordance with the institutional strategy of UPJŠ or its parts,
 - e) having clearly identified persons responsible for the implementation, development and quality assurance, as well as defined learning objectives and outcomes in accordance with the required level of the qualifications framework,
 - f) prepared in cooperation with students and in order to meet the expectations for the performance of the profession with other stakeholders,
 - g) clear, understandable, balanced and formed a logical whole,
 - h) defining the conditions of admission to study,
 - i) defining the expected burden on students and the requirements for successful completion of studies, including the emphasis on adherence to the principles of academic or professional ethics,
 - j) student-oriented and provide students with an administratively and organizationally smooth course of study and the opportunity to fulfill the declared profile of the graduate,
 - k) providing adequate human, spatial, material, technical and information resources for implementation.

Article 3

Creation and approval of the study programme

1. The study programme can be created:

- a) in the field of study and the level of study in which UPJŠ is authorized to create study programmes,
 - b) in the field of study or degree of study in which UPJŠ applies for the granting of SAAVŠ accreditation.
2. In the field of study and the level of study in which UPJŠ is entitled to create study programmes according to para. 1 letter a) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ, the dean of the relevant faculty or the deans of the relevant faculties shall submit a program of the study programme if the programme will be implemented at several faculties or the director of a university pedagogical or research department in accordance with the ZSVK and related legislation. The draft study programme is submitted to the Council for Internal Quality Verification at UPJŠ (hereinafter "RVK"). The submitter shall attach to the proposal the opinion of the relevant scientific council of the faculty or scientific councils of the faculties. The draft study programme must take into account the starting points and objectives defined in Article 2 of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ.
 3. Creating a new study programme in the field of study or degree of study in which UPJŠ applies for the granting of SAAVŠ accreditation pursuant to para. 1 letter b) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ is preceded by an analysis of the social interest or the need for the programme for practice. The analysis pays particular attention to:
 - a) a precondition for the employment of graduates of the new programme on the labor market
 - b) the level of creative activity in the relevant field at UPJŠ and the staffing of the new programme,
 - c) the level of material, technical and spatial provision of the implementation of the new study programme.
 4. The submitter shall submit the intention to accredit a new study programme in the field of study or degree of study in which UPJŠ applies for the granting of SAAVŠ accreditation pursuant to para. 1 letter b) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ together with the analysis according to par. 3 of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ for discussion of RVK.
 5. In the case of approval of the intention, the RVK will invite the submitter to submit a draft study programme in the form according to the requirements of the ZVSK, the Standards for the SAAVŠ study programme and other related legal and methodological regulations. The submitter shall attach to the proposal the opinion of the relevant Scientific council of the faculty or scientific councils of the faculties. The draft study programme must take into account the starting points and objectives defined in Article 2 of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ.
 6. In the case of joint study programmes pursuant to Art. § 54a ZVŠ discusses the draft agreement of higher education institutions on a joint study programme and comments separately on those parts of the draft study programme for the implementation of which UPJŠ will be responsible.
 7. The professional quality and content accuracy of the study programme proposal is guaranteed by the person responsible for the study programme (hereinafter "OZŠP"), t. j. a person with competencies and responsibility for the implementation, development and quality assurance of the study program. OZŠP is appointed on the basis of expertise and fulfillment of valid criteria by the dean of the relevant faculty or the deans of the relevant faculties, if the programme will take place at several faculties, or by the director of the university pedagogical or research department if the programme will take place at the university.
 8. In case of minor deficiencies, the RVK may invite the submitter to supplement or modify the draft study programme. In case of serious deficiencies of the proposal or in case of non-completion or modification of the study programme proposal within a reasonable

period of time determined by the RVK in accordance with the call, the RVK will terminate the procedure, informing the submitter.

9. After discussing the draft study programme, the RVK will issue and deliver to the submitter a decision:
 - a) on the approval of the study programme, if the RVK decides to grant the authorization to carry out the study programme in an accredited field and degree of study,
 - b) on the consent to the submission of the SAAVŠ study programme, if the RVK decides to submit the draft SAAVŠ study programme in a field of study or degree for which the university does not have accreditation, or
 - c) on rejection of the draft study programme, stating the reasons in the decision and instructing the applicant on the possibility of reviewing the decision.
10. RVK in its decision according to par. 9 letter a) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ shall state all necessary requisites in accordance with ZVSK.
11. RVK will reject the draft study programme mainly due to:
 - a) non-compliance with generally binding legal regulations and internal regulations of UPJŠ
 - b) non-compliance with the Standards for the SAAVŠ study programme,
 - c) non-compliance with the long-term intention of the university or the relevant workplace,
 - d) serious formal deficiencies.
12. The submitter may request the Rector of UPJŠ (hereinafter referred to as the "Rector") to review the negative decision of the RVK. After review, the Rector will either confirm the decision or return the proposal to the RVK for a new discussion. The decision of the RVK after the renegotiation of the same intention or proposal is final.
13. After the approval of the study programme proposal and the consent of the RVK with the submission of the SAAVŠ study programme according to par. § 30 ZVSK and par. 9 letter b) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ, the Rector is obliged to apply to the SAAVŠ for the accreditation of the study programme without undue delay.
14. A positive decision of the RVK in the field of study and the degree of study in which UPJŠ is authorized to create study programmes, or a positive decision of SAAVŠ in the field of study or degree of study in which UPJŠ applies for SAAVŠ accreditation, graduates corresponding to the academic degree.

Article 4

Modification and extension of the study programme

1. Modification of the study programme means addition or deletion of compulsory subjects or compulsory optional subjects, change of conditions for proper completion of studies or modification of the information sheet of compulsory subject or compulsory optional subject in addition to updating the teacher, recommended literature or subject evaluation.
2. Extension of the study programme means, in particular, extension to another form of study, specialization, extension to cooperation with another workplace and the right to carry out a study programme in another language.
3. RVK decides on the modification or extension of the study programme by a resolution of the RVK. The proposal to modify or expand the study programme is submitted in writing to the RVK by the dean of the relevant faculty or the deans of the relevant faculties if the program takes place at more than one faculty, or by the director of the university pedagogical or research department if the program takes place at the university. The submitter of the proposal for the modification or extension of the study programme is

obliged to submit the opinion of the OZŠP and any other documents that s/he will request with regard to the nature of the modifications or extension of the study programme of the RVK.

4. After discussing the proposal, the RVK will issue and deliver to the submitter a resolution approving or rejecting the modification or extension of the study programme. RVK justifies the rejection of the proposal.
5. Resolution of the RVK according to par. 4 of this article of the UPJŠ Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ is final.

Article 5

Suspension and cancellation of the study programme

1. Suspension of the implementation of the study programme means that it is not possible to admit applicants for the study programme, to take state examinations in it and to create another study programme in the relevant field of study and level of study.
2. It is possible to suspend the implementation of the study programme by the:
 - a) decision of the SAAVŠ according to § 27 ZVSK,
 - b) decision of the RVK.
3. The RVK decides on the suspension of the implementation of the study programme if it finds that the study programme does not meet the standards, while the identified shortcomings can be eliminated by modifying the study programme. In such a case, the RVK shall invite the submitter in writing to submit a proposal for the modification of the study programme in accordance with Art. § 27 ZVSK.
4. After the suspension of the implementation of the study programme, the submitter of the study programme, in co-operation with the OZŠP, shall submit either a proposal for the modification of the study programme which will create a precondition for meeting the standards or a proposal for cancellation of the study programme.
5. After discussing the proposed modification of the study programme, the RVK will issue and deliver to the submitter:
 - a) a decision on granting consent to the submitted proposal for modification of the SAAVŠ study programme in the case of the study programme suspended by SAAVŠ,
 - b) a decision on the approval of the modification of the study programme and the lifting of the suspension to carry out the study programme after the implementation of the modification in the study programme suspended by the RVK, or
 - c) a decision to reject a proposal to amend the study programme, stating the reasons and a request for the submission of a new proposal to amend the study regulations, stating in the decision the time limit for submitting a new proposal, no more than twice.
6. Decision of the RVK according to par. 5 of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ is final.
7. After the approval of the proposed modification of the study programme and the consent of the RVK with the submission of the proposed modification of the study programme of the SAAVŠ according to par. 5 letter b) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ, the Rector is obliged to submit a proposal to the SAAVŠ without undue delay.
8. Cancellation of the study programme shall be ordered by SAAVŠ pursuant to para. § 28 ZVSK or RVK.
9. The RVK shall order the cancellation of the study programme if:

- a) the applicant does not propose to modify the study programme within the set time limit after the suspension of implementation,
 - b) the RVK rejects the proposal to modify the study programme according to para. 5 letter c) of this article of the Accreditation Rules of UPJŠ, or
 - c) the applicant himself requests the cancellation of the study programme.
10. With the entry into force of the decision on the cancellation of the study programme, the teaching of the subjects of the canceled study programme is stopped and no state examinations may be held in it.
11. The submitter of the canceled study programme is obliged to ensure for students enrolled in the study of this programme the opportunity to continue their studies in the study programme carried out in the relevant field.

Article 6 Final provisions

1. This internal regulation was approved by the Scientific Board of UPJŠ in Košice on 26.02.2021 after discussion by the Academic Senate of UPJŠ in Košice on 17.12.2020.
2. This internal regulation shall enter into force on the day of its signing by the Rector of UPJŠ.

This is the English language translation of the original Slovak language version of internal regulation and is not an authorized translation. In the event of inconsistency or discrepancy between the Slovak language version and the English translation of this internal regulation, the original Slovak language version prevails.

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prof. RNDr. Pavol Sovák, CSc.
Chairman of the Scientific Board of UPJŠ in Košice

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prof. RNDr. Pavol Sovák, CSc.
Rector of UPJŠ in Košice