

At its 221st session on 17 November 2025, the Council of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, on the basis of point three of Article 68 and point three of paragraph fourteen of Article 70 of the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 56/25), adopted the following

CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF CREDITS UNDER THE ECTS

Article 1

(Contents)

These Criteria shall determine the allocation of credits to study programmes under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (hereinafter: ECTS) and the minimum share of elective contents in study programmes, and allocation of credits to short-term education and training courses for obtaining microcredentials.

These Criteria shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to higher vocational colleges.

Article 2

(Purpose of the credit system)

ECTS is a system for the accumulation and transfer of credits. Its purpose is to improve the transparency and comparability of systems and study programmes, facilitate student mobility and mutual recognition by content and difficulty of related (comparable) study requirements completed, and to facilitate labour market access.

A credit is a unit of measure for evaluating the average amount of work done by the student to acquire competences and learning outcomes as defined in the study programme, taking into account the Slovenian and European Qualifications Frameworks.

The ECTS shall also allow for the recognition of work carried out in an organised manner outside the formal education system (such as short-term education and training courses for obtaining microcredentials and other forms of lifelong learning) and shall be aimed at acquiring knowledge, skills and competencies.

Article 3

(Credits)

One credit shall correspond to 25 to 30 hours of average student workload (hereinafter: student workload); the annual student workload shall range from 1,500 to 1,800 hours, except for time-adjusted study, where the annual student workload may be lower.

Within a given study programme, each credit must represent the same number of student workload hours across all courses in the curriculum. This provision shall not apply to the elective part of the curriculum offered to students from other study programmes.

Student workload shall include different forms of contact hours and other organised forms of study (lectures, seminars, practical classes, clinical practical classes, practical training, research, in-class observations, performances, fieldwork, etc.), and individual work of a student.

The balance between individual forms of contact hours and other organised forms of study and individual student work shall be specified in the syllabi.

A student shall be awarded credits upon completing all study requirements specified in the syllabus for a particular course.

Article 4

(Allocation of credits to study programmes)

Professional higher education study programmes and university study programmes shall comprise 180 or 240 ECTS credits and last three or four years.

Master's study programmes shall comprise 60 or 120 credits and last one or two years; however, together with the first-cycle study programme, they shall last five years and comprise 300 credits.

Integrated master's study programmes shall comprise 300 credits and last five years, or – if required by European Union directives – comprise 360 credits and last six years.

The duration of study under study programmes that lead to qualifications for professions regulated by European Union directives must be in line with such directives.

Doctoral study programmes and university study programmes shall comprise 180 or 240 credits and last three or four years.

Supplementary study programmes shall comprise a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 60 credits.

Higher vocational study programmes shall comprise 120 credits and last two years.

Article 5

(Allocation of credits by year, semester and study programme components)

Study programmes shall be designed in such a way that 60 credits are allocated to each individual year of the study programme, with 30 credits normally allocated to a semester.

The number of credits necessary to complete an individual programme component (i.e. course, module, field, practical training, etc.) must be evident from the curriculum.

Individual components of the curriculum must be allocated at least three credits.

In allocating credits to practical training, students must complete 20 hours in a work setting to earn one credit, with five to ten hours allocated to preparation and related

activities. When the scope of practical training is determined by European Union directives, the allocation of credits to practical training shall be determined in accordance with the relevant directives.

A field of a study programme shall comprise a minimum of 60 and a module shall comprise a maximum of 30 credits.

Allocation of credits to parts of study programme with decimal numbers shall not be allowed.

Credits shall be allocated to a thesis or graduation project where these are envisaged in the study programme, although in such a way that the total number of credits for an individual study programme does not exceed the number determined in Article 4 of these Criteria.

Article 6

(Allocation of credits to short-term education and training courses for obtaining microcredentials)

Short-term education and training courses for obtaining microcredentials shall comprise from one to nine credits.

Article 7

(Evaluation of student workload)

A university or independent higher education institution shall set out, in the statutes or other general act, the procedures for the participation of students or other stakeholders in the monitoring, assessment and verification of the actual student workload. The implementation of these procedures shall be verified in the context of external evaluation of a study programme.

After the introduction of a new study programme or a new field, the actual student workload must be verified every academic year until the graduation of the first enrolled generation, and thereafter periodically in accordance with the rules of the internal quality assurance system of the higher education institution, but at least every three years.

A description of the methodology of verifying student workload (e.g. student surveys, focus groups, time-use analyses, interviews) shall be part of the internal quality assurance system rules adopted by a higher education institution, and the self-evaluation report of a study programme must contain the results of verification of these workloads and any measures taken.

Article 8

(Criteria for compulsory and elective programme components)

Taking into account the characteristics of the field of study of a study programme and the scientific research or artistic fields on which the study programme is based, and taking into account the cycle and type of a study programme and its internal structure (fields,

modules, single-discipline or two-discipline study, regulated professions, etc.), ratios between compulsory and elective components of the study programme shall be defined, with elective components accounting for at least ten per cent. Students may also select elective components from other study programmes.

Article 9

(Facilitation of student exchanges and transfer of credits)

The higher education institution shall adopt the following documents (standardised forms) for facilitating student exchanges and transfer of credits as well as for obtaining credits: application form of student, transcripts of records and learning agreement.

The forms of documents referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be published at the higher institution's websites and shall enable the digital interoperability of data and, in accordance with European standards for the digital portability of academic records, be interoperable with the ESC (European Student Card), ESI (European Student Identifier) and EMREX systems.

The higher education institution shall fully recognise all credits that the student earned while studying abroad, provided they were agreed upon in the learning agreement and confirmed in the transcripts of records.

Article 10

(Transitional provision)

The Criteria for the Allocation of Credits to Study Programmes under the ECTS (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 67/19) and the Criteria for the Allocation of Credits to Study Programmes under the ECTS (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 45/94) shall cease to apply upon the entry into force of these Criteria.

Higher education institutions shall align their internal quality assurance systems and study programmes with these Criteria within one year of the entry into force of these Criteria.

Article 11

(Entry into force of the Criteria)

These Criteria shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following their publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

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Ljubljana, 17 November 2025.

Dr Boris Dular
president of the Council

of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency
for Higher Education