



DIRECTIVE No. 227

Rules for the Creation, Modification, Approval and Cancellation of the Joint Study Programmes at the University of Žilina

Discussed by: UNIZA Academic Senate on 7 February 2022

Approved by: UNIZA Scientific Board on 17 February 2022

Effective from: 17 February 2022

Article 1 Introductory Provisions

1. This directive was issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 (1) (b), Section 51 (4) (o) and Section 54 (a) of Act No. 131/2022 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on the Change and Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Higher Education Act") and in accordance with Section 23 (6) (c) and Section 36 (2) of Act No. 269/2018 Coll. on Quality Assurance in Higher Education and on Amendment and Supplementation of Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Quality Assurance in Higher Education Act").
2. This Directive establishes the rules for the creation, modification, approval, and cancellation of joint study programmes at the University of Žilina (hereinafter referred to as "UNIZA") in accordance with Directive No. 204 - Rules for the Creation, Modification, Approval and Cancellation of Study Programmes at the University of Žilina.
3. The general rules for the creation and approval of a new joint study programme, as well as the cancellation of a joint study programme shall be governed by Directive No. 204 with the addition of the particularities in accordance with Article 2 of this Directive and recommendations in accordance with Article 3 of this Directive.
4. A joint study programme is a unique study programme which was created on the basis of cooperation of two or more universities, partners in the Slovak Republic or abroad, and which is accredited in accordance with the rules valid in the countries of the cooperating universities, partners.
5. A joint study programme is conducted at universities/among partners in the same field of study, in a combination of two or more fields of study, or a joint study programme is conducted as an interdisciplinary study.
6. Joint study programmes are a unique opportunity for the development of internationalisation at UNIZA.

Article 2 Particularities for Joint Study Programmes

1. Universities, partner institutions that provide a joint study programme may only be those that have been recognized as higher education institutions by the competent authorities of the countries where they are registered.
2. At the same time, the legal orders of the respective countries allow them to participate in a joint study programme and, where appropriate, to award a joint degree.
3. Universities, partner institutions that award the respective degree or degrees shall ensure that the relevant degree or degrees belong to the higher education degree system of the country in which the universities, partner institutions have their seat.
4. All cooperating universities and partner institutions participate in the creation and provision of a joint study programme, in admission decisions and in decisions on the fulfilment of the conditions for the proper completion of study.
5. The basic rules and conditions of cooperation between universities and partner institutions providing a joint study programme are contained in a written agreement, which contains:
 - a) admission conditions of the study programme,
 - b) conditions for its completion,
 - c) details on the organization of the study, methods and rules of examination and evaluation of students, as well as the rules for the recognition of credits,
 - d) details on student and teacher mobility rules,
 - e) details on the academic degree awarded,
 - f) details on documents on completion of study,
 - g) details on the coordination and responsibility of the participating universities and partner institutions in the field of organization, provision, management, and financing of the joint study programme,
 - h) the validity of the internal regulations of the university, the partner institution for the study of the joint study programme,

- i) deciding on the academic rights and obligations of students in accordance with the internal regulations of the university and the laws of the country in which the study is carried out.
6. In case of joint study programmes, the university, partner institution guarantees the involvement of teachers for the relevant part of the joint study programme, which it ensures according to the following rules:
- a) The university guarantees for the joint study programme teachers whose qualifications, workload distribution, level of results of research, artistic and other activities, practical experience, pedagogical skills, and transferable competences enable the achievement of learning outcomes, and whose language skills correspond to the languages implemented in the joint study programme. Their number and working capacity correspond to the number of students and the personnel requirements of the educational activities.
 - b) The professional qualification of the teachers providing a joint study programme is at least one degree higher than the qualification attained upon its completion. This requirement may be waived in justified cases, such as foreign language lecturers, teachers providing practice, experts from practice and doctoral students.
 - c) Profile study subjects are normally provided by university teachers in the position of professor or associate professor who work at the university in the relevant field of study or related field for the established weekly working time.
 - d) In joint study programmes with a focus on professional education, profile study subjects are also provided by university teachers who are experienced professionals from the relevant sector of the economy or social practice, and who work at the university, partner institution for established weekly working time or shorter working time. Based on the above, the sustainability of the staffing of the profile subjects of the joint study programme in terms of the age structure of the teachers is guaranteed.
 - e) The university or partner institution has a designated person who has the relevant competences and bears the main responsibility for the implementation, development and quality assurance of the joint study programme or otherwise defined integrated part of the study programme and ensures the profile subject. This person shall act in the position of professor in the relevant field of study for the established weekly working time. In case of a bachelor's degree study programme, he/she shall act in the position of professor or associate professor in the relevant field of study for the established weekly working time. At the same time, this person does not bear the main responsibility for the implementation, development, and quality assurance of the study programme at another university in the Slovak Republic. One person may bear the main responsibility for the implementation, development, and quality assurance of a maximum of three study programmes.
 - f) Persons who supervise the final theses perform active creative activity or practical activity at the level corresponding to the degree of the study programme in the subject matter of the professional and thematic focus of the supervised theses. Supervisors of dissertation theses are persons in the position of professor or associate professor or other similar position in a research institution contractually cooperating in the provision of a third-degree study programme with a university or a partner institution.
 - g) Teachers of the study programme develop their professional, language, pedagogical, digital skills, and transferable competences.
7. On the part of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as "SAAHE"), in accordance with "Addendum No. 01 to the Standards for the Study Programme", the requirements set out in Art. 2 to 11 of the SAAHE Standards for the Study Programme shall apply accordingly to the assessment of joint study programmes. In order to meet the requirements of demonstrating the level of research, artistic and other activity set out in Article 7(1) of the SAAHE Standards for the Study Programme, the university providing the relevant part of the joint study programme shall submit 15 outputs of teachers providing profile subjects in the relevant part of the joint study programme.

Article 3
Recommendations for Joint Study Programmes

1. The creation of joint study programmes is mainly governed by the assessment of:
 - a) The university, partner institution as a reputable educational and/or scientific research institution in its home country, where it is registered. A reputable institution provides evidence of accreditation in its home country in accordance with the relevant legislation and/or conditions of accreditation in its home country, or by having a certified/accredited internal quality assurance system for higher education.
 - b) The university, the partner institution, and the joint study programme itself, which is created with partner/partners with whom there is a demonstrably long-term cooperation in written form, which takes the form of an agreement lasting at least 3 years.
 - c) Compliance of the focus of the joint study programme with the long-term plan of the university and/or faculty, as well as of the partner institution/partner institutions.

Article 4
Final Provisions

1. This Directive was discussed by the UNIZA Academic Senate on 7 February 2022.
2. This Directive was approved by the UNIZA Scientific Board on 17 February 2022.
3. This Directive shall enter into force and effect on the date of its approval.

In Žilina on 17 February 2022

prof. Ing. Jozef Jandačka, PhD
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