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# HIGHER EDUCATION PROFILE IN KYRGYZSTAN

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## 1. National Higher Education Policy

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The Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous country in Central Asia. It is located along the Great Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean, with a total area of 198,500 square kilometers (76,641 square miles).

As of 01/01/2023, the population of the Kyrgyz Republic is 7.0 million people (considering the 2022 census data). Regarding the age structure of the population, more than a third (35%) of the total population are children and adolescents, 57% are people of working age and 8% are older than the working age (the National Statistics Committee data).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Kyrgyzstan was 723,122.2 million Kyrgyz Soms (KGS) in 2021 (590,042.4 million KGS in 2019).

Due to the high number of children and youth, education is a priority strategic area of state policy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Education in the Kyrgyz Republic is based on the principles enshrined in international treaties and covenants, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which are part of the legal system of the Kyrgyz Republic.

According to article 46 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, everyone has the right to education. The Law “On Education” specifies standards and requirements for receiving education. Graduates of mainstream schools, primary and secondary vocational education, as well as higher professional education (when getting second and subsequent higher professional education) can receive higher education.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic is the central executive body developing a unified public policy in the field of education, science and scientific and technical activities, exercising public control over the accessibility and quality of education and ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic for education.

### 1.1. Public policy principles in the field of education

The public policy in the field of education is aimed at the effective use of educational opportunities to achieve well-defined strategic goals and objectives of national importance.

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" has the following principles of the education policy:

- equal rights of all citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic to quality education;
- obligatory and free elementary, basic general and secondary general education for every citizen in public and municipal educational institutions;
- opportunity to receive free primary, secondary and higher professional education in public educational institutions within the requirements of the state educational standards;
- opportunity to receive education on a fee-paying basis, including in public

educational organizations;

- the humanistic nature of education, the priority of universal human values combined with national cultural wealth, the education in the spirit of civic consciousness, diligence, love of family, homeland and the environment, patriotism, and respect for human rights and freedoms;
- orientation to the achievements of domestic and world science and international experience;
- consistency and continuity of the educational process;
- independence of education from political and religious institutions;
- diversity of educational organizations by types and forms of education, upbringing, areas of activity, forms of ownership;
- the secular nature of education in state and municipal educational organizations;
- general accessibility of secondary general education, and correspondence of the education system to the levels and peculiarities of students' development and training;
- creation of conditions for continuous creative growth of especially gifted students;
- the opportunity for non-public education structures to function;
- academic freedom of educational organizations, academic honesty.

## **1.2. Education Development Program for 2021-2040 and action plans for its implementation**

In order to ensure the sustainable functioning and development of the higher education system, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic by its Decree "On Approval of the Program of Education Development in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040", as of May 4, 2021, #200, approved:

- the Education Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2040;
- the Action Plan for 2021-2023 for the implementation of the Education Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for the period 2021-2040

To develop the Program and Action Plan, an analysis of the implementation of the Education Development Strategy for 2012-2020 and three action plans for its implementation has been conducted.

Thanks to the activities of the Ministry of Education, education management authorities and the educational organizations themselves, a number of measures had been implemented, which made it possible to reform higher professional education in certain aspects:

- new layouts of state educational standards, lists of areas, specializations and normative terms of study, and the state educational standards themselves of the new generation have been developed;
- a mechanism for identifying and allocating grant places in higher education institutions only according to the applications from employers has been

introduced;

- a two-level structure of higher professional education has been introduced - bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as PhD qualification;
- the National Qualifications System has been developed;
- seven research institutes have been created at universities, and memoranda of integration have been signed at six universities and 17 research institutes;
- licensing and accreditation procedures have been separated, independent program and institutional accreditation on the principles of outsourcing has been introduced;

At the same time, it was noted that higher education has several unresolved issues, including:

- training of personnel in outdated specializations for the "receding" resource-intensive economy;
- outdated teaching methods, low threshold of receptivity to innovation by the teaching staff, which also negatively affects the quality of education, which often does not meet the requirements of the labor market and the needs of society;
- corruption in higher education, which has led to the replacement of the value of education with the value of just having a diploma of higher education;
- weak presence of science in the activities of higher education institutions and low efficiency of scientific research. The amount of funds allocated to science is 0.08% of GDP;
- obsolete material and technical base of universities, which does not correspond to the development pace of modern technologies;
- insufficient autonomy of universities, including in matters of education content and management, which does not allow universities to respond quickly to changing conditions.

Based on the problems identified, the sections dedicated to higher professional education of the Education Development Program and the action plan for its implementation for 2021-2023 were developed.

The most important measures for higher education have been identified as follows:

- improving the system of professional orientation of young people;
- improving the quality of education and modernizing its content in accordance with international trends and constantly changing requirements for graduates' competencies, which provides for broad involvement of employers in the process;
- transfer of the role of the main determinant and regulator of the content of the state educational standard to higher education institutions themselves, provided that it fully complies with the licensing and accreditation requirements;
- gradual transition to the regulation of the List of specializations by the National Qualifications System of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- creation of the National University Ranking Model as a launching pad for the

- preparation of universities to participate in international rankings;
- improving the system of independent accreditation based on the results of agency monitoring;
- increasing the scientific component in universities, reorientation of science to applied research, improving the quality of research activities and economic efficiency of research results, creation of creative laboratories, start-ups, research and innovation centers by universities.

Accordingly, the Action Plan for 2021-2023 specifies these measures, formulating objectives grouped in 4 focus areas:

- Focus area 6.1. Development of the leading universities of the republic to participate in the world rankings of universities.
- Focus area 6.2. Structure and content of higher professional education programs
- Focus area 6.3. Improving the qualification of staff
- Focus area 6.4. System of quality assurance of higher professional education

Each focus area contains measures, allowing to solve the objectives of higher education.

### **1.3. National Qualifications System**

Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Amendments to the Law "On Education" as of June 14, 2019, #71. The concepts of "National Qualifications System", "National Qualifications Framework", "Sectoral Qualifications Framework" were introduced in the Law. That was the impetus for the development and implementation of measures to implement the National Qualifications System.

The National Qualifications System (NQS) is a set of mechanisms to ensure the interaction between the areas of education and the labor market, including the national qualifications framework, sectoral/industry qualifications frameworks, professional and state educational standards and procedures for their recognition, systems of evaluation of qualifications, educational organizations and programs.

The NQS was developed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the TEMPUS "QUADRIGA projects: Qualifications Framework in Central Asia: Bologna Principles and Regional Coordination", European Union and ADB project "Sector Development Program: Skills for Inclusive Growth" as well as the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Migration.

The Concept of the national qualifications system in the Kyrgyz Republic was approved by the Decree #505 of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, as of September 30, 2019, as part of the implementation of the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, approved by the Decree #221 of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic as of October 31, 2018.

The objectives of the Concept are:

- increasing the demand for workers' qualifications from the labor market and supply of qualifications from the education system;
- formation of approaches to the development and implementation of the national system that ensures the recognition of learning, including the means of development and operationalization of the national policy on qualifications, institutional mechanisms, processes, quality assurance, assessment and processes of awarding and recognition of skills, and other mechanisms that link education and training with the labor market and civil society.

The main interrelated elements of the national qualifications system are:

- the national qualifications framework;
- professional standards and procedures for their recognition;
- sectoral/industry qualifications frameworks;
- systems of qualifications assessment.

#### **1.4. National Qualifications Framework**

The central element of the national qualifications system is the National Qualifications Framework, which is a document containing a generalized description of qualification levels and is designed for various user groups (employers, their associations, educational authorities, educational organizations, citizens).

To implement the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, the National Qualifications Framework was approved by the Decree #491 of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Approval of the National Qualifications Framework" of September 18, 2020.

The National Qualifications Framework defines a single scale of qualification levels for the development of sectoral/industry qualifications frameworks, professional standards, which provides inter-sectoral comparability of qualifications and is the basis for the system of compliance confirmation and assignment of qualifications of specialists.

The main elements of the National Qualifications Framework are: levels of qualifications, descriptors of qualification levels, as well as labor intensity, to achieve the qualification level in the formal training.

Qualification levels are defined taking into account:

- learning outcomes;
- establishment of clear links between the requirements of the labor sphere to the employees' performance of the labor functions and the requirements for the evaluation of the employees' compliance with these requirements;
- establishment of a clear link between the levels of qualifications in the national qualifications framework and the descriptors of the levels of the European Qualifications Framework, the qualifications framework of the European Higher Education space;

- transparency of the methods for inclusion of qualifications in the national qualifications framework;
- cumulative principle aimed at the recognition of prior learning based on the results of formal, non-formal and informal learning.

Qualification levels are established and described through descriptors. Descriptors contain information about the appropriate requirements for the student at each educational level and characterize the learning outcomes. Descriptors are designed in terms of knowledge, skills and personal competencies.

<b>Level <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Personal competencies (1 - independence, 2 - responsibility, 3 - communication)</b>
6	Has a broad range of integrated general and professional knowledge, including critical understanding of theories and principles in the field of work and learning	Has a broad range of methods, including innovative methods, skills in selecting and application to solve complex problems in work and learning, as well as critical thinking	1 - manages complex activities and processes 2 - is responsible for making decisions in unpredictable work or training environments and for managing the professional development of individuals or groups. Participates in expert groups and the development of strategic development plans. 3 - conducts business communication and maintains partnerships relationships

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<sup>1</sup> Qualification levels: 6 - Bachelor's degree, 7 - Master's degree, 8 - Postgraduate education (programs leading to the qualification of Candidate of science, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD/Doctor of a specific profile), 9 - Postgraduate education (Post-Doctorate qualification).

7	Has specialized knowledge and methods of scientific research in the field of work or study, as well as general and professional knowledge in related fields	Has specialized skills in solving strategic problems and issues for scientific research and/or innovative professional activities, production of new knowledge for original ideas and/or scientific research	<p>1 - manages and transforms a complex unpredictable work or learning environment with innovative approaches.</p> <p>2 - is responsible for making decisions in unpredictable circumstances. Evaluates strategic group performance.</p> <p>3 - organizes the activities of expert/professional groups/organizations, presents the results of their work. Conducts professional discussions at the level of specialized and related industries. Solves communication problems in all areas of activity</p>
8	Possesses the most advanced knowledge in the field of work or of learning in related fields	Possesses the most advanced and specialized skills and techniques, including synthesis and evaluation needed to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation, and to expand and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice	<p>1 – demonstrates independence, innovation, scholarly and professional integrity and a sustained commitment to developing new ideas or processes in advanced areas of professional activities or learning, including research.</p> <p>2 - is responsible for the implementation of its research findings at</p>

			the institutional level and/or industry-wide. 3- Leads research or professional teams in solving complex or interdisciplinary tasks.
9	Has the latest comprehensive industry and interdisciplinary knowledge of research and innovation in the professional field	Has skills in methodological, programmatic, and research problem solving related to improving the efficiency of production and research processes	1 - Demonstrates a high level of independence in scientific activity. 2 - is responsible for the result of implementation of own research and research of scientific team, as well as for their economic effect on the industry, country, and at the international level. 3 - demonstrates the ability of strategic management of large scientific and/or production teams, as well as training of scientific staff

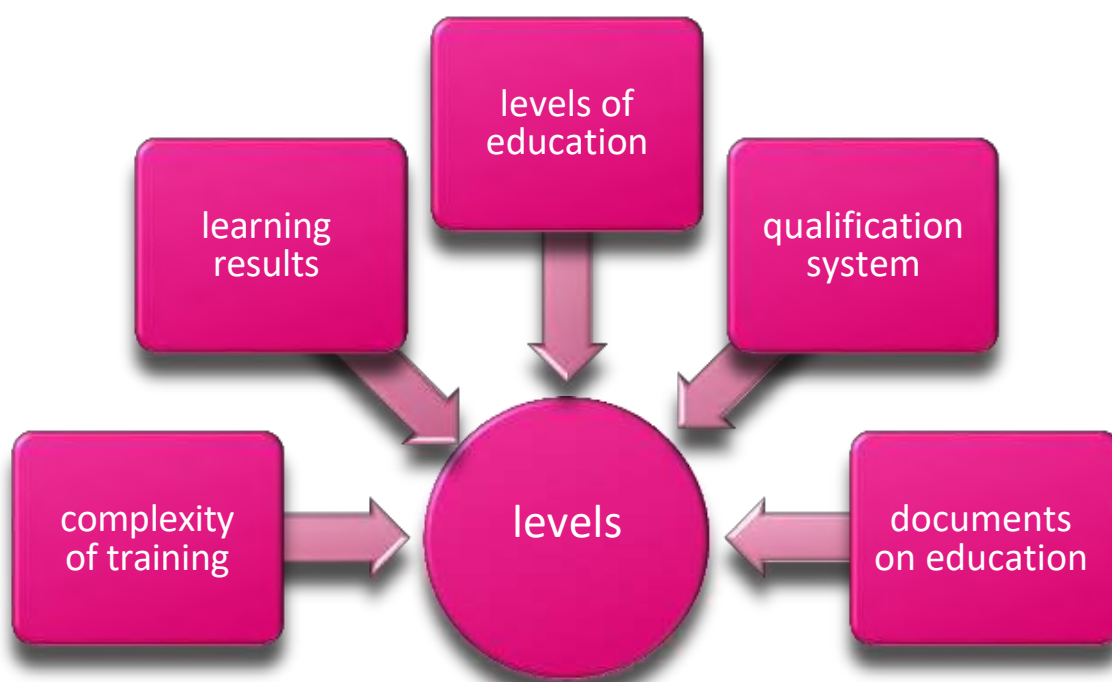
The national qualifications framework specifies the workload required to achieve a qualification level within formal education.

<b>Labour intensity</b>	<b>Level</b>
240 credits	6
60-180 credits	7
180-240 credits	8
Not Determined	9

Comparability of the national qualifications framework of the Kyrgyz Republic with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Bologna Qualifications Framework (QF-EHEA) is given in the following table:

<b>NQS KR</b>	<b>EQF</b>	<b>QF-EHEA</b>
9	8	Third cycle
8		
7	7	Second cycle
6	6	First cycle

Thus, the following attributes are taken into account in determining the levels of the national qualifications framework of the country:



Increasing the qualification level allows expanding the acquired competencies, which ensures advancement in the labor market and increases the level of freedom and responsibility in professional activity.

### 1.5. Sectoral Qualifications Framework

The National Qualifications Framework is the basis for the development of sectoral qualifications frameworks, thus ensuring inter-sector comparability of qualifications.

Sectoral Qualifications Framework is a constituent part of the national qualifications system, which is a generalized description according to the established indicators of qualification levels within the industry/sector, recognized by the leading organizations in this industry.

The purpose of the sectoral qualifications framework is to formulate the requirements to the existing qualifications in the industry/sector based on the national qualifications framework taking into account the industry/sector development strategy, development of maps of professions and positions by qualification levels, establishment of inter-industry connections through related occupations (professions and positions).

Based on the qualifications descriptors defined in the national qualifications framework, the sectoral qualifications framework "Education" was developed on the basis of the PHK in 2020.

Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF, "part "R" section: 85 "Education") is systemic and level-structured by description of the recognized qualifications in

the industry.

- I. The document describes the goals of the industry as "Formation of knowledge, skills and personal competencies of the learner for the interests of society" and contains a List of positions, professions of the industry: ORK001P85 "Education"<sup>2</sup>.
- II. The Sectoral Qualifications Framework also contains a description of the Structure of the Industry Qualifications Framework for Industry Positions and Occupations ORK001P85 "Education".

It includes an indication of the qualification level, describes the knowledge, skills, personal competencies required for certain positions and indicates the minimum required level of qualifications according to the National Qualifications Framework for a certain position, and the ways of achieving this level of qualification (through formal, non-formal and informal education)

### 1.6. Professional standards

A professional standard is an integral part of the national qualifications system and contains a description of the qualification level an employee must meet to rightfully occupy a position in any company, regardless of its profile, including:

- labor functions of an employee in accordance with his/her qualifications and position (functional analysis);
- requirements for his/her experience and knowledge, skills, competencies necessary for the successful performance of these labor functions.

The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic established and approved the structure, rules for the development, examination, recognition, implementation and application of professional standards<sup>3</sup>.

In 2019 - 2021, professional standards for all levels of education of the Kyrgyz Republic were developed within the sectoral qualification framework "Education"<sup>4</sup>.

- professional standards of a teacher - primary vocational education, secondary vocational education, higher professional education;

Professional standard is understood as a characteristic of the content of labor functions and requirements for the qualifications of an employee required for the performance of his/her job. The professional standard for a teacher of higher vocational education has a code **R85.4.2310**

The professional standard defines a list of labor functions of an employee of a higher education organization:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://mlsp.gov.kg/#>

<sup>3</sup> Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated July 15, 2021, # 77 "On approval of the Methodology for the development of a professional standard and the Methodology for the development of an industry qualifications framework"

<sup>4</sup> Register of professional standards of the Kyrgyz Republic: Electronic resource// URL: <https://mlsp.gov.kg/reestr-professionalnyh-standartov-2/>

Code	Name of generalized labor functions	Qualification level	Name of labor functions	Code	Qualification level
A	Pedagogical activity to design and implement the educational process in educational institutions of higher professional education	7	Teaching and learning;	A1.	7
			Methodological support for the implementation of educational programs;	A2.	7
			Conducting scientific research;	A3.	7
			Creation of conditions for social and communicative development of students;	A4.	7
			Studying the requirements of the labor market and students to the quality of education in educational organization of higher professional education and conducting career guidance activities.	A5.	7
<b>General/Cross-Cutting Functions</b> B 1. Establish pedagogically appropriate relationships with colleagues and students; B 2. Use digital technologies in the educational process;					

- B 3. Comply with the requirements of labor protection, industrial sanitation and fire safety;
- B 4. Develop professionally throughout life.

Further, the standard contains a description of each of the labor functions.

Based on the requirements of competencies demanded on the labor market and enshrined in professional standards, the state educational standards of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as internal and external systems for ensuring the quality of educational programs and the education process itself, will be closely interconnected with them.

### **1.7. Qualification assessment systems**

The National Qualification Council was established in the Kyrgyz Republic, in accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated July 15, 2021, #78.

The purpose of the National Qualifications Council is to coordinate the activities of state bodies, employers, public and private educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and local communities in planning, implementing and monitoring the development of the national qualifications system.

The main objectives of the Council are:

- ensuring the implementation of the national system of qualifications;
- monitoring and evaluation of activities related to the national qualifications system;
- development of proposals for determining the main areas of training that are priorities for the economy of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- cooperation and support to the subjects involved in the implementation of the national qualifications system, and ensuring the quality of vocational education;
- coordination of consultations at the national and international levels on the issues of the national system of qualifications;
- taking measures to train the personnel of entities involved in the implementation of work to introduce the national qualifications system;
- cooperation with subjects involved in the process of implementation of the national qualifications system of the Kyrgyz Republic, including international organizations, bodies and institutions of other countries.

One of the functions of the Qualifications Council is "methodological - the development of elements of the national qualifications system (industry/sectoral frameworks, professional standards, assessment tools, etc.) for comparability of results".

At the same time, an Action Plan for the development of the national qualifications system in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2022-2024<sup>5</sup> was developed, which noted the need to:

- develop and approve of the regulatory legal framework governing the qualifications assessment system in the Kyrgyz Republic, including:
- development of by-laws for the creation, accreditation and operation of independent centers for assessing qualifications
- accreditation of independent qualification assessment centers
- monitoring, evaluation and analysis of the activities of independent qualification assessment centers

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<sup>5</sup> Action Plan for the Development of the National Qualifications System in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2022-2024  
[https://equality.inaqa.com/media/attach/2022/08/17/%D0%9F%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD\\_%D0%BF%D0%BE\\_%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%8E%D0%9D%D0%A1%D0%9A%D0%B2%D0%9A%D0%A0\\_%D0%9A%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%AD.\\_17.08.22.pdf](https://equality.inaqa.com/media/attach/2022/08/17/%D0%9F%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD_%D0%BF%D0%BE_%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%8E%D0%9D%D0%A1%D0%9A%D0%B2%D0%9A%D0%A0_%D0%9A%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%AD._17.08.22.pdf)

## 2 Higher education system

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**Higher professional education:** training, retraining of specialists of the appropriate level of educational programs and standards.

Higher professional education includes the training and retraining of bachelors, specialists and masters to meet the needs of an individual in deepening and expanding education based on secondary general, secondary vocational and higher vocational education in accordance with the national system of qualifications.

Post-university professional education involves the implementation of training programs for scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel with academic degrees of Candidate and Doctor of Science, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/ Doctor of a specific profile.

The training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel, as a rule, is carried out through applicants, postgraduate studies, postgraduate studies, doctoral studies and basic doctoral studies (PhD / Doctor of a specific profile), created in educational organizations of higher professional education and scientific institutions.

### 2.1. Educational standards and the areas of training they implement.

The development and implementation of State educational standards for all levels of education is regulated by Article 5 of the Law "On Education". It notes that "State educational standards in the Kyrgyz Republic are established for all levels of education: ... higher professional education. State educational standards determine the principles, structure, maximum amount of learning load for students, requirements for the level of training of graduates at different levels of education and the competencies they acquire"

To integrate higher professional education into the international educational space, the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the establishment of a two-level structure of higher professional education in the Kyrgyz Republic" dated August 23, 2011, #496 was adopted, which established the transition from the 2012-2013 academic year to a two-level structure higher professional education, with the assignment of academic degrees "bachelor" and "master", with the exception of some majors.

That Decree approved:

- Models of the State educational standard of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic in training of "bachelor", "master", models of the state educational standard in various specializations.
- A list of areas of training for higher professional education, confirmed by awarding academic degrees to graduates.

According to the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, as of December 30, 2019, #718, changes were made to the models of state educational standards for higher professional education, and new educational standards were

developed and approved (2021).

The documents note that “The State Educational Standard of Higher Professional Education is a set of norms, rules and requirements that are mandatory for the implementation of basic educational programs in the specialization ... and is the basis for the development of educational and organizational and methodological documentation, assessing the quality of mastering the basic educational programs of higher professional education by all educational organizations of higher professional education, regardless of their form of ownership and departmental affiliation, having a license in the relevant specialization on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.”

The new standards give universities more freedom to develop their core curriculum, allowing them to respond more quickly to labor market needs.

However, until now, educational standards do not correlate with professional standards.

## **2.2. Types of educational programs, forms and technologies of education**

According to the Law “On Education”, professional (basic and additional) educational programs are being implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Professional educational programs are aimed at consistently improving the professional level, training specialists of appropriate qualifications.

Professional programs include:

- higher professional education programs; (bachelor's, master's, specialist's degree); postgraduate professional education; (Candidate of Science, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Doctor of a specific profile, Doctor of Science); additional professional education. (training and retraining of personnel).

Educational programs are mastered taking into account the needs and capabilities of students in the following forms: full-time, part-time (evening and shift), part-time.

The following teaching technologies are used in the universities of the country:

- technology of traditional education;
- information and communication technologies;
- distance educational technologies, etc.

An educational organization is independent in the choice of educational technologies.

## **2.3. Educational organizations of higher professional education**

According to Article 12 of the Law "On Education", educational organizations include organizations ... of higher (institute, academy, university, conservatoire, etc.) professional education.

When established, an educational organization, disregarding exceptional cases, receives the following initial status: ... in higher professional education - an institute. The founders of public higher professional education organizations are the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the authorized state body in the field of education of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministries and state committees.

Educational organization of higher professional education (hereinafter referred to as the university) is an educational and scientific organization established in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" in order to implement professional educational programs of higher, postgraduate and additional professional education, as well as programs of secondary vocational and secondary general education .

Higher educational institutions include institutes, academies, universities and specialized higher educational institutions (conservatoire, higher military educational institution, etc.).

**Institute** is a higher education institution or a structural subdivision of a university, academy, which (which):

- implements educational programs of higher education and educational programs of postgraduate education;
- provides training, retraining of specialists, advanced training of workers with higher education, training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel for a certain area of professional activity;
- carries out scientific research of both fundamental and applied nature in the field of training specialists.

**Academy** is a higher education institution which:

- implements educational programs of higher and postgraduate education in the fields of scientific activity;
- performs fundamental and applied research in the fields of science or culture;
- provides training, retraining of specialists, advanced training of workers with higher education, as well as training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel;
- is a scientific and scientific-methodological center for the sectors of its activity.

**A university** is a higher education institution which:

- implements programs of higher and postgraduate education in a wide range of areas (specializations) of training;
- conducts fundamental and applied research in a wide range of sciences;
- provides training, retraining of specialists, advanced training of employees with higher education, as well as training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical employees (candidates and doctors of science);
- is a scientific and scientific-methodological center according to the profile of its activities.

**A specialized university** (conservatoire, higher military school, etc.) is a specialized profile university which:

- implements educational programs of higher education and educational programs of postgraduate professional education;

- provides training, retraining and advanced training of employees with higher education, scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel for a certain area of professional activity;
- performs applied scientific research.

According to the Law "On Education", the status of an educational organization (type, kind and category determined in accordance with the level and focus of educational programs being implemented) is established (confirmed) upon its accreditation.

- Certain state educational organizations that make a significant contribution to the upbringing, training, professional development of the individual may be assigned the status of "National" according to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

According to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, there is the following number of higher professional education institutions:

<b>Total:</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Higher professional education institutions	51	51	55	57	60	78

**Of them:**

Public higher professional education institutions:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Higher professional education institutions	35	34	38	40	42	33

Private higher professional education institutions:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Higher professional education institutions	16	17	17	17	18	45

In terms of departmental affiliation, public universities are subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Defense of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Transport and Roads of the Kyrgyz Republic, etc.

The following inter-state universities operate in the republic: Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University named after the first President of the Russian Federation B. N. Yeltsin; Kyrgyz-Turkish University "Manas".

Private universities include: International University of Kyrgyzstan, Asian Medical Institute named after S. Tentishev, Kyrgyz-Russian Academy of Education; Eastern University named after Mahmud Kashgari-Barskani, Ala-Too International University and others.

## **2.4. Creating a new type of higher education institutions**

To ensure the quality of higher professional education and the development of university science, the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, as of July 18, 2022, #243 “On measures to increase the potential and competitiveness of educational institutions of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic” was adopted.

To implement the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated July 29, 2022, #417 “On the reorganization of the Institution “Kyrgyz National University named after Zhusup Balasagyn” and the Institution “Kyrgyz State Law Academy (KSLA)” was adopted.

Also, to implement the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted Resolution No. 414 of July 29, 2022 "On some issues of reorganization of higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic". According to this the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture named after N. Isanov (KSUCTA) and the Kyrgyz State University of Geology, Mining and Natural Resources Development named after U. Asanaliev (KSMI) were reorganized by merging into the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (KSTU).

Also, according to the decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kyrgyz Economic University named after M. Ryskulbekov received the status of a research university. The Academy of Business and Social Development and the Bishkek Financial and Economic College named after A. Toktonaliev joined the Kyrgyz Economic University named after M. Ryskulbekov.

The Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated November 21, 2022, #654 “On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on giving a special status to public higher educational institutions” indicates the changes made to a number of previously adopted documents, including those related to ensuring the work of higher educational institutions having a special status.

According to the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, a special status implies a wide organizational, financial and academic autonomy granted to the following universities:

- Kyrgyz National University (KNU) named after Zh. Balasagyn;
- Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU) named after I. Razzakov;
- Kyrgyz National Agriculture University (KNAU) named after K.I. Skryabin;
- Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA) named after I.K. Akhunbaev;
- Osh State University (OshSU).

To consolidate financial, material and intellectual resources, increase the potential and competitiveness of public educational institutions of higher professional education, they were reorganized by merging with higher education institutions that have identical areas of training bachelors and masters.

Higher education institutions with a special status are granted broad autonomy

in educational activities, in particular:

- to implement educational programs of higher professional and postgraduate professional education on the basis of independently established educational standards and requirements;
- to independently develop and approve the admission rules for studying the areas of bachelor's training and specializations.

Accordingly, the higher education institutions mentioned in the Decree are given the objective of entering the list of the top **500 QS Asia** universities in the world.

To do this, it is necessary to bring the universities that have received a special status to the university model 4.0, i. e. to ensure the quality of education, scientific and entrepreneurial activities at the world level, create a university ecosystem of a new format with a variety of research and creative projects, free space for creating innovations, multilateral platforms for technological breakthroughs and generation of advanced business ideas, as well as the development of educational programs that meet the requirements of the market, a rational system for managing scientific research.

To achieve these goals, universities introduce new specializations that will be in demand in the labour market; there should also be a transition from the list of specializations/ areas of training to the requirements determined by the National Qualifications System.

## **2.5. All-Republican Testing (ART)**

Nationwide testing has been carried out in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2002. Its objective is transparent testing for school graduates applying for state grants to study at universities and training on a contract basis (since 2012).

To expand the opportunity of obtaining higher professional education for citizens of Kyrgyzstan, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted a resolution “On approval of regulatory legal acts in the field of higher and secondary vocational education of the Kyrgyz Republic” dated June 30, 2022, #355, paragraph 8 of which reads: “Selection and enrollment of applicants - citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic and citizens of other states - to universities, regardless of their organizational and legal forms (forms of ownership and departmental subordination) for training in educational programs of higher professional education are held twice a year: in summer and winter periods.

Universities admit students in winter for places that remain vacant after summer admission provided that the students will pay tuition fees”.

Based on a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Education and Science issued an order "On approval of the schedule for conducting rounds of selection and enrollment of applicants as part of the winter admission for the 2022-2023 academic year". Winter ART to higher educational institutions takes place in December-January 2022/2023.

In 2023, 1,260 people took part in ART winter testing. 70% of them managed

to receive the required number of points. According to the results of the winter ART, students can be enrolled only on a fee basis.

According to the data of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, there were the following number of students in higher educational institutions (persons):

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Higher professional education institutions	161 406	164 585	183778	214 157	230206	231 394

**Cohorts of students in higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic for the academic year of 2021-2022 (by industries)**

Industry	number of universities providing training in the industry specialization		Cohorts of students						% of total number of students
	Public universities	Non-public universities	on a grant basis	at the expense of grants from other countries	On a fee basis			Total number of students	
					Full-time	Non-resident	Part-time		
Technosphere safety	7	1	458	0	633	213	0	1304	0,6%
Mining industry	8	1	757	55	1101	1999	0	3912	1,7%
Natural sciences	8	2	209	145	798	220	0	1372	0,6%
Computer technologies	20	15	1616	431	8628	4432	2234	15341	6,6%
Industry (light, food, processing, chemical, machine-construction, etc.)	13	1	1123	405	2663	1379	0	5570	2,4%
Communications	3	1	213	44	371	400	0	1028	0,4%
Construction	7	1	928	282	2399	1826	0	5435	2,3%
Transport	11	1	309	42	1220	2625	0	4196	1,8%
Physics-Mathematics	5	0	216	100	278	29	0	623	0,3%
Environment	9	1	223	122	289	235	0	869	0,4%
Energy	12	2	407	28	1596	3287	0	5318	2,3%
			6459	1654	19976	16645	234	44968	19,4%

## **2.6. Labor market analysis to determine the need for qualified personnel**

Decrees of the Government/Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the list of specializations and the volume of admission of students to higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic on the basis of state educational grants”, approved for each new academic year, are developed considering the consolidated forecast of the need for personnel, compiled by the authorized state body in the field of labor, as well as on the basis of applications from universities, taking into account the contracts for the training of specialists signed with employers.

An analysis of the forecast for the need for labor resources for 2021-2025 shows that the need for the Kyrgyz Republic until 2025 is 62,256 specialists, of whom 37,972 people should have higher professional education.

According to a survey of employers and territorial employment services, the forecast of professions for 2021-2025 shows the dynamics of the number of professions in demand and the need to improve the level of education and qualifications compared to previous years.

Based on the results of the forecast of the labor resources need, there is a trend in the demand for qualified specialists with higher education, including professions in short supply in the labor market, and demand for the prospect of new professions, taking into account digitalization.

Employers have highlighted the need for information and communication technologies specialists, teachers of subject disciplines in the education system (elementary school, Russian language, physics, chemistry, music, physical culture, English, etc.), specialists in general medicine and pediatrics in healthcare, social workers in the service sector, workers in food technology and processing industry, agronomy and veterinary medicine, specialists in communication networks.

To provide personnel for the education system, taking into account new needs, there was issued an order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic” dated July 8, 2022, #1383/1, “in order to expand the invariance of professional educational programs for the training of specialists, considering world practice, conducting an experiment to improve the organization of the educational process and the content of education”. Higher education institutions are allowed to implement experimental training programs at the junction of various areas for pedagogical specializations (for example, a teacher of history, law and religious studies, a teacher of mathematics, physics and computer science, etc.).

Employers have made proposals for the development of professions in the future: milk processing technologist, wool processing technologist, vegetable processing technologist, insemination technologist, food industry technologist, sewing production technologist, etc.

To improve the quality of education, connect universities with production and encourage the creation and development of business projects, the order of the

Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic #925/1, dated May 18, 2022, approved the Standard Regulations on the Business Incubator of an Educational Organization and the Action Plan for the Creation and Development of business incubators and StartUp projects in educational institutions. 30 startups participated in the acceleration program of the republican competition "Startup Kyrgyzstan". The activities of business incubators have been launched in 11 universities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

## **2.7. Students**

According to Article 46 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, "Everyone has the right to education".

Article 7 of the Law "On Education" requires "to create the necessary socio-economic and legal conditions for obtaining free, competitive, ... higher professional and postgraduate professional education in public educational organizations within the public contract and educational standards, if a citizen receives the education of this level for the first time".

Access to higher professional education is possible with a certificate of secondary general education, a diploma of secondary vocational education or a diploma of higher professional education (when receiving a second, third, and so on higher education).

People with secondary vocational education of the relevant profile can receive higher professional education under accelerated programs.

People with higher professional education can receive second and third higher professional education under accelerated programs.

Higher education institutions, regardless of their organizational and legal forms, forms of ownership and departmental subordination, independently develop, approve and agree with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic annual rules for admission on the basis of the "Procedure for admission to higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic", approved by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated June 30, 2022, #355. Based on this resolution, a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated July 12, 2022, #368 "On approval of the List of specializations and the volume of admission of students to higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic on the basis of state educational grants for 2022-2023 academic year" has been issued.

Higher education institutions with a special status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On measures to increase the potential and competitiveness of educational institutions of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" have the right to "independently determine the number of students and approve the student admission plan, considering the available space and other existing conditions of the university".

People with secondary general and secondary vocational education are admitted to the first year at higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

People with an officially recognized diploma of higher professional education of various levels are admitted to subsequent courses.

People with an officially recognized diploma of secondary vocational education of the relevant profile are admitted to the subsequent courses of the relevant majors.

People with a state diploma of higher professional education "bachelor" or "Specialist" are admitted to master's programs.

Education of foreign citizens in the higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic is carried out in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, based on international agreements that have entered into force in the prescribed manner, to which the Kyrgyz Republic is a party, as well as based on agreements between educational organizations or with individual citizens. Agreements between higher education institutions and partners providing intermediary services in various countries of the world for the selection of foreign citizens in universities of the Kyrgyz Republic must be agreed with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic before announcing admission to the university.

The main criteria for admission to the higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic, regardless of their organizational and legal forms, are the level of knowledge and abilities of the applicant.

## **2.8. Social protection of students**

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" establishes that the State creates conditions for learning by providing students with educational premises, equipment, dormitories, allowances, material assistance, benefits for food and transport, medical care and rehabilitation, in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, textbooks (for people studying the expense of the republican and local budgets, scholarships in the manner and amount determined by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic).

Social educational loans can be provided for people studying in educational institutions of higher professional education and postgraduate professional education.

People studying in educational organizations with non-resident form of learning, distance learning technologies within the framework of higher professional education, are entitled to additional benefits provided in the manner prescribed by the labor legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic,

Students of higher educational institutions that have a license or official accreditation are entitled to a deferment from conscription for active military service.

Champions and prize-winners of the Olympic Games, World Championships and champions of the Asian Games are accepted without admission examinations (exams, testing and interviews) to public and municipal educational organizations of secondary vocational and higher professional education for training (bachelor's,

master's) and specializations in the field of physical culture and sports.

Athletes with sports titles "Master of Sports of the Kyrgyz Republic", "Master of Sports of the Kyrgyz Republic of international class" enjoy a priority right when entering public and municipal educational organizations of higher professional education.

Athletes with the sports category "Candidate for Master of Sports", sports titles "Master of Sports of the Kyrgyz Republic", "Master of Sports of the Kyrgyz Republic of International Class" enjoy a priority right when entering public and municipal educational organizations of secondary vocational education.

Higher education institutions independently provide benefits to orphans and persons with disabilities.

## **2.9. Bachelor's and Master's qualification levels**

In order to integrate higher professional education into the international educational space and improve the efficiency of the use of budgetary funds, the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the establishment of a two-level structure of higher professional education in the Kyrgyz Republic", dated August 23, 2011, #496, beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, established a two-level structure of higher professional education in the country (bachelor-master), except for some specializations.

At present, the said Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the following list of areas of training for higher professional education, which is confirmed by the assignment of a qualification "bachelor" or "master" to a graduate:

- ☐ physics and mathematics sciences and fundamental informatics;
- ☐ natural sciences;
- ☐ humanities;
- ☐ social sciences;
- ☐ pedagogical education;
- ☐ health care;
- ☐ culture and art;
- ☐ economics and management;
- ☐ information security;
- ☐ service sector;
- ☐ agriculture and agricultural sciences;
- ☐ geodesy and land management;
- ☐ geology, exploration and development of mineral deposits;
- ☐ energy and electric power industry;
- ☐ materials science, metallurgy and mechanical engineering;
- ☐ weapons and armament systems;
- ☐ transport equipment and technologies;
- ☐ instrumentation;
- ☐ electronics, radio engineering and communications;

- ☐ automation and control;
- ☐ computer engineering and information technologies
- ☐ chemical technology and biotechnology;
- ☐ reproduction and processing of forest resources;
- ☐ technology and production of food products and consumer goods;
- ☐ architecture and construction;
- ☐ technosphere safety, environmental management and hydrometeorology;
- ☐ military education.

For admission to the undergraduate level, applicants must have an officially recognized certificate of general secondary education or a diploma of secondary vocational (or higher professional) education. The master's program requires candidates to have an officially recognized diploma of a bachelor's or specialist's qualification.

University graduates who have fully mastered the educational program of training at the bachelor's and master's levels and successfully passed the state final attestation receive a diploma of higher education and, accordingly, receive the qualification "bachelor" or "master", respectively. The final state attestation includes state examinations and/or defense of the final qualifying work, and for the qualification "Master" - a dissertation work.

## **2.10. "Specialist" qualification level**

Specialist is a qualification level of the higher professional education, giving the right to enter graduate school and (or) basic doctoral studies (PhD/by profile) and carry out professional activities.

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the establishment of a two-level structure of higher professional education in the Kyrgyz Republic" dated August 23, 2011, #496, also established the following list of specializations of higher professional education, confirmed by the assignment of the qualification "specialist" to a graduate:

- Humanities (Clinical psychology, Forensic examination, Translation and translation studies, Customs, Pedagogical education, State language in educational institutions with a non-Kyrgyz language of instruction);
- Health care (General Medicine, Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing care);
- Culture and art (Art history, Theater history, History and theory of choreographic art, Musicology, Film studies, Cinematography, History and theory of fine arts, Instrumental performance (by types of instruments), Vocal art (by types of vocal art), Conducting (by types of performing groups), Composition, Variety music (by type), Sound engineering (by application), Acting art, Directing (by the areas of application), Theatrical and decorative art, Choreographic art, Choreographer's directing, Choreography pedagogy, Design, Interiors and equipment, Decorative Applied art and folk crafts, Monumental and

decorative art, Painting, Graphics, Sculpture, Literature creativity, Folk art, Social and cultural activities, Book business, Museum business and protection of monuments);

- Engineering sciences (Information security);
- Agriculture (Veterinary);
- Geodesy and land management (Applied geodesy);
- Geology, exploration and development of mineral deposits (Applied Geology, Geological Exploration Technology, Mining, Physical processes of mining or oil and gas production);
- Architecture and construction (Construction and operation of railways, bridges and transport tunnels);
- Technosphere safety (Fire safety);
- Interdisciplinary specializations (Sectoral economics);
- Materials science, metallurgy and mechanical engineering (Non-ferrous metallurgy);
- Transport equipment and technologies (Railway rolling stock).

Students have the right to choose several courses during the study time allocated for elective subjects provided for in the curriculum.

To enter the specialist training program, applicants must have an officially recognized certificate of general secondary education or a diploma of secondary vocational (or higher) education.

Upon admission, applicants basically must meet the same requirements as for admission to the undergraduate program.

University graduates who have fully mastered the educational program for training specialists and successfully passed the state final attestation receive a diploma of higher education and an academic degree of "specialist". The final state attestation includes state examinations and/or defense of the thesis.

### **2.11. "Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Doctor of a specific profile" qualification level**

Postgraduate professional education involves the implementation of training programs for scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel with academic degrees of Candidate and Doctor of Science, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/ Doctor of a specific profile.

The procedure for organizing postgraduate professional education is determined by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Basic doctoral studies (PhD /by profile) are a postgraduate professional scientific and educational program that ensures the integration of educational activities and scientific research, which trains a highly qualified specialist with the award of a doctor of philosophy (PhD)/ doctor of a specific profile qualification based on the results of a public defense of a dissertation.

According to the definition in the Law "On Education", "Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/ Doctor of profile is the qualification level of postgraduate professional

education (basic doctoral studies), giving persons who have completed the relevant curriculum and research work with the defense of a dissertation, the right to carry out scientific and other professional activities”.

The training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel, as a rule, is carried out through studies for fellow applicants, postgraduate studies, postgraduate military courses, doctoral studies and basic doctoral studies (PhD /by profile), created in educational organizations of higher professional education and scientific institutions.

The scientific degrees of Candidate of Science and Doctor of Science are awarded by the state attestation body based on a petition from the dissertation council, according to the results of the public defense of the dissertation by an applicant. The qualification of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Doctor of a specific profile is awarded according to the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The academic titles of senior researcher, associate professor and professor are awarded by the state attestation body on the basis of the decision of the academic (scientific and technical) council of a higher educational institution (research institute) on the submission for the award of an academic title.

Piloting of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Doctor of a profile programs was carried out from 2013 to 2017 in 7 higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated December 11, 2020, #601 “On approval of acts regulating the preparation of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/ Doctor of a profile”, approved:

- Regulations on the procedure for organizing postgraduate professional education (basic doctoral studies (PhD)/by profile) and awarding the qualification of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) / Doctor of a profile
- Minimum requirements for accredited educational programs for the training of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) / Doctor of a profile

The "Regulations" approved the procedure for the implementation of programs for the preparation of Doctors of philosophy (PhD)/doctors of a profile in educational organizations of higher professional education and scientific institutions, which establishes the procedure for receiving and organizing training, awarding qualifications and issuing diplomas, as well as the requirements for a PhD dissertation, its protection and to learning outcomes and implementation conditions.

The curriculum for basic doctoral studies (PhD)/ by profile) is developed and approved by the university or scientific institution.

The complexity of the program is from 180 to 240 credits, depending on the specific characteristics of the program. At least 60 of the total number of credits are allocated for the study of academic disciplines. The workload of the research work is at least 120 credits, including practice and/or internships for various purposes, as well as all types of attestations, including the public defense of a PhD dissertation.

"Regulations on the organization of postgraduate professional education" has the following requirements for doctoral students:

- during the study, the doctoral student is obliged to publish, at least, two scientific publications reflecting the scientific results of the dissertation research in scientific editions with a non-zero impact factor indexed by the international systems WEB of Science and Scopus.
- a doctoral student must have a foreign research internship or practice for a period of, at least, one month during the study.

Members of the jury established at universities decide to award the qualification of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Doctor of a profile to a doctoral student who has fully completed the curriculum, successfully defended a PhD dissertation. The student receives a diploma.

## 2.12. Basic educational program

The basic educational program (hereinafter referred to as the BEP) is a set of educational and methodological documentation that regulates the goals, expected results, content and organization of the implementation of the educational process in the corresponding area of training.

The following tables provide the requirements for the structure of the basic educational program, established in the state educational standards. Based on these requirements, higher education institutions develop their curricula taking into account the needs of the labor market.

<b>The structure of the BEP training for bachelors</b>		<b>The volume of BEP training for bachelors and its sections in credits</b>
Section 1	I. Humanities, social and economic cycle II. Mathematics and natural science cycle III. Professional cycle	165-215
Section 2	Internship	15-60
Section 3	Final state attestation	10-15
The volume of the BEP for the training of bachelors		240

<b>The structure of the BEP training for masters</b>		<b>The volume of BEP training for masters and its sections in credits</b>
Section 1	Subjects (modules)	60-90

Section 2	Internship	20-40
Section 3	Final state attestation	10-20
The volume of the BEP for the training of masters		120

<b>BEP structure by specialization</b>		<b>The volume of the BEP by specialization and its sections in credits</b>
Section 1	I. Humanities, social and economic cycle II. Mathematics and natural science cycle III. Professional cycle	185-260
Section 2	Internship	25-90
Section 3	Final state attestation	10-25
<b>BEP volume by specialization</b>		<b>300</b>

Universities determines independently the set of disciplines (modules) and their labor intensity, which relate to each section of the BEP by specialization, in the volume established for the section, taking into account the requirements for the results of its development represented by learning outcomes provided for by the national qualifications framework.

### **2.13. Assessment of students**

Assessment of the quality of training of students and graduates should include current, intermediate and final state attestation. Bases of assessment tools are developed and approved by higher education institutions according to the educational standard in the area of study (specialization).

Assessment of students can be carried out according to the point-rating system.

Assessment is aimed at identifying the level of formation of competencies in each student, enshrined in the standard according to the area of training (specialization).

The requirements for attestation of students and graduates, for the content, volume and structure of final qualifying works are determined by the university, considering the Regulations on the final state attestation of university graduates.

### 3 Teaching staff

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Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "Regulations on the educational organization of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated February 3, 2004, #53, approved the positions of the scientific and pedagogical staff (professional and teaching staff, researchers), engineering, technical, administrative, economic, assistant, service and other staff of universities.

The faculty of a higher education institution includes assistant-lecturers, lecturers, senior lecturers, associate professors, professors, heads of departments, deans of faculties.

The admission and dismissal of the teaching staff in public universities is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Regulations on the procedure for filling positions of the teaching staff of higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated May 29, 2012, #346.

University teachers without appropriate scientific degrees who have at least 10 years of scientific and pedagogical work - for a professor, and 5 years – for associate professors may be admitted to fill the vacant positions of the teaching staff of higher education institutions - deans of faculties, heads of departments, professors (for universities of art, physical culture, military educational institutions and departments of foreign languages and physical culture), provided that they have published scientific papers, teaching aids and delivered lectures at the proper scientific, theoretical and methodological level.

In private higher education institutions, the recruitment criteria are determined by local acts. Employment is based on an employment contract.

The quantitative and qualitative indicators of the teaching staff are regulated by state educational standards for educational programs of higher professional education and licensing requirements. The number of teaching staff for the programs is determined according to the teacher/student ratio.

#### 3.1. The right to engage in teaching activities

According to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Education”, people who have received the necessary education and relevant pedagogical qualifications have the right to engage in pedagogical activities.

People without pedagogical education and qualifications have the right to engage in pedagogical (teaching) activities in the following cases:

- they are taking a retraining course;
- they teach classes in the form of private tutoring and trainings.

People with education, as a rule, not lower than a master's are allowed to teach in organizations of higher professional education.

Universities that have a special status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic “On measures to increase the potential and

competitiveness of educational organizations of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic” have the right to independently determine the procedure for filling the teaching staff positions.

People with a criminal record or medical contraindications, the list of which is determined by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, are not allowed to teach.

Deprivation of the right to engage in pedagogical activity is conducted in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **3.2. Rights and duties of teachers**

Teachers have the right to:

- free choice of methods and forms of organization of pedagogical activity;
- introduce best pedagogical practices;
- protect their dignity and professional honor;
- require appropriate conditions for professional activities;
- improve their professional level and qualifications at the expense of the government in accordance with the procedures approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Teachers must:

- observe the norms of pedagogical ethics;
- ensure the mastering of educational programs by students at a level not lower than the requirements of state educational standards;
- to develop independence, creative attitude to learning, to form high moral standards of behavior among students;
- constantly improve their professional level and improve their skills, at least, once every 5 years;
- prevent the use of emotional, mental, physical violence against children.

It is also prohibited by law to involve teachers of educational organizations in political events.

### **3.3. Social protection of employees in the education system**

Wages and official salaries are paid to an employee of an educational organization for the performance of functional duties and work stipulated by an employment contract. The performance of other work and duties by the employee is paid under an additional agreement based on the scope of work, with the exception of cases provided for by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The terms of remuneration for employees of public and municipal educational organizations are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Within the limits of the funds for remuneration at their disposal, educational organizations may independently establish differentiated bonuses to wages for employees conducting scientific research and providing training for scientific and pedagogical personnel.

Pedagogical workers working in educational institutions located in rural areas are provided with an additional payment in the manner determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Within the limits of available funds for wages, an educational organization may establish bonuses for employees, other types of material incentives and compensation, as well as allocate funds for the acquisition of educational, methodological and scientific literature.

Employees of educational organizations are required to undergo a free outpatient medical examination annually at public medical institutions.

### **3.4. Advanced training and retraining of faculty**

The advanced training and retraining of the teaching staff are regulated by the Regulation on additional professional education in the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated February 3, 2004, #53.

Advanced training is carried out as necessary but, at least, once every 5 years during the entire working experience of employees. The frequency of advanced training is established by the employer.

Advanced training and professional retraining of specialists is carried off-the-job, on-the job, partially off-the-job and according to individual forms of training. The terms and form of advanced training and professional retraining are established by educational organizations in accordance with the needs of the customer based on a previously concluded agreement.

Additional educational programs for advanced training are implemented in the amount of 72 hours to update knowledge and competencies in accordance with the ever-increasing requirements of educational standards through short-term thematic training courses or participation in thematic and problematic seminars.

Extended education programs of more than 100 hours of training are implemented with the aim of in-depth study of current problems or the acquisition of professional skills.

Additional educational programs of professional retraining are implemented in the duration of more than 500 hours and provide the necessary knowledge and competencies to a specialist to perform a new type of professional activity within the existing professional education.

To expand qualifications and implement a new type of professional activity, training programs in the amount of more than 1000 hours are being implemented in addition to higher education with the assignment of additional qualifications based on the received specialization.

Additional educational programs can be implemented both on individual educational curricula and in the form of self-study.

As a rule, teachers take advanced training courses and seminars within and between universities. Trainings and seminars organized within the framework of international projects play a special role.

The following types of documents, which certify the completion of additional professional education are established in the Kyrgyz Republic: certificate and diploma.

## **4 Management of a higher education institution**

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The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" establishes the following principles of management of a higher education institution: democratization, decentralization, independence and self-government.

The co-management bodies of the university are the general meeting, the board of trustees and the academic councils.

The rector, director, head or other leader (administrator) are responsible for direct management of a higher education institution.

Heads of public higher educational institutions, except for heads of specialized public higher educational institutions, of the authorized state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of internal affairs, foreign affairs and defense, are appointed and dismissed by the authorized state body of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of education.

Heads of state higher educational institutions with the status of "National" are appointed and dismissed by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on the proposal of the head of the authorized state body of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of education.

The procedure for appointment and dismissal, including early dismissal, of heads of public higher educational institutions, as well as those with the status of "National", is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The heads of specialized public higher educational institutions of the authorized state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of internal affairs, foreign affairs and defense, are appointed and dismissed in the manner prescribed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Heads of public higher educational institutions are appointed for a term of 5 years. The same person cannot act as the head of a public higher education institution for more than 10 years in the same public higher education institution.

Qualification requirements for the position of the head of a public higher educational institution, including those with the status of "National", are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In case of dismissal of the head of a public higher educational institution, including those having the status of "National", the authorized state body in the field of education of the Kyrgyz Republic temporarily assigns the performance of this duties to one of the deputy heads until a new head is appointed. The acting head of a public higher education institution is not entitled to dismiss or appoint employees to positions.

The rector of a private higher education institution is appointed by the founder(s).

To implement educational programs, the heads of structural subdivisions of a higher education institution (dean of the faculty, head of the department) are appointed based on the results of the relevant competitive elections, and the heads of programs and departments are appointed by the rector.

## **5 Material and technical resources**

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To ensure the activities provided for by the charter, buildings, facilities and equipment are assigned to a public university on the basis of the right of operational management. The development of the material and technical resources takes place within the budgetary and own funds of the university assigned to it. The amount of expenses for the purchase of equipment and major repairs are determined by the university independently, without setting limits, based on the existing need and the availability of financial resources within the limits of income and expenses approved in the established manner.

The material and technical resources of public universities used in educational, research, production activities and for solving other problems in the field of education are not transferred to private individuals and organizations for free possession and use.

The property of a public university is not subject to expropriation to use for purposes other than education.

Higher education institutions that have a special status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On measures to increase the potential and competitiveness of educational organizations of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" have the right to:

- receive income from educational, advisory, research, publishing, production and commercial and other activities not prohibited by law and direct them to improve the activities and develop the material and technical base of the university;
- independently manage (alienate, change, lease) movable and immovable property acquired at the expense of special funds, as well as dispose of funds received from the lease of movable and immovable property, as agreed with the boards of trustees;
- provide the structural subdivisions of the university with the status of a legal entity with the right to incur financial costs associated with capital and current repairs, the development of the material and technical base assigned to them, which is not on their balance sheet, within the approved estimates of income and expenses of these subdivisions.

The founder (founders) transfers ownership or assigns buildings, structures, equipment to a private higher education institution. The material and technical resources of a private university are being developed at the expense of the founder and the university's own funds.

## 6 Funding of higher education

### 6.1. Funding of higher education institutions

Public universities are financed from the republican budget through the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Transport and Roads of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Public universities are funded in accordance with standard norms per student, based on the principle of a consistent increase in actual costs per student.

Currently, the funding standard per student (basic level of the state educational grant) of public universities is calculated in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Procedure for Funding Higher Professional Education Organizations of the Kyrgyz Republic from the Republican Budget Based on the Size of the State Educational Grant” dated July 1, 2016, #370.

The same resolution establishes correction factors to the basic level of the state educational grant for groups of areas of study (specializations), according to the table.

<b>№</b>	<b>Name of the group of areas of training (specializations)</b>	<b>Adjustment factor</b>
1	Education	1,00
2	Construction, economics and management, environmental studies, tourism	1,00
3	Energy	1,15
4	Mining, transport, agriculture	1,10
5	Health	1,50
6	Musical art	5,80
6-1	Fine arts	3,85
7	Culture, art (excluding music and fine arts)	2,70
8	Computer technologies, telecommunications and communications	1,20
9	Equipment, technological specializations	1,30

Along with funds from the budget, the sources of funding for the university are:  
– funds of individuals and legal entities, foreign states and citizens acting as

founders;

- own funds of the university, including in foreign currency, from advisory, research, publishing, production and other income-generating activities not prohibited by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as from extrabudgetary educational activities for all types of basic and additional educational programs, including within the requirements of state educational standards;
- voluntarily contributed funds of individuals and legal entities, voluntary donations and targeted contributions of other individuals and legal entities, including foreign ones;
- loans;
- other sources that do not contradict the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The main source of funding for higher education institutions, along with budgetary funds, are the funds from the training of personnel on a fee (paid) basis, which accounts for more than 80% of the total expenditures of universities.

The determining source of funding for private universities is the funds from the training of personnel on a fee (paid) basis, as well as the funds of the founders.

The funding standards for private universities cannot be lower than the funding standards for public educational organizations.

Attracting additional sources does not entail a reduction in the standards or absolute amounts of funding from the state budget.

The use by educational organizations of various methods of the educational process and educational technologies, including distance learning technologies, does not entail an increase in the standards for their financing.

Funds allocated to an educational organization from the state budget are controlled by the treasury. All other funds earned by the educational organization are controlled by the board of trustees and public institutions.

## **6.2. Staffing of universities**

The staffing of public universities at the expense of the budget is established by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the standard staff of organizations of secondary and higher professional education of the system of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic” dated November 20, 2015, #788.

With the parallel introduction of individual positions both at the expense of budget funds and at the expense of special funds, the number of staff units covered by the budget is determined in proportion to the number of students studying at the expense of budget funds to the common reduced contingent of students of the educational organization.

The principle of determining the number of staff units at the expense of budgetary funds, depending on the percentage of students studying at the expense of budgetary funds, to the total number of students is used in educational

organizations when determining the number of employees in a number of positions determined by the specified resolution.

Universities having a special status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On measures to increase the potential and competitiveness of educational institutions of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" have the right to:

- independently determine the procedure for filling positions of the teaching staff;
- independently determine the internal management structure and staffing levels in agreement with the boards of trustees;
- independently determine the status and name of the structural units of the university, the procedure for organizing their activities, as well as the requirements for their management and staff;

Staffing of private universities is determined by the university itself with the consent of the founders.

### **6.3. Remuneration**

The terms of remuneration for employees of public universities are determined by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the terms of remuneration for certain categories of employees in the education system" dated September 30, 2019, # 511.

According to Article 44 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education", public universities, with the consent of the boards of trustees, can establish additional payments to their employees at the expense of estimates of special funds.

The remuneration conditions of private universities are determined by an employment contract, but, according to Article 155 of the Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, they cannot be lower than the remuneration conditions for public universities.

Wages and official salaries are paid to an employee of an educational organization for the performance of functional duties and work stipulated by an employment contract.

Education employees receive additional payments:

- for the degree of Doctor or Candidate of Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/ Doctor of a profile - in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- for 5 years of teaching experience - at least ten percent, 10 years - at least twenty percent, 15 or more years - at least thirty percent of the salary.

Employees of higher education institutions receive additional payments provided for by the current legislation for work in high mountainous and remote areas, as well as for the titles of "Honored" and "People's".

Universities that have a special status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On measures to increase the potential and

competitiveness of educational institutions of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" have the right to:

- independently determine the share of funds allocated for wages, forms and amounts of payment, material incentives and financial assistance to all categories of university employees, as agreed with the boards of trustees;

#### **6.4. Tuition**

When determining the amount of tuition fees on a contract basis in universities, including private ones, the Regulation on the formation and application of tariffs for paid educational services in the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated May 18, 2009, #300, is applied.

According to paragraph 5 of the said Regulation, the price list of fees for paid educational services provided by the university, as well as its structural divisions, is approved by the head.

The state antimonopoly body of the Kyrgyz Republic controls the correctness of the formation and application of tariffs for paid educational services and compliance with the requirements of this Regulation.

#### **6.5. Financial support for students**

A student of a public university has the right to receive free higher education at the expense of a state grant.

Every year, at least 5,705 people are admitted to the country's universities at the expense of the state budget in accordance with Article 26 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education". In the 2022-2023 academic year, the state allocated 6,000 grant places for applicants.

Students of public universities studying on a budgetary basis with excellent grades, in accordance with the decree of the government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On establishing the amount of scholarships for students of public educational organizations of primary, secondary and higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated June 27, 2005, #261, receive scholarships.

According to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated June 24, 2022, #350 "On Amendments to the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Establishing the Amount of Scholarships for Students and Students of Public Educational Institutions of Primary, Secondary and Higher Professional Education of the Kyrgyz Republic", dated June 27, 2005, #261", 1. Establish the following amounts of scholarships for:

- students of higher professional education institutions with excellent grades - 800 soms, students of higher professional education institutions studying in pedagogical areas and having excellent grades - during the 1st year - 1000 soms, during the 2nd year - 2000 soms, during the 3rd year - 3000 soms , during the 4th year - 4000 soms;

According to the decision of the founders of private universities, in certain cases, scholarships are introduced for students, the amount of which is also determined by the founders.

Full-time students enrolled in the 3rd year under the bachelor's program and in the 4th year under the program of 5 or more years of study, by the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the Regulations on the appointment of the Presidential Scholarship for full-time students of higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated June 27, 2017, UE #124, may be awarded a Presidential Scholarship. This scholarship is personal and is awarded for one academic year on the basis of an open competition.

On May 10, 2022, the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic #146 established the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El umutu". The establishment of the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El Umutu" will allow citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic to study at foreign universities that are in the top 100 world rankings of higher education institutions according to the international rankings QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education. Scholarships will be allocated for master's and doctoral PhD programs in technical, engineering, economic, social and humanitarian areas of training.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, by its Decree #397 dated July 28, 2022, "On approval of regulatory legal acts regulating the procedures for awarding the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El Umutu", approved:

- the Rules for the selection of applicants for the award of the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El Umutu";
- the Rules for concluding an agreement (contract) for training with a scholarship holder of the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El Umutu";
- the model agreement for receiving the international scholarship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "El Umutu".

In 2022, the first nine scholarship holders entered the master's program at Columbia and Stanford Universities, Johns Hopkins University, as well as universities in London, Copenhagen, Pennsylvania and Texas.

## **7 Ensuring the quality of education**

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The main mechanisms for ensuring the quality of education are licensing and accreditation of educational activities.

### **7.1. Licensing**

According to the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Licensing System in the Kyrgyz Republic” and “On Education”, educational activities in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic are a licensed type of activity.

The main purpose of licensing is to issue a permit for educational activities and ensure the quality of education guaranteed at the level of state standards.

Higher education institutions begin the implementation of educational programs only after obtaining the appropriate licenses. The readiness to implement educational programs, including with the help of distance learning technologies, is established when issuing a license for the right to conduct educational activities.

When issuing a license, higher education institutions are subject to the following requirements, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the temporary regulation on the procedure for licensing educational activities in the Kyrgyz Republic” dated July 23, 2018, #334:

- compliance of the declared educational programs with the name, goals and main activities of the applicant;
- compliance of the material and technical and educational and methodological base, qualifications of teaching staff and staffing of an applicant higher education institution with the content of educational programs;
- the applicant has the right of ownership, operational management or economic management of equipped buildings, premises and territories (equipped classrooms, sites for practical training, facilities for physical culture and sports, food and medical service points) necessary for the implementation of educational activities according to the declared programs, corresponding to sanitary norms and rules, fire safety requirements.
- the applicant has educational and methodological documentation, educational and methodical literature and other library and information resources, as well as means to ensure the educational process according to the declared educational programs;

- the presence in the staff or involvement by the applicant on another legal basis of pedagogical workers, the number and qualifications of whom ensure the implementation of educational activities according to the declared educational programs;
- available conditions for the functioning of the electronic information and educational environment, including electronic educational resources, a set of information technologies, telecommunication technologies and related technological means, and ensuring the development of students regardless of their location of educational programs in full;
- availability of developed and approved curricula of educational programs;
- the availability of special conditions for education by students with disabilities (except for specializations and areas of training, for which there are specific requirements for the health of students that do not allow for the training of people with disabilities);
- availability of a clinical base for the implementation of medical educational programs.

The license for educational activities is perpetual, issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, indicating specific programs, terms and forms of education.

Compliance with licensing requirements by universities is monitored periodically through licensing control.

## **7.2. Accreditation**

In order to confirm the quality of the educational services provided, higher education institutions undergo institutional and (or) program accreditation.

Purposes of accreditation:

- assistance in improving the quality of education;
- independent assessment of educational organizations and educational programs for compliance with the approved criteria and procedures (not lower than the requirements of the State Educational Standards);
- informing the public about the results of an independent assessment of the quality of educational institutions and educational programs, as well as about the possibility of obtaining a quality education;
- promoting the recognition of documents on education and qualifications of the Kyrgyz Republic in the global educational space;
- stimulating the development of educational organizations and improving educational programs through continuous self-assessment and improvement.

Higher education institutions are accredited through recognized accreditation agencies, which are created in the form of non-governmental, non-profit organizations. Funding for the activities of accreditation agencies is carried out mainly at the expense of accreditation fees collected from universities and other sources not prohibited by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Recognition of accreditation agencies is carried out by the National Accreditation Council in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "Procedure for the recognition of accreditation agencies in the field of education" dated September 29, 2015, #670.

The National Accreditation Council is a consultative and advisory body functioning on a voluntary basis for collegial and public consideration of the issue of recognizing the activities of accreditation agencies.

The objectives of the National Accreditation Council are:

- consideration of applications from organizations and making an objective decision on recognition /refusal to recognize them as accreditation agencies;
- monitoring compliance by accreditation agencies with the requirements for their activities.

To ensure the quality of accreditation, the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of acts on independent accreditation in the education system of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated September 29, 2015, #670, approved:

- the procedure for the recognition of accreditation agencies in the field of education;
- the procedure for accreditation of educational organizations and programs;
- minimum requirements for accredited educational organizations of primary, secondary and higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated January 22, 2020, #18 "On Amendments to the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Approval of Acts on Independent Accreditation in the Education System of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated September 29, 2015, #670" made a number of editorial changes to this document and also supplemented it in terms of the requirement for experience in conducting accreditations, the number of experts who have the right to conduct accreditation, certified by international agencies, etc.

Higher education institutions to be accredited are subject to the following minimum requirements for:

- education quality assurance policy;
- development, approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of educational programs;
- student-centered learning and assessment of the progress of trainees (students);
- admission of trainees (students), recognition of the results of education and graduation of trainees (students);
- teaching and education support staff;
- material and technical and information resources;
- managing information and making it available to the public;
- planning and managing the financial resources of an educational organization.

Based on the results of accreditation, the agency makes one of the following decisions:

- on accreditation for a period of 5 years;
- on accreditation with comments (conditional accreditation);
- refusal of accreditation.

In case of accreditation with comments (conditional accreditation), the higher education institution must undergo the process of re-accreditation not earlier than one year later in the same agency.

Accreditation with comments (conditional accreditation) or denial of accreditation entails a license control procedure.

Under the conditions of an emergency situation/state of emergency or the occurrence of force majeure circumstances that impede the accreditation procedure, the agency may take the following decisions:

- on the extension of the previous accreditation for no more than 6 months;
- on the postponement of the accreditation procedure for no more than 6 months;
- on conducting the accreditation procedure online using remote technologies in the manner determined by the agency.

### Academic mobility

Academic mobility of students, undergraduates, graduate students, teachers is one of the important areas of international and educational activities of universities.

It is done to:

- ✓ improve the quality of higher education;
- ✓ increase the efficiency of scientific research;
- ✓ improve the management system;
- ✓ increase the competitiveness of graduates in foreign labor markets;
- ✓ improve the list of professional competencies by studying and mastering the experience of leading foreign universities;
- ✓ achieve international comparability of educational standards;
- ✓ attract foreign intellectual potential on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements with partner universities;
- ✓ establish external and internal integration links.

There have been high rates of academic mobility of teachers and students of Kyrgyzstan in recent years within the framework of cooperation in the field of education between Kyrgyzstan and the European Union, Japan (Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA), Germany (German Society for International Cooperation - GIZ and German Academic Exchange Service - DAAD ), as well as cooperation with China (student exchange programs through the Confucius Institute).

Many universities in Kyrgyzstan implement joint educational programs within the framework of intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements with universities in Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, etc., as well as with a network of universities of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Forms of academic mobility for university students are:

- ✓ training under student exchange programs in partner universities;
- ✓ training in joint educational programs implemented by the universities of Kyrgyzstan and a partner university;
- ✓ language and scientific internships;
- ✓ educational (research, industrial, pedagogical) internship (for the master's degree);
- ✓ participation in summer schools;
- ✓ participation in conferences, seminars, etc.
- ✓ internships for students and graduates within the framework of programs (contracts) of bilateral cooperation;
- ✓ educational, production, pre-qualification internship (for bachelor's degree).

For teachers, the forms of academic mobility are:

- ✓ participation in joint educational programs;
- ✓ participation in seminars, scientific schools and conferences, etc.;
- ✓ participation in joint projects;
- ✓ professional retraining;
- ✓ participation in the educational activities of the host country;
- ✓ provision of consulting and expert services in the field of education.

A huge and invaluable contribution to the internationalization of education is made by Erasmus projects within the EU-funded program. According to the “Erasmus+ for higher education in Kyrgyzstan” report (source: kyrgyzstan\_erasmusplus\_2020), students and education staff have been moving between European universities under the Erasmus program for more than 30 years.

Since 2015, the Erasmus+ program has introduced the possibility of short-term student mobility for periods of three to twelve months. In addition, there is an opportunity for the mobility of university staff for a period of five to sixty days. Also, between 2015 and 2020, in total 279 projects were implemented with the participation of Kyrgyz HEIs. As part of these projects, the number of mobility of students and staff during this time amounted to: to Europe - 800 people, to Kyrgyzstan - 341 people. The regional budget of Kyrgyzstan amounted to 15% of the total funding for mobility from Central Asia.

Joint Master programs provide EU-funded scholarships that cover tuition, travel and living expenses. Programs last from one to two years, during which students study in, at least, two different European countries and receive a joint, double degree.

Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/1505>

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Education”

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/1216?cl=ru-ru>

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the licensing and permit system in the Kyrgyz Republic"

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/205058>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the Education Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040” dated May 4, 2021 #200

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/158226>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the National Qualifications Framework" dated September 18, 2020, # 491

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98203>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the Concept of the National Qualifications System in the Kyrgyz Republic” dated September 30, 2019, #505

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157130?cl=ru-ru>

Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "Methodology for the development of a sectoral qualifications framework" dated July 15, 2021, #77

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/158556>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the model staff of organizations of secondary and higher professional education of the system of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated November 20, 2015, #788

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98203>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the establishment of a two-level structure of higher professional education in the Kyrgyz Republic" dated August 23, 2011, #496

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/92802>

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the model staff of

organizations of secondary and higher professional education of the system of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated November 20, 2015, #788

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98203>

Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the conditions of remuneration of teachers and certain categories of employees in the education system” dated March 30, 2022, #181

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/159046>

Regulations on the educational organization of higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic.

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/55077?cl=ru-ru>

Regulations on the final state certification of graduates of higher educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/96042>

Regulations on the National Accreditation Council under the authorized state body in the area of education

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/96715>

The procedure for recognizing accreditation agencies in the area of education

<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98207?cl=ru-ru>

The procedure for accreditation of education organizations and programs

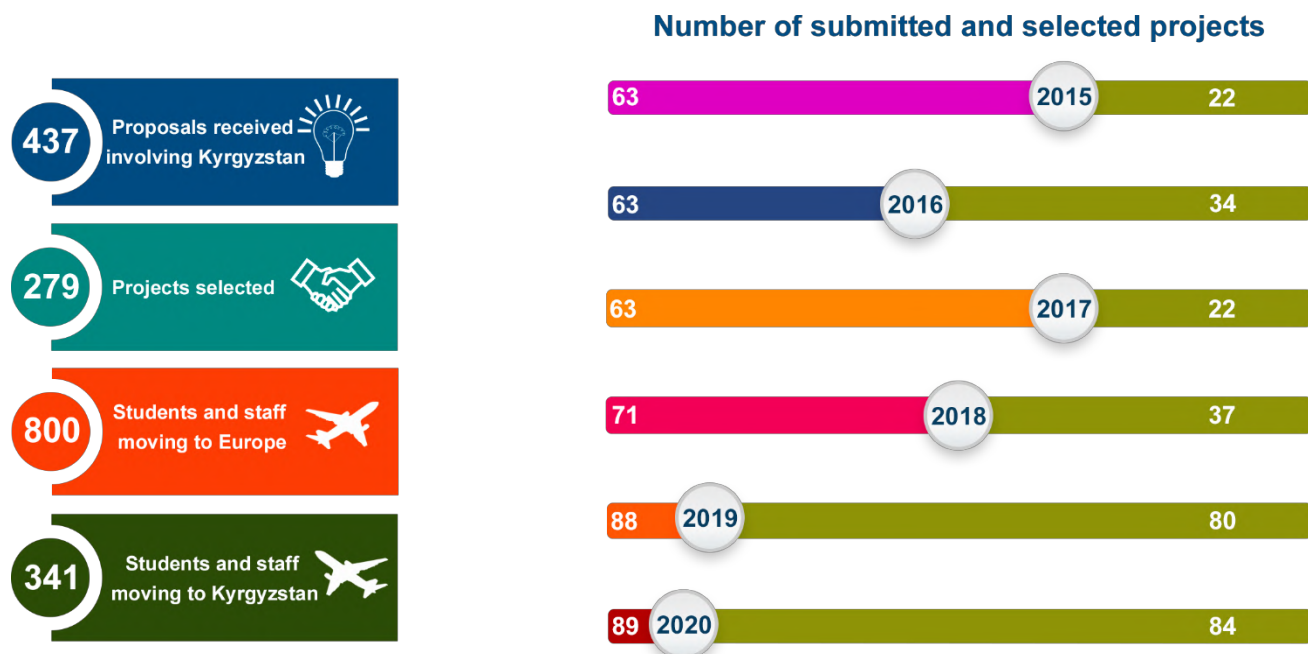
<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98208?cl=ru-ru>

Minimum requirements for accredited educational organizations of primary, secondary and higher professional education of the Kyrgyz Republic

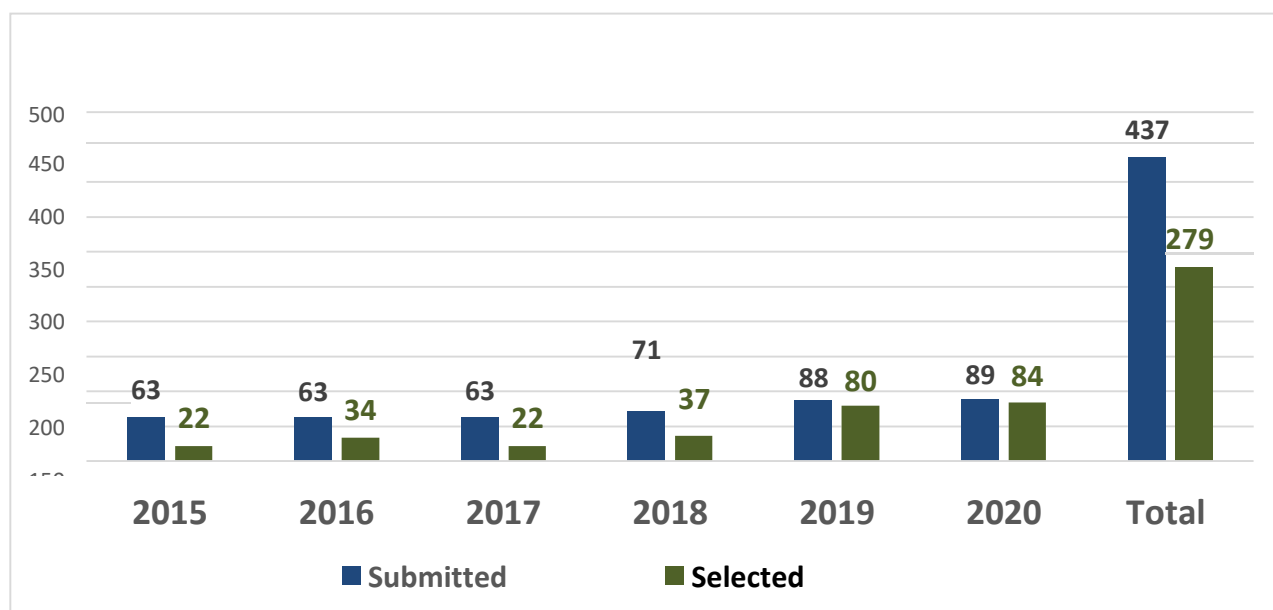
<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98206>

## 10 Statistics of participation of Kyrgyz HEIs in the Erasmus+ program

### International Credit Mobility (ICM)



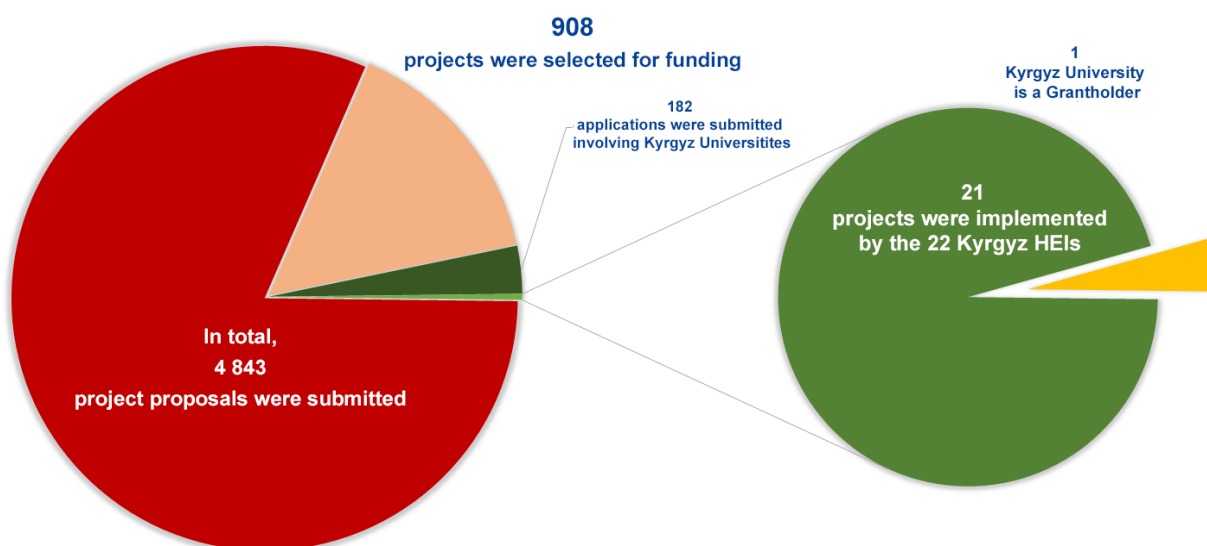
The number of submitted proposals and selected for funding ICM projects with participation of Kyrgyz Universities (2015-2020)



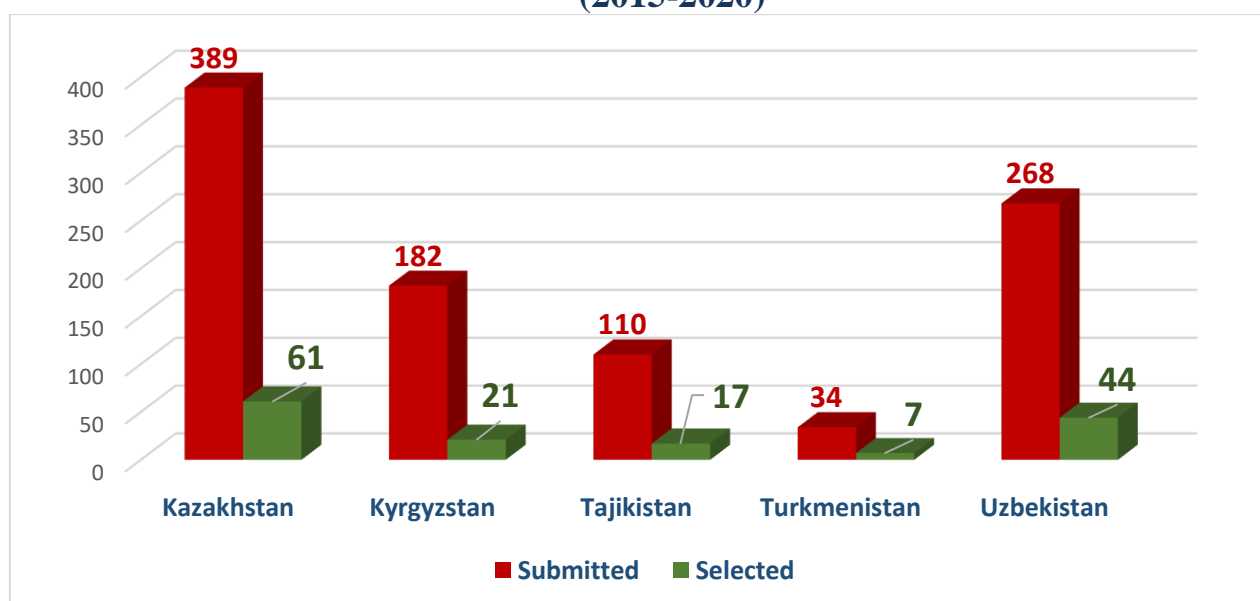
## Capacity Building in field of Higher Education (CBHE)

A total of 4,830 project applications were submitted between 2015 and 2020, including 182 applications involving Kyrgyz higher education institutions. As a result, 908 projects around the world were selected for funding, of which 22 Kyrgyz universities were involved in the implementation of 21 projects. One university, the International Graduate School of Medicine, is a grant holder of one project selected in 2019. A total of 4,830 project applications were submitted between 2015 and 2020, including 182 applications involving Kyrgyz higher education institutions. As a result, 908 projects around the world were selected for funding, of which 22 Kyrgyz universities were involved in the implementation of 21 projects. One university, the International Graduate School of Medicine, is a grant holder of one project selected in 2019.

### Participation of Kyrgyz universities in CBHE projects (2015-2020).

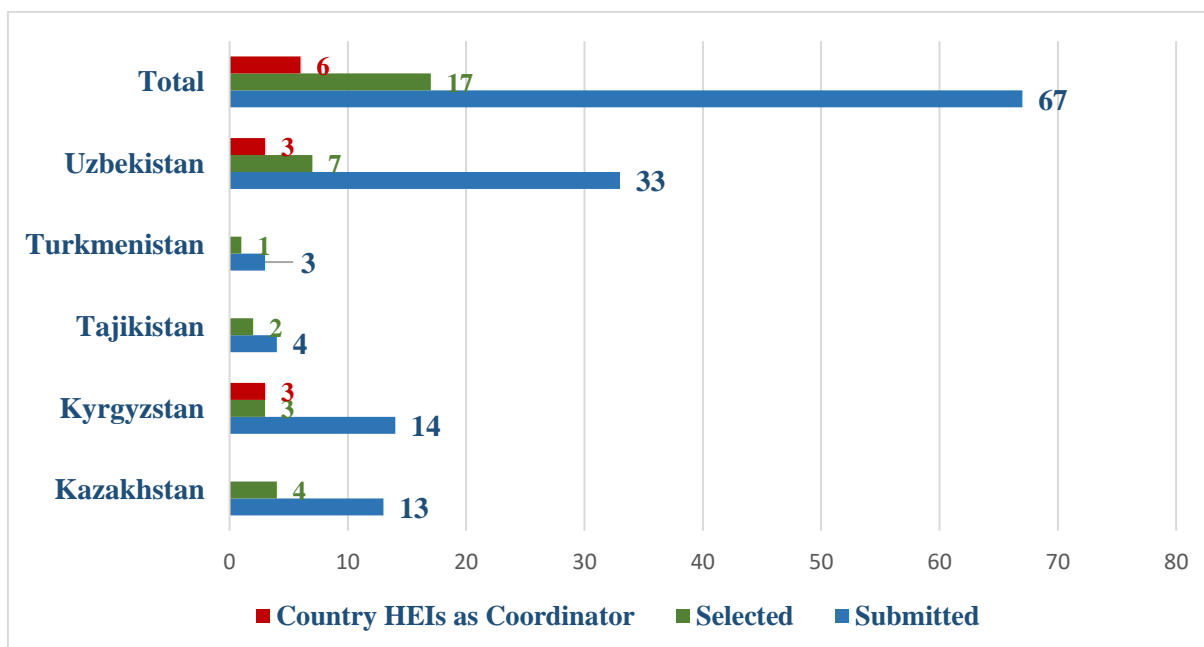


### Participation of Central Asian Universities in CBHE Projects (2015-2020)



As for CBHE Results for Central Asia in 2022, 67 proposals were submitted, 17 projects were selected for funding and 6 projects are coordinated by the Central Asian HEIs.

### Participation of Central Asian Universities in CBHE Projects (2021-2022)

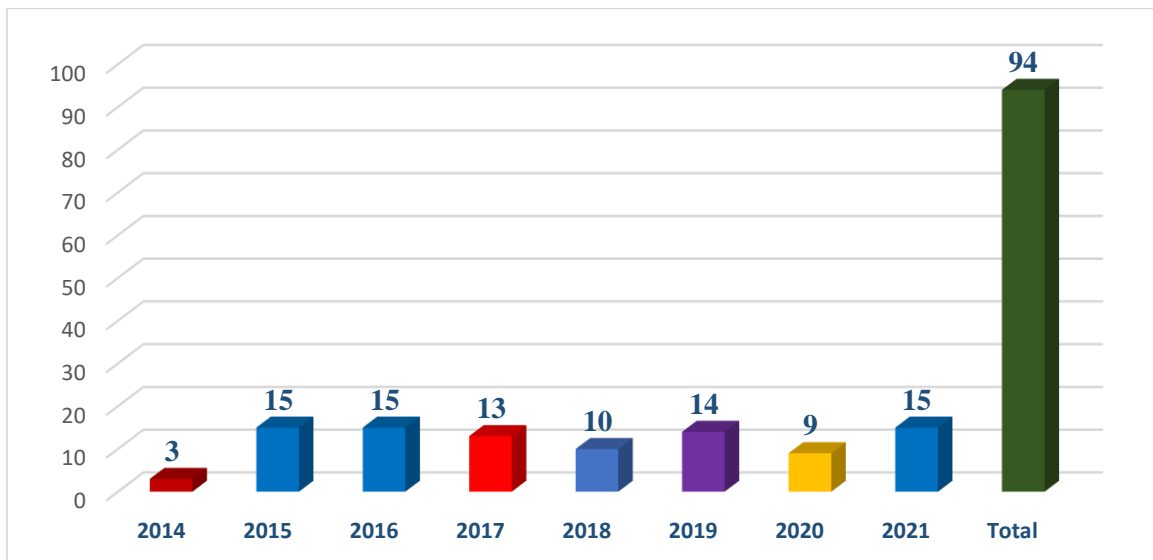


### Erasmus+ Joint Master Degree

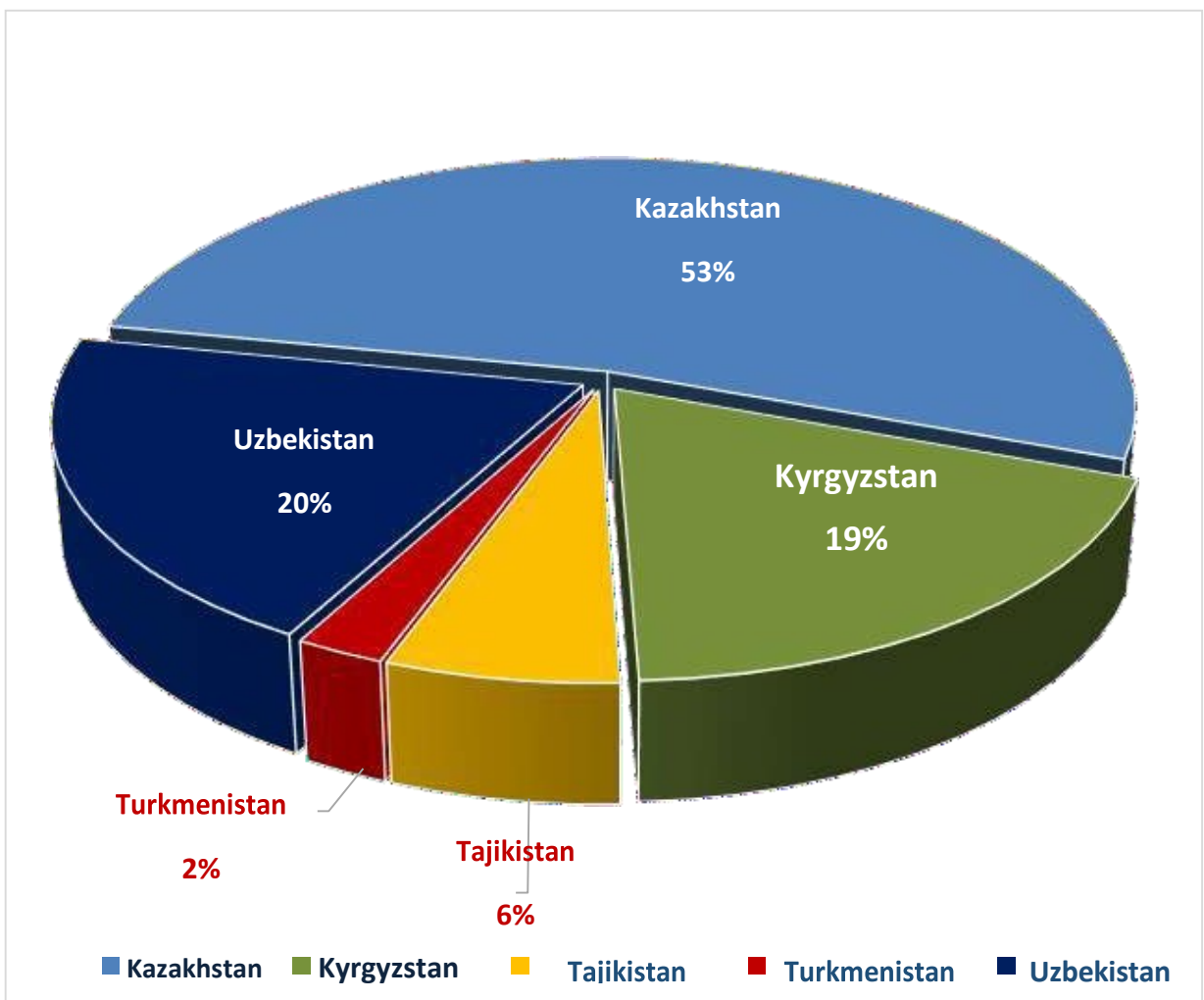
Number of Scholarship-winners from Kyrgyzstan (2014-2021)

	Total	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Scholarship-winners from Kyrgyzstan	94	15	9	14	10	13	15	15	3
from global budget	27		5	6	7	3	1	2	3
From additional regional budget	52		4	8	3	10	14	13	0
Scholarships worldwide			2452	2130	1669	1556	1347	1308	1379
EM programmes offering scholarships			130	103	86	100	87	120	149





Percentage of scholarship recipients by Central Asia





Funded by  
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