

***Information
on the licensing and accreditation procedure
in the system of higher education of Ukraine***

*Compiled by the National Information Centre of Academic Mobility, ENIC Ukraine
(State-owned Company Information and Image Centre of
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The licensing and accreditation systems of educational activities, specialties and educational programs in Ukraine have undergone significant changes since the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" in 2014.

The first legal act in Ukraine regulating the accreditation of public and private higher education institutions was the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 1992. The licensing of educational activity by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine became mandatory since February 1996.

Until 2014, higher education institutions were considered recognized if they had (Table 1):

- ✓ License for conducting educational activities in the field of higher education at a certain level of higher education by specialties (issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine)
- ✓ Certificate of accreditation of a higher education institution at a certain level (I, II, III or IV) (issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine based on the decision of the State Accreditation Commission, or the Accreditation Commission of Ukraine since 2012).
- ✓ Certificate of accreditation of every field/specialty (issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine based on the decision of the State Accreditation Commission, or the Accreditation Commission of Ukraine since 2012).

Since 2014, after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", a new system of quality assurance in higher education has been introduced, which includes internal and external systems, and is implemented by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education that was founded as an independent institution for quality assurance in higher education. The National Agency began functioning in 2019.

The current licensing and accreditation structure in Ukraine includes the following (Table 1):

✓ **Licensing of educational activities**

Licensing of educational activities of higher education institutions is mandatory.

Licensing is done by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and issued with no expiration date.

Before 2021, licensing of each specialty of a certain level of higher education in higher education institutions was mandatory.

Since 2021, licensing of educational activities of higher education institutions at a certain level of higher education has been introduced. Additionally licensing of educational programs is mandatory for programs that lead to professional qualifications in professions for which additional regulation is required (Table 2).

Licensing of higher education institutions of foreign countries or their separate branches/campuses that operate on the territory of Ukraine is also mandatory.

✓ **Accreditation of educational programs**

Accreditation of educational programs in Ukraine is mandatory. Accreditation certificates were issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (based on the decision of the Accreditation Commission), and since 2019 by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

Accreditation of educational programs in Ukraine can also be confirmed by an accreditation certificate issued by a recognized independent or foreign accreditation agency for quality assurance in higher education (Table 3).

Higher education institutions develop educational programs within licensed specialties or (after 2021) at a certain licensed level of higher education in accordance with the Higher Education Standards approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. Within one specialty at one level of higher education it could be two or more accredited educational programs. The number of such educational programs and their names are determined by higher education institutions. Educational programs within a certain specialty provide for the assignment of various professional qualifications in accordance with the specialization and learning outcomes (competencies) which should be mastered by students of the relevant educational program.

The Higher Education Standards describe the requirements for higher education programs at a certain higher education level and specialty, and are used to assess the quality of higher education system. The Higher Education Standards are approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and developed in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework. The standards define the following requirements for educational programs: the ECTS credit load; admission requirements; list of mandatory competencies of graduates; normative program content in terms of

learning outcomes; forms of final attestation/examination; requirements for the creation of educational programs and the requirements of professional standards (if applicable).

For the first time, educational programs are accredited by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education for a period of five years, and the subsequent accreditations are done for 10 year periods.

The higher education institutions have the right to issue diplomas of the established template for the accredited educational programs.

✓ **Accreditation of higher education institutions by levels (I-IV) was cancelled**

For information: Accreditation levels` description (accreditation of higher education institutions by levels was applicable before 2014):

- higher education institutions of I (first) accreditation level offer *Junior Specialist* programs. These institutions may also provide *complete general secondary education*
- higher education institutions of II (second) accreditation level offer *Junior Specialist* and/or *Bachelor* programs. These institutions may also provide *complete general secondary education*
- higher education institutions of III (third) accreditation level offer *Bachelor, Specialist*, and, in specific qualifications, *Master* degree programs
- higher education institutions of IV (fourth) accreditation level offer *Bachelor, Specialist*, and *Master* degree programs.

✓ The Law "On Higher Education" from 2017 provides the possibility of **institutional accreditation** for higher education institutions.

Institutional accreditation is not mandatory and is carried out by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The institutional accreditation certificate is issued for a 5 year period and gives right to higher education institutions to self-accredit educational programs, except for those programs that should be accredited for the first time. For the first time the accreditation of educational programs should be carried out by the National Agency for Quality Assurance of Higher Education. As of 2021, the self-accreditation mechanism is under development and implementation.

Information on licensing and accreditation is added to the Unified State Electronic Database on Education: <https://info.edbo.gov.ua/> and is available in the «Реєстр суб'єктів освітньої діяльності» (Registry of educational activity entities).

Table 1: Changes in the Quality Assurance of Higher Education System in Ukraine

	Before September 2014	After September 2014
Competent licensing authority	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Competent accreditation authority	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and Accreditation Commission of Ukraine (functioned as State Accreditation Commission before 2012)	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and Accreditation Commission of Ukraine – before 2019. Since 2019 – the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and other accreditation agencies recognized in Ukraine.
License for educational activity	Mandatory for all higher education institutions, every field/specialty	License for educational activity is mandatory. Before 2021, licensing of each specialty of a certain level of higher education in higher education institutions had been mandatory. Since 2021, licensing of educational activities of higher education institutions at a certain level of higher education has being introduced. Additionally licensing of educational programs is mandatory only for programs that lead to professional qualifications in professions for which additional regulation is required (Table 2).
Licensing time	Before the launch of educational activity	
Accreditation of higher education institutions	Accreditation of higher education institutions was done by levels (I-IV)	Not applicable
Institutional accreditation	Not applicable	Institutional accreditation is optional, and gives right to higher education institutions to self-accredit their educational programs, except for those programs that should be accredited for the first time.
Accreditation of educational programs	Accreditation of all educational programs is mandatory.	Accreditation of all educational programs is mandatory.
Accreditation time	Educational programs should be accredited before the first graduation	

Table 2: List of specialties leading to professional qualifications in professions for which additional regulation is required

Field code	Field of knowledge	Specialty code	Specialty
08	Law	081	Law
14	Electrical Engineering	143	Atomic Energy
		144	Heat Power
		145	Hydropower
19	Architecture and Construction	191	Architecture and Urban Planning
21	Veterinary Medicine	211	Veterinary Medicine
		212	Veterinary hygiene, sanitary and expertise
22	Healthcare	221	Dentistry
		222	Medicine
		223	Nursing
		224	Technologies of Medical Diagnostics and Treatment
		225	Medical Psychology
		226	Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy
		227	Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy
		228	Pediatrics
25	Military Sciences, National Security, State Border Security	251	State Security
		252	State Border Security
		253	Military Administration (by type of armed forces)
		254	Army (forces) Support
		255	Weapons and Military Equipment
26	Civil Security	261	Fire Security
		262	Law Enforcement Activities
		263	Civil Security
27	Transport	271	River and Sea Transport
		272	Aviation Transport
		273	Railway Transport
		275	Transport Technologies (by types)
29	International Relations	293	International Law

Table 3: List of foreign accreditation and quality assurance in higher education agencies, certificates of which are recognized in Ukraine

List of agencies in original language	List of agencies in Ukrainian language
1. Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (Portugal)	Агентство з оцінювання та акредитації вищої освіти (Португалія)
2. Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Department of Evaluation and Accreditation (Spain)	Андалузьке агентство із знань, Департамент оцінювання та акредитації (Іспанія)
3. Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Switzerland)	Швейцарське агентство з акредитації та забезпечення якості (Швейцарія)
4. Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (Spain)	Арагонське агентство із забезпечення якості та стратегічного прогнозування у вищій освіті (Іспанія)
5. Hungarian Accreditation Committee (Hungary)	Угорська комісія з акредитації (Угорщина)
6. The Quality Assurance Agency for the University System in Castile and León (Spain)	Агенція із забезпечення якості університетської системи в Кастилії та Ліоні (Іспанія)
7. Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (Spain)	Агентство із забезпечення якості в університетській системі Галісії (Іспанія)
8. Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur (Belgium)	Агентство з оцінки якості вищої освіти (Бельгія)
9. Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (Germany)	Акредитаційне агентство у галузях охорони здоров'я та суспільних наук (Німеччина)
10. The Danish Accreditation Institution (Denmark)	Данський інститут акредитації (Данія)
11. Academic Information Centre (Latvia)	Центр академічної інформації (Латвія)
12. National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (Spain)	Національне агентство з оцінювання якості та акредитації Іспанії (Іспанія)
13. Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (Germany)	Агентство із забезпечення якості через акредитацію навчальних програм (Німеччина)
14. Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (Austria)	Австрійське агентство із забезпечення якості та акредитації (Австрія)
15. Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (Spain)	Агентство із забезпечення якості Каталонського університету (Іспанія)
16. Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Romania)	Румунське агентство із забезпечення якості вищої освіти (Румунія)
17. Agency for Science and Higher Education (Croatia)	Агентство з науки та вищої освіти (Хорватія)
18. Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, Informatik, Naturwissenschaften und Mathematik (ASIIN e.V.) (Germany)	Агентство з акредитації за програмами з інженерії, інформатики, природознавства та математики (Німеччина)
19. British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (United Kingdom)	Британська акредитаційна рада незалежної безперервної та вищої освіти (Великобританія)

20. Engineering Degree Commission (France)	Комісія інженерної освіти (Франція)
21. European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (Austria)	Європейська асоціація закладів ветеринарної освіти (Австрія)
22. Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (Estonia)	Естонське агентство якості вищої та професійної освіти (Естонія)
23. Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg (Germany)	Агентство з оцінювання Баден-Вюртемберга (Німеччина)
24. Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (Germany)	Фундація з акредитації міжнародного бізнес-адміністрування (Німеччина)
25. Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (Finland)	Центр оцінювання освіти Фінляндії (Фінляндія)
26. Fundación para el Conocimiento (Spain)	Фонд знань Мадрімасд (Іспанія)
27. High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (France)	Вища рада з оцінювання наукових досліджень та вищої освіти (Франція)
28. Institutional Evaluation Programme (Switzerland)	Агентство “Програма інституційного оцінювання” (Швейцарія)
29. Music Quality Enhancement (Belgium)	Агентство з покращення якості музики (Бельгія)
30. National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (Bulgaria)	Національне агентство з оцінювання та акредитації (Болгарія)
31. Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (Norway)	Норвезьке агентство із забезпечення якості в освіті (Норвегія)
32. Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (Netherlands)	Акредитаційна організація Нідерландів та Фландрії (Нідерланди)
33. Polish Accreditation Committee (Poland)	Польський акредитаційний комітет (Польща)
34. Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (United Kingdom)	Агентство із забезпечення якості вищої освіти (Великобританія)
35. Quality and Qualifications Ireland (Ireland)	Агентство з якості та кваліфікації Ірландії (Ірландія)
36. Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (Lithuania)	Центр оцінювання якості у вищій освіті (Литва)
37. Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (Spain)	Агентство з якості Баскської університетської системи (Іспанія)
38. Quality Assurance Unit of the Flemish University and University Colleges Council (Belgium)	Відділ із забезпечення якості Ради фламандського університету і університетських коледжів (Бельгія)
39. Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (Germany)	Центральне агентство з оцінювання і акредитації (Німеччина)
40. Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (Slovenia)	Словенське агентство із забезпечення якості вищої освіти (Словенія)