Higher education system in the Slovak Republic

The general prerequisite for admission to higher education study is a secondary school-leaving certificate ("vysvedčenie o maturitnej skúške") issued after passing the secondary school-leaving examination taken upon completing 13 (or, exceptionally, 12) years of study. Higher education institutions organise as a rule an admission examination.

Study at higher education institutions

Higher education institutions provide study programmes at three levels:

- 1. Bachelor's study programme with a duration of three or four years in full-time mode and four or five years in part-time mode (students who enrolled in their studies before October 31, 2022). Bachelor's study programme with a duration of three or four years in full-time mode and in part-time mode (students who enrolled in their studies after November 1, 2022).
- 2. Magister's, Engineer's and Doctor's study programmes (students who enrolled in their studies before October 31, 2022) with a duration of one, two or three years in fulltime mode and two, three or four years in part-time mode. They may also be provided as integrated study programmes combining the first and the second level of higher education. The duration of study programmes combining the first and the second level of higher education is five or six years in full-time mode and seven or eight years in part-time mode. Magister's, Engineer's and Doctor's study programmes (students who enrolled in their studies after November 1, 2022) with a duration of one, two or three years in full-time mode and in part-time mode. They may also be provided as integrated study programmes combining the first and the second level of higher education. The duration

of study programmes combining the first and the second level of higher education is five or six years in full-time mode and in part-time mode.

3. PhD. study programme with a duration of three or four years in full-time mode and four or five years in part-time mode.

Higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

1st level (NQF/EQF Level: 6)

• bakalár (Bc.)

2nd level (NQF/EQF Level: 7)

- magister (Mgr.); in the field of art magister umenia (Mgr. art.) and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of *magister architektúry* (Mgr. arch.);
- *inžinier* (Ing.) in technical, agricultural and economic fields of Engineer's programmes, and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of inžinier architekt (Ing. arch.):
- doktor všeobecného lekárstva (MUDr.) in the field of general humane medicine;
- doktor zubného lekárstva (MDDr.) in the field of dentist humane medicine;
- doktor veterinárskeho lekárstva (MVDr.) in the field of veterinary medicine;

3rd level (NQF/EQF Level: 8)

- doktor philosophiae doctor (PhD.);
- doktor umenia artis doctor (ArtD.);
- *licenciát teológie* (ThLic.) after completing the first comprehensive part of the PhD. study in the field of catholic theology.

Examina rigorosa (NQF/EQF Level: 7)

Graduates of the academic degree of magister may take examina rigorosa, which includes the defence of a rigorosa thesis. After its successful completion, higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

- doktor prírodných vied (RNDr.);
- doktor farmácie (PharmDr.);

- doktor filozofie (PhDr.):
- doktor práv (JUDr.);
- doktor pedagogiky (PaedDr.);
- doktor teológie (ThDr.);

Credit system (since academic year 2002/2003) The standard workload of a student studying in full-time mode is expressed as 60 credits per academic year, 30 credits per semester and 20 credits per trimester. The standard workload of a student (who enrolled in studies before October 31, 2022) studying in part-time mode is expressed as 48 credits maximum, depending on the standard duration of the study programme and the number of credits required for its completion. The standard workload of a student (who enrolled in studies after November 1, 2022) studying in full-time mode and in part-time mode is expressed as 60 credits per academic year, 30 credits per semester and 20 credits per trimester.

The grading is on a scale of A - FX:

 A (excellent) = 1 (outstanding performance);

= 1.5 (above average B (very good)

performance);

 C (good) = 2 (average performance);

= 2.5 (acceptable

• D (satisfactory) performance);

• E (sufficient) = 3 (performance fulfils only the minimum requirements);

• FX (unsatisfactory) = 4 (performance does not

fulfil the minimum

requirements).

The higher education institution or faculty, if the study programme is provided by a faculty, may in selected subjects decide not to assign grades to assess students but to set other criteria for the successful completion of subjects as a condition for the award of credits. A weighted grade point average is used to measure student's overall academic performance in a given period of time. It is calculated for a given period of time by dividing the sum of credits earned by the student

for all registered subjects, each multiplied by the numerical value of the grade received for each subject, by the total number of credits registered by the student in a given period. Subjects not completed by the student are assigned a grade of 4 in the calculation of the weighted grade point average. The subjects not assessed by grades are not included in the calculation of the weighted grade point average.

The academic year starts on September 1 of the current year and ends on August 31 of the following year. It is composed of two semesters (winter and summer) or of three trimesters. The organisation of the academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or the statute of the higher education institution, if the higher education institution is not divided into faculties.

Chart of the Higher Education System in the Slovak Republic



Text and Chart: Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic