

**REGULATION**

**REGULATION ON JOINT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS BETWEEN  
TURKISH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS ABROAD**

**PART ONE**

**Purpose, Scope, Basis and Definitions**

**Purpose**

**ARTICLE 1** – (1) The aim of this Regulation is to regulate the procedures and principles guiding the Turkish higher education institutions to establish programs aimed at issuing joint diplomas by collaborating with them in the field of education and training in order to bring their strong sides together with the higher education institutions abroad that are recognized by the Council of Higher Education (CoHE), and by providing the best education and training opportunity to students within the framework of the academic standards of these institutions or guiding them to enable the students enrolled in the current programs of the higher education institutions to receive joint diplomas by studying in the higher education institutions abroad.

**Scope**

**ARTICLE 2** – (1) This Regulation comprises provisions concerning student admission, curriculum, examination, course attendance, leave of absence, maximum duration, graduation requirements, tuitions fees and other issues related to joint diploma attainment of the students enrolled in the current programs of the higher education institutions by receiving education at the higher education institutions abroad through the joint degree programs of the higher education institutions in Turkey or abroad in Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degrees for issuing a joint diploma.

**Basis**

**ARTICLE 3** – (1) This Regulation has been drawn up on the basis of the subparagraph (d) of Article 43 of Higher Education Law on dated November 4, 1981, and numbered 2547 and Article 50 and 65 of the aforesaid Law.

**Definitions**

**ARTICLE 4** – (1) Stated in this Regulation as follows:

a) Course Credit: Theoretical or applied course hours, that are clearly specified with learning outcomes indicating the contribution of the course to the knowledge, skills and competence of the students, determined by the Council of Higher Education within the framework of higher education qualifications regarding the level and the related field in which the program is available, and required study hours for other activities presupposed for students,

b) Joint diploma: Interconnected single degree diploma (joint), interconnected multiple degree diplomas (dual) or unconnected multiple degree diplomas (double) - issued jointly by two or more higher education institutions in the name of the student upon the completion of study,

c) Joint degree program: Education and training program jointly established or conducted within the scope of the current programs between a higher education institution in

Turkey and one or more higher education institutions abroad that are recognized by the Council of Higher Education,

ç) Student: Individual enrolled in programs conducted within the scope of the collaboration between Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions abroad,

d) International student: Student who is studying in any degree or field in a higher education institution and does not have Turkish citizenship,

e) Higher education institutions: Turkish higher education institutions that are subject to Law No. 2547 and higher education institutions abroad with which a joint program shall be conducted within the scope of this Regulation,

f) Recognition of higher education institution and program: The recognition of a higher education institution and program issuing the diploma as an authorised body and program for granting academic degrees by the authorities or the quality assurance and accreditation organizations assigned by CoHE and the authorities in the country in which they operate.

## **PART TWO**

### **Joint Degree Programs**

#### **Establishment of joint degree programs**

**ARTICLE 5** – (1) A protocol determining the mutual rights and obligations between the higher education institutions that will conduct the joint degree program together shall be prepared and presented to the approval of the Council of Higher Education before the signing. The eligible protocol shall be sent to the Council of Higher Education for approval after the parties sign it.

(2) The joint degree program shall be initiated in case the Council of Higher Education deems the application for student admission suitable after it approves the protocol.

(3) Any changes in the protocol are subject to the procedure stated above.

#### **Student admission to joint degree programs**

**ARTICLE 6** – (1) Student admission to the joint degree programs shall be conducted in accordance with the conditions, for student admission required by the related higher education institutions.

(2) Turkish students are required to take the Student Selection and Placement System exams, select the joint degree program and get enough points in the related score type and be placed in accordance with the procedure. In addition to that, students are required to fulfil the conditions for admission to the higher education institution abroad.

(3) Conditions required for acceptance to the joint degree programs for international students shall be indicated in the protocol signed for joint degree programs.

(4) Criteria, such as international exam scores, high school GPAs, used for the admission of international students to the joint Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs in Turkish higher education institutions shall also be applied for the admission of international students to joint degree programs. Approval of the CoHE is taken regarding the minimum levels of these criteria.

#### **Tuition Fees**

**ARTICLE 7** – (1) Education in jointly established joint degree programs shall be subject to fee. The parties announce via guides, leaflets and online the annually increase rate of the tuition fee and the services included. The domestic tuition fee to be paid by students in state universities shall be determined by a protocol on the condition that it shall not be less or eight times more than the tuition fee determined annually by the Council of Ministers for evening education. Foundation universities determine domestic tuition fee to be paid by students in accordance with their own procedures. The tuition fee of the higher education institution abroad which is in cooperation with the Turkish higher education institution is

determined by the related institution abroad. Students shall pay the determined tuition fee to the related higher education institution and they shall be accumulated in the bank account of the related higher education institution. The estimated amount of expenses, excluding the tuition fee, to be paid during the period of study in the higher education institution abroad shall be announced ahead of time.

#### **Payment method for tuition fees**

**ARTICLE 8** – (1) Students shall pay the tuition fee in two equal instalments. The first instalment shall be paid during the registration or re-registration in the beginning of the academic year and the second instalment shall be paid during the re-registration in the beginning of the second term.

#### **Use of tuition fees of joint degree programs**

**ARTICLE 9** – (1) The domestic tuition fees received from students studying in these programs at state universities shall be recorded as revenue in the special budget until the end of the month following the collection. Minimum 30% of this amount which will be determined by the Executive Board of the university shall be used for any kind of needs regarding the conduct of the program and the purchase of goods and services of the university. Pursuant to the provisions excluding the first sentence of the last paragraph in Article 11 of the Higher Education Personnel Legislation dated October 11, 1983, and numbered 2914, the Executive Board of the university shall determine the additional course fees to be paid from the remaining amount which will be used for the academics giving lectures in the programs by taking into account the fact that it shall not be higher than the tenfold of the additional course fees designated for academics with the title of professor in the fourth paragraph of the aforesaid Article. Besides, the administrative board of the university shall determine the exam fees considering the titles and performances of the academics in the program on the condition that they shall not be higher than the fivefold of the exams fees designated for academics in the same Article.

(2) The domestic tuition fees received from the students studying in these programs at foundation universities shall be recorded as revenue in the university budget.

#### **Scholarships**

**ARTICLE 10** – (1) Within the scope of the criteria, that are announced every year to students via the ÖSYS Higher Education Programs and Quotas Guide which is prepared by the Measuring, Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM) and approved by the General Assembly of the Council of Higher Education, and the quotas determined on the condition that they will not be more than 30% of total amount, partial or full, non-refundable scholarships could be offered to the students of the joint Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs based on their success in the student selection examinations. Scholarships offered to students placed in the quotas of scholarship shall consist of the pre-determined period of the Associate's and Bachelor's degree program and preparatory class on the condition that the student remains in the student status.

(2) On the condition that it shall not be greater than 30% of the total number, a scholarship program in which students will be partially or fully exempt from tuition fees shall be applicable to students who are more successful than the model students in the joint degree program excluding the ones stated in the first paragraph.

#### **Period of Study**

**ARTICLE 11** – (1) The period of study for the joint Associate's, Bachelor's and graduate degree programs and total credits shall not be less than the period of study and total credits designated for each level in the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Turkey.

(2) At least half of their studies in the Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs shall be completed under the joint degree program in the related higher education institution in Turkey. The higher education institution, where the courses and practices will be taken, shall be determined in the protocol.

(3) The minimum and total period of study, during which the student shall spend in the related higher education institution under the joint degree program, shall be determined in the protocol.

#### **Medium of Instruction**

**ARTICLE 12** – (1) The language or languages of instruction of the joint degree programs shall be determined in the protocol.

(2) Students need to certify that they are competent in the medium of instruction of the joint degree program in order to start their studies in the joint degree programs. The exams that evaluate the level of the medium of instruction and the minimum scores to be taken in those exams shall be determined in the protocol.

(3) The students having insufficient level in their foreign language shall take preparatory language education until they fulfil the foreign language proficiency requirements. The preparatory language education is maximum two years.

(4) At the end of the maximum period of study for the preparatory language education, students of Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs who could not fulfil the foreign language proficiency requirements could enrol in an equivalent program of a higher education institution in which courses are instructed in Turkish or they could request from the Measuring, Selection and Placement Centre to be placed for once only in a program in which courses are instructed in Turkish on the condition that he or she received the base score required starting from the year of the enrolment.

#### **Visa**

**ARTICLE 13** – (1) Students accepted to the joint degree programs are subject to the visa practices of the country where they will pursue their studies.

#### **Academic failure**

**ARTICLE 14** – (1) Students of the joint degree programs who are dismissed from the Turkish higher education institution on grounds of academic failure shall be dismissed from the joint degree program in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation.

(2) The following rules shall apply to students who are dismissed from the higher education institution abroad on grounds of academic failure in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation:

a) Students of the joint Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs could do lateral transfer to a Turkish program of the higher education institution he/she is studying in based on the final grade taken from the Turkish higher education institution in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on Transfer within Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Programs, Double Major Degrees, Minor Degrees and Inter-university Credit Transfer dated April 24, 2010, and numbered 27561. In case there are no Turkish programs, they can do lateral transfer to an equivalent program in another Turkish higher education institution.

b) Students of the joint Master's degree and doctoral programs could do lateral transfer in case there is an equivalent Turkish program in a Turkish higher education institution. Students who do lateral transfer to a Master's degree program in another Turkish higher education institution are subject to the provisions of the Regulation on Graduate Studies dated April 20, 2016 and numbered 29690.

(3) Lateral transfers within the scope of the second paragraph could only be done during the period for lateral transfer following the academic term when the student failed.

(4) Students who are dismissed from a higher education institution for any reason except the situations stated in the paragraphs above shall also be dismissed from other higher education institutions.

### **Diploma**

**ARTICLE 15** – (1) In case students enrolled in the joint education and training programs that are carried out under the Regulation fulfil all the conditions required to graduate from the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions abroad, the related higher education institution shall grant a joint diploma with the notation that it is the diploma of a joint degree program.

(2) The expressions to be stated in the joint diplomas shall be determined by the protocols signed by the parties.

(3) Students shall not gain the right to receive any of the joint diplomas unless they fulfil all the conditions of the joint degree program for graduation.

### **Joint diploma between current programs**

**ARTICLE 16** – (1) Programs offering joint diplomas of equivalent programs of the higher education institutions abroad to students enrolled in the Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degree programs of higher education institutions could be conducted. A protocol determining the mutual rights and obligations between the higher education institutions that will conduct the aforesaid program together shall be prepared and presented to the Council of Higher Education for eligibility before signing. The eligible protocol shall be sent to the Council of Higher Education for approval after the parties sign it. The Protocol could be changed in accordance with the same procedure.

(2) In order to be accepted to such joint degree programs, students enrolled in the Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degree programs shall study for minimum half of the period of study required for the Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs excluding the preparatory class and for minimum one term required for the Master's degree program in the higher education institution where they are enrolled in. They shall also fulfil the conditions required by both the higher education institution they are enrolled in and the higher education institution abroad.

(3) Students enrolled in current programs must fulfil the foreign language requirement of the program in addition to other conditions stated in the Protocol in order to start their studies in a higher education institution abroad. Even if the student fulfils the conditions stated in the Protocol, he/she cannot study under the joint degree program in case he/she did not fulfil the foreign language requirement.

(4) Students who are enrolled in the Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degree programs and continue their studies in the joint degree program established in accordance with the first paragraph are subject to Article 46 of the Law numbered 2547 in terms of obligations of the contribution/tuition fees that will be paid to the Turkish higher education institution. These students shall pay the tuition fees that are determined by the higher education institution abroad for the period of study spent abroad to the higher education institution abroad unless there is a provision stating that students shall not pay any tuition fees in the Protocol. However, the provisions of Article 7, 8 and 9 are not applicable in joint degree programs carried out according to this Article.

(5) Scholarships to be awarded to the students enrolled in current programs are set out in the Protocol and they shall be announced to the students with the other conditions prior to the acceptance to the program.

(6) In case students who are enrolled in current programs and study in a higher education institution abroad for fulfilling the conditions fail in the higher education institution abroad, they shall be dismissed from the joint degree program and continue their studies in the

current program of the higher education institution they were enrolled in taking into account the maximum duration of the program.

(7) In case students enrolled in such joint degree programs fulfil the conditions related to graduation from the Turkish higher education institutions and the higher education institutions abroad, separate diplomas or a single diploma signed jointly by the officials of the related institutions shall be issued. These diplomas shall state that the related higher education institutions conducted the program jointly.

### **PART THREE**

#### **Curriculum, Grading Systems, Maximum Duration, Leave of Absence, Lateral Transfer and Disciplinary Provisions**

##### **Curriculum**

**ARTICLE 17** – (1) The curriculum of the joint degree program, the definitions and credits of the activities such as the courses, laboratory, practice, training and thesis that form the curriculum and the distribution of the curriculum between the institutions that conduct the program shall be determined in the Protocol between the parties.

(2) The higher education institution in which the courses and/or thesis of the Master's degree and doctoral programs shall be conducted with the co-advisors under the collective responsibility shall be determined in the Protocol.

##### **Grading systems**

**ARTICLE 18** – (1) The grading systems and success criteria applied in the programs of the parties conducting the joint degree program shall be defined separately. It shall be determined in the Protocol, the way and at which party the unaccomplished courses and other activities will be compensated for, and the way grade point average will be calculated in the program. Students must fulfil the academic conditions of both higher education institutions and all of the academic requirements of the program in order to graduate from the joint degree program.

##### **Maximum duration**

**ARTICLE 19** – (1) Students are subject to the duration set out in Article 44 of the Law No. 2547 for the Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs and the Regulation on Graduate Studies for graduate programs.

##### **Leave of absence**

**ARTICLE 20** – (1) Students are allowed to take a leave of absence due to force majeure on the agreement of both parties for an academic term or year on the condition that the leave of absence is documented. The duration of leave of absence shall not be considered as part of the maximum period of study. The maximum leave of absence period shall not exceed the half of a regular study period.

##### **Disciplinary provisions**

**ARTICLE 21** – (1) Students are subject to the disciplinary procedures of the higher education institutions they are studying in.

##### **Lateral transfer**

**ARTICLE 22** – (1) The lateral transfer from a joint Associate's or Bachelor's degree program where the student is studying in to another joint Associate's or Bachelor's degree program conducted in the same field under the same university or another university shall be carried out in accordance with the related legislation provisions.

(2) The lateral transfer from a joint Associate's or Bachelor's degree program to another Associate's or Bachelor's degree program in Turkey or from an Associate's or Bachelor's degree program in Turkey to a joint Associate's or Bachelor's degree program shall be conducted in accordance with the related provisions of the Regulation.

(3) The lateral transfer from a graduate program to another graduate degree program in another higher education institution shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on Graduate Studies.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Miscellaneous and Final Provisions**

#### **Provisions to be implemented**

**ARTICLE 23** –(1) In conditions for which provisions do not exist herein, the legislation provisions of the higher education institutions that conduct the joint degree program shall govern.

#### **Abrogated regulation**

**ARTICLE 24** –(1) The Regulation on the Establishment of Joint Degree Programs between Turkish Higher Education Institutions and Higher Education Institutions Abroad within the Scope dated December 28, 2006, and numbered 26390 has been abrogated.

#### **Enforcement**

**ARTICLE 25** –(1) This regulation enters into force on the day following its publication.

#### **Execution**

**ARTICLE 26** –(1) The Provisions of the Regulation shall be executed by the President of the Council of Higher Education.