

Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of Education and Culture

Universities of Applied Sciences Act
(932/2014; amendments up to 516/2020 included)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Chapter 1

General provisions

Section 1 **Scope of application**

This Act applies to universities of applied sciences within the remit of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 2 **Position of universities of applied sciences in the education system**

Universities of applied sciences are part of the system of higher education. Universities of applied sciences and universities together constitute the system of higher education.

Section 3 **Universities of applied sciences community**

A *university of applied sciences community* refers to a community consisting of teachers and other staff of a university of applied sciences and students participating in programmes leading to a degree.

Section 4 **Mission**

The mission of universities of applied sciences is to provide higher education for professional expert tasks and duties based on the requirements of the world of work and its development and on the premises of academic research and academic and artistic education and to support the professional growth of students.

The mission of universities of applied sciences is also to carry out applied research, development and innovation activities and artistic activities that serve education in universities of applied sciences, promote industry, business and regional development and regenerate the industrial structure of the region. In carrying out their mission, universities of applied sciences shall provide opportunities for continuous learning. [\(1368/2018\)](#)

Section 5 **Status as a legal entity**

Universities of applied sciences are legal entities in the form of limited liability companies (*university of applied sciences as a limited liability company*) governed by the Limited Liability Companies Act (624/2006), unless otherwise provided in this Act.

The purpose of the activities of universities of applied sciences as limited liability companies may not be profit seeking, and they may not distribute dividends or generate other financial gain for shareholders or other actors taking part in the

activities. When distributing assets in any other manner referred to in Chapter 13, section 1, of the Limited Liability Companies Act, assets may be returned to

shareholders only to the amount they have invested in equity in the company. Returning assets from the reserves of unrestricted equity referred to in Chapter 13, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 1, of the Limited Liability Companies Act or in situations referred to in paragraph 2 or 3 of the subsection in question is possible only in the event that the activities of the

universities of applied sciences are terminated. Otherwise, the assets shall be used for the purposes described in section 4 of this Act.

Universities of applied sciences may engage in business activities, provided such activities support the discharge of the mission laid down in section 4.

Section 6

Cooperation with the operating environment

In carrying out its mission, each university of applied sciences shall cooperate with business and industry and other sectors of the labour market, in particular within its own region, and with Finnish and foreign higher education institutions and other education providers.

Chapter 2

Authorisation to provide education and terms of authorisation of universities of applied sciences

Section 7

Authorisation to provide education

An authorisation to provide education is required to operate a university of applied sciences. The authorisation is granted by the Government. The authorisation is granted on condition that the university of applied sciences is needed to satisfy an educational need and, taking into account the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of activities, it possesses the financial and operational capacity for proper fulfilment of the tasks laid down in section 4. A further requirement is that the articles of association or shareholders' agreement of the university of applied sciences operating as a limited liability company does not contain conditions requiring decisions to be made by a qualified majority that would inhibit the structural development of the university of applied sciences. Further provisions on applying for an authorisation to provide education and documents and information to be included in the application are issued by government decree.

The recipient of the authorisation to provide education is entitled to engage in university of applied sciences activities in accordance with the educational mission specified in the authorisation. The authorisation to provide education may also impose development and other obligations on the university of applied sciences pertaining to its mission.

The authorisation to provide education stipulates the name of the university of applied sciences. The title of 'university of applied sciences' may only be used for universities of applied sciences referred to in this Act, unless otherwise provided in another act.

The Government may revoke the authorisation to provide education or alter it, if so required by fundamental changes in educational needs or for other essential reasons relating to the running of the university of applied sciences, or if the university of applied sciences in its activities fails to fulfil the requirements and obligations referred to in subsections 1 and 2. Before altering or revoking the authorisation to provide education, the university of applied sciences shall be reserved the opportunity to be heard.

Section 8 **Educational mission**

The authorisation to provide education stipulates the Bachelor's degrees to be awarded by the university of applied sciences and the degree titles associated with them (*educational responsibility*). If necessary, the authorisation may also specify the degree-specific educational responsibilities. The authorisation to provide education of the university of applied sciences also specifies the Master's degrees to be awarded by the university of applied sciences and the degree titles associated with them.

The authorisation to provide education stipulates the right of universities of applied sciences to organise the necessary teacher education for teachers and prospective teachers in universities of applied sciences and in vocational education and training institutions (*professional teacher education*).

The language used for instruction and degrees of the university of applied sciences is specified in the authorisation to provide education as either Finnish or Swedish. In addition, universities of applied sciences may decide to use a language other than those referred to above as a language of instruction and degrees.

Section 8a (941/2017) **Cooperation on tuition**

Universities of applied sciences may arrange tuition in languages and communication in cooperation with another institution of higher education or procure it from one of these institutions. To meet their educational responsibility, universities of applied sciences are not obliged to provide such tuition themselves.

Universities of applied sciences may also organise tuition other than that referred to in subsection 1 in cooperation with another institution of higher education or procure it from another higher education institution. When tuition is procured from a Finnish higher education institution that also provides such tuition to its own students, the university of applied sciences not obliged to provide such tuition itself in order to meet its educational responsibility. Universities of applied sciences shall provide most of its tuition itself for the degrees and fields of study belonging to its educational responsibility.

Tuition that replaces the tuition of a university of applied sciences under subsections 1 or 2 shall comply with the objectives defined by the degree-awarding university of applied sciences.

Students participating in such tuition by virtue of subsection 1 or 2 or section 7a, subsection 1 or 2, of the Universities Act (558/2009) that replaces the institution's own tuition, have a restricted right to study, without the right to complete a degree, in the institution providing the education.

When participating in education on the basis of their restricted right to study, the students are subject to the administrative authority of the higher education institution providing the education.

Section 8b (941/2017)

Transfer of education

When the education provided by a university of applied sciences is discontinued, the university of applied sciences may agree with another university of applied sciences on the transfer of students to continue their degree programmes in said university of applied sciences. However, students have the right to remain for a period of three years from the discontinuation of the education to complete a degree in the university of applied sciences whose education is to be discontinued, taking into account the duration of the right to study laid down in section 30, subsections 1–5.

Section 30, subsection 6, applies to the transfer of the right to study.

Chapter 3

Tuition, degrees and research and development activities

Section 9

Freedom of tuition and research

While universities of applied sciences enjoy freedom of tuition and research when carrying out their mission referred to in section 4, instruction shall comply with the statutes and regulations issued on education and teaching arrangements.

Tuition in universities of applied sciences is public. For justifiable reasons, participation in instruction may be restricted.

Section 10

Tuition in universities of applied sciences

Within the scope of the authorisation to provide education granted to them, universities of applied sciences provide programmes leading to academic degrees and teacher education for vocational education and training. Universities of applied sciences may also provide professional specialisation programmes, degree modules as continuing education, as open university of applied sciences education or as other non-degree studies, and other continuing education. Universities of applied sciences issue certificates on studies completed at their university of applied sciences. Provisions on certificates issued by universities of applied sciences are issued by government decree. (1368/2018)

Studies forming part of a Bachelor's or Master's degree for the completion of which the student has been granted a right to study, limited either in duration and scope, can be completed as open university of applied sciences instruction or as non-degree studies organised in some other manner.

Universities of applied sciences may provide education for immigrants free of charge with a view to providing the student with language proficiency and other knowledge and skills needed for studying at a university of applied sciences. Provisions on the scope of the education may be issued by government decree.

Section 11

Degrees and requirements

Universities of applied sciences award Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Bachelor's degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences are first-cycle degrees and Master's degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences are second-cycle degrees. Provisions on the position of the degrees in the system of academic degrees are issued by government decree.

A degree awarded by a university of applied sciences is affixed with the name of the pertinent field of study and the degree title and, where needed, in the case of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a university of applied sciences, the suffix 'AMK' is included, and, in the case of a Master's degree awarded by a university of applied sciences, the suffix 'ylempi AMK' is included.

Provisions on the degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences, the target number of degrees, the structure of studies and other study requirements are issued by government decree where necessary.

Section 11a (1173/2014) **Professional specialisation programmes**

Professional specialisation programmes offered by universities of applied sciences are programmes intended to be completed after an academic degree and designed for degree holders in order to promote their professional development and specialisation. They are intended to generate competence in areas of expertise for which no market-based provision of education is available.

Provisions on the joint objectives and minimum scope of professional specialisation programmes are issued by government decree. Studies offered by universities of applied sciences in the form of business activities under section 5, subsection 3, are not provided as professional specialisation programmes.

Only studies for which the study requirements have been agreed upon in inter-university of applied sciences cooperation can be provided as professional specialisation programmes. Cooperation with representatives of the world of work and business and industry shall be carried out during the agreement procedure. Further provisions on agreements on professional specialisation programmes, the content of the agreements and the provision of the programmes are issued by government decree.

A public register is maintained of agreements on professional specialisation programmes. Further provisions on the public register and information to be included in it are issued by government decree.

Section 12 (415/2016) **Tuition free of charge and charges related to other activities**

Studies leading to a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree and entrance examinations relating to student admissions are free of charge for students. Tuition given free of charge does not preclude universities of applied sciences from offering joint and double degree programmes for which foreign institutions of higher education charge fees for their part of the programme.

Applicants applying to education other than that given in Finnish or Swedish may be required to take a fee-charging international test.

Universities of applied sciences may charge fees for activities other than those referred to in subsection 1. Further provisions on fees by universities of applied sciences chargeable under public law charged by universities of applied sciences are issued by government decree in conformity

with the provisions on the absorption cost of transactions under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992). If the fee chargeable under public law as referred to in this Act has not been paid by the due date, it is possible to collect annual interest for late payment from the due date onwards in accordance with the provisions of the Interest Act (633/1982). The charge is directly enforceable. Provisions on its recovery are laid down in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Public Payments (706/2007).

Section 13 (1368/2018) **Commissioned education**

Universities of applied sciences may organise degree studies which are geared to a group of students and which have been commissioned and paid for by the Finnish State, another state, an international organisation, a Finnish or foreign public corporation, a foundation or a private corporation (*commissioned education*).

Students participating in commissioned education are governed by sections 25–27, 33–40 and 57–61, of this Act. Tuition provided in the form of commissioned education shall relate to a field of education specified in the authorisation to provide education of the university of applied sciences. The organisation of commissioned education may not undermine the undergraduate and graduate education provided by the university of applied sciences. Universities of applied sciences may not organise commissioned education if it is evident that the education is commissioned for the purpose of circumventing the student admissions procedure specified in section 28.

The universities of applied sciences shall charge a fee for commissioned education covering at least the costs incurring from it. The party who commissions the education is entitled to charge participating students fees in accordance with the legal provisions or other practices in the country where the education is offered. However, the party commissioning the education may not charge fees from citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or from persons or their family members who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under European Union treaties or under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another contracting party. Nor may the party commissioning the education charge fees from persons who, under the Aliens Act (301/2004), have been granted a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals, nor from any family members of the above. The Aliens Act applies to the definition of persons regarded as family members.

Section 13a (1601/2015) **Fee-charging foreign-language degree programmes**

Universities of applied sciences shall charge a minimum tuition fee of EUR 1,500 per academic year for students admitted to a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme taught in a language other than Finnish or Swedish. Decisions on how the tuition fees are collected are made by the universities of applied sciences.

However, tuition fees are not charged for citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or for persons or their family members who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under European Union treaties or under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another contracting party. Fees are not charged for persons who, under the Aliens Act, have a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals nor for any family members of the above. The Aliens Act applies to the definition of persons regarded as family members. These fees do not apply to students taking part in commissioned education referred to in section 13.

Universities of applied sciences shall have a scholarship system to aid students participating in fee-charging degree programmes.

Section 14 (325/2015)

Curricula and normative duration of studies

Universities of applied sciences decide on their curricula.

The scope of studies leading to a Bachelor's degree in a university of applied sciences shall correspond to full-time studies of at least three academic years and, at most, four academic years in duration. On special grounds, the duration of studies may be longer than this. The scope of studies leading to a Master's degree in a university of applied sciences shall correspond to full-time studies of at least one academic year and, at most, one and a half academic years in duration. However, a university of applied sciences may decide that studies leading to a Master's degree organised in international cooperation shall correspond to full-time studies of two academic years in duration. Universities of applied sciences shall organise the studies leading to a degree and academic guidance in such a way that full-time students can complete their studies within a period of time that corresponds to the scope of the studies (*normative duration*). (1368/2018)

The normative duration of studies in teacher education for vocational education is one year.

Universities of applied sciences are not obliged to organise studies leading to a degree and academic guidance as provided in subsection 2 if it is not possible to organise studies included in the curriculum due to the COVID-19 epidemic. (516/2020)

Subsection 4 as added by virtue of Act 516/2020 is temporarily in force from 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2021.

Delays in study progress due to changes in the teaching arrangements referred to in subsection 4 shall be taken into account when making a decision on the extension of the right to study specified in section 30a, subsection 2. (516/2020)

Subsection 5 as added by virtue of Act 516/2020 is temporarily in force from 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2021.

Chapter 4

Organisation

Section 15

Administrative bodies of universities of applied sciences

The administrative bodies of a university of applied sciences consist of the board of directors and the president (rector) acting as managing director. In addition, the university of applied sciences shall have at least one board of examiners or equivalent body.

The university of applied sciences may also have other administrative bodies, as stipulated in its rules of procedure.

Section 16

Duties of the board

In addition to provisions laid down in the Limited Liability Companies Act, the remit of the board is to:

- 1) determine the main objectives of the university of applied sciences activities and finances, and the strategy and guidance principles;
- 2) decide on the operating and financial plans and the budget of the university of applied sciences, and prepare financial statements;
- 3) arrange the supervision of the accounting and asset management;
- 4) be accountable for the management and use of the assets of the university of applied sciences, unless the board has devolved the power to the president;
- 5) approve agreements of major importance or fundamental financial consequence for the university of applied sciences and issue opinions on important matters of principle concerning the university of applied sciences;
- 6) approve the agreement with the Ministry of Education and Culture referred to in section 42 on behalf of the university of applied sciences;
- 7) elect and dismiss the president;
- 8) approve the rules of procedure and other corresponding rules pertaining to general organisation and activities and decide on the operational structure of the university of applied sciences;
- 9) decide on the number of students to be admitted to the university of applied sciences.

In addition, the board is charged with hiring the managerial staff working directly under the president, unless the board has devolved the task to another administrative body of the university of applied sciences.

The duties of the board laid down in subsection 1 may not be transferred to the competence of the general meeting. The provisions in Chapter 5, section 2, subsection 2, of the Limited Liability Companies Act on the right of shareholders to make a decision in matters that fall within the general competence of the board, and in Chapter 6, section 7, on submitting a matter to be decided by the general meeting do not apply to universities of applied sciences as limited liability companies.

Section 17 **Composition of the board**

The board of a university of applied sciences consists of a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine members, equipped with a diverse representation of expertise associated with the functions of society and the university of applied sciences. The board shall also include members with practical experience and knowledge about business and industry. The president may not be a member of the board.

Two of the board members represent the university of applied sciences community, one of them being a member of staff and the other a student. The staff representative in the board is elected from among the staff. The procedure for the electing the staff representative is specified in the rules of procedure, and the procedure for electing the student representative is specified in the rules of the student body. The general meeting confirms the selections.

Section 18 **President's duties and eligibility requirements**

In addition to the tasks of the managing director laid down in the Limited Liability Companies Act, the duties of the president are to

- 1) lead the activities of the university of applied sciences and resolve matters concerning the university of applied sciences which have not been assigned to another administrative body by statute or regulation;
- 2) be responsible for the economical, efficient and effective discharge of the mission of the university of applied sciences;
- 3) be responsible for preparing, presenting and executing matters which come before the board;
- 4) decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.

The president may devolve the hiring of staff or other matters within his or her remit to another administrative body or staff member of the university of applied sciences. The president has the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the administrative bodies of the university of applied sciences.

The requirement for the president elect is that he or she have a doctorate degree and the competence required for discharging the duties as well as proven good leadership skills. It is, however, also possible to opt for a person with a Master's degree, provided that he or she is otherwise deemed highly qualified for the task in terms of merits. Additionally, the president shall have knowledge of the language of instruction and degrees determined in the authorisation to provide education of the university of applied sciences.

The duties of the president listed in subsection 1 may not be transferred to the competence of the general meeting. The provisions in Chapter 5, section 2, subsection 2, of the Limited Liability Companies Act on the right of shareholders to make a decision in matters that fall within the general competence of the managing director, and in Chapter 6, section 7, on submitting a matter to be decided by the general meeting do not apply to universities of applied sciences as limited liability companies.

Section 19 **Board of examiners**

To process requests for a revised decision involving study attainments, universities of applied sciences may have one or several boards of examiners or other equivalent administrative bodies.

A board of examiners or equivalent body consists of a chairperson and other members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The chairperson and members of the board of examiners and their personal deputies are appointed by the board of the university of applied sciences.

The chairperson and his or her deputy shall be a principal lecturer or a lecturer. The other members of the board of examiners are teachers at the university of applied sciences as well as at least one student enrolled in a degree programme.

Section 20 **Rules and regulations**

The organisation of the activities and administration of universities of applied sciences are governed by the rules of procedure and other similar internal regulations of the universities of applied sciences.

Section 21

Administrative procedure and confidentiality

In the performance of public administrative duties, universities of applied sciences and student bodies are governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). However, the provisions in the Administrative Procedure Act on disqualification apply to all activities of the universities of applied sciences. The provisions in section 28, subsection 1, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the said Act apply to universities of applied sciences and to affiliated companies belonging to the university of applied sciences group referred to in the Accounting Act (1336/1997) only in matters where the interests of the university of applied sciences and the affiliated company are in conflict or where fair handling of the matter so requires.

The confidentiality of the activities pursued by the universities of applied sciences and the student bodies of universities of applied sciences under this Act are governed by the provisions in section 4, subsection 1, of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) on the confidentiality of the activities of authorities.

Chapter 5

Staff and the language of administration

Section 22

Teaching and research staff and qualification requirements

Universities of applied sciences employ principal lecturers, lecturers and other teaching and research staff.

Further provisions on the qualification requirements, and if necessary, tasks of teachers may be issued by government decree.

Section 23

Criminal liability for acts in office and liability for damages

Provisions on criminal liability for acts in office apply to the staff of universities of applied sciences and members of their administrative bodies when they perform the tasks referred to in this Act. Provisions on liability for damages are laid down in the Tort Liability Act (412/1974).

Section 24

Language of administration in universities of applied sciences

The language of administration of universities of applied sciences is the same as the language of instruction and degrees as stipulated in the authorisation to provide education of the universities of applied sciences.

Everyone has the right to use either Finnish or Swedish in matters concerning them and to obtain official documents in the language they use. (914/2017)

Chapter 6

Studying at a university of applied sciences and students

Section 25

Eligibility for university of applied sciences education

Eligible applicants for degree programmes in a university of applied sciences have

- 1) completed the general upper secondary curriculum or passed the examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Act (672/2005);
- 2) been awarded an initial vocational qualification referred to in the Vocational Education and Training Act (531/2017), or further vocational qualification or specialist vocational qualification; or
- 3) completed studies abroad which give eligibility for higher education in the country in question. (537/2017)

Persons other than one referred to in subsection 1 who are deemed by the university of applied sciences to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies may also be eligible for programmes leading to a Bachelor's degree.

Persons who have completed an applicable Bachelor's degree in a university of applied sciences or other applicable degree in an institution of higher education, or ones who are deemed by the university of applied sciences to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies may be eligible for programmes leading to a Master's degree. In addition, admission to programmes leading to a Master's degree in a university of applied sciences is subject to a minimum of two years' work experience in the field concerned after completion of a Bachelor's degree or other applicable degree in an institution of higher education. The required work experience shall have fully accrued by the beginning of the term when the programme starts. In Crafts and Design, Media and Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, and Music the requirement may be artistic activity of corresponding duration instead of work experience. An acceptable requirement for holders of an upper secondary or a post-secondary qualification awarded by a vocational institution may also be work experience acquired in the relevant field after the completion of the upper secondary or post-secondary qualification. (1368/2018)

Eligible applicants for teacher education for vocational education and training have such education and work experience that is required for working as a teacher in a university of applied sciences or in vocational education and training.

Eligible applicants for professional specialisation programmes have completed an applicable university of applied sciences or university degree or are deemed by the university of applied sciences to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies. (1173/2014)

The Act on the organisation of the matriculation examination 672/2005 has been repealed by the Act on the Matriculation Examination 502/2019, which entered into force on 1 August 2019.

Section 26

Accessibility and prerequisites for admission

Factors relating to the health and functional capacity of an applicant may not preclude admission. However, a person whose state of health or functional capacity makes him or her incapable of performing the practical tasks or practical training included in the studies in a way consistent with

the study-related safety demands referred to in section 33 and where the impediment cannot be removed with reasonable measures cannot be admitted as a student.

In the case of studies referred to in section 33, admission is precluded where, under section 81 of the Act on Vocational Education and Training, section 33 of this Act or section 43a of the Universities Act, a decision has been made to revoke the right to study where considerations relating to the protection of the health and safety of other persons so require. [\(537/2017\)](#)

Universities of applied sciences shall inform applicants about health-related requirements and other prerequisites related to the studies.

Section 27

Access to information relating to admissions

In the case of studies referred to in section 33, the applicant shall, when requested by the university of applied sciences, provide any personal health information that is required for admission and information about any previous decision to revoke the applicant's right to study.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences has the right, for the purposes of admissions requirements, to obtain essential information from other universities of applied sciences, universities and other education providers about any decision, including its justifications, to revoke the applicant's right to study.

Section 28 (1368/2018)

Admissions

Students are admitted by the university of applied sciences. Students are admitted to pursue a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a professional specialisation programme.

Universities of applied sciences admit transfer students. A *transfer student* refers to a degree programme student whose right to study is transferred from one higher education institution to another or within a single higher education institution from one degree programme to another so that the degree title to be gained from the studies changes. Transfer students within a university of applied sciences may be admitted separately from other transfer students.

Universities of applied sciences decide the admissions criteria. In the admissions procedure, applicants may be divided into separate applicant categories on the basis of their different educational backgrounds. The admissions criteria applied shall be consistent for all applicants belonging to the same category.

Section 28a (1368/2018)

Joint application procedure and separate admissions

Admissions for programmes leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree are organised in an admissions procedure carried out jointly between higher education institutions. The student admissions register referred to in the Act on the National Registers of Education Records, Qualifications and Degrees (884/2017) is used in the joint application procedure. Further provisions on the implementation of the joint application procedure and processes associated with it are issued by government decree.

A university of applied sciences may opt for separate admissions instead of the joint application procedure when admitting

- 1) students for programmes designed for a limited target group, where the eligibility of applicants has been defined separately by the university of applied sciences and where the application process for the programmes cannot be organised within the timeframe of the joint application procedure;
- 2) students for programmes provided in a foreign language;
- 3) students for programmes provided in Finnish or Swedish, the admissions procedure for which is organised in connection with the admissions procedure for the equivalent foreign-language programme;
- 4) transfer students;
- 5) students on the basis of studies completed in open higher education.
- 6) students for student places that remain vacant after the joint application procedure.

A university of applied sciences may organise a separate admissions procedure in the form of flexible admissions by making a decision on student admissions on an application-by-application basis, and the admissions procedure ends when a sufficient number of students have been admitted to the study programme available for application.

Section 28b (257/2015) **Reserving a student place**

In the joint application procedure, a university of applied sciences shall reserve some student places leading to a Bachelor's degree for applicants who have not previously completed an academic under the Finnish education system and have not accepted a student place leading to an academic degree or have accepted a student place for studies beginning in spring term 2014 or earlier but have not completed an academic degree.

It is, however, not necessary to reserve student places in the manner referred to in subsection 1 when admitting students to a programme offered in a foreign language or to studies designed for a limited target group where the eligibility of applicants has been separately defined by the university of applied sciences, or to a programme where the number of admissions offered is so small that reserving places would generate unreasonable inequalities between applicants.

A university of applied sciences may reserve some student places for applicants referred to in subsection 1 also in the case of separate admissions.

Universities of applied sciences shall also reserve reasonable opportunities for admission for those who have completed an academic degree or accepted a student place. Universities of applied sciences shall ensure that no unreasonably large discrepancies exist between the opportunities of individuals belonging to different applicant categories to gain admission in terms of equitable treatment of all applicants. The assessment of reasonability takes into account the following factors: the ratio of the applicants in different applicant categories to the overall number of applicants; the opportunities to gain admission through routes other than the joint application procedure; and other equivalent factors.

Section 28c (257/2015) **Acceptance of a student place**

Applicants may accept only one student place in a degree programme that begins in the term of acceptance. This provision does not apply to the acceptance of a student place in the case of transfer students.

Students who have been granted a student place shall notify the university of applied sciences within the time indicated in the offer of admission whether they accept the offered place. Where the prospective student fails to give the notification within the time indicated he or she forfeits the student place. The university of applied sciences shall, without delay, enter information on the acceptance of a student place in the higher education applicant register referred to in section 1 of the Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register (Act 1058/1998).

The Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register 1058/1998 has been repealed by Act 884/2017; see the Act on the National Registers of Education Records, Qualifications and Degrees 884/2017, section 17.

Section 29 (257/2015)

Academic year, academic terms and student enrolment and registration

The academic year of universities of applied sciences begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The autumn term begins on 1 August and ends on 31 December. The spring term begins on 1 January and ends on 31 July. Tuition is offered during periods determined by the university of applied sciences.

Students who have been admitted and who have accepted a student place shall enrol at the university of applied sciences in the manner specified by the university of applied sciences, whereupon they are enrolled as a student. Students shall register for attendance or non-attendance for each academic year in the manner specified by the universities of applied sciences. (325/2015)

Having accepted a student place, the student may register as a non-attending student during the first academic year provided he or she

- 1) is in active service in accordance with the Conscription Act (1438/2007), the Non-Military Service Act (1446/2007) or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act (194/1995);
- 2) is on maternity, paternity or parental leave; or
- 3) is unable to begin studies owing to a medical condition or disability.

(325/2015)

In the first academic year, a student may also register as non-attending if he or she is unable to commence his or her studies due to an official regulation relating to the COVID-19 epidemic or some other serious grounds relating to the epidemic. (516/2020)

Subsection 4 as added by virtue of Act 516/2020 is temporarily in force from 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2021.

Section 30 (325/2015)

Right to study

Students have the right to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a university of applied sciences in the manner laid down in the degree regulations and curriculum of the university of applied sciences.

Full-time students have the right to complete the studies referred to in subsection 1 in a time period of at most one year exceeding the normative duration of the studies. The principles for determining the maximum duration of studies referred to in subsection 1 in regard of other students are specified in the degree regulations of the universities of applied sciences.

Studies in teacher education for vocational education and training may be completed in a time period of at most one year exceeding the normative duration of the studies. Studies in teacher education intended to be completed on a part-time basis shall be completed in a maximum period of three years.

Non-attendance due to a service under the Conscription Act, the Non-Military Service Act or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act or due to maternity, paternity or parental leave are excluded from the normative duration of studies. Similarly, periods of non-attendance up to a maximum of two academic terms are excluded from the normative duration of studies when the student is registered for absence by virtue of section 29.

Students are considered to have begun their degree studies as of the date they accepted a student place at a university of applied sciences.

A transfer student's right to complete a degree is determined on the basis of the degree for which, with the transfer, the student was given the right to complete a degree. The time that the student, whether registered for attendance or non-attendance, has spent pursuing the studies on which the transfer is based is counted towards the normative duration of studies.

Section 30a (325/2015) **Extension of the right to study**

On application, the university of applied sciences grants an extension to the duration of studies to a student who has not finished his or her studies within the time period referred to in section 30 provided that the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. In the plan, the student shall detail the studies to be completed and the timetable for completing the degree.

The duration of studies is extended if it is possible for the student, in consideration of the number and scope of completed study units as well as the lacking study units and any prior decisions on extending their duration, to complete his or her studies in a reasonable period of time. When granting an extension to the duration of studies, the university of applied sciences shall take the life situation of the student into consideration.

Section 31 **Right to a safe learning environment**

Students have the right to a safe and secure learning environment.

The universities of applied sciences may adopt their own rules or issue other regulations to promote internal order, unhindered progress in studies and a safe and pleasant university of applied sciences community.

The rules and other regulations referred to in subsection 2 may include provisions on the practical arrangements and proper conduct necessary for safety and amenability in the university of applied sciences. Regulations may additionally be issued with regard to the handling of the property of the university of applied sciences and to remaining on and moving about the facilities and grounds of the university of applied sciences.

Section 32 (325/2015)

Forfeiture of the right to study

Students who have not enrolled and registered in the manner specified in section 29, or who fail to complete their studies within the time period specified in section 30 or within the extended period of time specified in section 30a, as well as students who have not been granted an extension to their studies, forfeit their right to study. Should the student later wish to start or resume his or her studies, he or she shall reapply to the university of applied sciences for admission. The application can be made without participation in the admissions procedure referred to in section 28.

If a transfer student accepts a new right to study, he or she forfeits the earlier right to study on which the transfer was based.

Section 33

Revocation of the right to study

Where the studies impose demands on the safety of minors or patient or client safety or traffic safety, the university of applied sciences may revoke the right to study where

- 1) the student in his or her studies, by repeatedly or seriously endangering the health or safety of another person, has proven to be manifestly unsuitable to perform practical assignments or practical training relating to studies;
- 2) it is evident that the student does not fulfil the prerequisites for admission referred to in section 26, subsection 1, in regard of his or her state of health or functional capacity; or
- 3) at the application stage, the student has concealed a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in section 26, subsection 2, which could have precluded his or her admission as a student.

Where the studies or practical training relating to studies substantially require work with minors, the university of applied sciences may revoke the right to study where necessary in order to protect the minors, or if the student has been sentenced for a crime referred to in the Criminal Code (39/1889), Chapter 17, sections 18, 18a or 19, in Chapter 20, in Chapter 21, sections 1–3 or 6, in Chapter 31, section 2, or in Chapter 50, sections 1, 2, 3, 4 or 4a.

Before revoking the right to study, the university of applied sciences, together with the student, shall explore the student's possibilities to apply for some other form of education. With his or her consent, the student may be transferred to other studies in the university of applied sciences where he or she fulfils the admission prerequisites.

Further provisions on the studies governed by this section are issued by government decree.

Section 34

Access to information relating to the revocation of the right to study

Where there are justified grounds to suspect that the student has an impediment due to his or her state of health or functional capacity, as referred to in section 33, subsection 1, paragraph 2, he or she may be ordered to be examined by a registered healthcare professional, where necessary, for ascertaining the student's state of health or functional capacity. The university of applied sciences defrays the cost of the examinations it orders.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences has the right, for the purpose of assessing the right to study, to obtain from physician authorised to practice the profession independently and designated by the university of applied sciences a written statement indicating that the student underwent an examination to ascertain his or her state of health and an assessment was made of the student's functional capacity with respect to the demands placed on his or her health due to the studies.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences has the right to obtain information from other universities of applied sciences, universities and other education providers about any decision, including its justifications, to revoke an applicant's right to study where it is deemed necessary for assessing the right to study.

At the request of the university of applied sciences, the student shall provide an extract of any or all entries about him or her in the criminal records referred to in section 6, subsection 3, of the Criminal Records Act (770/1993), for the purpose of assessing the right to study, as referred to in section 33, subsection 2, if the student is given assignments in studies or in practical training relating to the studies which substantially require working with minors.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences has the right to obtain information necessary for admission from another university of applied sciences concerning any pending process related to revocation of the right to study referred to in section 33, when the student has applied to the university of applied sciences as a transfer student.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences is obligated to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on any pending process related to revocation of the right to study referred to in section 33 and other decisions related to revocation of the right to study or to the transfer of the student to other studies, including the justifications, when such information is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 35 **Reinstatement of the right to study**

A person whose right to study has been revoked under section 33, subsection 1, paragraph 2, may apply to the university of applied sciences concerned for the reinstatement of the right to study. The right to study shall be reinstated if the applicant proves that the reasons for the revocation no longer exist. The student shall submit statements on his or her state of health to the university of applied sciences. The decision to reinstate the right to study is made by the board of the university of applied sciences.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, the university of applied sciences is obligated to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on any decision to reinstate the right to study, including the justifications, when such information is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 36 **Drug testing**

A university of applied sciences may oblige a student to present a drug test certificate when there are justifiable grounds to suspect that the student is addicted to drugs, or is under the influence of drugs referred to in section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 5, of the Narcotics Act (373/2008) while carrying out practical training or while performing practical tasks relating to studies. Another precondition is that the testing be necessary for ascertaining the student's functional capacity and the student perform tasks which require especial acuity, reliability, independent judgement or good reactions, and where working under the influence of drugs or drug addiction

- 1) seriously endangers the student's or some other person's life or health;
- 2) seriously endangers traffic safety;
- 3) seriously endangers the protection or integrity of data protected by secrecy provisions; or
- 4) significantly increases the risk of illicit trafficking or distribution of drugs which are in the possession of the university of applied sciences, the education provider or the place of training.

'Drug test certificate' denotes a certificate by a registered healthcare professional attesting that the student has undergone a test to detect the presence or absence of a substance referred to in section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 5, of the Narcotics Act as well as a statement based on the test as to whether the student has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity. The certificate shall be presented within a reasonable time frame, which is determined by the university of applied sciences.

If a student is required to present a drug test certificate of the kind referred to in this section, the university of applied sciences shall have written instructions drawn up in cooperation with the student welfare officials for preventing the use of narcotics by students and for intervening in drug problems.

The university of applied sciences defrays the cost of the drug test certificate referred to in this section.

In all other respects, a drug test performed on a student is governed by the provisions of section 19 of the Occupational Health Care Act (1383/2001).

Section 37

Assessment and accreditation of prior learning

Students have the right to obtain information on how assessment criteria are applied to their study attainments. Students shall be given an opportunity to see the assessed written or otherwise recorded study attainment. Written and otherwise recorded study attainments shall be retained for a minimum of six months from the publication of the results.

When studying for a degree or when completing a professional specialisation programme, students may, as determined by the university of applied sciences, have studies that they have completed in another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or other educational institution accredited towards the degree or professional specialisation programme; students may also substitute previous studies for studies in the degree requirements or professional specialisation programme if the prior studies are of equivalent level. Students may, as determined by the university of applied sciences, have their knowledge and skills attested in some other manner and counted towards the degree or specialisation, or substitute studies in the degree requirements or specialisation programme with the knowledge and skills attested. (1173/2014)

Section 38 **Discipline**

A student may be issued a written warning if he or she

- 1) disrupts teaching;
- 2) behaves threateningly or violently;
- 3) acts under false pretences or otherwise causes disorder at the university of applied sciences;
- 4) refuses to present the drug test certificate as referred to in section 36; or
- 5) has used narcotics, based on the account referred to in section 36, for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity.

If the student's deed or negligence is serious in nature or if the student continues to behave inappropriately, in the sense referred to in subsection 1, after having been issued a written warning, he or she may be suspended from the university of applied sciences for a fixed period of one year at most.

A student who disrupts teaching, behaves threateningly or violently or endangers the life or health of another person may be ordered to leave the premises where teaching takes place or from an event organised by the university of applied sciences. A student may be suspended from attending tuition for a maximum of three days where there is a risk that the safety of another student or a person working in the university of applied sciences or some other teaching facility is threatened as a result of the student's threatening or violent behaviour or where the disruptive conduct of the student makes teaching and associated activities unduly difficult.

Where a student refuses to undergo the examinations for ascertaining his or her state of health referred to in section 34, subsection 1, his or her right to study may be put on hold until he or she consents to undergo the necessary examinations. If a student refuses to provide an extract of entries on him or her in the criminal records referred to in section 34, subsection 4, his or her right to study may be put on hold until he or she consents to present the extract.

Section 39 **Procedure in disciplinary actions and matters regarding revocation of the right to study**

The decision to revoke the right to study is made by the board of the university of applied sciences. Before any decision to revoke the right to study can be taken, an account of the matter shall be obtained and the student shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

The decision to give a student a written warning is made by the president of the university of applied sciences and the decision on suspension for a fixed period by the board of the university of applied sciences. Before any such decision can be taken, the deed or negligence resulting in the disciplinary sanction shall be specified and a relevant investigation carried out, and the student shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

The president and the teacher and the practical training instructor may work together or separately in matters referred to in section 38, subsection 3. The sanctions shall be recorded. The board makes the decision referred to in section 38, subsection 4.

The decision on the enforcement of an appealable decision and on the date on which the enforcement is implemented shall be made at the same time as the decision to revoke the student's right to study, to suspend the student for a fixed period or to put the student's right to study on hold.

Section 40 **Processing sensitive information**

Information relating to an applicant's and a student's state of health, referred to in sections 27 and 34–36, may be processed only by those who prepare or make decisions on admission, revocation or reinstatement of the right to study, or on disciplinary action or by those who issue statements on these matters.

Information on a student's extract of entries from the criminal register about matters referred to in section 33, subsection 2, may be handled only by those who prepare or make decisions on the revocation of the right to study.

The universities of applied sciences shall specify the tasks which involve the handling of sensitive information.

The universities of applied sciences shall store sensitive information separately from other personal data. The sensitive information shall be deleted from the register immediately when no statutory reason no longer exists to store it, and at the latest within four years of the date on which it was entered in the register.

The processing of personal data is governed by the Personal Data Act (523/1999) unless otherwise provided in this Act.

The Personal Data Act 523/1999 has been repealed by the Data Protection Act 1050/2018.

Section 41 **Student association**

Universities of applied sciences have a student association to which students of the university of applied sciences enrolled in a degree programme may belong. The student associations may also admit other students of the university of applied sciences as members. The student association liaises with and on behalf of its members and promotes their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and those relating to studies and the position of students in society. The student

association shall also otherwise contribute to preparing students for an active, cognizant and critical citizenship. The duties of the student association are in particular to

- 1) nominate student representatives to the administrative bodies of the university of applied sciences referred to in Chapter 4; and
- 2) participate, where appropriate, in performing the tasks related to student healthcare laid down in section 17 of the Health Care Act (1326/2010) and the Act on Student Healthcare for Higher Education Students (695/2019). (699/2019)

Paragraph 2, amended by Act 699/2019, enters into force on 1 January 2021. Previous form of wording:

- 2) contribute, where needed, to the performance of the tasks relating to students' primary healthcare referred to in section 17 of the Health Care Act (1326/2010) and in Chapter 13, sections 11–14, of the Health Insurance Act (1224/2004).

(1368/2018)

The costs incurring from activities geared to implementing the purpose and remit of the student association are defrayed from the assets of the student association and from the income accruing from the activities of the student association and membership fees, which the student association is entitled to charge to its members.

The student associations of universities of applied sciences are self-governing. For administration, the student associations have a representative body and a board. Further provisions on the administration of student associations are issued in the rules of the student associations, which are approved by the rector. The administrative language of the student associations is the same as the language of instruction and degrees as stipulated in the authorisation to provide education of the universities of applied sciences.

The activities of student associations are governed by the Associations Act (503/1989), unless otherwise provided in this Act.

In matters relating to the administration of the student association, an administrative review can be requested from the body that issued the decision. The administrative review procedure is governed by the Administrative Procedure Act. The decision on the request for administrative review may be appealed against in an administrative court in the manner laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). No judicial review of the administrative court ruling may be requested by way of appeal.

A member of the student association is considered to have been informed of a decision once it has been placed on public display.

Chapter 7

Steering and financing of universities of applied sciences

Section 42

Setting objectives

For the activities of the universities of applied sciences, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the universities of applied sciences conclude fixed-term agreements on quantitative and qualitative

targets of pivotal relevance to education, research, development and innovation activities, and on the supervision and evaluation of their implementation. On the part of the university of applied sciences, the agreement is signed by the chairperson of the board and the president.

Where the quantitative targets of a university of applied sciences cannot be coordinated at the national or regional level, the Ministry of Education and Culture may, after hearing representatives of the university of applied sciences, decide on quantitative and qualitative targets for an individual university of applied sciences.

The opportunities for the universities of applied sciences to realise their objectives in Finnish or Swedish shall be secured.

Section 43

Criteria for the allocation of government funding

The Ministry of Education and Culture grants funding to universities of applied sciences for the execution of the duties laid down in this Act and within the scope of the appropriation included in the national Budget.

The university of applied sciences appropriation in the Budget referred to in subsection 1, with the exception of one-off items, is increased from the previous year in accordance with the annual cost-related rise in the index for universities of applied sciences. The universities of applied sciences index is comprised of the index of wage and salary earnings, the consumer price index and the wholesale price index.

The Ministry of Education and Culture grants imputed core funding to the universities of applied sciences, taking into account the scope, quality and effectiveness of the activities and other education, research and science policy objectives. The Ministry of Education and Culture may also grant performance-based funding to universities of applied sciences based on the performance of the university of applied sciences as well as other discretionary funding. [\(1368/2018\)](#)

The universities of applied sciences are reimbursed for the value-added tax included in the cost incurred by the universities of applied sciences for providing the educational services referred to in sections 39 and 40 of the Value Added Tax Act (1501/1993) and for procurements and facilities rents relating to research other than commercial activities. The reimbursement is based on information in the most recently approved financial statement.

In granting funding, the Ministry of Education and Culture may set conditions and restrictions on the use of the funds.

Further provisions are issued by government decree on the computation of the index for universities of applied sciences and the consideration of the rise in the cost level referred to in subsection 2 and on the computation and the relative weight of the financing criteria referred to in subsection 3. Further provisions on the computation criteria underlying the allocation of imputed funding are issued by a decree of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 44

Funding of expenses shared by universities of applied sciences

The Ministry of Education and Culture may finance activities jointly undertaken by all the universities of applied sciences within the scope of the appropriation included in the Budget.

Section 45

Supervision and reporting

When requested by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the universities of applied sciences shall provide the Ministry with the data necessary for the evaluation, development, statistics and other supervision and steering of education and research in the manner determined by the Ministry.

Section 46

Payment

The funding for the activities is paid to the universities of applied sciences in equal instalments on the third banking day of each month.

Section 47

Suspension of payment

The Ministry of Education and Culture may order the funding referred to in this Act to be suspended if

- 1) it is evident that the recipient no longer provides the activity on the basis of which the funding is allocated, or the recipient of the funding is acting materially in breach of the provisions of this Act; or
- 2) the criteria for granting the funding for a specific activity have essentially changed or have been incorrect.

Section 48

Repayment of financing received

Universities of applied sciences shall repay without delay any funds paid unduly, in excess or manifestly without justification. Universities of applied sciences shall also return any portion of funding that cannot be used for the established purposes.

The provisions in subsection 1 do not apply to the difference between imputed funding for activities and actual expenditure.

Section 49

Recovery of payments

The Ministry of Education and Culture shall order allocated funding to be recovered if the university of applied sciences has

- 1) failed to return funding repayable under section 48;
- 2) used funding for a purpose essentially different to that for which it had been granted;
- 3) given false or misleading information to the Ministry of Education and Culture about a matter which was critical to the granting of the funding, to the amount of funding or the terms of funding, or has concealed such a fact; or
- 4) otherwise, in a way comparable to paragraphs 1–3, essentially violated regulations governing the use of funding or the terms set in the funding decision.

The Ministry of Education and Culture shall make a decision on the recovery of payments within two years of the date on which the finding, usable as a basis for suspension of payments, termination of payments or recovery of funding, was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Education and Culture. However, the decision on recovery of payments shall be taken at the latest within five years of the date on which the payment was made.

Section 50

Interest and interest on late payment

Universities of applied sciences shall pay from the payment date onward annual interest, as provided in section 3, subsection 2, of the Interest Act and raised by three percentage points, on any amount to be repaid or recovered.

Where the recoverable amount is not paid by the due date set by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the university of applied sciences shall pay annual interest for the delayed payment in accordance with the interest rate referred to in section 4 of the Interest Act.

Section 51

Offsetting payments

Repayable or recoverable sums, with interest, may be recovered by means of a reduction in funding paid later to the university of applied sciences under this Act.

Section 52

Appeals related to a funding decision

Requests for administrative reviews and appeals related to decisions of the Ministry of Education and Culture to grant funding, suspend payment under section 47, recover funding under section 49 and offset payment under section 51 are governed by the provisions of section 34 of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001).

Section 53

Enforcement

Decisions may be enforced regardless of any request for a review unless otherwise stipulated by the appellate authority. A recovery decision referred to in section 49 issued as a result of a request for an administrative review is directly enforceable. Provisions on the collection of such funds are laid down in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Public Payments.

Chapter 8

Finances of universities of applied sciences

Section 54

Accounting and the accounting year

The financial year as specified in the Accounting Act is a calendar year in universities of applied sciences.

Further provisions on the profit and loss account and balance sheet formulas may be issued by government decree.

Section 55

Data on business activities

Where the university of applied sciences pursues business activities in a form other than a separate unit with no legal obligation to keep accounts, the profitability information of the business shall be presented separately as a profit and loss account in an appendix to the financial statement.

Section 56 Openness of the financial statement

The audited financial statements, including appendices, and the annual reports of universities of applied sciences and universities of applied sciences groups are public documents.

Chapter 9

Request for review

Section 57 (257/2015) Administrative review procedure

A person who has applied for entry to a university of applied sciences may lodge a request for an administrative review with an administrative body designated by the university of applied sciences to seek redress for a decision on admission within 14 days from the publication of the admissions results. The publication of the admissions results shall be accompanied by instructions on how the applicant can obtain information about the way in which the admissions criteria were applied in his or her case and how to request an administrative review. In consequence of such a request for an administrative review, the admissions results may not be altered to the detriment of anyone admitted as a student.

A student may lodge a request for an administrative review with the administrative body designated by the university of applied sciences to seek redress for a decision on forfeiture of the right to study, as laid down in section 32, within 14 days of receiving the decision.

A student dissatisfied with the grading of a study attainment or with the accreditation of either prior learning or of prior knowledge demonstrated in some other manner, may lodge a request for an administrative review orally or in writing; in the case of grading, the request is submitted to the teacher who decided on the grade and, in the case of accreditation of prior learning, to the person who made the decision on accreditation. The request for an administrative review of study attainments shall be made within 14 days of the date on which the information about the grades or the application of the assessment criteria to the student's study attainment became accessible to the student. The request for an administrative review of accreditation of prior learning shall be made within 14 days of the receipt of the notification of the decision. A student dissatisfied with the decision on the request for an administrative review referred to in this subsection may lodge a request for an administrative review from the board of examiners or other administrative body designated for the purpose within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.

The administrative review procedure is governed by the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 58 Appeal against a decision by a university of applied sciences

An appeal against a decision of a university of applied sciences to revoke the right to study, as referred to in section 33, or to reinstate the right to study, as referred to in section 35, is lodged

with the students' legal protection board within 14 days of the receipt of the decision, as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). Appeals against decisions made by the students' legal protection board are governed by the Act on the Students' Legal Protection Board (956/2011).

A request for a judicial review by way of appeal of other administrative decisions of a university of applied sciences is lodged with the administrative court of the judicial district where the main offices of the university of applied sciences are located, as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act, unless otherwise provided elsewhere by law.

An appeal against a decision on revocation of the right to study, reinstatement of the right to study or on a warning, suspension or putting studies on hold, as referred to in section 38, shall be treated as an urgent matter.

Section 59

Implementation of decisions to take disciplinary action or to revoke the right to study

A decision to revoke the right to study, to suspend a student or to put studies on hold may be carried out regardless of an appeal pending against it, unless otherwise stipulated by the appellate authority.

Section 60

Prohibition of appeal

A request for a judicial review by way of appeal may not be lodged against a university of applied sciences decision pertaining to

- 1) the election of an administrative body of the university of applied sciences by the board, president or a body specified in the rules of procedure;
- 2) the rules of procedure or other general regulations;
- 3) a curriculum or other provision concerning teaching arrangements;
- 4) a scholarship or grant.

No request for judicial review by way of appeal may be lodged against a decision made based on the administrative review procedure concerning the grading of study attainments and accreditation.

No request for judicial review by way of appeal may be lodged against an administrative court ruling on student admissions, as referred to in section 28, forfeiture of the right to study, as referred to in section 32, or a disciplinary action, as referred to in section 38.

Section 61

Leave to appeal

Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in the law, an appeal against an administrative court ruling may only be lodged if the Supreme Administrative Court grants leave of appeal.

Chapter 10

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 62 **Quality assessment**

Universities of applied sciences are responsible for the standard of quality and for continuously developing the education provided by it and its other activities. Universities of applied sciences shall evaluate their education and other activities and their impact. Universities of applied sciences shall also regularly participate in external evaluation of their activities and their quality assurance systems and publish the results of evaluations they have organised.

Provisions on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre are laid down in the Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (1295/2013).

Section 63 (1601/2015)

Section 63 has been repealed by Act 2015/1601.

Section 64 **Cooperation between universities of applied sciences**

Universities of applied sciences may agree on creating units for joint education and research to improve the consolidation of the activities of universities of applied sciences, or to promote joint projects, cooperation in the field of research and development or in other areas.

To support the management of their statutory duties, universities of applied sciences may have common units with universities, research institutes or other public or private communities or foundations.

Section 65 **Right to obtain information**

In carrying out their duties, the universities of applied sciences have the right to obtain statistical and other similar data necessary for the planning and provision of education from central government authorities and local authorities.

Upon request, the universities of applied sciences shall furnish data required for the evaluation, development, statistics and monitoring of education as specified by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, such information on a student's state of health and functional capacity as is necessary for the execution of duties may be supplied by the holder of this information to

- 1) the president of a university of applied sciences and those responsible for the security of the university of applied sciences for the purpose of ensuring the safety to pursue studies;
- 2) a person responsible for study guidance for the purpose of guiding the student to other studies or student support services;
- 3) a person responsible for student healthcare for the purpose of ensuring the student's health and safety and to guide the student to support services where necessary;
- 4) a person responsible for practical training for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the student and the safety of staff and customers at the place of training; and

5) the police and a representative of the university of applied sciences who is primarily responsible for investigating threats to security for the purpose of assessing if there is an imminent threat to safety or if, in a health assessment, the student's state of health is deemed to pose a danger to the safety of others.

Notwithstanding secrecy provisions, those responsible for executing the duties in this Act have the right to inform the police of essential details for the purpose of assessing an immediate threat to life or health and to prevent a threatening act, if they, in performing their duties, have obtained information about circumstances that leads them to believe that someone may be in danger of becoming the target of violence. (279/2015)

Section 66 **Contingency plans**

By means of contingency plans, by proactive preparation of activities and by other means, the universities of applied sciences shall ensure that in emergency conditions and during disturbances and other special situations, the disruption caused to the universities of applied sciences are kept to a minimum. Contingency plans and situation awareness reports produced on emergency conditions and during disturbances and other special situations shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Culture upon request.

The Ministry of Education and Culture supervises the contingency planning. Where shortcomings are identified in the plans, the Ministry of Education and Culture may order the shortcomings to be redressed.

Section 67 **Coordination of higher education provided in Swedish**

Provisions on the advisory board for the coordination and development of higher education provided in Swedish are laid down in section 92 of the Universities Act.

Section 68 **Entry into force and transitional provisions**

This Act enters into force on 1 January 2015.

This Act repeals the Polytechnics Act (351/2003), subsequently referred to as the *repealed Polytechnics Act*.

The opportunity referred to in section 28, subsection 4, of this Act to reserve some of the student places for applicants who have not previously completed an academic degree under the Finnish education system and have not accepted a student place leading to an academic degree, is applied to applicants who have accepted a student place for studies starting in spring 2014 or earlier but have not completed an academic degree.

Students who started their studies after 31 December 2011 are governed by section 33, subsection 2, of this Act.

Authorisations to provide education in force at the time of this Act's entry into force will expire with this Act's entry into force.

The authorisations to provide education of the education providers of universities of applied sciences organised as limited liability companies are transferred as authorisations to provide

education for limited liability companies in accordance with this Act as of 1 January 2015. If the education provider has failed to submit to the Ministry of Education and Culture the articles of association and a shareholders' agreement under this Act by the time appointed by the Ministry, the authorisation to provide education to be transferred is granted as a temporary one for the purpose of rendering the articles of association and the shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act and a time limit is set in the temporary authorisations to provide education for remedying any shortcomings.

Education providers that are not organised as limited liability companies shall apply for an authorisation to provide education for university of applied sciences activities intended for limited liability companies.

The Government may issue a temporary authorisation to provide education for a joint municipal authority who, at the time of this Act's entry into force, holds an authorisation to provide education under the repealed Act and who will not be granted an authorisation to provide education under section 7 of this Act. A temporary authorisation to provide education may be granted if it is necessary to secure the status of persons who began their studies before this Act's entry into force, to reorganise the university of applied sciences activities or for other special reasons. At its maximum, a temporary authorisation to provide education may be valid until 31 December 2016. If an education provider that is organised in a form other than as a limited liability company applies for an authorisation to provide education intended for limited liability companies but has failed to submit to the Ministry of Education and Culture the articles of association and a shareholders' agreement under this Act by the time appointed by the Ministry, the authorisation to provide education is granted as temporary one for the purpose of rendering the articles of association and the shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act and a time limit is set in the temporary authorisation to provide education for remedying any shortcomings.

Notwithstanding provisions laid down elsewhere on fees related to authorisations to provide education, parties applying for an authorisation to provide education are not charged a fee for authorisations to provide education to be granted under this Act, where the validity of the authorisation starts at the entry into force of this Act.

Universities of applied sciences applying for the transfer of an authorisation to provide education or for an authorisation to provide education shall ensure that the universities of applied sciences under this Act are capable of being organised and commence full activities as universities of applied sciences under this Act on 1 January 2015.

Provisions in section 43 notwithstanding, restrictions on the number of students and unit prices under the funding system of 2014 shall be taken into account in the transitional period from 2015 to 2016 through funding instalments calculated individually for each university of applied sciences.

Upon application, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall, for the years of 2015 and 2016, grant universities of applied sciences funding to cover the value added taxes referred to in section 30 of the Value Added Tax Act.

In 2016, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall, on a one-off basis, compensate upon application the increases in unit price that universities of applied sciences have been entitled to under section 32, subsection 2, of the Act on the Financing of Educational and Cultural Provision (1705/2009).