

REPORT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1.a) Structure of higher education system in the Russian Federation consists of:

- successive higher education programmes;
- State education standards, State higher education requirements;
- higher education institutions;
- higher education bodies, establishments and enterprises which are within their jurisdiction.

One can obtain higher education in the Russian higher education establishments of the university level (universities, academies, institutes, conservatories) and non-university level (technikums, colleges).

The main documents which regulate higher education in the Russian Federation are the following:

- the Law of the Russian Federation "On the Education";
- the State higher education standard;
- the Regulation on Scientific-Pedagogical Specialists Training in the System of Continuous Education;
- scientific titles awarding;
- the Model Status of higher education institution in the Russian Federation;
- the Temporary regulation on the licensing of higher education institutions in the Russian Federation;
- the Regulation on the State final certification of higher education graduates in the Russian Federation.

b) The current reform of Russian higher education reflects social-economic changes of the society, tend to give it more humanistic character, laying stress on the priority of human values, on the democratization of higher education administration, on the development the academic rights.

c) Administrative structure of higher education:

- the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation (Federal Central body responsible for the administration, financing and co-operation of higher education at the national level;

- departments of Federal ministries which have their higher education institutions;
- Republican (within the Russian Federation) higher educational bodies.

The State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation conducts the State policy in the sphere of higher education. The State Committee is responsible for:

- widening the access to higher education;
- the development of the united system for evaluation of higher education institution activity;
- the development and realization of the scientific activities of higher education system;
- the elaboration of the Federal component of the State education standards;
- the definition of the order of licensing, State accreditation and State certification of the higher education institutions;
- the development of the economic mechanism of higher education system;
- the development of the material and technical base of higher education system;
- organization and development of international co-operation in the higher education sphere, forming and the realization of the higher education strategy;
- the determination and the establishment of higher education content;

d) Types of institutions:

539 university level higher education institutions - universities, academies, institutes, conservatories; about 3000 non-university level education institutions (post-secondary specialized education establishments) - technikums and colleges.

2. Structure and Organization of Studies

a) Teacher education

- i) Non-university level education institutions (technikums, colleges) carry out the training of teachers for pre-primary and primary schools.
- ii) Secondary school teacher training is carried out in university level higher educational institutions.
- iii) For university teachers and instructors is necessary to continue their education after graduating from universities according to post-graduate programmes and to obtain a scientific degree as a rule.

- b) Higher education in Russia belongs to **formal education**, it does not depend on forms of training (full-time courses, part-time courses, sandwich courses).
- c) **For entering non-university level** education institution it is necessary to have school leaving certificate after completing secondary education, to take the competitive entrance examinations.
It is possible to enter a non-university level higher education institution after obtaining a general secondary education (time of study is shorter than those, according to the programmes of complete secondary education), and the time of study according to non-university level higher education programmes becomes longer.
- d) **Principal language** of instruction is generally Russian.

The language of teaching is fixed by the founder or by the regulations of the education institution.

- e) **An academic year** in the Russian Federation begins as a rule on the 1-st September, consists of 2 semesters (35 -36 weeks in whole), the examinations time and finishes in accordance with the study programme. The total capacity of holidays is usually 7-10 weeks during the calendar year.
- f) **The prerequisites** to higher education in the Russian Federation are: school-leaving certificate of the complete secondary education and getting through the competitive entrance examinations. There are no other limitations besides a medical testimony.
- g) **Levels/stages of higher education studies**
 - i) Non-university level higher education is realized in technikums and colleges.
The term of studying at the technikums is 2-3 years on the base of complete secondary education. After finishing a technikum graduates get the diplomas awarding the qualification of technician, medical sister, physical therapist, social worker and so on.
The length of study in the colleges is 3,5-4 years on the base of the complete secondary education. Graduates obtain the diplomas about awarding the qualification of minor engineer or other similar qualification.
Diplomas of non-university level give the right to enter a university level higher education institutions (sometimes it is possible to get higher education on short programme).
 - ii) Nowadays in the Russian Federation the multistage university level system of higher education is being introduced. The first stage is incomplete higher education. The length of study is at least 2 years.

without State final certification. Getting this diploma means that a student can continue his/her higher education or realize professional activities in correspondence with education. The first stage is a part of study programme which leads to the second stage of higher education.

The second stage of higher education corresponds to base education programme which includes humanities, social-economic disciplines, natural sciences, general professional and special professional disciplines, practice which reflects professional purposes. The duration of studies is at least four years, it finishes with State final certification with awarding the qualification of bachelor. This qualification gives the right for professional activities in correspondence with earned qualification and the right for continuing education on the third stage.

The third stage of university level higher education can be achieved according with two base education programmes:

- traditionally used with awarding the qualification of specialist ("engineer", "mathematician", "agronomist", etc.);
- training beyond bachelor's programme with awarding the magister qualification.

The base programme for earning the qualification "specialist" is a united programme which includes humanities, social-economic disciplines, natural science, theoretical and practical training according to the profession. It requires at least 5 years to study according to this programme. The programme finishes with State final certification, including defence of the thesis. Graduates earn qualification "specialist".

The base magister's programme is, as a rule, a continuation of the bachelor's training in corresponding area. The duration of study is at least 2 years (beyond the bachelor's qualification) with an accent on further scientific-research or scientific-pedagogical activities. The programme finishes with State final certification including defence of thesis.

The qualifications granted for the successful completion of a third stage of university level higher education give a right for professional activities in accordance with earned qualification and for continuation education in the "aspirantura" (doctoral programmes).

Individual, who has finished the "aspirantura" and has fulfilled independent research work, is allowed to defence his or her "candidate of science" thesis. After successful public defence of thesis applicant get "candidate of science" diploma (corresponds to Doctor of Philosophy degree - Ph.D.) according to the profession.

ii) The post-graduate forms of studies in Russia are: third stage of university level higher education and aspirantura.

3. Foreign Students

Special admission requirements for foreign students in Russia:

- secondary education certificate (for entering the first year) and higher education certificate (for entering the post-graduate courses);

Russian language. If applicants suffers some difficulties in Russian language, it inputs in the individual study programme. If applicant knows Russian language at the low level or does not know Russian language, there is a possibility to attend a preparatory course which can involve general education disciplines.

- absence of medical contra-indications.

b) Recognition of qualifications awarded in foreign countries

i) Recognition of periods of study has been carried out and established the equivalence on the base of agreements between Russian and foreign higher education institutions taking part in student's exchanges.

ii) Degrees and diplomas awarded abroad should be recognized and established the equivalence by the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation. The main criteria are: the recognition of diploma in the country of its distribution and its correspondence to Russian education standards. The main experts in the recognition and establishing the equivalence of the diplomas are the most qualified representatives of higher educational institutions and their associations.

Recognition or establishing the equivalence of the diploma is not necessary, if the higher education document is protected by the relevant intergovernmental agreement on the recognition and the equivalence of the diplomas.

iii) The State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation is responsible for the recognition and establishing equivalence of the diplomas.

There is the Department for the Nostrification in the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation.

Head: Dr. Yuri P. AKIMOV

Address: 51. Lusinovskaya ul., Moscow, 113833, the Russian Federation.

Phone (095) 237-8312. Fax (095) 236-0171 or (095)230-2089.

c) Services available to foreign students

- medical service;
- student hostel;
- library of the higher education institution;
- consulting professors, instructors and teachers, administrative persons of the higher education institution and representatives of education governmental bodies;
- employment services;
- students who entered the university according to quotas, get scholarship;
- others services.

4. Exercise of profession

Access to professional activities is being regulated by the legislation and regulations of the Russian Federation and also by the relevant intergovernmental agreement on the recognition and equivalence. Positions, aiming for higher education, are filled by the specialists with foreign higher education documents after its recognition and establishing the equivalence in the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation. The last one is not necessary if access to professional activities is protected by the relevant intergovernmental agreements on the recognition and equivalence.

5. National bodies responsible for questions relating to the recognition of foreign qualifications and studies

See point 3b.

The items of licensing, accreditation of higher education institutions, nostrification of higher education documents in whole belong to the competence of the Principal Department for Licensing, Accreditation and Nostrification of the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation.

6. The Russian Federation takes part in two regional conventions of UNESCO on the recognition of periods of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education in the:

- a) countries belonging to the Europe Region;
- b) countries of Asian and Pacific Region.

7. Besides, Russia takes part in Prague intergovernmental agreement on the recognition and the equivalence, has signed more than 50 bilateral agreements on the recognition and equivalence.

8. The major source of information is monthly official collection "Report of the State Committee for Higher Education of the Russian Federation".

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