

At its session of 8 July 2004, the government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the following, pursuant to Article 75 of the Higher Education Act (*Uradni list RS*, 134/03 ZViS – UPB1 and 63/04):

RESOLUTION ON THE CO-FINANCING OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

I

Funds for the co-financing of postgraduate study, grants, study assistance and young researchers shall be provided from the state budget.

This Resolution regulates the co-financing of postgraduate study in publicly accredited programmes leading towards a Master's degree or a doctorate.

The ministry responsible for higher education and science (hereinafter: the ministry) shall co-finance young researchers by issuing special public tenders.

Grants and study assistance shall be allocated to postgraduate students (hereinafter: students) by line ministries and other state bodies, local communities and public institutes within the scope of their responsibilities.

Postgraduate study programmes not financed under this Resolution shall be put to tender by higher education institutions in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Act (*Uradni list RS*, 134/03 ZViS – UPB1 and 63/04) and their own statutes.

2. PUBLIC TENDER

II

Postgraduate study shall be co-financed on the basis of a public tender. The tender shall be drafted and published by the ministry by 15 July for the next academic year.

III

Universities and independent higher education institutions with their registered office in the Republic of Slovenia that run publicly accredited postgraduate study programmes, research programmes or research and development projects in collaboration with other higher education organisations or with users such as companies, state and administrative bodies, institutes, public agencies, public companies, public funds, chambers and other legal persons (hereinafter: users), and that fulfil the conditions specified in this Resolution, shall be entitled to apply to the public tender.

IV

The selection procedure shall be conducted by the expert commission, to which the minister responsible for higher education and science (hereinafter: the minister) shall appoint a president and at least two members.

In order to aid their decision-making, the commission may call for an expert opinion from the Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Slovenia or the Council for Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia.

The resolution on selection for co-financing shall be adopted by the minister.

The ministry must sign a co-financing contract with the selected university or higher education institution by the deadline specified in the public tender.

3. CONDITIONS FOR CO-FINANCING

V

Universities and independent higher education institutions may receive co-financing if:

- they were founded in line with the Higher Education Act
- and have publicly accredited postgraduate study programmes

and if they meet the following conditions:

- their postgraduate study and research work involves links with other domestic or foreign higher education institutions, research organisations or users;
- they organise postgraduate study as under points VIII and IX;
- individual research work by students forms part of postgraduate study;
- they are active in the field of international cooperation;
- they monitor and assess their work in a planned manner and demonstrate that their postgraduate study and research work is of a high standard.

The public tender referred to under point II of this Resolution shall state which documentary evidence proving fulfilment of the conditions needs to be enclosed with an application by a university or independent higher education institution.

Links in postgraduate study

VI

Links between universities, member institutions of universities and independent higher education institutions and other domestic or foreign higher education institutions or research organisations must facilitate and promote the development of a credit system for postgraduate study, interdisciplinarity, choice, the organisation of postgraduate study for at least 15 students, joint deployment of the most established members of staff, optimum use of premises, laboratories, research equipment, libraries and information services, student exchange programmes, and individual research work carried out by students within research groups. Links with users must enable students to carry out applied individual research work.

VII

If a university, member institution of a university or independent higher education institution creates links with other higher education institutions (with another university or independent higher education institution), research organisations or users, the mutual rights and obligations shall be regulated by means of a cooperation contract. If links are created between higher

education institutions that are member institutions of a university, they shall be regulated by means of a written cooperation agreement.

Postgraduate study programmes (duration and enrolment)

VIII

Master's programmes must meet the following conditions in order to receive co-financing:

- they last two years and contain not more than 450 hours of lectures and seminars, with the student fulfilling at least 25 per cent of his study obligations through individual research work;
- they are assessed by means of credit points;
- they allow the student to select at least 10 per cent of his lectures or seminars from other postgraduate study programmes in the same or other higher education institutions;
- at least 45 credit points are required in order for a student to advance from the first to the second year.

Four-year doctoral programmes shall be co-financed. The first two years are conducted according to the rules applying to Master's programmes (excluding the Master's thesis); the last two years are taken up with the student's own individual research work.

IX

A higher education institution (member institution of a university, independent higher education institution) must enrol at least 15 students in the first year of postgraduate study regardless of the number of internal organisational units, the number of postgraduate study programmes it runs and the number of higher education institutions or research organisations participating in carrying out the programmes.

Enrolment must be completed no later than 14 days after the start of the academic year. The higher education institution must provide the financing body with the list of enrolled students within seven days of the completion of enrolment.

Students' individual research work

X

A student shall perform individual research work within a research group at a higher education institution, at a research organisation or with a user.

The head of a research programme or research and development project financed from the state budget must place in a research group at least one student enrolled in a Master's or doctoral programme for every third of the total full-time hours worked by other members of the group, and allow him to carry out independent research work within the group as under point VIII of this Resolution.

Information on the providers, official titles and duration of research programmes and research and development projects from the preceding paragraph shall be publicly accessible. The ministry shall ensure that this information is published at least once a year, as a rule by 1 March.

Notwithstanding the provision of the first paragraph of this point, a student may carry out individual research work on his own if it is not possible to place him in a research group.

International cooperation

XI

Universities and independent higher education institutions must demonstrate that they are engaged in international cooperation by providing information on:

- research programmes or research and development projects in which students may also take part;
- study links (joint postgraduate study programmes, international networks, mutual recognition of credit points, student exchanges);
- visiting professors and researchers;
- planned levels of enrolment by foreign students and the actual number of such students in the last three years.

Universities and independent higher education institutions must demonstrate that they are engaged in at least two of the above forms of international cooperation.

Systematic monitoring and assessment of quality of work

XII

Universities and independent higher education institutions shall systematically monitor and assess their work, and provide the ministry with information on academic success and on the research programmes and projects carried out.

XIII

Universities and independent higher education institutions must discuss the annual report on the self-evaluation of postgraduate study programmes with research organisations and users, students' representatives, financing bodies and the general public. Opinions and recommendations shall be formulated alongside the discussion; these are then taken into consideration by the higher education institutions in their work and by the ministry in the financing process.

4. CO-FINANCING

Standardised tuition fees

XIV

The standardised tuition fees for an individual year of postgraduate study financed from the state budget is SIT 470,000 for a newly enrolled student in an individual year of study.

XV

The tuition fees of the following shall be co-financed:

- students who are citizens of Slovenia, who are enrolled in the first year in an academic year in a Master's programme that has been selected by tender as per the second chapter of this Resolution, whose tuition fees have not yet been co-financed and who advance in the regular manner to the second, third or fourth years, with the higher education institution meeting all the obligations from the co-financing contract;

- in exceptional cases, students in the second or a higher year of study who, on account of maternity, military service or illness lasting longer than three months, did not advance in the regular manner, but only once for each year;
- doctoral candidates after the completion of a Master's programme, if the latter was not co-financed;
- students who, in accordance with the criteria for entry to the next year of study, are continuing their studies in co-financed postgraduate study programmes, but only as far as the total does not exceed that approved for the co-financing of an individual generation in the first year by the resolution on selection under point IV of this Resolution.

Tuition fees for foreign students and for Slovenes without citizenship of Slovenia may also be co-financed according to regulations on study for such students.

Tuitions fees shall not be financed for parallel study.

The co-financing of tuition fees may not exceed 60 per cent of the standardised tuition fees in the first and second years, and 80 per cent of the standardised tuition fees in the third and fourth years.

The ministry may allot additional funds to a higher education institution for each student of the second, third or fourth year who, pursuant to a contract between the higher education institution and the user, are planning individual research work and a Master's or doctoral dissertation as a contribution to resolving a specific problem for the user. Additional funds may amount to no more than 20 per cent of the tuition fees for the year.

If the funds do not suffice to co-finance all enrolled students, the costs of study for those in higher years shall be settled first, where students from the preceding paragraph shall have priority. For first-year studies, the tuition fees of as many students as are prescribed for the higher education institution by the resolution on selection or the co-financing contract shall be co-financed, where higher education institutions that have signed cooperation contracts with users shall have priority.

Tuition fees charged by higher education institutions

XVI

A higher education institution may charge a student in tuition fees no more than the difference between the standardised tuition fees for an individual year and co-financing from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

Upon enrolment, a higher education institution may only charge a student a maximum advance of 25 per cent of the standard tuition fee, with the difference being settled after the co-financing contract from the fourth paragraph of point IV of this Resolution has been signed.

5. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

XVII

The additional funds referred to in point XV of this Resolution shall begin to be disbursed to higher education institutions in the 2004/2005 academic year for students enrolling in the second, third or fourth years.

XVIII

The University of Ljubljana's specialist postgraduate study programme 'Conference interpreting' shall be co-financed as follows:

- 2004/05 academic year – SIT 7,176,414;
- 2005/06 and 2006/07 academic years – level to be set in a resolution issued by the Slovenian government.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

XIX

The Resolution on the Co-Financing of Postgraduate Study (*Uradni list RS*, 41/01 and 67/03) shall cease validity upon the entry into force of this Resolution.

XX

This Resolution shall enter into force the day after its publication in the *Uradni list Republike Slovenije*.

The Resolution was published in the *Uradni list RS* (77/04).