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GRADUATE EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGULATIONS

CHAPTER ONE
Purpose, Scope, Basis and Definitions

Purpose and scope

ARTICLE 1 – (1) This Regulation regulates postgraduate education and training consisting of master's, doctorate and arts proficiency programs conducted in higher education institutions.

Rest

ARTICLE 2 – (1) This Regulation was prepared based on Article 44, paragraph (c) of the Higher Education Law No. 2547 dated 4/11/1981.

Definitions

ARTICLE 3 – (1) In this Regulation;

- a) ALES: Academic Personnel and Postgraduate Education Entrance Exam,
- b) ECTS: European Credit Transfer System,
- c) Plagiarism: Presenting others' ideas, methods, data or works as your own work, in whole or in part, without citing them in accordance with scientific rules.
- c) ÖSYM: Presidency of the Assessment, Selection and Placement Center, expresses.

CHAPTER TWO
Master's Programs

General principles

ARTICLE 4 – (1) Master's programs can be conducted in two ways: with thesis and without thesis. The issues of which institute departments/main art branches these programs will be conducted in and how they will be conducted, and the permission for transfer between thesis and non-thesis master's programs under the authority of higher education institutions are regulated by the regulations issued by the senates.

(2) Upon the decision of the Council of Higher Education, postgraduate distance education programs may be opened in higher education institutions, where teaching activities are planned and carried out based on information and communication technologies, without the necessity of the faculty members and students being in the same place. The areas in which distance education programs can be opened, the courses to be given through distance education and the amount of credits and ECTS credits, the preparation of course materials, the way exams are held, the protocols to be made between higher education institutions for this purpose and other issues related to distance education are determined by the Council of Higher Education.

Application and acceptance

ARTICLE 5 – (1) **(Amended: RG-14/4/2020-31099)** In order to apply for a master's program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree and an ALES score determined by the senate of not less than 55 points in the score type of the program they are applying for. However,

- a) In accepting students to the main art and science departments of the institutes of conservatory programs and fine arts faculties that accept students only with special talent exams,
- b) In the application of graduates with a doctorate/artistic qualification/medical specialization/dentistry specialization/veterinary medicine specialization/pharmacy specialization to postgraduate programs,
ALES requirement is not required.
- (2) In accepting students to non-thesis master's programs, higher education institutions may not require an ALES score; if an ALES score is requested, the base score is determined by the senates.

(3) The principles regarding the application of candidates who have graduated/can graduate, the weight with which the ALES score will be taken into consideration, provided that it is not less than 50%, and other issues regarding the admission of students to postgraduate education are determined by the senate.

(4) Higher education institutions may accept students to graduate programs based on only the ALES score, or they may also consider undergraduate GPA, written scientific evaluation and/or interview results in addition to the ALES score.

(5) **(Annex: RG-14/4/2020-31099)** For the evaluation procedures of the candidates within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph;

- a) A score of not less than 55 and not more than 75 is determined by the university senates, regardless of the type of score or field of specialization at which the candidate enters the graduate program from which he/she graduated, and is announced in the conditions of the relevant program.
- b) These candidates may apply in a field different from the score type or doctorate/artistic proficiency/specialization field they previously received.
- c) The announced score is included in the calculations as ALES score, regardless of the score type.
- (6) **(Added: RG-18/5/2021-31485)** In applications to conservatory programs and fine arts faculties that accept students only with special talent exams, and to programs in which the language of instruction is Turkish in the main art and department branches of institutes, the application must be documented with a health report received from a state hospital or a state university hospital.
 - a) Hearing impaired candidates whose uncorrected disability is at least 70% or whose corrected disability is at least 40% and above,
 - b) Candidates with mental retardation whose disability level is 50% or higher,
 - c) Disabled candidates diagnosed with "pervasive developmental disorder" (autism spectrum disorder/childhood autism/atypical autism, Rett Syndrome, Asperger Syndrome) with a disability level of 40% and above,
Foreign language scores are not required to apply. These candidates are deemed to have met the foreign language base score requirement sought by the university.

Thesis-based master's program

ARTICLE 6 – (1) The thesis-based master's program enables the student to gain the ability to access, compile, interpret and evaluate information using scientific research methods.

(2) The thesis master's program consists of at least seven courses, one seminar course and thesis work, with a total of at least twenty-one credits. The seminar course and thesis work are non-credit and are evaluated as successful or unsuccessful. The thesis master's program consists of at least eight courses, including the seminar course, with a total of at least 60 ECTS credits per academic year, and the thesis work, with a total of at least 120 ECTS credits. The student must register for the thesis period each semester, starting from the term following the assignment of the advisor at the latest.

(3) A maximum of two of the courses to be taken by the student can be selected from undergraduate courses, provided that they were not taken during undergraduate education. In addition, a maximum of two courses can be selected from courses offered at other higher education institutions with the recommendation of the institute department/branch head and approval of the institute's board of directors.

(4) The thesis-based master's program can be carried out as a second graduate education program.

Duration

ARTICLE 7 – (1) The duration of the thesis-based master's program is four semesters, starting from the semester in which the courses related to the program in which the student is registered are given, excluding the period spent in scientific preparation, regardless of whether or not he/she registers for each semester, and the program is completed in a maximum of six semesters.

(2) Students who cannot successfully complete the credit courses and seminar courses in their curriculum at the end of four semesters or who cannot meet the success conditions/criteria stipulated by the higher education institution within this period; who are unsuccessful in their thesis work within the maximum period or who do not defend their thesis are dismissed from the higher education institution.

(3) Regulations regarding students who may graduate from a master's program before the deadline are determined by the regulations approved by the senate.

Appointment of thesis advisor

ARTICLE 8 – (1) In the thesis-based master's program, the institute department/branch head recommends a thesis advisor from his/her own university to the institute for each student by the end of the first semester at the latest; and the thesis topic determined by the student together with his/her advisor by the end of the second semester at the latest. The thesis advisor and the thesis topic are finalized with the approval of the institute's board of directors.

(2) The thesis advisor shall be selected from among faculty members with the qualifications determined by the senate. **(Additional sentences: RG-15/1/2023-32074)** Researchers with at least a doctorate degree who are assigned part-time within the scope of additional article 46 of Law No. 2547 may also be selected as thesis advisors. However, in order for these persons to be assigned as advisors, the student's request, the written consent of the relevant researcher and the decision of the institute's board of directors are required. If there is no faculty member with the qualifications determined at the higher education institution, a faculty member from another higher education institution may be selected as an advisor by the institute's board of directors within the framework of the principles determined by the university senate. **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** In cases where the nature of the thesis study requires more than one thesis advisor, the second thesis advisor to be assigned may be from among individuals with at least a doctorate degree from outside the university staff.

Completion of the master's thesis

ARTICLE 9 – (1) A student studying in a thesis-based master's program writes the results he/she has obtained in accordance with the writing rules determined by the senate and defends his/her thesis orally before the jury.

(2) Before the defense of the master's thesis and in the case of theses that have been corrected, the student completes the thesis and submits it to his/her advisor. The advisor submits the thesis to the institute with his/her opinion that the thesis is defensible. The institute obtains a plagiarism software program report regarding the thesis in question and sends it to the advisor and the jury members. If a real plagiarism is detected in the data in the report, the thesis is sent to the institute's board of directors for a decision to be made with the justification.

(3) The master's thesis jury is appointed with the recommendation of the thesis advisor and the relevant department/main art department head and the approval of the institute's board of directors. The jury consists of three or five faculty members, one of whom is the student's thesis advisor and at least one from outside the student's higher education institution. If the jury consists of three people, the second thesis advisor cannot be a jury member.

(4) The student who has completed the thesis work submits the requested number of copies of the thesis to the thesis advisor. The advisor sends the copies of the thesis to the relevant institute through the department/main art/science/art branch/program head with his/her written opinion regarding the conformity of the thesis with the writing rules.

(5) The jury members shall meet within one month from the date the thesis in question is delivered to them and take the thesis exam. The thesis exam consists of the presentation of the thesis work and the following question-answer session. The thesis exam is held in an environment open to the participation of an audience consisting of faculty members, graduate students and experts in the field.

(6) After the thesis exam is completed, the jury decides on acceptance, rejection or correction of the thesis by simple majority. This decision is notified to the relevant institute by the department/branch head within three days following the thesis exam.

(7) A student whose thesis is rejected as unsuccessful is dismissed from the higher education institution.

(8) A student whose thesis has been decided to be corrected must defend the corrected thesis before the same jury within three months at the latest. If the thesis is found unsuccessful and not

accepted as a result of this defense, the student's relationship with the higher education institution is terminated.

(9) If a student whose thesis is rejected requests it, he/she will be awarded a non-thesis master's degree, provided that he/she has fulfilled the course credit load, project writing and similar requirements of the non-thesis master's program.

Diploma

ARTICLE 10 – (1) A thesis-based master's degree is awarded to a master's degree student who, provided that he/she is successful in the thesis exam and meets the other conditions required for graduation determined by the senate, submits at least three bound copies of his/her master's thesis to the relevant institute within one month from the thesis exam date and whose thesis is found appropriate in terms of form. The institute's board of directors may extend the submission period for a maximum of one month upon request. A student who does not fulfill these conditions cannot receive his/her diploma until he/she fulfills the conditions, cannot benefit from student rights and is dismissed if the maximum period expires.

(2) The name of the department/main art branch program of the institute in which the student is registered, approved by the Council of Higher Education, is included on the thesis-based master's diploma. **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** The graduation date is the date on which the signed copy of the thesis is delivered by the examination jury committee.

(3) A copy of the master's thesis is sent to the Council of Higher Education by the institute in electronic format within three months from the submission of the thesis, to be made available for scientific research and activities.

Non-thesis master's program

ARTICLE 11 – (1) The non-thesis master's program provides students with knowledge on professional issues and shows them how to use existing knowledge in practice.

(2) **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** The non-thesis master's program consists of at least ten courses and a term project course, with a total of thirty credits and at least 60 ECTS. The student must register for the term project course in the semester in which the term project course is taken and submit a written project and/or report at the end of the semester. The term project course is non-credit and is evaluated as successful or unsuccessful.

(3) A maximum of three of the courses to be taken by the student can be selected from undergraduate courses, provided that they were not taken during undergraduate education.

(4) A proficiency exam may be administered at the end of the non-thesis master's program, according to the principles determined by the Senate.

(5) The non-thesis master's program can also be carried out in the second postgraduate education.

Duration

ARTICLE 12 – (1) The period for completing a non-thesis master's program is a minimum of two semesters and a maximum of three semesters, starting from the semester in which the courses related to the program in which the student is registered are given, excluding the period spent in scientific preparation, regardless of whether or not he/she is registered for each semester. Students who fail at the end of this period or cannot complete the program are dismissed from the higher education institution.

Appointment of consultant

ARTICLE 13 – (1) In a non-thesis master's program, the institute department/branch head determines a faculty member or a faculty member with a doctorate degree who has the qualifications determined by the relevant senate, who will advise each student in the selection of courses and the execution of the term project, by the end of the first semester at the latest.

Diploma

ARTICLE 14 – (1) A non-thesis master's degree is awarded to students who successfully complete their credit courses and term project.

(2) The name of the department/main art program in which the student is registered, as approved by the Council of Higher Education, is included on the non-thesis master's diploma.

(3) Those who continue in the non-thesis master's program may transfer to the thesis master's program provided that they meet the minimum requirements for the thesis master's program determined by the higher education institution they applied to. In this case, the courses taken in the non-thesis master's program may be counted instead of the courses in the thesis master's program with the decision of the institute's board of directors.

CHAPTER THREE

Doctorate Program

General principles

ARTICLE 15 – (1) The doctoral program provides students with the skills necessary to conduct independent research, to analyze scientific problems and data from a broad and deep perspective, to comment on them, and to reach new syntheses.

(2) The doctoral program consists of at least 240 ECTS credits, including at least seven courses, seminars, proficiency exams, thesis proposals and thesis work, with a total of twenty-one credits for students accepted with a thesis-based master's degree and at least 60 ECTS credits for one academic year. It also consists of 14 courses, seminars, proficiency exams, thesis proposals and thesis work, with a total of at least 300 ECTS credits, including at least forty-two credits for students accepted with a bachelor's degree.

(3) In doctoral programs, students accepted with a master's degree can choose a maximum of two courses from courses offered at other higher education institutions, with the recommendation of the institute department/branch head and the approval of the institute's board of directors, and students accepted with a bachelor's degree can choose a maximum of four courses.

(4) Undergraduate courses do not count towards course load or doctoral credits.

(5) Doctoral programs cannot be opened as evening education.

(6) The thesis to be prepared at the end of the doctoral study must fulfil at least one of the following qualifications: bringing innovation to science, developing a new scientific method, or applying a known method to a new field.

Application and acceptance

ARTICLE 16 – (1) In order to apply to the doctoral program, candidates must;

a) **(Amended: RG-14/4/2020-31099)** They must have a thesis-based master's degree and must have an ALES score determined by the relevant senate decision, provided that it is not less than 55 points in the score type of the program they are applying for. However; ALES is not required for applications to doctoral programs for graduates of doctorate/artistic competency/medical specialization/dentistry specialization/veterinary specialization/pharmacy specialization, and for the evaluation processes of these candidates,

1) A score of not less than 55 and not more than 75 is determined by the university senates, regardless of the type of score or specialization field at which the candidate enters the graduate program from which he/she graduated, and is announced in the conditions of the relevant program.

2) These candidates may apply in a field different from the score type or doctorate/artistic proficiency/specialization field they previously received.

3) The announced score is included in the calculations as ALES score, regardless of the score type.

b) They must have a bachelor's degree of at least ten semesters from the faculties of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and preparatory classes or a specialist authority gained in a laboratory branch according to the principles regulated by the Ministry of Health and have an ALES score determined by the senate, provided that it is not less than 55 points in the score type of the program they are applying for.

c) Those who apply to the doctoral program with a bachelor's degree must have a minimum undergraduate graduation grade point average of 3 out of 4 or an equivalent score and must have an ALES score determined by the senate, provided that it is not less than 80 points in the score type of the program they are applying for. In the acceptance of those who will apply to the doctoral program to the program, in addition to the ALES score, the written scientific assessment exam and/or interview result and, for those who apply with a master's degree, the master's grade point average may also be evaluated. Matters related to this evaluation, application conditions and other matters regarding student admission are determined by the regulation prepared by the relevant senate.

(2) Those who have completed ten semesters of undergraduate education, excluding preparatory classes, are considered to have a master's degree.

(3) The weight with which the ALES score will be taken into consideration is determined by the senate, provided that it is not less than 50%. A higher education institution may also accept students with only the ALES score. Equivalent scores that are accepted as equivalent to ALES and announced by the Council of Higher Education may be increased by the senate decisions of each university.

(4) **(Amended sentence: RG-14/4/2020-31099)** ALES score is not required for admission to the main art and department branches of the institutes of conservatory programs and fine arts faculties that accept students only with special talent exams. However, an ALES score may be requested by the decision of the university senate. If an ALES score is requested, the base score is determined by the senate.

(5) In accepting students to the doctoral program, it is mandatory to obtain a minimum score of 55 from international foreign language exams accepted as equivalent to central foreign language exams accepted by the Council of Higher Education, other than their mother tongue, or an equivalent score from international foreign language exams accepted as equivalent by ÖSYM. If necessary, the university senates decide to increase these minimum scores according to the characteristics of the programs to be entered.

(6) In order to apply to doctoral programs in basic medical sciences, medical school graduates must have a bachelor's degree and a basic medical score taken from the Medical Specialization Education Entrance Exam, which will be determined by the relevant senate decision, provided that it is not less than 50 points, or an ALES score, which will be determined by the senate decision, provided that it is not less than 55 points in the numerical score type of ALES; and those who are not medical school graduates must have a master's degree (bachelor's degree for graduates of dentistry and veterinary faculties) and an ALES score, which will be determined by the senate decision, provided that it is not less than 55 points in the numerical score type of ALES. The basic medical score is obtained by multiplying the standard score obtained from the Basic Medical Sciences Test-1 section of the Medical Specialization Education Entrance Exam by 0.7 and the standard score obtained from the Clinical Medical Sciences Test by 0.3 and adding them together. In addition to the basic medical score or ALES score, if necessary, undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average, scientific evaluation and/or interview results may also be evaluated in accepting students to doctoral programs. The issues regarding this evaluation and other documents that candidates must provide for the application (reference letter, essay stating why they want to do a doctorate, international standard exams and similar) are determined by the regulation prepared by the relevant senate. However, in accepting students to the doctoral program in basic medical sciences, it is mandatory to obtain at least 55 points from international foreign language exams accepted by the Council of Higher Education as equivalent to central foreign language exams other than their native language or an equivalent score from international foreign language exams accepted by ÖSYM as equivalent, and the university senates decide to increase these minimum scores, if necessary, according to the characteristics of the programs to be entered. The senate determines how much weight the basic medicine score or ALES score will be taken into consideration, provided that it is not less than 50%. The higher education institution may also accept students with only the basic medicine score or ALES score.

Duration

ARTICLE 17 – (1) The doctoral program, for those accepted with a thesis master's degree, excluding the period spent in scientific preparation, is eight semesters, starting from the semester in which the courses related to the program are given, regardless of whether they register for each semester or not, and the maximum completion period is twelve semesters; for those accepted with a bachelor's degree, it is ten semesters, and the maximum completion period is fourteen semesters.

(2) The maximum period for successfully completing the credit courses required for the doctoral program is four semesters for those accepted with a thesis-based master's degree and six semesters for those accepted with a bachelor's degree. Students who cannot successfully complete their credit courses within this period or who cannot achieve the minimum general grade point average required by the higher education institution will be dismissed from the higher education institution.

(3) A student who successfully completes his/her credit courses, is successful in the proficiency exam and whose thesis proposal is accepted, but cannot complete his/her thesis work by the end

(3) A student who successfully completes his/her credit courses, is successful in the proficiency exam and whose thesis proposal is accepted, but cannot complete his/her thesis work by the end of the twelve or fourteen semesters specified in the first paragraph, will be dismissed from the university.

(4) Students who have applied to the doctoral program with a bachelor's degree and who cannot complete their credit courses and/or thesis work within the maximum period, or who are not successful in their doctoral thesis, are granted a non-thesis master's degree upon request, provided that they have fulfilled the credit load, project and other similar conditions required for a non-thesis master's degree.

Appointment of thesis advisor

ARTICLE 18 – (1) The institute department/main art department head recommends a thesis advisor from his/her university staff for each student, and the thesis topic and thesis title to be determined by the advisor and the student together to the relevant institute. The thesis advisor and the thesis proposal are finalized by the decision of the institute board of directors. The time when the thesis advisor will be appointed within the student's program is specified in the regulation approved by the senate. However, the thesis advisor must be appointed by the end of the second semester at the latest.

(2) The thesis advisor shall be selected from among faculty members with the qualifications determined by the senate. **(Additional sentences: RG-15/1/2023-32074)** Researchers with at least a doctorate degree who are assigned part-time within the scope of additional article 46 of Law No. 2547 may also be selected as thesis advisors. However, in order for these persons to be assigned as advisors, the student's request, the written consent of the relevant researcher and the decision of the institute's board of directors are required. If there is no faculty member with the qualifications determined at the higher education institution, a faculty member from another higher education institution may be selected as an advisor by the institute's board of directors within the framework of the principles determined by the university senate. **(Amended sentences: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** In order for faculty members to be able to supervise theses in doctoral programs, except for the departments of dentistry, pharmacy, medicine and veterinary faculties, they must have supervised at least one successfully completed master's thesis. In cases where the nature of the thesis study requires more than one thesis advisor, the second thesis advisor to be appointed may be from outside the university staff and may be someone with at least a doctorate degree.

Qualifying examination

ARTICLE 19 – (1) The proficiency exam is a measure of whether the student, who has completed his/her courses and seminar, has the depth of scientific research on the basic subjects and concepts in his/her field and on his/her doctoral study. A student may take the proficiency exam at most twice a year.

(2) The time when a student will take the proficiency exam is determined by the regulation approved by the senate. However, students accepted with a master's degree must take the proficiency exam by the end of the fifth semester at the latest, and students accepted with a bachelor's degree must take the proficiency exam by the end of the seventh semester at the latest.

(3) Qualification exams are organized and conducted by a five-person PhD Qualification Committee, proposed by the institute department/main art department head and approved by the institute board of directors. The committee establishes exam juries to prepare, implement and evaluate exams in different fields. The exam jury consists of five faculty members, including the advisor, at least two of whom must be from outside the institution of higher education. The relevant board of directors decides whether the advisor has the right to vote. If the advisor does not have the right to vote, the jury consists of six faculty members. Qualification exam meetings are open to the participation of an audience consisting of faculty members, graduate students and experts in the field.

(4) The proficiency exam is conducted in two parts, written and oral. Students who are successful in the written exam are admitted to the oral exam. The weights of the exams and the calculation of their grades are carried out in accordance with the regulations of the higher education institution. The exam juries evaluate the student's success in the written and oral exams and decide by simple majority whether the student is successful or unsuccessful. This decision is notified to the institute by the department/branch head of the institute with a report within three days following the proficiency exam.

(5) Students who fail the proficiency exam will be re-examined in the following semester in the department(s) they failed. Students who fail this exam will be dismissed from the doctoral program.

(6) The proficiency exam jury may request a student who has passed the proficiency exam to take additional course(s) on condition that they do not exceed one-third of the total credit amount, even if the student has completed the course load. The student must pass the courses determined by the relevant institute.

(7) A student who has been accepted to a doctoral program with a bachelor's degree and has successfully completed at least seven courses may transfer to a master's program. The conditions for transferring to a master's program are determined by a regulation to be prepared by the senate.

Thesis monitoring committee

ARTICLE 20 – (1) A thesis monitoring committee is established within one month for the student who is successful in the proficiency exam, with the recommendation of the relevant institute department/branch head and approval of the institute's board of directors.

(2) The thesis monitoring committee consists of three faculty members. In addition to the thesis advisor, the committee includes one member from within and one member from outside the institute's department. If a second thesis advisor is appointed, the second thesis advisor may attend the committee meetings if he/she wishes.

(3) In the periods after the establishment of the thesis monitoring committee, changes can be made in the members with the recommendation of the department/branch head of the institute and the approval of the institute's board of directors.

Thesis proposal defense

ARTICLE 21 – (1) The student who successfully completes the doctoral qualification exam shall, within six months at the latest, orally defend his/her thesis proposal, which includes the purpose, method and work plan of the research to be conducted, before the thesis monitoring committee. The student shall distribute a written report regarding the thesis proposal to the committee members at least fifteen days before the oral defense.

(2) The thesis monitoring committee decides by a simple majority whether the thesis proposal submitted by the student will be accepted, corrected or rejected. A period of one month is given for correction. At the end of this period, the decision of acceptance or rejection is given by a simple majority and is reported to the institute by the department/branch head of the institute within three days following the completion of the process.

(3) A student whose thesis proposal is rejected has the right to choose a new advisor and/or thesis topic. In this case, a new thesis monitoring committee may be appointed. Students who wish to continue the program with the same advisor must defend their thesis proposal again within three months, and students who change their advisor and thesis topic must defend their thesis proposal again within six months. Students whose thesis proposal is rejected in this defense are dismissed from the higher education institution.

(4) For students whose thesis proposals are accepted, the thesis monitoring committee meets at least twice a year, once between January and June and once between July and December. The student submits a written report to the committee members at least one month before the meeting date. This report includes a summary of the work done so far and a work plan for the next term. The student's thesis is determined as successful or unsuccessful by the committee. A student who is found unsuccessful twice in a row or three times at a time by the committee is dismissed from the higher education institution.

(5) Students who fail to defend their thesis proposal within the time period specified in the first paragraph without a valid excuse will be deemed unsuccessful and their thesis proposal will be rejected.

Finalization of doctoral thesis

ARTICLE 22 – (1) A student in the doctoral program writes down the results he/she has obtained in accordance with the writing rules accepted by the senate and defends his/her thesis orally before the jury.

(2) Before the defense of the doctoral thesis and in the case of theses that have been corrected, the student completes the thesis and submits it to his/her advisor. The advisor submits the thesis to the institute together with his/her opinion that the thesis is defensible. The institute obtains a plagiarism software program report regarding the thesis in question and sends it to the advisor and the jury members. If a real plagiarism is detected in the data in the report, the thesis is sent to the institute board of directors for a decision to be made together with the justification.

(3) At least three thesis monitoring committee reports must be submitted in order for the student's thesis to be finalised.

(4) The doctoral thesis jury is appointed with the recommendation of the advisor and the department/branch head of the institute and the approval of the institute's board of directors. The jury consists of five faculty members, including the advisor, three of whom are faculty members on the student's thesis monitoring committee and at least two of whom are from outside the student's higher education institution. The relevant board of directors decides whether the advisor has the right to vote. If the advisor does not have the right to vote, the jury consists of six faculty members. In addition, the second thesis advisor may be on the jury without the right to vote.

(5) The jury members shall meet within one month at the latest from the date the thesis is delivered to them and have the student defend the thesis. The thesis defense exam consists of a presentation of the thesis work followed by a question-answer session. Thesis defense meetings are open to the participation of faculty members, graduate students and experts in the field.

(6) After the completion of the thesis exam, the jury decides on acceptance, rejection or correction by a simple majority, closed to the audience. Students whose thesis is accepted are evaluated as successful. This decision is notified to the relevant institute by the department/branch head of the institute within three days following the thesis exam. The student whose thesis is rejected as unsuccessful is dismissed from the higher education institution. The student whose thesis is deemed to be corrected defends his/her thesis again before the same jury by making the necessary corrections within six months at the latest. The student who is unsuccessful in this defense is dismissed from the higher education institution. **(Amended sentence: RG-16/9/2017-30182)** Students who are unsuccessful in their thesis are granted a non-thesis master's degree diploma according to the fourth paragraph of Article 17 upon their request.

Doctorate degree

ARTICLE 23 – (1) The student who has completed the thesis work shall submit the requested number of copies of the thesis to his/her advisor. The advisor shall send the copies of the thesis to the relevant institute through the department/branch head, with his/her written opinion regarding the conformity of the thesis with the writing rules.

(2) A student who successfully defends his/her thesis and meets all other requirements and delivers at least three hard-bound copies of his/her doctoral thesis to the relevant institute within one month from the date of the thesis examination and whose thesis is found appropriate in terms of form is entitled to receive a doctoral diploma. The institute's board of directors may extend the submission period for a maximum of one month upon application. A student who fails to meet these requirements cannot receive his/her diploma until he/she fulfills the requirements, cannot benefit from student rights and is dismissed if the maximum period expires.

(3) The name of the department/main art program of the institute approved by the Council of Higher Education is included on the doctoral diploma. **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** The graduation date is the date on which the signed copy of the thesis is delivered by the examination jury committee.

(4) A copy of the doctoral thesis is sent to the Council of Higher Education in electronic format within three months from the submission of the thesis by the relevant institute, to be made available for scientific research and activities.

CHAPTER FOUR
Proficiency Program in Arts

General principles

ARTICLE 24 – (1) Proficiency in art is a higher education program equivalent to a doctorate that aims to produce an original work of art and to achieve superior application and creativity in music and performing arts.

(2) For students accepted with a thesis-based master's degree, the art competency program consists of at least seven courses with a total of twenty-one credits and at least 60 ECTS credits per

academic year, practices, and studies such as thesis, exhibitions, projects, recitals, concerts, and performances, totaling at least 240 ECTS credits. For students accepted with a bachelor's degree, it consists of fourteen courses with a minimum of forty-two credits, practices, and studies such as thesis, exhibitions, projects, recitals, concerts, and performances, totaling at least 300 ECTS credits.

(3) Postgraduate courses can be chosen from courses offered at other higher education institutions, with the recommendation of the relevant institute department/branch head and the approval of the institute's board of directors, for students accepted with a master's degree, a maximum of two courses, and for students accepted with a bachelor's degree, a maximum of four courses can be chosen.

Application and acceptance

ARTICLE 25 – (1) In order to apply for the art competency study, candidates must have a bachelor's or master's degree, and except for graduates of fine arts faculties, conservatories and equivalent programs of other faculties, candidates applying with a master's degree must have a verbal ALES score of at least 55 points, and candidates applying with a bachelor's degree must have a verbal ALES score of at least 80 points, as determined by the relevant senate decision.

(2) Those who apply to the art proficiency program with a bachelor's degree must have a minimum undergraduate graduation grade point average of 3 out of 4 or an equivalent score. In accepting those who will apply to the art proficiency program, their ALES score, master's degree grade point average and the interview/talent exam/portfolio review result may also be evaluated. The issues regarding this evaluation and the reference letter that candidates must provide for the application, the essay stating why they want to do art proficiency, international standard exams and other similar documents are determined by the senate.

(3) **(Amended: RG-18/5/2021-31485)** In accepting students to the art proficiency program, it is mandatory to obtain at least 55 points from international foreign language exams accepted by the Council of Higher Education as equivalent to central foreign language exams other than their mother tongue or an equivalent score from international foreign language exams accepted as equivalent by ÖSYM, and if necessary, the increase of these minimum scores is decided by the university senates according to the characteristics of the programs to be entered. In applications to conservatory programs and programs of fine arts faculties that accept students only with special talent exams, and programs in the main arts and departments of institutes where the language of instruction is Turkish, it is documented with a health report received from a state hospital or a state university hospital,

a) Hearing impaired candidates whose uncorrected disability is at least 70% or whose corrected disability is at least 40% and above,

b) Candidates with mental retardation whose disability level is 50% or higher,

c) Disabled candidates diagnosed with a "pervasive developmental disorder" (autism spectrum disorder/childhood autism/atypical autism, Rett Syndrome, Asperger Syndrome) with a disability level of 40% and above,

Foreign language scores are not required to apply. These candidates are deemed to have met the foreign language base score requirement sought by the university.

(4) The senate determines how much weight the ALES score will be taken into consideration, provided that it is not less than 50%. A higher education institution may also accept students based solely on the ALES score. Equivalent scores that are considered equivalent to ALES and announced by the Council of Higher Education may be increased by the senate decisions of each university. However, the provisions of the first paragraph shall apply to student admissions to the departments/main art branches of institutes, fine arts faculties and conservatories.

Duration

ARTICLE 26 – (1) The completion period for the art proficiency program is eight semesters, starting from the semester in which the courses related to the program are given, for those accepted with a master's degree, excluding the period spent in scientific preparation, regardless of whether they register for each semester or not, and the maximum completion period is twelve semesters; for those accepted with a bachelor's degree, it is ten semesters, and the maximum completion period is fourteen semesters.

(2) The maximum period for successfully completing the credit courses required for the art proficiency program is four semesters for those accepted with a thesis-based master's degree and six semesters for those accepted with a bachelor's degree. Students who cannot successfully complete their credit courses within this period or who cannot achieve the minimum general grade point average required by the higher education institution will be dismissed from the higher education institution.

(3) Students who successfully complete their credit courses and practices, but are unable to complete their thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, or performance work within the maximum twelve or fourteen semesters specified in the first paragraph, will be dismissed from the program.

(4) Students who have applied to the art proficiency program with a bachelor's degree and who are not successful in the art proficiency thesis will be granted a non-thesis master's degree upon request, provided that they have fulfilled the required credit load, project and other similar conditions.

Appointment of consultant

ARTICLE 27 – (1) The institute department/main art department head shall recommend to the institute an advisor from his/her university staff who will be an advisor for each student, for the selection of courses and practices, and for the execution of studies such as thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, performance, etc., and the subject and title of thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, performance, etc. to be determined by the advisor and the student together. This recommendation shall be finalized by the decision of the institute board of directors. The time when the advisor will be assigned within the student's program is determined by the regulation approved by the relevant senate. However, the advisor must be assigned by the end of the second semester at the latest. In cases where the nature of the art competency study requires more than one thesis advisor, a second thesis advisor may be assigned. In order to manage studies such as thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, performance in art competency programs, it is necessary to have managed at least one successfully completed master's thesis. **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** The second thesis advisor can be a person with a doctorate/artistic proficiency degree from outside the university staff.

(2) The advisor is selected from among faculty members whose qualifications are determined by the relevant senate and from among faculty members who have a doctorate/arts proficiency degree.

Conclusion of the art competency study

ARTICLE 28 – (1) Students who prepare a thesis write a text explaining and documenting their results, exhibitions, projects, recitals, concerts, and performances in accordance with the writing rules accepted by the relevant senate, and defend their thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, and performances orally before the jury.

(2) Before the defense of the art competency thesis and in thesis and studies that have been corrected, the student completes the thesis/study and submits it to his/her advisor. The advisor submits the thesis to the institute with his/her opinion that the thesis is defensible. The institute obtains the plagiarism software program report regarding the thesis in question and sends it to the advisor and the jury members. If a real plagiarism is detected in the data in the report, the thesis is sent to the institute board of directors for a decision to be made with the justification.

(3) The student who has completed the art competency study submits the requested number of copies of the thesis to his/her advisor. The advisor expresses his/her opinion in writing regarding the conformity of the thesis with the writing rules and sends the theses to the relevant institute through the department/main art branch head.

(4) The art competency jury is appointed with the recommendation of the advisor and the institute department/main art branch head and the approval of the institute board of directors. The jury consists of five people, including the advisor, at least two of whom must be faculty members from outside the institution of higher education. The relevant board of directors decides whether the advisor has the right to vote. If the advisor does not have the right to vote, the jury consists of six people. In addition, the second thesis advisor may be on the jury without the right to vote.

(5) The jury members shall meet within one month at the latest from the date the thesis or text in question is delivered to them and take the student for an exam. The exam consists of a presentation of the artistic competency work followed by a question and answer session. The exam is open to the participation of an audience consisting of faculty members, graduate students and experts in the field.

(6) After the completion of the exam, the jury, closed to the audience, decides by a simple majority whether to accept, reject or correct the student's thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, or performance in terms of artistic competency. Students whose thesis and artistic competency studies are accepted are considered successful. This decision is notified to the relevant institute by the institute department/main art branch head within three days following the exam. Students whose thesis and artistic competency studies are rejected as unsuccessful are dismissed from the higher education institution. Students whose thesis and artistic competency studies are rejected are subject to a decision to correct their artistic competency studies and defend their thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, or performance in terms of artistic competency studies before the same jury within six months at the latest. Students whose artistic competency studies are deemed unsuccessful as a result of this defense are subject to a decision to dismiss their higher education institution. **(Amended sentence: RG-16/9/2017-30182)** Students who are not successful in artistic competence studies such as thesis, exhibition, project, recital, concert, performance are granted a non-thesis master's degree diploma upon their request, in accordance with the fourth paragraph of Article 26.

Diploma of Proficiency in Arts

ARTICLE 29 – (1) A student who is successful in the art competency study is given a diploma that determines the field according to the characteristics of the art branch approved by the Council of Higher Education, provided that other conditions are met. **(Amended sentence: RG-1/3/2017-29994)** The graduation date is the date on which the signed copy of the thesis is delivered by the examination jury committee.

(2) Students who successfully defend their thesis and meet other requirements, and who submit at least three hard-bound copies of their thesis to the relevant institute within one month from the thesis exam date and whose thesis is found appropriate in terms of form **(Amended phrase: RG-14/4/2020-31099)** are entitled to receive a diploma of proficiency in arts. The institute's board of directors may extend the submission period for a maximum of one month upon application. Students who fail to meet these requirements cannot receive their diploma until they meet the requirements, cannot benefit from student rights, and their relationship is terminated if the maximum period expires.

(3) A copy of the thesis of artistic competence is sent to the Council of Higher Education in electronic format within three months from the submission of the thesis by the relevant institute, to be made available for scientific research and activities.

CHAPTER FIVE

Miscellaneous and Final Provisions

Student admission to the scientific preparation program

ARTICLE 30 – (1) A scientific preparation program may be implemented for students accepted to master's and doctoral programs who received their bachelor's or master's degrees in fields different from the master's or doctoral programs they were accepted to, and for candidates for master's or doctoral programs who received their bachelor's or master's degrees from higher education institutions other than the higher education institutions they were accepted to, in order to eliminate their deficiencies.

(2) Compulsory courses taken in the scientific preparation program cannot replace courses deemed necessary to complete the relevant postgraduate program. However, a student in the scientific preparation program may take courses related to the postgraduate program in addition to the scientific preparation courses, with the recommendation of the relevant institute department/main art department head and approval of the institute's board of directors.

(3) Attendance, course exams, course grades, conditions for being considered successful in courses, course repetition, registration cancellation and other principles regarding the scientific preparation program are determined by the regulation approved by the senate.

(4) The period to be spent in the scientific preparation program is a maximum of two semesters. Summer education is not included in this period. This period cannot be extended except for semester leaves and the student who is not successful at the end of the period is dismissed. The period spent in this program is not included in the duration of the master's or doctoral program.

Special student admission

ARTICLE 31 – (1) **(Amended: RG-22/11/2019-30956)** Students registered for a master's, doctorate or art proficiency program may be accepted as special students for postgraduate courses at other higher education institutions with the approval of the department/main art department head of the institute they are registered for. The exemption procedures for the courses taken and passed by

the students accepted for postgraduate courses as special students are carried out by the department/main art department head of the institute they are registered for. The conditions for special student admission and other provisions on this matter are determined by the senates of the higher education institutions.

Accepting students through horizontal transfer

ARTICLE 32 – (1) Successful students who have completed at least one semester in another department/main art branch of an institute within the higher education institution or in a postgraduate program of another higher education institution may be accepted to postgraduate programs through horizontal transfer. The conditions for acceptance through horizontal transfer are determined by the regulation approved by the relevant senate.

Enrollment in graduate programs

ARTICLE 33 – (1) The conditions required for the finalization of registration of students accepted to postgraduate programs are determined by the regulation approved by the senate.

Programs, exams and assessment

ARTICLE 34 – (1) Postgraduate education plans in the institute's departments/main branches are the compulsory/elective courses, thesis, seminars and similar studies and the total credits that must be taken in order to graduate from the postgraduate program. These education plans are discussed and approved by the relevant institute board, provided that they comply with the minimum content decided by the university senates.

(2) The postgraduate courses to be opened in a semester and the lecturers who are PhD or equivalent postgraduate graduates and the researchers assigned in accordance with the additional article 46 of Law No. 2547 are determined by the institute management board upon the recommendations of the relevant institute department/main art branch heads.

(3) The following points are taken into consideration when structuring postgraduate programs according to the credit range determined by the Council of Higher Education for the diploma level and field in which the relevant program is located, according to the Turkish Higher Education Qualifications Framework, and the ECTS credits determined by the senates of higher education institutions, taking into account the study hours of the students:

a) The semester credit value of a postgraduate course is the sum of all weekly theoretical lecture hours and half of the weekly practice or laboratory hours of the course continuing for one semester.

b) ECTS course credits are calculated within the framework of the principles determined by the senates of higher education institutions, taking into account the learning outcomes that express the contribution of that course to the knowledge, skills and competencies that the student who completes the relevant diploma program will gain, as well as the clearly defined theoretical or practical course hours and the working hours required for other activities envisaged for the students.

(4) Attendance, course exams, course grades, conditions for being considered successful in courses, course repetition and other principles regarding postgraduate programs are determined by the regulations approved by the senate.

(5) It is mandatory to take at least one course on scientific research techniques and research and publication ethics during postgraduate education.

(6) The student and the student's advisor decide which courses, among those approved by the institute board, will be included in the student's course program. The advisory duty is carried out by the institute department/main art department head or program coordinator/head until the thesis advisor is appointed.

(7) Higher education institutions may determine additional success conditions for students to continue their programme after any semester.

(8) All exams that measure proficiency, level determination or course success can be administered simultaneously to all candidates on paper, or electronically, from a question bank that is stored securely and classified according to field and difficulty level, allowing different questions to be asked to each candidate at different times. The principles regarding the preparation of the questions to be asked in the exams, the creation and encryption of the question bank, the storage of the exam questions on paper or in electronic form, and the provision of exam security are determined by the Council of Higher Education.

Other provisions

ARTICLE 35 – (1) The graduates of which undergraduate and graduate programs can apply for master's and doctorate programs and arts proficiency studies are determined by the senates of higher education institutions, but if deemed necessary, it can be determined by the Council of Higher Education after receiving the opinion of the Interuniversity Board.

(2) The procedures and principles regarding the admission of foreign candidates and Turkish citizens who have completed their entire undergraduate education abroad to postgraduate programs are determined by the senates of higher education institutions.

(3) **(Amended: RG-22/11/2019-30956)** Postgraduate program quotas are determined by taking into account the number of faculty members who can work in postgraduate programs determined by the Council of Higher Education and the number of students per current faculty member, so that there are a maximum of 14 thesis advisors per faculty member for thesis master's and doctoral programs, and a maximum of 16 students for non-thesis master's programs, excluding thesis master's and doctoral programs. However, this quota may be increased up to 50% for postgraduate programs conducted within the framework of the protocol made with the Council of Higher Education and within the framework of university-industry cooperation.

(4) Higher education institutions cannot continue postgraduate programs that are permitted to be opened by the Council of Higher Education outside the province where their rectorate is located.

(5) The procedures and principles regarding admission to, evaluation of and diplomas to be awarded for postgraduate programs in teacher training fields, as well as the minimum common courses and practices of these programs, are determined by the Council of Higher Education, if necessary, after consulting the Ministry of National Education.

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