

REGULATION

on accreditation of independent agencies for evaluation and quality assurance in higher education

I. General Provisions

1. This Regulation defines the principles and procedure for accreditation of independent agencies for evaluation and quality assurance in higher education (hereinafter – independent agencies).

2. An independent agency is a non-governmental organization (institution, agency, bureau, etc.) that carries out one or more activity in the field of quality assurance in higher education, defined by this Regulation.

3. Accreditation of an independent agency consists of external evaluation of its activities in the field of quality assurance in higher education, in particular to confirm the adequacy, reliability and validity of the results of such activities and the possibility of taking them into account in decision-making by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (hereinafter – the National Agency) as determined by law.

4. Accreditation of an independent agency shall be voluntary, initiated by the independent agency itself and carried out by the National Agency.

5. Accreditation of an independent agency shall be carried out as initial, intermediate or scheduled.

Scheduled accreditation shall be carried out during the last year of validity of the previous (initial or scheduled) accreditation.

Intermediate accreditation shall be carried out in order to expand the list of authorized (accredited) activities of an independent agency.

6. Independent agencies may be accredited to carry out one or more of the following activities:

1) external evaluation of the quality of educational programs, with the right of the National Agency to apply the results of such evaluation when deciding on accreditation of the specified program;

2) external evaluation of the quality of educational programs for purposes other than for the application of the results of such evaluation for accreditation of the specified program;

3) audit of higher education institutions, their structural units, internal higher education quality assurance systems;

4) creation of rankings (including sectoral rankings) of higher education institutions, their structural units, and/or educational programs.

An independent agency shall be accredited to carry out each type of activity, with the definition of the subject area of such activity, the formulation of which shall be in accordance with the Rules for Describing the Subject Area of Independent Agencies for Evaluation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Annex 1).

Independent agencies may not carry out activities in the field of quality assurance in higher education, if such activities are related to access to state secrets.

7. If an independent agency wishes to carry out external evaluation of educational programs with the right to use the results of such evaluation for the accreditation of educational programs, it must be accredited by the National Agency.

Independent agencies shall have the right to carry out activities referred to in points 2 to 4 of paragraph 6 of this section, regardless of whether they are accredited by the National Agency. Accreditation for these activities shall be a recognition of the quality of such activities through confirmation of compliance with the requirements set out in this Regulation.

Independent agencies shall have the right to freely carry out other activities in the field of quality assurance in higher education, in addition to those specified in this Regulation.

8. All documents provided for in this Regulation shall be submitted to the National Agency in electronic form.

II. Requirements for independent institutions

1. Accreditation of independent agencies shall be carried out in accordance with the Criteria for Independent Agencies for Evaluation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Annex 2) (hereinafter – the Criteria).

2. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, as well as explanations and guidelines provided by the National Agency, may be used to apply and interpret the Requirements.

III. Accreditation procedure

1. The National Agency shall accept applications for accreditation of independent agencies annually from 1 to 20 January and from 1 to 20 July. Decisions on the results of consideration of such applications shall be made no later than 31 June and 31 December, respectively.

2. To conduct the accreditation procedure, an independent agency shall submit to the National Agency:

- 1) an application for accreditation, which outlines:
information about the independent agency;
type of accreditation (initial, intermediate or scheduled);
the type or types of activity for which the independent agency requests accreditation, indicating the subject areas for each of them;
information on the independent agency's contact person from among its employees for the purposes of the accreditation procedure (hereinafter – the institution's coordinator);
- 2) information on self-assessment of compliance with the Requirements and documents confirming the submitted information;
- 3) a copy of the constituent document and/or other documents on the basis of which an independent agency is established and operates;
- 4) information on the composition of the founders, ultimate beneficiaries, members of the governing, supervisory and other bodies of the independent agency at the time of application.

Documents for accreditation shall be submitted to the National Agency in the state language. If, in accordance with this Regulation, the participation of an international expert in the accreditation procedure is provided for, the independent institution shall additionally submit a translation of the documents referred to in points 2-4 of this paragraph into English.

3. The submitted application shall be registered in the Secretariat of the National Agency.

The application shall be returned to the applicant within 10 days from the date of its submission, if:

- 1) submitted documents fail to comply with paragraph 2 of this section;
- 2) non-compliance with section I "Eligibility Criteria" of the Criteria has been established on the basis of the submitted documents.

4. If there are no grounds for returning the application, the Head of the National Agency shall within 10 days from the date of application commence the procedure for accreditation of the independent agency and designate an authorized employee of the National Agency Secretariat to support the accreditation procedure (hereinafter – the National Agency Coordinator).

5. Accreditation of an independent agency shall provide for:

- 1) publication of documents submitted by an independent agency and receipt of comments on them;
- 2) establishment of an expert group for accreditation of an independent agency in accordance with this Regulation;
- 3) review of information on self-assessment, attached materials, as well as all other documents and information related to the activities of the independent agency by the expert group;
- 4) formation of the expert group's work program in the independent agency according to the form determined by the National Agency;
- 5) onsite review of the independent agency by the expert group;
- 6) compilation and signature by experts of an opinion on the possibility of accreditation of the independent agency (hereinafter – the opinion) in the form determined by the National Agency;
- 7) receipt by the National Agency of comments on the opinion from the independent agency and of a plan for post-accreditation actions;
- 8) review of the opinion and plan of post-accreditation actions by the National Agency and adoption of a decision on accreditation of the independent agency.

6. No later than 10 February and 10 August of each year, respectively, the National Agency Secretariat shall publish the documents submitted by independent agencies for their accreditation (except for confidential information about individuals) on the Internet.

By 28 February and 31 August of each year, respectively, anyone shall have the right to submit comments on these documents to the National Agency. These comments shall be summarized by the National Agency Secretariat for further consideration during accreditation. Anonymous comments shall not be accepted.

7. No later than 28 February and 31 August of each year, respectively, expert groups shall be established to conduct the accreditation of applicant independent agencies.

An expert group shall be composed of:

- 1) a member of the National Agency or a member of the relevant sectoral expert council of the National Agency – to be designated the chair of the expert group;
- 2) one to four experts from among persons who have relevant experience in the field of quality assurance in higher education and/or in the field of educational policy, and who are selected taking into account the sectoral specifics of the independent agency (if necessary);
- 3) an expert from among the higher education students;

4) an international expert from among persons who have experience in one of the accreditation agencies or higher education quality assurance agencies, whose accreditation certificates are recognized in Ukraine, and who are not citizens of the aggressor state.

An expert from among higher education students and an international expert shall be included in the expert group only if an independent institution is being accredited to carry out the types of activities defined in point 1 of paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation.

The expert group may also include an expert from among representatives of employers who is selected taking into account the sectoral specifics of the activities of the independent agency.

8. The National Agency shall electronically inform the independent agency of the composition of the expert group.

An expert may be recalled from the expert group with simultaneous replacement by another expert (subject to the requirements set for experts by this Regulation and until the date of the expert group's visit to the independent institution), in particular upon application of the independent agency, if the existence of a conflict of interest is substantiated or circumstances that give grounds for a reasonable assumption of bias on the part of the expert are provided. Such an application must be submitted no later than one week before the start of the expert group's site visit to the independent agency.

9. Before and during the site visit to the independent agency, the expert group may receive additional information and documents from the independent agency upon request.

10. The work program of the expert group shall be agreed by the independent agency's coordinator and the National Agency's coordinator not later than one week before the beginning of the expert group's site visit to the independent agency. The program should include, inter alia, agreed visit dates.

Compliance with the requirements of the work program shall be mandatory for the expert group and the independent agency.

The National Agency's coordinator shall participate in the site visit to the independent agency, provide organizational and methodological assistance, but shall have no right to interfere in the decision-making process of the expert group.

Members of the National Agency and/or its sectoral expert councils who are not part of the expert group, in agreement with the Head of the National Agency, and employees of the National Agency Secretariat by agreement or instruction of the Head of the National Agency Secretariat may participate in the visit of the independent agency as observers.

11. Based on the results of the site visit to the independent agency, the expert group shall no later than 30 April or 31 October, respectively, draw up and sign the opinion and submit it to the National Agency. The opinion shall state whether the independent agency and its activities comply with each of the sections of the Criteria, and also contain recommendations for further improvement of the agency's activities.

12. The independent agency shall be given access to the draft opinion in electronic form to comment. Such comments may be submitted no later than 20 May or 20 November, respectively. Within the same period, the independent agency shall submit a post-accreditation action plan to the National Agency.

IV. Decision-making on accreditation of an independent agency

1. The National Agency shall consider the expert group's opinion at its meeting.

2. The National Agency shall adopt a decision on accreditation of the independent agency to carry out a certain type of activity, provided that the independent agency simultaneously:

- 1) complies with sections I "Eligibility Criteria" and II "Institutional requirements" of the Criteria;
- 2) complies with section of the Criteria concerning the relevant type of activity.

Otherwise, the National Agency shall adopt a decision to refuse accreditation for the relevant type of activity.

3. If an independent agency has submitted an application for accreditation which specifies several types of activity, the National Agency shall make separate decisions on each type of activity.

Taking into account the opinions of the expert group, the National Agency may decide on accreditation for a certain type of activity by narrowing the scope of such activity declared by an independent agency.

The National Agency may, taking into account circumstances established by the expert group, change the judgment on compliance with a certain section of the Criteria by submitting an appropriate justification.

4. If the National Agency establishes that circumstances were in place through no fault of the independent agency that affected the trustworthiness and reliability of the results of the accreditation, the National Agency shall have the right to decide on re-accreditation. Re-accreditation shall be carried out in the next six months after a relevant decision is taken.

The costs of re-accreditation shall be borne by the National Agency.

5. Notwithstanding the expert group's evaluation on compliance with the Criteria, the National Agency shall adopt a decision to refuse accreditation if it finds that the independent agency has submitted false information and/or documents and/or through its illegal or improper actions has created obstacles to a reasonable decision on accreditation. If such violations were identified directly during the work of the expert group, they must be noted in the opinion.

The relevant decision of the National Agency must indicate the grounds on which it was taken, indicating information and/or documents that were unreliable and/or illegal or improper actions of the independent agency.

6. Initial accreditation shall be valid for 2 years, and scheduled – for 5 years.

The calculation of the validity of accreditation shall begin on 1 July or 1 January, respectively, after the relevant decision is taken.

Intermediate accreditation shall be valid for the period of validity of the relevant initial or scheduled accreditation that the independent agency had at the time of the decision on intermediate accreditation.

V. Informing the National Agency of the activities of independent agencies and post-accreditation monitoring

1. Accredited independent agencies shall be obliged to inform the National Agency of their activities according to the accredited types, by submitting to the National Agency:

1) concerning activities referred to in point 1 of paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation – within one month after the completion of each evaluation procedure of the educational program:

a copy of the self-assessment report of the educational program submitted by the higher education institution to the independent agency;

information about the experts who conducted the external evaluation of the educational program;

a copy of the document (report, opinion, etc.), which records the results of the external evaluation of the educational program by the independent agency and recommendations provided as a result of such evaluation;

2) concerning other activities referred to in paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation – summarized information on the implementation of such activities for each half-year ending 1 February and 1 July, respectively;

3) notification of significant changes in its activities – within one month from the date of such changes. Changes in the activities of an independent agency shall be considered significant if they affect compliance with the Criteria.

2. Accredited independent agencies shall be obliged to undergo post-accreditation monitoring, which provides for the implementation of scheduled and unscheduled monitoring activities specified in this Regulation.

Post-accreditation monitoring is not a measure of state supervision (control) in the field of economic activity.

3. No later than 31 December of each year, the National Agency shall approve its post-accreditation monitoring plan for the next calendar year, which shall indicate the planned monitoring measures for accredited independent agencies and the month of their implementation.

The first planned measure for an independent agency may be held no earlier than 6 months from the date of its accreditation.

4. Upon the decision of the Head of the National Agency, an unscheduled monitoring measure may be held.

5. Monitoring measures include:

1) informing the National Agency about the implementation of the post-accreditation action plan;

2) monitoring visit to an independent agency;

3) the provision by an independent agency of information on facts laid out in appeals or complaints received by the National Agency and/or information submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this section.

6. In case of a monitoring visit, a monitoring group consisting of at least two experts shall be established. The costs of monitoring visit shall be borne by the National Agency.

Following the results of the monitoring visit, the monitoring group shall prepare and submit a monitoring report to the National Agency.

7. The National Agency shall have the right to suspend the accreditation of an independent agency for a period of 1 to 6 months, if the results of the monitoring measure reveal that the accredited independent agency has:

1) ceased to comply with sections I "Eligibility Criteria" and/or II "Institutional requirements" of the Criteria;

2) ceased to comply with the section of the Criteria that relates to a certain relevant type of activity.

Verification of the elimination of deficiencies shall be carried out by conducting a monitoring measure, which must be completed no later than the date of completion of the suspension of accreditation, and as a result of which the National Agency shall decide to renew the accreditation or revoke it.

In cases provided for in point 1 of this paragraph, accreditation shall be suspended or revoked for all activities of the independent agency, whereas in cases provided for in point 2 – only for the relevant type of activity.

8. The accreditation of an independent agency shall be revoked from the date of the relevant decision by the National Agency.

The risk of adverse consequences associated with the revocation of accreditation, in particular the impossibility of fulfilling its obligations to third parties, shall lie with the independent agency.

VI. Independent agencies included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

1. Inclusion of an independent agency in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) is tantamount to its accreditation.

2. To be recognized as accredited an independent agency included in the EQAR shall submit to the National Agency a document stating that activities under paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation have been subject to external evaluation before inclusion in the EQAR.

The document shall be accompanied by a copy of the decision to include the independent institution in the EQAR, a copy of the detailed report on the results of the external evaluation of the independent agency, and a translation of these documents into Ukrainian.

3. Following consideration of the documents referred to in paragraph 2 of this section, the National Agency shall recognize the independent agency as accredited to carry out the relevant activities for the period for which such institution was included in the EQAR.

4. In case of exclusion of an independent agency from the EQAR, its recognition as accredited shall be deemed revoked from the date of the decision to exclude it from the EQAR.

VII. Financial provisions

1. The accreditation procedure of an independent agency shall be financed at the agency's expense.

An independent agency seeking accreditation shall, within 10 days from the date of the decision to initiate the accreditation procedure in accordance with paragraph 4 of Section II, enter into an agreement with the National Agency for

payment of accreditation services stating the amount to be paid by the independent agency - as determined by paragraph 2 of this section.

The National Agency shall have the right to suspend accreditation if the independent agency has not fulfilled its financial obligations under the agreement, refused to conclude it or terminated the agreement, or if as of the date of application for accreditation there is a debt on the part of the independent agency to the National Agency arising from other agreements.

2. Payment for accreditation services shall be in the manner prescribed by law, credited to the account of the National Agency in the amount calculated as follows (amounts reflect multiples of minimum wages as established by law for able-bodied persons per month from the first day of the month in which the application for accreditation is submitted):

1) in the case of accreditation of an independent agency to carry out activities of the type provided for in point 1 of paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation – 100;

2) in the case of accreditation of an independent agency to carry out activities, excluding the type provided for in point 1 of paragraph 6 of section I of this Regulation – 75.

3. Payment for expert services related to accreditation shall be made in accordance with civil law agreements concluded by the National Agency with each expert involved in the relevant accreditation, and shall be based on Services Delivery and Acceptance Certificates submitted by each expert in the amounts calculated as follows (amounts reflect multiples of minimum wages as established by law for able-bodied persons per month from the first day of the month in which the application for accreditation is submitted):

1) leader of expert group – 12;

2) member of expert group – 10

In addition to paying for the services of an international expert (if involved) in the amount specified in this paragraph, the National Agency shall reimburse him/her for other costs (transport and accommodation) related to the visit to the independent agency on the basis of supporting documents for such expenses, or independently pay for transport and accommodation services of an international expert, but in the amount of not more than ten minimum wages as established by law for able-bodied persons per month from the first day of the month in which the application for accreditation is submitted.

The balance of funds received by the National Agency as payment for accreditation services of independent agencies, after settlements with experts, shall be used by the National Agency in the manner prescribed by law for other costs associated with the execution by the National Agency of its statutory activities.

4. Payment for the services of the National Agency and experts shall be calculated and made in hryvnias. If, in accordance with the requirements of this section, the amounts are determined in hryvnias with kopecks, figures up to 0.5 shall be neglected, and from 0.5 and above – rounded to one hryvnia

Payment for services and reimbursement of expenses of non-resident individuals shall be made in hryvnias to their bank account opened with a banking institution of the relevant foreign state or a banking institution of Ukraine.

If the amount of actual expenses provided for in paragraph 3 of this section is calculated in a foreign currency, these expenses shall be reimbursed in hryvnias in accordance with the official exchange rate of the National Bank of Ukraine as of the day of reimbursement.

VIII. Miscellaneous

1. A register shall be created for each independent agency in the National Agency Secretariat, to be maintained in electronic form.

2. The register shall include the following information and documents:

1) decisions concerning the accreditation of the independent agency, including related to suspension, renewal and revocation of accreditation;

2) documents submitted by the independent agency in accordance with paragraph 1 of section V of this Regulation;

3) materials related to the conduct of post-accreditation monitoring of the independent agency;

4) decisions concerning recognition of the independent agency as accredited in accordance with section VI of this Regulation.

3. Maintaining, accounting and storage of the register, including its archive, shall be carried out by the National Agency Secretariat in electronic form.

The register shall not be classified as containing documents of permanent or long-term storage.

4. For the purposes of the procedures provided for in this Regulation, a person shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest in relation to an independent agency if he/she:

1) is now or during the previous 5 years has been a founder, ultimate beneficiary, member of the governing, supervisory or other body of the independent agency;

2) has a private interest concerning a person who is or during the previous 5 years had been a founder, ultimate beneficiary, member of the governing, supervisory or other body of the independent agency;

3) during the previous 5 years performed work or provided services for the independent agency on a paid or free of charge basis or was an employee of such an agency.

A member of the National Agency or member sectoral expert council of the National Agency, who has a conflict of interest regarding an independent agency, or was a member of the expert group for its accreditation, shall not participate in the preparation, consideration and adoption of decisions related to such an independent agency.

5. In case of reorganization of an accredited independent agency, the validity of its accreditation shall not apply to the successor (successors).

6. Experts involved in the accreditation of an independent agency shall be subject to the provisions of section IV of the Regulation on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Training Higher Education Students approved by the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 977 of 11 July 2019, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 8 August 2019 under No. 880/33851.

7. Any decision of the National Agency may be challenged in court in the manner prescribed by law.

In case of revocation (recognition as illegal or invalid) by a court of the decision of the National Agency, the National Agency shall reconsider the relevant issue at its meeting in the manner prescribed by this Regulation.

Annex 1
To Regulation on Accreditation of
Independent Agencies for Evaluation
and Quality Assurance in Higher
Education

RULES

for describing the subject area of independent agencies for evaluation and quality assurance in higher education

1. The activity of an independent agency for external evaluation of educational programs shall be carried out in the subject area, which is determined by one or more specialties in accordance with the duly approved list of branches of knowledge and specialties in higher education.

2. The activity of an independent agency in relation to higher education institutions shall be carried out within a set subject area, to be determined according to the following:

1) the type(s) of educational institution (universities, academies, institutes, colleges) that the independent agency plans to work with;

2) the sectoral orientation of the educational institution(s) that the independent agency plans to work with (e.g. classical, technical, technological, pedagogical, physical education and sports, humanitarian, theological, medical, economic, legal, pharmaceutical, agrarian, art, culturological, other profile higher education institutions).

3. The activity of an independent agency in relation to structural units of higher education institutions shall be carried out in the subject area, which is determined by the sectoral orientation of such structural units (technological, pedagogical, physical education and sports, humanitarian, theological, medical, economic, legal, pharmaceutical, agricultural, art, culturological, other profile structural units of higher education institutions).

Annex 2
To Regulation on Accreditation of
Independent Agencies for Evaluation
and Quality Assurance in Higher
Education

CRITERIA

for accreditation of independent agencies for evaluation and quality assurance in
higher education

Section I. Eligibility criteria

1. The applicant is a legal entity under private law, which is not in
bankruptcy or termination

2. The information on the ultimate beneficiaries of the applicant is entered
into the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Private Entrepreneurs and Public
Organizations

3. The founders, ultimate beneficiaries, members of the applicant's
governing, supervisory and other bodies do not include persons who:

1) have a criminal record, if such criminal record has not been expunged
or removed in the manner prescribed by law;

2) by a court decision were found guilty of committing a corruption offense
– within one year from the date of entry into force of the relevant court decision;

3) are subject to part three or four of Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On
Government Cleansing”;

4) information about which is entered into the Unified State Register of
Persons in respect of whom the provisions of the Law of Ukraine “On
Government Cleansing” have been applied;

5) are citizens of the aggressor state;

6) were brought to academic responsibility for violation of academic
integrity.

4. At least 6 months have passed between the date of establishment of the
applicant and the date of submission of the application.

Section II. Institutional requirements

1. Independent agencies have publicized mission statements and clearly
defined interrelated objectives.

2. The governance structure of an independent agency is designed so as to:

1) ensure division of functions between the founders and governing bodies,
guaranteeing the independence of the latter during the formation and
implementation of institutional policies, the current management of the institution
and the management of its resources;

2) ensure transparency of selection, professionalism and representation of
stakeholders (including representatives of the academic community, higher

education students and employers) among persons who are members of the governing body of the independent agency.

3. An independent agency must have sufficient financial, human and material resources to carry out its activities

4. An independent agency must have an official website on which at least the following information is published:

1) the mission and objectives of the independent agency;

2) the composition of the founders, ultimate beneficiaries, members of the governing, supervisory and other bodies of the independent agency.

3) the activities carried out by the independent agency, including a description of the relevant procedures, the methodology of their implementation and conditions for the provision of relevant services.

5. An independent agency has defined policies and procedures for internal quality assurance of its activities, which include, inter alia, policies and procedures for the prevention of conflicts of interest and the observance of academic integrity.

Section III. Requirements for the procedures for external evaluation of the quality of educational programs with the right to use the results of such evaluation for the accreditation of the educational program.

1. An independent institution must have clearly defined procedures, methodologies and criteria for the external evaluation of educational programs in the development of which stakeholders have been involved.

2. An independent agency's criteria for external evaluation of educational programs should be correlated with the Criteria for Evaluating the Quality of Educational Programs, which are annexed to the Regulation on Accreditation of Educational Programs, and should be based on Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

3. An independent agency's criteria for external evaluation of educational programs shall take into account the specifics of the subject area in which the agency conducts its activity.

4. The procedure for external evaluation of educational programs shall involve at least self-assessment of the program by the institution and external evaluation by an independent agency that includes a visit to the institution and preparation of a report or other document on the results of the evaluation.

5. External evaluation of educational programs shall be conducted by a group of external experts, which includes an expert from among higher education students and an expert from among employers.

6. An independent agency shall have clearly defined and effective procedures for selecting, training and ensuring the integrity of experts for external evaluation of the quality of educational programs, as well as a pool of experts that is sufficient for external evaluation in the relevant subject area.

7. Reports and other documents related to the results of external evaluation of educational programs shall be publicly available.

Section IV. Procedural requirements for external evaluation of the quality of educational programs for purposes other than the use of their results for accreditation of educational programs:

1. An independent agency shall clearly define the objectives of the procedures for external evaluation of educational programs and communicate their understandable usefulness for higher education institutions (for example, professional/market recognition of program quality).

2. An independent agency shall have criteria and a methodology for external evaluation of educational programs that is adequate to the objectives set for them.

Section V. Requirements for audit of higher education institutions, their structural units, educational programs, internal higher education quality assurance systems:

1. An independent agency shall have an audit methodology that takes into account the specifics of the relevant subject area.

2. The audit methodology shall take into account the requirements of Section II of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

3. The results of the audit shall be understandably useful for higher education institutions.

Section VI. Requirements for creating rankings of higher education institutions, their structural units and educational programs:

1. An independent agency shall have a concept for creating a ranking that clearly defines its goals and benefits for stakeholders.

2. The rankings created by the independent agency shall be in line with the Berlin Principles on Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (2006).