

*Examples of study programme compliance
with occupational and educational standards in Latvia*

In accordance with Latvian legislation, universities are autonomous institutions of education and science with the right to self-governance. The autonomy of institutions of higher education shall be characterised by the division of power and responsibility between the State authorities and the management of the institution of higher education, as well as between the management and the academic staff.

Universities have rights, inter alia, to independently determine:

- a) the content and forms of study programmes,
- b) additional provisions for the admission of students,
- c) basic trends of scientific research work,
- d) the organisational and managerial structure of the institution of higher education.

When universities introduce new study programme, there are several requirements such as:

- to involve stakeholders, such as employers and students, in the development of study programme;
- to analyse the content of study programme in accordance with the trends of the relevant industry in the countries of the European Union and in the world;
- to analyse labour market demands;
- to analyse employment opportunities of the graduates with the medium and long-term demand of the labour market and the relevant industry;
- to analyse compliance of the skills and competencies acquired by the graduates with the medium- and long-term development trends of the labour market and the relevant industry;
- the compliance of professional study programme with occupational standard;
- the compliance of study programme with educational standard.

Here is the example how University¹ confirms that the study programme is in compliance with occupational standard.

There is professional bachelor study programme “Teacher” and after graduation the professional bachelor degree in education and teacher’s qualification is awarded (*qualifications could be a teacher in pre-school education and basic education (1-6 grade) or teacher in basic education (1-6 grade) and one/two subjects teacher in basic education (languages, mathematics, biology, informatics, history, social studies, visual arts, geography or physics) or a special education teacher for children with mental abilities or sports and dance teacher or history and social sciences teacher*).

The study programme has been developed in accordance with the Republic of Latvia Law on Education, Law on Higher Education and Regulations on the Second Level Professional Higher Education State Standard No 512 (08.26.2014) adopted in accordance with the Law on Education,

¹ Liepaja University is state university (<https://www.liepu.lv/en/>). The self-assessment report of study direction “Education, Pedagogy and Sport”, which includes all pedagogical programmes, is publicly available at the Register of Study Directions: [file:///C:/Users/Jolanta/Downloads/Self_Assessment_report%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Jolanta/Downloads/Self_Assessment_report%20(2).pdf)

Article 14, paragraph 19 (see table 5). Programme requirements for obtaining bachelor's degree and the qualification involve acquisition of understanding, skills according to the teacher's professional standard guidelines. This is knowledge of the pupils' physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development, their influencing factors and the diversity of pupils (including different intellectual abilities, giftedness, etc.) and different educational needs. Since the content aspects of the didactic concept consists of a modular principle, the implementation of which is based on a constructivist approach, it is difficult to separate specific courses for each knowledge aspect necessary for implementation of basic tasks of the professional activity. Therefore, the table below reflects those study courses and modules, which mainly provide the necessary learning. Study content integrity and implementation of competences' approach provide for development and improvement of this knowledge, as well as the achievement of learning outcomes. [Information form the annex of Self-assessment report on the professional bachelor study programme "Teacher"]

Conformity of the Study Programme „Teacher” with the *Teacher's Occupational Standard*

Knowledge necessary for performance of professional basic tasks ²	The respective study courses in the Programme „Teacher” ³	CP ⁴
<i>On the level of understanding</i>		
Documents governing state education system and teacher activity and employment legislation (laws of the Republic of Latvia and the EU, documents and normative acts)	Module "Organisation and management of the education institution": <i>Operation of the education system</i>	2
Logic	Module "Global education and cultural aspects"	4
History of culture	Philosophy and professional ethics	2
History	Module "Organisation and management of the education institution": <i>Entrepreneurship</i>	2
Philosophy		
Basics of the economics		
<i>On the level of application</i>		
Protection of children's rights	Module "Organisation and management of the education institution": <i>Protection of children's rights</i>	1
Pedagogy and psychology	Module "Pedagogy and Psychology"	4
• Learning and teaching theory and methodology	Integrative pedagogy	2
• Upbringing activities or classroom management • Organisation of education (teaching methods, lessons, teaching programme)	Module "Pedagogical and psychological basics of the education process"	12
• Performance assessment and self-assessment	Pedagogical basics of creativity	1
• Learning environment organization	Module "Research methodology and processing"	
• Fostering communication and cooperation (building social relationships)	Adult education	6
• Pedagogical research methods	Module "Management of the transition period"	
• Psychology (general, development, personality, social)	Module "Global education and cultural aspects": <i>Sustainable education, Intercultural education, Inclusive education</i>	2
		3
		3

² Requirements set in the occupational standard "Teacher"

³ The Modules (subjects) provided in the University. In addition there is a description of each module/subject, including the learning outcomes.

⁴ CP – credit points in accordance with Latvian legislation (1 CP = 1,5 ECTS)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special pedagogy • Sector pedagogy • Age group physiology 		
Scientific sector relevant to the teaching subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching subject • Teaching subject's didactics • Basics of the teaching content integration 	Theoretical basic courses appropriate for each study sub-direction Professional specialisation courses appropriate for each study sub-direction	10/17 60/62
Languages and communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information technologies • State language and foreign language • Communication psychology 	Module "Language" Foreign language (<i>optional</i>) Module "Research methodology and processing " Module "Pedagogical and psychological basics of the education process": Communication psychology <i>and conflict resolution</i>	3 2 6 2
Healthy life-style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports • Healthy food • Personal hygiene Social sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics • Environmental and health education • Education management 	Sports in education Health education Philosophy and professional ethics Health education Module "Global education and cultural aspects": <i>Sustainable education</i> Module "Organisation and management of the education institution"	2 1 2 1 1 7

Here is the example how University⁵ confirms that the study programme is in compliance with educational standard.

Study programme content complies with the Cabinet of Ministers regulations No 512 (see Table 6). Since the study courses included in the programme are organized in modules, and then the required content is integrated therein. Module for professional business skill development has been included in the general study courses of the bachelor programme (Module „Organisation and management of the education institution"), but knowledge of the social dialogue (study course "Social psychology and conflict resolution") was included in the module "Pedagogy and Psychology". Information technology courses and the first study paper (Study paper I) are included in the module "Research methodology and data processing", while content requirements from the Environmental Protection Act and the Civil Protection Act are included in the study course "Education for Sustainable Development". Study papers (II and III) are included in the sector professional study courses. Documents governing state education system and teacher activity and employment legislation (laws of the Republic of Latvia and the EU, documents and normative acts) are included in the module "Organisation and management of the education institution" content. *[Information form the annex of Self-assessment report on the professional bachelor study programme "Teacher"]*

Table 6

Study Programme „Teacher” Conformity with the Professional State Standard in Higher Education

Requirements of the CoM regulations No 512	Professional bachelor study programme „Teacher”
---	--

⁵ Liepaja University is state university (<https://www.liepu.lv/en/>). The self-assessment report of study direction "Education, pPedagogy and Sport", which includes all pedagogical programmes, is publicly available at the Register of Study Directions: [file:///C:/Users/Jolanta/Downloads/Self_Assessment_report%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Jolanta/Downloads/Self_Assessment_report%20(2).pdf)

Programme scope is at least 160 credit points	Programme scope is 160 credit points (CP)
General education courses are in the scope of at least 20 credit points – humanities and social sciences study courses, including courses developing social, communication and organisational basic skills. Study courses include a module for development of the professional competence in the scope of at least 6 CP, if it has not been included in the basic theoretic courses of the sector of the bachelor programme. Bachelor programme also includes content requirements from the Environmental Protection Act and the Civil Protection Act.	<u>The block includes study courses in the scope of 20 CP:</u> Module "Pedagogy and Psychology" 4 CP, Module "Global education and cultural aspects" 4 CP, Module "Organisation and management of the education institution" 7 CP, Module "Language" 3 CP, Philosophy and professional ethics 2 CP. Content requirements from the Environmental Protection Act and the Civil Protection Act are included in the module "Global education and cultural aspects" study course <i>Philosophy of sustainable education</i> (1 CP)
Basic theoretical courses of the sector (field of professional activity) and information technology courses in the scope of at least 36 credit points	<u>The block includes study course in the scope of 40 CP:</u> For all sub-divisions – Introduction to studies 1 CP, Module "Pedagogical and psychological basics of the education process" 12 CP, Module "Research methodology and processing" (6 CP), Sports in education (2 CP), Adult education (2 CP). <u>For subdirections</u> <u>Preschool education teacher, Primary education teacher, Special education teacher</u> - Module "Management of the transition period" (3 CP), Health education (1 CP), Psychological basics of creativity (1 CP), Integrative pedagogy (2 CP), Theoretical basic courses appropriate for each study sub-direction – 10 CP. <u>For sub-directions</u> <u>Music teacher, Sports and dance teacher, History and social sciences teacher</u> - Theoretical basic courses appropriate for each study sub-direction – 17 CP.
Professional specialisation courses of the sector (field of professional activity) in the scope of at least 60 credit points	<u>The block includes study courses in the scope of 62 CP (For sub-direction General education teacher – 60 CP):</u> Professional specialisation courses of the sector, Specialisation study courses and modules.
Optional in the scope of at least 6 credit points	<u>Optional courses in the scope of 6 CP</u> (including foreign language)
Practice in the scope of at least 20 CP	<u>Practice in the scope of 20 CP</u>
State examination which part is development and defence of the bachelor paper (diploma project) in the scope of at least 12 credit points.	State examination – <u>Bachelor paper (10 CP), Qualification examination (2 CP)</u>
After acquisition of the programme professional bachelor degree in the sector shall be awarded	Attainable degree: Professional bachelor degree in education
During the time of bachelor programme studies the students develop and defend at least three study papers	<u>3 study papers are included in the study plan:</u> Study paper I (included in the module "Research methodology and processing" 1 CP), Study paper II (1 CP), Study paper III (1 CP).

Thus, both standards provide framework and guidelines, but not the curricula itself. Therefore, it should be noted that the scope of credit points and the title of subjects/modules, as well as content/curricula and structure, ways of delivery and assessment methods could differ in each university.