

UNIVERSITIES ACT

558/2009

(Amendments up to 644/2016 included)

Chapter 1. General provisions

Section 1. Scope of application

1. This Act applies to universities under the remit of the Ministry of Education and Culture as provided below. (Amendment 954/2011)
2. The universities referred to in this Act are:
 - (1) University of Helsinki,
 - (2) University of Eastern Finland,
 - (3) University of Jyväskylä,
 - (4) University of Lapland,
 - (5) University of Oulu,
 - (6) University of Tampere,
 - (7) University of Turku,
 - (8) University of Vaasa,
 - (9) Åbo Akademi University,
 - (10) Lappeenranta University of Technology,
 - (11) Hanken School of Economics,
 - (12) University of the Arts Helsinki,
 - (13) Aalto University Foundation operating as Aalto University,
 - (14) TTY Foundation operating as Tampere University of Technology.(Amendment 414/2012)
3. The universities referred to in subsection 2 (1–12) above are corporations under public law (*public universities*). In addition to this Act, Aalto University and Tampere University of Technology (*foundation universities*) are governed by the Foundations Act. (Amendments 487/2015 and 497/2015)
4. This Act, with the exception of sections 5, 13–22, 60, 64, 65 and 67, Chapters 8 and 9 and section 88, applies to the foundation universities.

Section 2. Mission

1. The mission of the universities is to promote independent academic research as well as academic and artistic education, to provide research-based higher education and to educate students to serve their country and humanity at large. In carrying out their mission, the universities shall promote lifelong learning, interact with the surrounding society and promote the social impact of university research findings and artistic activities.

2. The universities shall arrange their activities so as to ensure a high international standard in research, artistic activities, education and tuition in conformity with research integrity.

Section 3. Autonomy

1. The universities have autonomy, through which they safeguard scientific, artistic and higher education freedom. The autonomy entails the right of universities to make their own decisions in matters related to their internal administration.
2. When legislation is drafted concerning them, the universities shall be given the opportunity to express their opinion on the matter.

Section 4. Membership in the university community

The university community comprises teaching and research staff, other staff and students.

Section 5. Legal capacity of public universities

1. The public universities are independent legal persons.
2. The public universities may undertake commitments, obtain rights in their own name and possess movable and immovable property. The universities may engage in business activities, provided such activities support the discharge of the mission laid down in section 2.
3. The public universities are liable for their commitments with their own funds and are entitled to pursue and defend litigation in court.

Chapter 2. Research and teaching

Section 6. Freedom of research, art and teaching

1. While universities enjoy freedom of research, art and teaching, teachers must comply with the statutes and regulations issued on education and teaching arrangements.
2. Teaching in the universities is public. Where justified, participation in instruction may be restricted.

Section 7. Degrees, other studies and range of degrees

1. Universities award Bachelor's and Master's degrees and academic, artistic and third-cycle postgraduate degrees. Universities may also provide professional specialisation programmes, degree modules as open university education or as other non-degree studies, and continuing professional education. (Amendment 1172/2014)
2. The Master's degree is taken after completing a Bachelor's degree or equivalent studies. In fields issued by government decree, education leading to the Master's degree may be organised without the requirement of a previously completed Bachelor's degree, where appropriate in terms of the professional demands of the field. The academic, artistic or professionally-oriented postgraduate degree is taken after completing a Master's degree or equivalent studies.

3. Further provisions on the degrees awarded by the universities, the objectives of the degrees, the structure of studies, other study requirements and the degrees conferred by each university (educational responsibility) are issued by government decree. Provisions on the status of university degrees within the system of higher education are also issued by government decree, whereas provisions that more explicitly distribute the educational responsibilities among the universities are issued by decree of the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with the universities. (Amendment 1172/2014)

Section 7a. Tuition in languages and communication (Amendment 562/2016)

1. Universities may arrange tuition in languages and communication in cooperation with another university or university of applied sciences or procure it from one of these institutions. To meet their educational responsibility, universities are not obliged to provide such tuition themselves.
2. Students participating in such tuition by virtue of subsection 1 or by virtue of section 8a(1) of the Act on Universities of Applied Sciences (932/2014) have a restricted right to study, in the institution of higher education where the tuition is being provided but where the student does not have the right to complete degree studies.

Section 7b. Professional specialisation programmes (Amendment 562/2016)

1. Professional specialisation programmes offered by universities are studies intended to be completed after a higher education degree and designed for degree holders in order to promote their professional development and specialisation. They are intended to generate competence in areas of expertise for which no market-based provision of education is available.
2. Provisions on the joint objectives and minimum scope of professional specialisation programmes are issued by government decree. Studies offered by a university in the form of business activities under section 5(2) are not provided as professional specialisation programmes.
3. Only studies for which the study requirements have been agreed upon in inter-university cooperation can be provided as professional specialisation programmes. Cooperation with representatives of business and industry must be carried out during the agreement procedure. Further provisions on agreements on professional specialisation programmes, the content of the agreements and the provision of the programmes are issued by government decree.
4. A public register is maintained of agreements on professional specialisation programmes. Further provisions on the public register and information to be included in it are issued by government decree.

Section 8. Tuition free of charge and charges related to other activities (Amendment 414/2016)

1. Studies leading to a university degree and entrance examinations relating to student admissions are free of charge for the student unless otherwise provided in this Act. Tuition given free of charge does not prevent universities from offering joint and double degree programmes for which foreign institutions of higher education charge fees for their part of the programme.
2. A person applying to education other than that given in Finnish or Swedish may be required to take a fee-charging international test.

3. For activities other than those referred to in subsection 1 the university may charge fees. Further provisions on fees chargeable under public law are issued by government decree in conformity with the provisions on the cost price of transactions under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992). If the fee chargeable under public law to a student as referred to in this Act has not been paid by the due date, it is possible to collect annual interest for late payment from the due date onwards in accordance with the provisions of the Interest Act (633/1982). The payment may be recovered directly by an enforcement order as provided in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges (706/2007).

Section 9. Commissioned education (Amendment 1600/2015)

1. A university may arrange degree studies which are geared to a group of students and which have been commissioned and paid for by the Finnish state, another state, an international organisation, a Finnish or foreign public corporation, a foundation or a private corporation (commissioned education).
2. Commissioned education may not be arranged for citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or for persons or their family members who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under European Union treaties or under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another contracting party. Nor may commissioned education be arranged for persons who, under the Aliens Act (301/2004), have a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals, nor for any family members of the above. The Aliens Act is applied in the definition of persons regarded as family members. Persons participating in commissioned education are governed by sections 37, 37a, 37b, 43a–43d, 45, 45a, 45b and 82, 83, 83a, 84, 84a, 85 and 86 of this Act.
3. Tuition provided in the form of commissioned education must relate to undergraduate or postgraduate education in which the university has the right to confer degrees. The arrangement of commissioned education may not undermine the undergraduate and postgraduate education provided by the university. The university must charge a fee for commissioned education covering at least the costs incurring from it. The party who commissions the education is entitled to charge participating students fees in accordance with the legal provisions or other practices in the country where the education is offered.

Section 10. Fee-charging degree programmes (Amendment 1600/2015)

1. Universities must charge a minimum tuition fee of EUR 1,500 per academic year for students admitted to a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme taught in a language other than Finnish or Swedish. Decisions on how the tuition fees are collected are made by the universities.
2. However, tuition fees are not charged for citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or for persons or their family members who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under European Union treaties or under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another contracting party. Fees are not charged for persons who, under the Aliens Act, have a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals nor for any family members of the above. The Aliens Act is applied in the definition of persons regarded as family members.

These fees do not apply to students taking part in commissioned education referred to in section 9.

3. Universities shall have a scholarship system to aid students participating in fee-charging degree programmes.

Section 11. Languages of instruction and degrees

1. The languages used for instruction and degrees at the University of Helsinki and the University of the Arts Helsinki are Finnish and Swedish. The languages used for instruction and degrees at Aalto University are governed by the provisions on the languages used for instruction and degrees of its constituent Schools in section 9 of the Universities Act of 1997 (645/1997). The language used for instruction and degrees at Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics, and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki is Swedish. The language used for instruction and degrees at the other universities is Finnish. (Amendment 414/2012)
2. In addition, the universities may decide to use a language other than that referred to in subsection 1 as a language used for instruction and degrees.

Section 12. Education of persons proficient in Swedish (Amendment 414/2012)

Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics, the University of Helsinki, the University of the Arts Helsinki and Aalto University are responsible for educating a sufficient number of persons proficient in Swedish for the needs of the country.

Chapter 3. Organisation

Section 13. Administrative bodies of a public university

The administrative bodies of a public university are the board, the rector and the university collegium. The university may also have a chancellor and other bodies, as provided in the university rules of procedure.

Section 14. Board of the public university

1. The highest decision-making body of a public university is the board.
2. The remit of the board is to
 - (1) determine the main objectives of the university operations and finances, the strategy and steering principles;
 - (2) decide on the operating and financial plans and the budget of the university, and to prepare a financial statement;
 - (3) be accountable for the management and use of the assets of the university, unless the board has devolved the power to the rector;
 - (4) arrange the supervision of the accounting and asset management;
 - (5) approve agreements of major importance or fundamental consequence for the university and issue opinions on important matters of principle concerning the university;
 - (6) approve the agreement with the Ministry of Education and Culture referred to in section 48 on behalf of the university;

- (7) elect the rector or rectors and decide on the division of work between them and to dismiss the rector from his or her office if there is a legitimate and justified reason for it in consideration of the nature of the office;
 - (8) approve the university rules of procedure and other corresponding rules pertaining to general organisation and decide on the operational structure of the university;
 - (9) submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Culture concerning any change in the educational responsibilities of the university;
 - (10) decide on the number of students to be admitted to the university. (Amendment 954/2011)
3. In addition, the board is charged with hiring the managerial staff working directly under the rector, unless the board has devolved the task to another body of the university.

Section 15. Composition of the board of a public university

1. The board of a public university has 7 or 9–14 members. The university collegium decides on the number of board members.
2. The board must include representatives from the following groups in the university community:
 - (1) the professors of the university;
 - (2) other teaching and research staff and other staff;
 - (3) the students.
3. None of the groups referred to in subsection 2 may have representatives numbering more than half the total number of members. The university collegium decides on the number of members representing the different groups.
4. At a minimum, 40 per cent of the board members must be persons other than those referred to in subsection 2. They must represent a wide range of expertise in the sciences or arts in the field of operation of the university.
5. The members referred to in subsection 2 above are elected by the relevant university community group as provided in this Act and in the university rules, and the members referred to in subsection 4 are elected by the university collegium.
6. The rector, vice-rector, a director of a faculty or unit directly subordinate to the board, or a member or a deputy member of the university collegium may not be a member of the board.
7. The board elects one of the members referred to in subsection 4 as its chairperson and one member as its vice-chairperson.

Section 16. Term of office of the board of a public university; resignation and dismissal of members

1. The university collegium decides on the term of office of the board of a public university and of its individual members. However, the term of office may not exceed five years.
2. Board members may resign before the end of their term of office.

3. The board may propose to dismiss a board member during his or her term of office if the member has become incapable of discharging his or her duties, has seriously damaged the interests of the university by his or her action or for any other compelling reason. The decision to dismiss a member is made by the university collegium. The decision is enforceable regardless of a pending appeal unless otherwise provided by the appellate authority.

Section 17. Rector of a public university

1. A public university has a rector.
2. The remit of the rector is to
 - (1) lead the operations of the university and resolve matters concerning the university which have not been assigned to some other body by statute or regulation;
 - (2) be responsible for the economical, efficient and effective discharge of the university mission;
 - (3) be responsible for ensuring that accounting is in compliance with the law and that asset management is arranged in a reliable manner;
 - (4) be responsible for the preparation and presentation of matters which come before the board;
 - (5) be responsible for the implementation of board decisions unless otherwise specified in the university rules of procedure;
 - (6) decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.
3. The rector may undertake action which is far-reaching in terms of the university mission only where the board has authorised him or her to do so or where it is impossible to wait for the decision of the board without causing essential harm to the operation of the university. In the latter case, the board must be informed of such action without delay.
4. The rector may devolve the hiring of staff or other matters within his or her remit to another body or person. The rector has the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the bodies of the university.
5. The university may have vice-rectors as provided in the university rules of procedure.

Section 18. Election of the rector of a public university (Amendment 414/2012)

The rector of a public university is elected by the board of the university for a maximum term of five years. The requirement for the rector elect is that he or she have a doctorate and the competence required for discharging the duties as well as evince good leadership skills. However, the requirement of a doctorate does not apply to the rector elect of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

Section 19. Representation of a public university

The rector represents the public university in matters which under section 17 fall within the scope of his or her duties. The board may represent the university in matters within its competence. The university rules may decree that the rector has the right to represent the university in other matters or that the board may confer the right on one of its members or some other designated person. The board may at any time revoke the right it has granted to represent the university.

Section 20. Duty of care imposed on the leadership of a public university

The board and rector of a public university must promote the interests of the university with care.

Section 21. Accountability of board members and the rector of a public university

Board members and the rector of a public university must recompense any damage they have wilfully or by negligence caused to the university in the line of their duties by violating this Act or other regulations. The allocation of liability is governed by Chapter 6 of the Tort Liability Act (412/1974).

Section 22. Collegium of a public university

1. A public university has a university collegium consisting of a maximum of 50 members, each of whom has a personal deputy.
2. The university collegium includes the representation of the university community groups referred to in section 15(2). The number of members from any of the groups may not exceed half of the total number of members in the university collegium. The number of members and the term of office of the university collegium and the number of persons belonging to the groups referred to in section 15(2) are laid down in the university rules of procedure.
3. The university collegium elects a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from amongst its members.
4. The remit of the university collegium is to
 - (1) decide on the number of members on the board and the duration of the term of office of the board and its members;
 - (2) elect the members referred to in section 5(4) to the board;
 - (3) confirm the election of board members by the university community groups referred to in section 5(2);
 - (4) dismiss board members by proposal of the board;
 - (5) select the financial auditors of the university;
 - (6) confirm the financial statement and the annual report of the university and discharge board members and rectors from liability;
 - (7) decide on the bringing of an action for damages against a board member, rector or financial auditor;
 - (8) decide on the dismissal of board members under section 65(3).

Section 23. Administrative bodies of a foundation university

1. The administrative bodies of a foundation university are the board, the president (rector) and the joint multi-member administrative body of the university.
2. A foundation university may also have other bodies. These other bodies may not exercise significant decision-making powers.

Section 24. Board of a foundation university

1. The board of a foundation university decides on the strategy of the university, matters concerning the university operations and finances and other far-reaching plans. In addition, the board elects the president to direct university operations.
2. The board of a foundation university has seven members, including the chairperson and the vice-chairperson. The board shall comprehensively represent the highest national and international expertise in the sciences and arts in the field of operation of the university and in societal and business life. The president, vice president, a dean of a faculty or other unit directly subordinate to the board, or a member of the multi-member administrative body may not be a member of the board.
3. The joint multi-member administrative body of the university appoints the members of the board after consulting the founding partners of the university. Three of the members are appointed from amongst persons whom the founding partners, with the exception of the State of Finland, have nominated as candidates in accordance with the rules of the foundation. The number of candidates must be at least twice the number of the seats on the board to be filled. The board elects from amongst its members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, who must be persons other than those referred to in section 15(2).

Section 25. President of a foundation university

1. The remit of the president is to
 - (1) lead the operations of the university;
 - (2) be responsible for economical, efficient and effective discharge of the university mission;
 - (3) be responsible for ensuring that accounting is in compliance with the law and that asset management is arranged in a reliable manner;
 - (4) be responsible for the preparation and presentation of matters which come before the board;
 - (5) be responsible for the implementation of board decisions unless otherwise provided in the university rules of procedure;
 - (6) decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.
2. The president may undertake action which is far-reaching in terms of the university mission only where the board has authorised him or her to do so or where it is impossible to wait for the decision of the board without causing essential harm to the operation of the university. In the latter case, the board must be informed of the action without delay.
3. The president may devolve the hiring of staff or other matters within his or her remit to another body or person. The president has the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the bodies of the university.
4. The university may have vice-presidents as provided in the university rules of procedure.

Section 26. Multi-member administrative body of a foundation university

1. The remit of the multi-member administrative body of a foundation university is, unless it has devolved the task to a body referred to in section 27(2), to
 - (1) decide on the curricula and degree requirements;
 - (2) decide on the admissions criteria;
 - (3) decide on general rules relating to teaching and research;

- (4) appoint the necessary boards or other bodies to deal with matters relating to degrees, assessment and rectification matters, and to appoint their chairpersons, members and deputy members; and
 - (5) decide on the duration of the term of office of the university board and its members.
2. The multi-member administrative body has a maximum of 50 members, representing only the university community groups referred to in section 15(2). No group's representatives may number more than half the total number of members in the administrative body. The members of the administrative body are elected by the relevant university community group.
 3. The remit of the multi-member administrative body, other than that referred to in subsection 1, and the number and election of its members are specified in the university rules of procedure.

Section 27. Organisation and administration of tuition, research and other operations

1. For the purposes of organising research and tuition, the university may divide into faculties or other comparable units as laid down in the university rules.
2. A faculty or corresponding unit has a multi-member administrative body chaired by the director of the unit. The administrative body must include the representation of the university community groups referred to in section 15(2). The number of members from any of the groups may not exceed half of the total number of members in the administrative body. The total number of members on the multi-member administrative body is specified in the university rules of procedure. The members of the administrative body are elected by the relevant university community group as specified in the university rules of procedure.
3. The university may also have units other than those referred to in subsection 1. The university may have university consortia or other joint units with other universities and joint units with universities of applied sciences, research institutes or other public or private organisations or foundations.
4. For the purpose of processing rectification requests in matters regarding study attainments, the university may have one or several boards of appeal or other corresponding bodies. The board of appeal or corresponding body consists of a chairperson and other members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The chairperson and his or her deputy must be professors. At least half of the other members must be university teachers and at least one of the members a student.

Section 28. University rules and regulations

The organisation of the university operations and administration are governed by the university rules of procedure and/or similar internal regulations of the university.

Section 29. Decision-making by multi-member administrative body

1. The multi-member administrative body decides matters by majority vote. Where the votes are equally distributed, the motion seconded by the chairperson wins. Where the votes are equally distributed in a vote on a disciplinary matter concerning a student, the decision shall be made on the side of greater leniency.

2. With the exception of the University of the Arts Helsinki, a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members who have a degree or completed study attainments of an equivalent level or who have been appointed professors. (Amendment 414/2012)
3. Where one person is elected or appointed to an administrative body, the ballot is conducted as a majority vote. Where none of the candidates obtains more than half of the votes, a new ballot is conducted between the two candidates with the most votes. Where there is more than one person to be elected or appointed to an administrative body, the ballot is conducted as a proportional vote. If the votes are equally distributed, the outcome, whether by majority vote or proportional vote, is resolved by lot.

Section 30. Administrative procedure and confidentiality

1. In performing a public administrative function, the university and the student union is governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). However, the provisions in the Administrative Procedure Act on disqualification apply to all university activities. Provisions of section 28(1), paragraphs 5 and 6, of the said Act apply to universities and to affiliated companies belonging to a university group referred to in section 63 of the present Act only in matters where the interests of the university and the affiliated company are in conflict or where fair handling of the matter so requires.
2. The confidentiality of the activities pursued by the university and the student union are governed by the provisions of section 4(1) of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) concerning the confidentiality of the activities of authorities.

Chapter 4. Staff and the language of administration

Section 31. University staff

Universities employ professors and other teaching and research staff, as well as other staff to perform other tasks. Further provisions on the qualification requirements of staff and the procedures for recruitment are specified in the university rules of procedure.

Section 32. Staff employment relations

1. The employment relationship of the university staff is based on a contract of employment.
2. The employees and the terms of the employment relationships are governed by relevant statutes and terms agreed in a collective agreement and in the contract of employment.
3. The employer may not act in the employment relationship in a manner which may endanger the freedom of research, art or education referred to in section 6. In addition to the provisions in Chapter 7 of the Employment Contracts Act (55/2001) on the termination of employment contracts as well as in Chapter 8 on the cancellation of employment contracts, the employment contract of an employee belonging to the research and teaching staff of a university may not be terminated or cancelled on grounds that could be invoked and infringe on the freedom of research, art or education.

Section 33. Duties, appointment and title of professor

1. A professor shall carry out and oversee scientific or artistic work, provide research-based tuition, follow developments in science or art, and participate in societal interaction and international cooperation in his or her field.
2. Professorship duties must be publicly announced vacant when recruiting a person for an employment relationship that is effect until further notice.. The professorship may be filled by invitation without public notice of vacancy when an academically distinguished person is being invited to take the position or a candidate is appointed to the position for a fixed period. Only a candidate who indisputably fulfils the qualification requirements may be appointed to the position by invitation.
3. Statements on the qualifications and merits of applicants or invitees to a position must be requested from a minimum of two assessors for an appointment that is in effect until further notice or for a fixed period of at least two years. The disqualification of an assessor is governed by the provisions in sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act. Provisions on the selection, activities and remit of assessors are specified in the university rules of procedure, where needed.
4. A university may award the right to use the title of professor to a person in its employ.

Section 34. Liability under criminal law

The criminal liability of university staff and members of university administrative bodies is governed by Chapter 40 of the Penal Code (39/1889).

Section 35. Language proficiency requirements and administrative language

1. Provisions on the proficiency of teaching and research staff and other staff in Finnish and Swedish are issued by government decree. Provisions on the language proficiency skills required for Åbo Akademi University teachers are laid down in section 78.
2. The language of administration in universities is Finnish, except for Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki, where the administrative language is Swedish.
3. Everyone has the right to use either Finnish or Swedish in matters concerning them and to obtain official documents in the language they use.

Chapter 5. Students

Section 36. Admissions (Amendment 256/2015)

1. New students are admitted by the universities, where they may pursue either a Bachelor's or a Master's degree, or both, or a postgraduate degree or professional specialisation programme studies.
2. Universities admit transfer students. A transfer student refers to a student whose right to study is transferred from one higher education institution to another or within a single higher education institution from one degree programme to another.
3. Universities decide the admissions criteria. In the application process, applicants may be divided into separate applicant categories on the basis of their different educational

backgrounds. The admissions criteria applied must be consistent for all applicants belonging to the same category. For the purpose of meeting the educational needs of a given language group, exceptions to consistent admissions criteria may be made to a limited extent.

Section 36a. Joint application procedure and separate admissions (Amendment 256/2015)

1. With the exception of studies leading to a postgraduate degree, admissions for education leading to a degree are organised in an application procedure carried out jointly between higher education institutions.
2. A university may opt for separate admissions instead of the joint application procedure when admitting:
 - (1) students for programmes designed for a limited target group, where the eligibility of applicants has been defined separately by the university and where the application process for the programmes cannot be organised within the timeframe of the joint application procedure;
 - (2) students for programmes provided in a foreign language;
 - (3) students for programmes provided in Finnish or Swedish leading exclusively to a Master's degree, the application process for which is organised in connection with the application process for the equivalent foreign-language programme;
 - (4) transfer students;
 - (5) students on the basis of studies completed in open higher education.
3. The student admissions register referred to in the Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register (1058/1998) is used in the joint application procedure. Further provisions on the implementation of the joint application procedure and processes associated with it are issued by government decree.

Section 36b. Reserving a student place (Amendment 256/2015)

1. In the joint application procedure, a university must reserve some student places for applicants who have not previously completed a higher education degree in accordance with the Finnish education system and have not accepted a student place leading to a higher education degree or who have accepted a student place for studies beginning in spring term 2014 or earlier but have not completed a higher education degree. This obligation applies to admissions for programmes leading to both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree, or to a Bachelor's degree only and to admissions provided by a university for programmes leading to a Master's degree excluding a Bachelor's degree.
2. It is, however, not necessary to reserve student places in the manner referred to in subsection 1 when selecting students for a programme offered in a foreign language or for a programme where the number of admissions is so small that reserving places would generate unreasonable inequalities between applicants.
3. A university may reserve some student places for applicants referred to in subsection 1 also in the case of separate admissions.
4. Universities must also reserve reasonable opportunities for admission for those who have completed a university degree or accepted a student place. Universities must ensure that no unreasonably large discrepancies exist between the opportunities of individuals belonging to different applicant categories to gain admission in terms of the equitable

treatment of all applicants. The assessment of reasonability takes into account the following factors: the ratio of the applicants of different applicant categories to the overall number of applicants; the opportunities to gain admission through routes other than the joint application procedure; and other equivalent factors.

Section 37. Eligibility for studies leading to a higher education degree and for professional specialisation programmes (Amendment 1172/2014)

1. Eligible applicants for studies leading to a Bachelor's degree only or to both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree have
 - (1) passed the examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Act (672/2005);
 - (2) been awarded a vocational upper secondary qualification after completing studies of at least three years' duration or the equivalent prior studies;
 - (3) been awarded a vocational upper secondary qualification, a further vocational qualification or specialist vocational qualification under the Vocational Adult Education Act (631/1998), or a corresponding prior qualification; or
 - (4) completed a qualification abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
2. The provisions in subsection 1 on eligibility for degree studies also apply to education provided by a university for programmes leading to a Master's degree excluding a Bachelor's degree.
3. Eligible applicants for studies leading only to a Master's degree have completed
 - (1) a relevant Bachelor's degree awarded by a university;
 - (2) a relevant Bachelor's degree awarded by a university of applied sciences; or
 - (3) relevant study programmes abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
4. The university may require that a student admitted to pursue a Master's degree, as referred to in subsection 3, complete supplementary studies of a scope equivalent to a maximum of one year of studies in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the study programme. Where a student is admitted to pursue only the degree of Master of Laws, the applicable qualification referred to in subsection 3 is the degree of Bachelor of Laws or a corresponding qualification completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
5. Eligible applicants for studies leading to an academic or artistic licentiate or doctoral degree have completed
 - (1) a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university;
 - (2) a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university of applied sciences; or
 - (3) a relevant applicable study programme abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
6. The university may require a student admitted to study for an academic or artistic licentiate or doctoral degree to complete the necessary supplementary studies in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the study programme.
7. Eligible applicants for studies leading to a professional postgraduate degree have completed

- (1) a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university or a university of applied sciences, or
 - (2) a relevant study programme abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
8. Further provisions on eligibility for professional postgraduate degrees are issued by government decree.
 9. Eligible applicants for professional specialisation programmes have completed a relevant degree at a university or university of applied sciences.
 10. Eligibility for studies referred to in this section may also apply to a person whom the university deems otherwise to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.

Section 37a. Accessibility and prerequisites for admission (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Factors relating to the health and functional capacity of an applicant may not preclude admission. However, a person whose state of health or functional capacity makes him or her incapable of performing the practical tasks or practical training included in the studies in a way consistent with the study-related safety requirements referred to in section 43a and where the impediment cannot be removed with reasonable measures shall not be admitted as a student.
2. In the case of studies referred to in section 43a, admission is precluded where a decision has been made to revoke the right to study under section 32 of the Vocational Education and Training Act (630/1998), under section 11(9) of the Adult Vocational Education and Training Act, under section 25a of the Polytechnics Act (351/2003) or under section 43a of this Act where considerations relating to the protection of the health and safety of other persons so require.
3. The university must inform applicants about health-related requirements and other prerequisites related to the studies.

Section 37b. Access to information relating to admissions (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. In the case of studies referred to in section 43a, the applicant must, when requested by the university, provide any personal health information that is required for admission and information about any previous decisions to revoke the applicant's right to study.
2. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the university has the right, for the purposes of admissions requirements, to obtain information from other universities, universities of applied sciences and other education providers about any decision, including its justifications, to revoke an applicant's right to study.

Section 38. Acceptance of a student place (Amendment 256/2015)

1. Applicants may accept only one student place in a degree programme that begins in the term of acceptance. This provision does not apply to the acceptance of a student place in the case of transfer students.
2. Students who have been granted a student place must notify the university within the time indicated in the offer of admission whether they accept the offered place. Where the

prospective student does not give the notification within the time indicated he or she forfeits the student place. The university must, without delay, enter information on the acceptance of a student place in the higher education applicant register referred to in section 1 of Act 1058/1998 on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register.

Section 39. Academic year, academic terms and student enrolment and registration (Amendment 256/2015)

1. The academic year of a university year begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The autumn term begins on 1 August and ends on 31 December. The spring term begins on 1 January and ends on 31 July. Tuition is offered during periods determined by the university.
2. Students who have been admitted and who have accepted a student place must enrol at the university in the manner specified by the university, whereupon they are enrolled as a student.
3. The student must register for attendance or non-attendance for each academic year in the manner specified by the university.
4. Having accepted a student place, the student may register as a non-attending student during the first academic year provided he or she
 - (1) is in active service in accordance with the Conscription Act (1438/2007), the Non-Military Service Act (1446/2007) or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act (194/1995);
 - (2) is on maternity, paternity or parental leave; or
 - (3) is unable to begin studies owing to a medical condition.(Amendment 324/2015)

Section 40. Normative duration of studies for Bachelor's and Master's degrees

1. The normative duration of studies for a Bachelor's degree is:
 - (1) three and a half academic years in studies leading to the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts and
 - (2) three academic years in studies leading to other Bachelor's degrees.
2. The normative duration of studies for a Master's degree and for selected Licentiate's degrees is
 - (1) three academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine;
 - (2) three academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Medicine when the programme includes a prior Bachelor's degree, and six academic years when the programme does not include a prior Bachelor's degree;
 - (3) two academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Dentistry when the education includes a prior Bachelor's degree, and five academic years when the programme does not include a prior Bachelor's degree;
 - (4) two and a half academic years in studies leading to the degrees of Master of Music and Master of Psychology; and
 - (5) two academic years in other Master's degree studies.(Amendment 315/2011)

3. The university must arrange tuition and study guidance so as to enable full-time students to complete their degrees within the prescribed normative time. (Amendment 315 /2011)

Section 41. Right to study

1. Students have the right to pursue studies leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree in the manner laid down in the degree regulations and curriculum of the university.
2. A student admitted to study for both a Bachelor's and Master's degree has the right to complete the degree in a time period exceeding the aggregate normative duration of studies referred to in section 40 by a maximum of two years. A student admitted to study only for a Bachelor's degree has the right to complete the degree in a time period exceeding the normative duration of studies by a maximum of one year. A student admitted to study only for a Master's degree has the right to complete the degree in a time period exceeding the normative duration of studies by a maximum of two years.
3. Absences due to a service under the Conscription Act, the Non-Military Service Act or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act, or to maternity, paternity or parental leave are excluded from the normative duration of studies. Similarly, periods of absence up to a maximum of two academic terms are excluded from the normative duration of studies when the student is registered for the absence in accordance with section 39. (Amendment 324/2015)
4. Students are considered to have begun their degree studies as of the date they accepted a student place at university.
5. A transfer student's right to complete degree studies is determined on the basis of the degree for which the student was given the right to complete a degree with the transfer. The time that the student, whether registered for attendance or non-attendance, has spent pursuing the studies on which the transfer is based is counted towards the normative duration of studies. However, for such attending or non-attending students who began their degree studies prior to the 2005–2006 academic year, the time spent pursuing the studies on which the transfer is based are not counted towards the normative duration of studies. (Amendment 256/2015)

Section 41a. Right to a safe learning environment (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Students have the right to a safe learning environment.
2. The university may adopt its own rules or issue other regulations to promote internal order, unhindered progress in studies and a safe and pleasant university community.
3. The rules and other regulations referred to in subsection 2 above may include provisions on the practical arrangements and proper conduct necessary for university safety and amenability. Regulations may additionally be issued with regard to the handling of university property and to remaining on and moving about the facilities and grounds of the university. (Amendment 478/2003)

Section 42. Extension of the right to study

1. The university grants an extension to the duration of studies on application to a student who has not finished his or her studies within the time period referred to in section 41 provided that the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. In the plan, the student must detail the studies to be completed and the timetable for completing the degree.
2. The duration of studies is extended if it is possible for the student, in consideration of the number and scope of completed and valid studies as well as the lacking studies and any prior decisions on extending their duration, to complete his or her studies in a reasonable period of time. When granting an extension to the duration of studies, the university shall consider the life situation of the student.

Section 43. Forfeiture of the right to study

1. Students who have not enrolled and registered in the manner specified in section 39, or who fail to complete their studies within the time period specified in section 41 or within the extended period of time specified in section 42, as well as students who have not been granted an extension to their studies, forfeit their right to study. Should the student later wish to start or resume his or her studies, he or she must reapply to the university for admission. The application can be made without participation in the admissions procedure referred to in section 36.
2. If a transfer student accepts a new right to study, he or she forfeits the earlier right to study on which the transfer was based. (Amendment 256/2015)

Section 43a. Revocation of the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Where the studies impose demands on the safety of minors or patient or client safety, the university may revoke the right to study where:
 - (1) The student, by repeatedly or seriously endangering the health or safety of another person, has proven to be manifestly unsuitable to perform practical assignments or practical training relating to studies;
 - (2) It is evident that the student does not fulfil the prerequisites for admission referred to in section 37a(1) in regard of his or her state of health or functional capacity; or
 - (3) At the application stage, the student has concealed a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in section 37a(2) which could have prevented his or her admission as a student.
2. Where the studies or practical training relating to studies substantially require work with minors, the university may revoke the right to study where necessary in order to protect the minors, or if the student has been sentenced for a crime referred to in the Criminal Code, Chapter 17, section 18, 18a or 19, in Chapter 20, in Chapter 21, section 1–3 or 6, in Chapter 31, section 2, or in Chapter 50, section 1, 2, 3, 4 or 4a.
3. Before revoking the right to study, the university, together with the student, must explore the student's possibilities to apply for some other form of education. With his or her consent, the student may be transferred to other studies in the university where he or she fulfils the admission prerequisites.
4. Further provisions on the studies governed by this section are issued by government decree.

Section 43b. Access to information relating to the revocation of the right to study (Amendment 954/2011)

1. Where there is justified grounds to suspect that the student has an impediment due to his or her state of health or functional capacity, as referred to in section 43a(1)(2), he or she may be ordered to be examined by a registered healthcare professional, where necessary, for ascertaining the state of health or functional capacity. The university shall defray the cost of the examinations it orders.
2. Provisions on confidentiality notwithstanding, the university has the right, for the purpose of assessing the right to study, to obtain from a university-designated physician authorised to practice medicine independently, a written statement indicating that the student underwent an examination to ascertain his or her state of health and an assessment of the student's functional capacity with respect to the demands placed on his or her health due to studies.
3. Provisions on confidentiality notwithstanding, the university has the right to obtain information from other universities, universities of applied sciences and other education providers about any decision, including its justifications, to revoke an applicant's right to study where it is deemed necessary for assessing the right to study.
4. At the request of the university, the student must provide an extract of any and all entries about him or her in the criminal records referred to in section 6(3) of the Criminal Records Act (770/1993) for the purpose of an assessment of the right to study, as referred to in section 43a (2), if the student is given assignments in studies or in practical training relating to the studies which substantially require working with minors.
5. Provisions on confidentiality notwithstanding, the university has the right to obtain information necessary for admission from another university concerning any pending process related to revocation of the right to study referred to in section 43a, when the student has applied to the university as a transfer student.
6. Provisions on confidentiality notwithstanding, the university is obligated to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on any pending process related to revocation of the right to study referred to in section 43a and other decisions related to revocation of the right to study or to the transfer of the student to other studies and its justifications, when such information is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 43c. Reinstatement of the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A person whose right to study has been revoked under section 43a(1) may apply to the university concerned for reinstatement of the right. The right to study must be reinstated if the applicant proves that the reasons for the revocation no longer exist. The student must submit statements on his or her state of health to the university. The decision to reinstate the right to study is made by the university board.
2. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the university is obligated to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on any decision to reinstate the right to study and its justifications when such information is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 43d. Drug testing (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A university may oblige a student to present a drug test certificate when there are justifiable grounds to suspect that the student has a drug addiction, or is under the influence of drugs while in practical training or while performing practical tasks relating to studies. Another precondition is that the testing be necessary for ascertaining the student's functional capacity and the student perform tasks which require especial acuity, reliability, independent judgement or good reactions and where working under the influence of drugs or drug addiction:
 - (1) seriously endangers the student's or some other person's life or health;
 - (2) seriously endangers the protection or integrity of data protected by confidentiality provisions; or
 - (3) significantly increases the risk of illicit trafficking or distribution of substances referred to in section 3(1)(5) of the Narcotics Act (373/2008) which are in the possession of the university or the place of training.
2. 'Drug test certificate' means a certificate by a registered healthcare professional attesting that the student has undergone a test to detect the presence or absence of a substance referred to in section 3(1)(5) of the Narcotics Act as well as a statement based on the test as to whether the student has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity. The certificate must be presented within a reasonable time frame, which is determined by the university.
3. If the student is required to present a drug test certificate of the kind referred to in this section, the university must have written guidelines drawn up in cooperation with the student healthcare officials for preventing the use of narcotics by students and for intervening in drug problems.
4. The university shall defray the cost of the drug test certificate referred to in this section.
5. If not otherwise covered in this section a drug test performed on a student is governed by the provisions of section 19 of the Occupational Health Care Act.

Section 44. Assessment and recognition of study attainments

1. Students have the right to obtain information on how assessment criteria are applied to their study attainments. Students must be given an opportunity to see the assessed written or otherwise recorded study attainment. Written and otherwise recorded study attainments must be retained for a minimum of six months from the announcement of the results.
2. Before grading a doctoral dissertation, a licentiate thesis or a corresponding demonstration of learning and skills, the author must be given an opportunity to submit his or her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or the opponent's statement. The disqualification of a preliminary examiner, an examiner and an opponent is governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.
3. When studying for a degree or when completing a professional specialisation programme, the student may, as determined by the university, have studies that he or she has completed in another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or other educational establishment counted towards the degree or specialisation programme; the student may also substitute previous studies for studies in the degree requirements or professional specialisation programme if the prior studies are of an equivalent level. The student may,

as determined by the university, have his or her knowledge and skills attested in some other manner and counted towards the degree or specialisation, or substitute studies in the degree requirements or specialisation programme with the knowledge and skills attested. (Amendment 1172/2014)

Section 45. Disciplinary action (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A student may be issued a written caution if he or she
 - (1) disrupts teaching
 - (2) behaves threateningly or violently
 - (3) acts under false pretences or otherwise causes disorder at the university
 - (4) refuses to present a drug test certificate, as referred to in section 43d, or
 - (5) has used narcotics, based on the statement referred to in section 43d, for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity.
2. If the student's deed or negligence is serious in nature or if the student continues to behave inappropriately, in the sense referred to in subsection 1, after having been cautioned, he or she may be suspended from the university for a fixed period of one year at most.
3. A student who disrupts teaching, behaves threateningly or violently or endangers the life or health of another person may be ordered to leave the premises where teaching takes place or an event organised by the university. A student may be banned from attending teaching for a maximum of three days where there is a risk that the safety of another student or a person working in the university or some other teaching facility is threatened as a result of the student's threatening or violent behaviour or where the disruptive conduct of the student makes teaching and associated activities unduly difficult.
4. Where a student refuses to undergo the examinations for ascertaining his or her state of health referred to in section 43b(1), he or she may be banned from studies until he or she consents to undergo the necessary examinations. If a student refuses to provide an extract of entries on him or her in the criminal records as referred to in section 43b(4), he or she may be banned from studies until he or she consents to present the extract.

Section 45a. Procedure in disciplinary actions and matters regarding revocation of the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The decision to revoke the right to study is made by the board of the university. Before any decision to revoke the right to study can be taken, an account of the matter must be obtained and the student must be given an opportunity to be heard.
2. The decision to give a student a written warning is made by the rector of the university and the decision on suspension by the board of the university. Before any such decision can be taken, the deed or negligence resulting in the disciplinary measure must be specified and a relevant investigation carried out, and the student must be given an opportunity to be heard.
3. The rector and a member of the teaching and research staff and the practical training instructor may work together or separately in such matters as are referred to in section 45(3). The disciplinary measures must be recorded. The university board makes the decision referred to in section 45(4).

4. The decision on the enforcement of an appealable decision and on the date on which the enforcement is implemented must be made at the same time as the decision to revoke the student's right to study, to suspend the student or to ban the student from studies.

Section 45b. Handling of sensitive material (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Information relating to an applicant's and a student's state of health, referred to in sections 37b and 43b–43d, may be handled only by those who prepare or make decisions on admission, on revocation or reinstatement of the right to study, or on disciplinary action or by those who issue statements on these matters.
2. Information on the student in the criminal register about matters referred to in section 43a(2) may be handled only by those who prepare or make decisions on revocation of the right to study.
3. The university must specify the tasks which involve the handling of sensitive materials.
4. The university must store the sensitive materials separately from other personal data. The sensitive materials must be removed from the register immediately when there no longer is any statutory reason to store them and at the latest within four years of the date on which they were entered in the register.
5. The handling of personal data is governed by the Personal Data Act (523/1999) unless otherwise provided in this Act.

Section 46. Student union

1. A student union consists of the students of a university and is self-governing. The student union liaises with and on behalf of its members and promotes their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and those relating to studies and the status of students in society. The student union also participates in the implementation of the educational mission of the university, referred to in section 2, by preparing students for an active, informed and critical citizenship.
2. The duties of the student union are in particular to
 - (1) nominate student representatives to the administrative bodies of the university referred to in Chapter 3;
 - (2) nominate student representatives to the student financial aid board of the university referred to in section 9 of the Student Financial Aid Act (65/1994); and
 - (3) contribute, where needed, to the performance of the tasks relating to students' primary healthcare referred to in section 17 of the Health Care Act (1326/2010) and Chapter 13, sections 11 - 14, of the Health Insurance Act (1224/2004). (Amendment 1349/2010)
3. All university students who have been admitted to programmes leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree, with the exception of students in commissioned education, belong to the student union. The student union may also accept other students of the university as members.
4. The costs incurring from activities geared to implementing the purpose and remit of the student union are defrayed from the assets of the student union and from the income accruing from the activities of the student union and membership fees, which the student

union is entitled to charge to its members. The amount of the membership fee is confirmed by the rector of the university and its payment controlled by the university.

5. The languages of the student unions of the University of Helsinki, the University of the Arts Helsinki and Aalto University are Finnish and Swedish. The language of the student union of Åbo Akademi University and Hanken School of Economics is Swedish. The language of the other student unions is Finnish. (Amendment 414/2012)
6. The student union's decision-making power is vested in its executive board and the student parliament. Provisions on other bodies of the student union and the election of their members are issued by government decree. Provisions on the administration of the student union are laid down in the rules adopted by the student parliament and confirmed by the rector of the university.
7. The student union rules lay down the criteria for exempting a student union member in whole or in part from paying the membership fee.

Section 47. Student nations

1. The University of Helsinki has Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking student bodies referred to as student nations and corresponding to distinct regions of Finland. Aalto University has a Swedish-speaking student nation. The student nations are self-governing. The purpose of the student nations is to support and develop their members' intellectual pursuits and improve their social conditions.
2. Provisions on the members, administration, finances and other operations of the student nations as well as the duty of members to pay student-nation fees are laid down in the rules of the student nations. The student nation rules are confirmed by the rector of the university. The establishment of new student nations and the termination of existing ones at the University of Helsinki are decided by the university rector after hearing the nation that the decision concerns. The division and merger of student nations at the University of Helsinki and changes in the regions covered by them are decided by the nations concerned. These decisions are confirmed by the rector of the university.

Chapter 6. University steering and financing

Section 48. Objective setting (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the university conclude fixed-term agreements on quantitative and qualitative targets of pivotal relevance to education and science policy and on the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. On the part of the university, the agreement is signed by the chairperson of the board and the rector.
2. Where university-specific targets cannot be coordinated at the national level or according to the field of study, the Ministry of Education and Culture may, for the purpose of ensuring funding, decide on quantitative and qualitative targets for an individual university to the extent that the targets form part of the criteria for the financial resources allocated to the university.

Section 49. Criteria for the allocation of government funding

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants funding to universities for the execution of the duties laid down in this Act and within the scope of the appropriation included in the national Budget.
2. The university appropriation in the Budget referred to in subsection 1 above, with the exception of one-off items, is increased from the previous year in accordance with the annual cost-related rise in the university index. The university index is comprised of the index of wage and salary earnings, the consumer price index and the retail price index.
3. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants imputed core funding to the universities, taking into account the extent, quality and effectiveness of the operations and other education and science policy objectives. The Ministry of Education and Culture may also grant performance-based funding to universities on the basis of good performance.
4. The universities are reimbursed for the value-added tax included in the cost incurred by the universities for providing educational services referred to in sections 39 and 40 of the Value Added Tax Act (1501/1993) and in procurements and facility rent relating to research other than commercial research. The reimbursement is adjusted annually on the basis of each university's most recent euro-denominated value-added tax accrual. (Amendment 933/2014)
5. In granting funding, the Ministry of Education and Culture may set conditions and restrictions on the use of the funds.
6. Further provisions are issued by government decree on the computation of the university index and the consideration of the rise in the cost level referred to in subsection 2 above and on the computation and the relative weight of the financing criteria referred to in subsection 3. Further provisions on the computation criteria underlying the allocation of imputed funding is issued by Ministry of Education and Culture Decree.
7. The provisions in subsection 2 are not applicable from 2016 to 2019. (Amendment 1674/2015)

Section 49a. Increase in the appropriation for 2015 (1182/2014)

1. By derogation of the provisions in section 49(2), the university appropriation in the Budget referred to in section 49(1) will be increased in 2015, barring one-off items, by half of the annual cost-related rise in the university index.
2. Section 49a, enacted by Act 1182/2014, was in force from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 only.

Section 50. Funding of joint university expenses (Amendment 954/2011)

The Ministry of Education and Culture may finance operations jointly undertaken by all the universities within the scope of the appropriation included in the national Budget. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 51. Supervision and reporting (Amendment 954/2011)

When requested by the Ministry of Education and Culture, each university must provide the Ministry with the data necessary for the evaluation, development, statistics and other supervision and steering of education and research in the manner determined by the Ministry. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 52. Payment (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The operational funding is paid to the universities in payments of the same amount on the third banking day of each month.
2. The performance-based funding referred to in section 49(3) is paid to the universities in the manner determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 53. Discontinuation of payment (Amendment 954 /2011)

The Ministry of Education and Culture may order the funding referred to in this Act to be discontinued where:

- (1) it is evident that the recipient is no longer arranging the activity on the basis of which the funding is allocated, or the recipient of the funding is acting in significant violation of the provisions of this Act; or
- (2) the criteria for allocating the funding for a specific activity have essentially changed or have been incorrect.

Section 54. Repayment of financing received

1. A university must without delay repay erroneously paid, excess or manifestly groundless funding. The university must also return any portion of funding that cannot be used for the purposes that were agreed.
2. The provisions in subsection 1 do not apply to the difference between imputed operational funding and actual expenditure.

Section 55. Recovery of payments (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture shall order allocated funding to be recovered where the university has:
 - (1) failed to return funding repayable under section 54;
 - (2) used funding for a purpose essentially different to that for which it had been allocated;
 - (3) given false or misleading information to the Ministry of Education and Culture about a matter which was critical to the granting of the funding, the amount of funding or the terms of funding, or has concealed such a fact; or
 - (4) otherwise, in a way comparable to paragraphs 1–3 above, essentially violated regulations governing the use of funding or the terms set in the funding decision.
2. The Ministry of Education and Culture must make a decision on the recovery of payments within two years of the date on which the finding, usable as a basis for discontinuation of payments, termination of payments or recovery of funding, was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The decision on recovery of payments must be taken within five years of the date on which the payment was made.

Section 56. Interest and interest on late payment

1. The university shall pay annual interest, as provided in section 3(2) of the Interest Act and raised by three percentage points, on the amount to be repaid or recovered from the payment date onward.
2. Where the recoverable amount is not paid by the due date set by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the university shall pay annual interest for the delayed payment in accordance with the interest rate referred to in section 4 of the Interest Act. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 57. Offsetting of payments

Repayable or recoverable sums, with interest, may be recovered by means of a reduction in funding paid to the university under this Act.

Section 58. Appealing a funding decision (Amendment 954 /2011)

Appeals and rectification requests concerning decisions of the Ministry of Education and Culture to grant funding, suspend payment under section 53, recover funding under section 55 or offset payment under section 57 comes under the provisions of section 34 of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001).

Section 59. Implementation

A decision may be implemented notwithstanding a request for rectification unless otherwise provided for by the appeals authority. A decision on the recovery of funding referred to in section 55 and issued owing to a rectification request may be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges.

Chapter 7. University finances

Section 60. Equity of a public university

1. A public university's equity consists of original own funds, other equity and a revaluation reserve.
2. The original own funds is capital permanently invested in the university.
3. Other equity is capital accruing to the university from the surplus of its operations and state property conveyed to the university at the time of its incorporation, transferred to it as other equity. The revaluation reserve shows the amount of revaluation of disbursed fixed assets. Other equity may be transferred to the original own funds.

Section 61. Accounting

1. University accounting is governed by the Accounting Act (1336/1997). However, in the universities, the financial year referred to in the Accounting Act is a calendar year.
2. Further provisions on the profit and loss account and balance sheet formulas may be issued by government decree.

Section 61. Data on business activities

Where a university pursues business activities through a separate unit with no legal obligation to keep accounts, the profitability information of the business must be presented separately as a profit and loss account broken down by operations in an annex to the financial statement.

Section 63. University group

1. The university may exercise the control referred to in Chapter 1, sections 5 and 6 of the Accounting Act in one or more domestic or foreign businesses directly relating to the discharge of the duties referred to in section 2 of this Act. Businesses in which the university has a controlling interest are affiliated companies of the university. The university and its affiliated companies form a university group.
2. The university group is led by the board and the rector of the university. The university group senior management may also include other university staff who have been specifically delegated university group managerial duties. The university group senior management is responsible for directing the university group and organising its oversight.

Section 64. Auditing public university accounts (Amendment 1206/2015)

1. The auditing of accounts of a public university and the status and responsibility of the auditors is governed by the Auditing Act (1141/2015).
2. The university collegium elects a sufficient number of auditors and deputy auditors for the university, as provided in the university rules of procedure. At least one of the auditors must be a chartered public finance auditor or a chartered public finance auditing corporation whose main auditor is a chartered public finance auditor, and at least one an auditor approved by the Auditing Board of the Central Chamber of Commerce (KHT auditor) or a KHT corporation whose main auditor is a KHT auditor. The term of office of the auditors is of indefinite duration. The term of office ends and the term of office of the new auditors begins at the end of the university collegium meeting that elects the new auditor, unless otherwise decided when electing the new auditor.
3. The auditors must deliver the audit of the university accounts and submit the audit report to the university collegium by the end of the April following the financial year.

Section 65. Adoption and confirmation of the financial statement of a public university and discharge from liability

1. The board of a public university prepares the financial statement of the university.
2. The university collegium confirms the financial statement and decides on the discharge of liability of the board members and the rector by the end of the June following the financial year.
3. If the university collegium does not grant discharge to a board member or the rector, it may decide to bring legal action for damages against the board member or the rector. If the university collegium decides to take legal action for damages against a board member, it may at the same time relieve the board member of his or her duties.
4. In submitting the financial statement, the board puts forward a proposal on handling the profit or loss results of the financial period and on measures for balancing the finances. If

the financial period is negative and there is no surplus from the previous financial periods to cover the deficit, the board must make a plan for measures to restore the finances.

Section 66. Confidentiality of the financial statement

After their formal adoption, the financial statements and the annual reports of universities and university groups are public documents.

Section 67. Limitation of the right to bring action (Amendment 644/2016)

Legal action, taken under section 65(3) above or section 9 in Chapter 10 of the Accounting Act, which is based on an act other than one punishable by law must be brought within five years of the end of the financial period during which the decision or act prompting the legal action was undertaken.

Chapter 8. Special provisions pertaining to the University of Helsinki

Section 68. Chancellor of the University of Helsinki

1. The University of Helsinki has a chancellor. The duty of the chancellor of the University of Helsinki is to promote science and scholarship and the societal interaction of the University and to oversee the University's general interests and operations.
2. The chancellor of the University of Helsinki has the right to be present and speak at the government sessions which deal with matters pertaining to the University of Helsinki.
3. The requirement of the chancellor elect is that he or she has served in the sciences, arts or university system with distinction. Further provisions on the appointment and remit of the chancellor are laid down in the university rules.

Section 69. Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki

1. Attached to the University of Helsinki is the Swedish School of Social Science. The School has a multimember administrative body and a rector. The multimember administrative body adopts the rules of procedure of the School.
2. Provisions pertaining to the remits of the multimember administrative body and rector are issued by government decree. Provisions pertaining to the election and terms of office of the multimember administrative body and rector and to other administration of the School are laid down in the rules of procedure of the School.
3. Those who have been awarded a degree by the School have the right to continue their studies for the degree of Master of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki.
(Amendment 416/2010)

Section 70. National Library

1. The National Library of Finland operates in conjunction with the University of Helsinki.. The National Library is responsible for the storage, maintenance and accessibility of the national cultural heritage pertaining to the library's field of operation.

2. The mission of the National Library is to develop and offer national services for university libraries, public libraries, universities of applied sciences libraries and specialist libraries and to promote national and international cooperation in the library field. The mission of the National Library is otherwise governed by the Act on the deposit and preservation of national cultural materials (1433/2007).

Section 71. Board of the National Library

1. The National Library has a board of directors. The board comprises a maximum of 13 members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The board of the University of Helsinki appoints the members and deputy members of the National Library board as well as the chairperson from amongst the board members.
2. After consulting with the libraries, the Ministry of Education and Culture submits its proposal to the board of the University of Helsinki on the members and their deputies who will represent the Ministry and the libraries on the National Library board. By proposal of the University of Helsinki, the University of Helsinki board appoints an equal number of members and deputies to the National Library board as was proposed by the Ministry. In addition, three board members and their deputies are appointed at a joint proposal of the Ministry and the University. (Amendment 954/2011)
3. Provisions on the remit of the board are issued by government decree.

Section 72. Finnish Museum of Natural History

Operating in connection with the University of Helsinki is the Finnish Museum of Natural History. The Museum is responsible for the preservation, accumulation and exhibition of the national natural history collections and for research and education relating to them.

Section 73. State Calendar of Finland

The University of Helsinki is responsible for publishing the Finland's State Calendar. The University has the right to obtain the information needed for the calendar free of charge from the central government authorities.

Section 74. Swedish-language instruction and the Swedish-speaking vice-rector

1. The University of Helsinki has a minimum of 28 professorships for Swedish-speaking instruction in disciplines determined in the university rules. The professorships of the Swedish School of Social Science are not counted among the 28 professorships.
2. The University has a board for the development and coordination of Swedish-speaking instruction.
3. One of the vice-rectors must be a professor appointed to a post referred to in subsection 1, unless the rector is himself or herself appointed to such a post.

Section 75. The rights and assets of the University of Helsinki (Amendment 1117/2010)

1. The University of Helsinki has the right to operate one pharmacy in the City of Helsinki. The University continues to have all the rights, entitlements and liberties and the assets and

income in its possession at the time this Act enters into force.

2. The assets referred to in subsection 1 and donated and bequeathed funds are managed separately from other university accounting. The decisions on the management of the funds are made by the board.
3. *[Subsection 3 has been repealed; 1707/2015]*

Chapter 9. Special provisions pertaining to Åbo Akademi University

Section 76. Special mission

1. Åbo Akademi University, hereinafter Åbo Akademi, must specifically satisfy the educational and research needs of Finland's Swedish-speaking population and take account of the bilingualism of the country in its activities. Åbo Akademi is responsible for organising teacher education in Swedish. (Amendment 487/2013)
2. The units of Åbo Akademi operating in Vaasa constitute a single entity (School), whose joint activities are managed by a multimember administrative body. The administrative body is chaired by the rector of the entity. Provisions on the duties and election of the multimember administrative body and the rector and the composition of the administrative body are laid down in Åbo Akademi University's rules of procedure.

Section 77. Åbo Akademi Chancellor

1. Åbo Akademi has a Chancellor. The duty of the Chancellor is to promote science and scholarship as well as the interaction of the University with society and to oversee Åbo Akademi's general interests and operations.
2. The Chancellor elect is required to have served science, art or the university system with distinction. Further provisions on the appointment and remit of the Chancellor are laid down in the university rules.

Section 78. Requisite language skills: teachers

1. A requirement for teaching posts at Åbo Akademi is full proficiency in the Swedish language and an ability to understand the Finnish language. The decision on the proficiency in Swedish and Finnish required of a foreigner or a non-native Finnish citizen rests with Åbo Akademi.
2. Åbo Akademi has a language board to which the Swedish proficiency referred to in subsection 1 may be demonstrated.

Section 79. Requisite language skills: students

A requirement for admission to Åbo Akademi is sufficient proficiency in Swedish for pursuing studies taught in Swedish, unless otherwise decided by Åbo Akademi.

Section 80. Assets

1. Åbo Akademi shall continue to have all the rights, entitlements and freedoms as well as assets and income it has in its possession at the time this Act enters into force.

2. The assets referred to in subsection 1 and donated and bequeathed funds are managed separately from Åbo Akademi's other accounting. The decisions on the management of the funds are made by the Åbo Akademi board.

Section 81. Provisions pertaining to certain posts

1. The professorships and associate professorships instituted at Åbo Akademi since the first of August 1981 shall remain Åbo Akademi posts.
2. The provisions of subsection 1 notwithstanding, after obtaining the opinion of the foundation named "Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi", Åbo Akademi may change the disciplines and the sets of duties of these posts and upgrade posts of associate professorship to full professorships.

Chapter 10. Appeals

Section 82. Rectification procedure (Amendment 960/2015)

1. A person who has applied for entry to a university may lodge a rectification request with an administrative body designated by the university to seek redress for a decision on admission within 14 days from the publication of the admissions results, as laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act. The publication of the admissions results must be accompanied by instructions on how the applicant can obtain information about the way in which the admissions criteria were applied in his or her case. In consequence of such a request for rectification, no one's admissions results may be altered detrimentally as the result of a rectification request.
2. A student may lodge a rectification request with the administrative body designated by the university to seek redress for a decision on forfeiture of the right to study within 14 days, as laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act.
3. A student dissatisfied with the grading of a doctoral dissertation, licentiate thesis or equivalent final project, or graduate thesis for advanced studies or corresponding study attainment, may lodge a rectification request with an administrative body designated by the university within 14 days, as laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act.
4. A student dissatisfied with the grading of a study attainment other than those referred to in subsection 3, or with the recognition of either studies completed elsewhere or prior knowledge demonstrated in some other manner, may lodge a rectification request orally or in writing; in the case of grading, the request is submitted to the teacher who decided on the grade and, in the case of recognition of prior studies, to the person who made the decision on recognition. The rectification request must be made within 14 days of the date on which the information about the grades or the application of the assessment criteria to the student's study attainment became accessible to the student. A rectification request on recognition of prior learning must be made within 14 days of the receipt of the notification of the decision. A student dissatisfied with the decision on the rectification request may seek rectification from a degree board or other body designated for the purpose within 14 days, as laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act. (1600/2015)

Section 83. Appeal to the students' legal protection board (Amendment 960 /2015)

1. An appeal against a decision to revoke the right to study, as referred to in section 43a, or to reinstate the right to study, as referred to in section 43c, may be lodged with the students' legal protection board within 14 days of the receipt of the decision, as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). The appeal shall be treated as an urgent matter.
2. Appeals against decisions made by the students' legal protection board are governed by the Act on the Students' Legal Protection Board (956/2011).

Section 83a Administrative Court Appeal (Amendment 960/2015)

1. An appeal against university administrative decisions and decisions on rectification requests other than those referred to in sections 82 and 83 may be lodged with the administrative court of the judicial district where the university's main offices are located, as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act, unless otherwise provided elsewhere by law.
2. An appeal against a decision on revocation of the right to study, reinstatement of the right to study or on a warning, suspension or ban on attending studies, as referred to in section 45, shall be treated as an urgent matter.

Section 84. Ban on appeals (Amendment 960/2015)

1. No appeal may be lodged against a university decision pertaining to
 - (1) the election of an administrative body of the university;
 - (2) the university rules of procedure or other general regulations;
 - (3) a curriculum or other provision concerning teaching arrangements;
 - (4) discharge from liability or legal action for compensation for damages, as referred to in section 65; or
 - (5) a scholarship or grant.
2. No appeal may be lodged against a ruling on a rectification request concerning the grading of a study attainment and the recognition of prior studies.
3. No appeal may be lodge against an administrative court ruling on student admissions, as referred to in section 36, forfeiture of the right to study, as referred to in section 43, or a disciplinary action, as referred to in section 45.

Section 84a Supreme Administrative Court Appeals (Amendment 960/2015)

Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in the law, an appeal against an administrative court ruling may only be lodged if the Supreme Administrative Court grants leave to appeal.

Section 85. Implementation of decisions to take disciplinary action or to revoke the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

A decision to revoke the right to study, to suspend a student or to ban a student from studies may be carried out notwithstanding an appeal pending against it, unless otherwise stipulated by an administrative court or by the students' legal protection board.

Section 86. Appeal against a decision by a student union or a student nation (Amendment 960/2015)

1. An appeal against a decision of a student union concerning an administrative matter may be lodged with the administrative court as laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act. An appeal against a rectification request ruling may be lodged with the administrative court as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. Further, a member of a student union may appeal against a decision of a student union body on grounds that the decision has been taken in breach of statutes or provisions governing the student union or is otherwise in breach of statutes or provisions governing the student union. The administrative court ruling may not be appealed against.
2. An appeal against a decision of a student nation concerning an administrative matter may be lodged with the administrative court as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act. An appeal against a rectification request ruling may be lodged with the administrative court as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. The administrative court ruling may not be appealed against.
3. The member of a student union or a student nation is considered to have been notified of a decision when the decision has been posted for public inspection.

Chapter 11. Further provisions

Section 87. Evaluation (Amendment 1302/2013)

1. The universities must evaluate their education, research and artistic activities as well as the effectiveness thereof. The universities must also regularly participate in external evaluations of their activities and in quality assurance systems. The universities must publish the results of the evaluations they have organised.
2. Provisions on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre is laid down in the Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre. (Amendment 1295/2013)

Section 88. University training school

1. A sufficient number of teacher training schools must be available in conjunction with a university that provides teacher education, so that the needs of teaching practice and the development of teacher education can be met; the teacher training schools may provide pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education. The pupils of the teacher training school are not students of the university.
2. The provision of the education referred to in subsection 1 and the discontinuation of the operation are governed by provisions in other statutes on pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education in a state educational institution. The same provisions apply to any decision to expand a teacher training school to provide instruction and education to more age groups or a decision to effect a reduction in the operations of the school. Should the educational need diminish or terminate, the operations may be further reduced or discontinued.
3. Each teacher training school has an administrative body appointed by the university, which may include non-university members. The teacher training school also has an executive head teacher responsible for the school operations.

4. Further provisions on the operations and administration of the teacher training school are laid down in the university rules.

Section 89. Adjunct professors

Upon application, a university may award the title of adjunct professor (*dosentti* in Finnish) to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his or her field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publications or some other manner, and good teaching skills.

Section 90. Contingency plans

1. The universities must ensure that in emergency conditions and abnormal or exceptional situations the disruption caused to the university's operations remain as minimal as possible, and shall do so by use of contingency plans, proactive preparation of operations and by other means.
2. The Ministry of Education and Culture supervises the contingency planning. Where shortcomings are identified in the plans, the Ministry of Education and Culture may order the shortcomings to be redressed. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 90a. Right to obtain information (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The provisions on confidentiality notwithstanding, such information on a student's state of health and functional capacity as are necessary for the execution of a university's duties may be supplied by the holder of this information to:
 - (1) the rector of a university and those responsible for the security of the university for the purpose of ensuring the safety to pursue studies;
 - (2) a person responsible for study counselling for the purpose of guiding the student to other studies or support services;
 - (3) a person responsible for student healthcare for the purpose of ensuring the student's health and safety;
 - (4) a person responsible for practical training for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the student and the safety of staff and customers at the place of training; and
 - (5) the police and a representative of the university who is primarily responsible for investigating threats to security for the purpose of assessing if there is an imminent threat to safety or if the student's state of health poses a danger to the safety of others involved in the assessment.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions on confidentiality, those responsible for executing the duties in this Act have the right to inform the police of essential details for the purpose of assessing an immediate threat to life or health and to prevent a threatening act, if they, in performing their duties, have obtained information about circumstances that leads them to believe that someone may be in danger of becoming the target of violence. (Amendment 278/2015)

[Section 91 has been repealed; 1600/2015]

Section 92. Coordination of higher education provided in Swedish

1. There is an advisory board for the coordination of higher education provided in Swedish, whose remit is to make initiatives and issue opinions on matters of essential relevance to

higher education in Swedish. The advisory board must specifically monitor the need for higher education provided in Swedish in consideration of the demand for education, labour market requirements and regional needs.

2. Universities and universities of applied sciences whose language of tuition is Swedish appoint their representatives to the advisory board. The advisory board elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members.
3. Further provisions on the term of office, composition and activities of the advisory board are laid down in the rules of procedure adopted by the advisory board.

[Section 92a has been repealed; 1707/2015]

Section 93. Entry into force

1. Provisions on the entry into force of this Act are issued in a separate Act.