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INSTITUTION TYPES & CREDENTIALS

Types of higher education institutions:

Universitet (University)

Technicheskiy Universitet (Technical University)

Academia (Academy, University Level)

Institut (Institute, University Level)

Konservatoria (Conservatory)

Kolledž (College, Non-University Level Higher Education Institution)

Technikum (Non-University Level Higher Education Institution)

Uchilische (Technical Institution)

School leaving and higher education credentials:

Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii

Diplom o Srednem Professionalnom Obrazovanii (Higher Vocational Education Diploma)

Diplom o Nepolnom Visshem Obrazovanii (Incomplete Higher Education Diploma)

Bakalavr

Specialist Diploma

Magistr

Kandidat Nauk

Doktor Nauk

STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

Pre-higher education:

Duration of compulsory education:

Age of entry: 6

Age of exit: 15

Structure of school system:

Primary

Type of school providing this education: Primary General School

Length of program in years: 4

Age level from: 6 to: 10

Basic

Type of school providing this education: Basic General Secondary School

Length of program in years: 5

Age level from: 10 to: 15

Complete Secondary

Type of school providing this education: Secondary (Complete) General School, Upper-Secondary School

Length of program in years: 2

Age level from: 15 to: 17

Certificate/diploma awarded: Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii (Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education, School Leaving Certificate).

Vocational

Type of school providing this education: Technikum, Kolledz, Uchilishe (Non-university level higher education)

Length of program in years: 4

Age level from: 15 to: 19

Certificate/diploma awarded: Diplom

School education:

General secondary education lasts for nine years. Graduates of this level may continue their education at secondary (Complete) General School for two years. They may also enter a vocational school or non-university level higher education institutions. Graduates from a Secondary (complete) General School may apply for entrance to a higher education institution. Complete secondary education leads to the award of the Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii (School Leaving Certificate).

Higher education:

Higher education is provided by state and non-state higher education institutions (HEIs). Approximately half of the State HEIs students pay for their studies. In non-state HEIs all students have to pay tuition fees. Higher education is within the Ministry of Education and Science's jurisdiction. The Federal Service of Supervision in Education and Science is responsible for quality assurance in education. There are three levels of higher education: 1) incomplete higher education (2 years at least); 2) 4-year programmes leading to the Bakalavr's degree, the first final university degree; 3) postgraduate studies with duration of 1-2 years leading to the Specialist Diploma or the Magistr degree. HEIs are authorized to award the Magistr's degree after the completion of 2 years of study or the Specialist Diploma after 1 year of study following upon the Bakalavr's degree. Scientific degrees in Russia traditionally include two levels of doctoral degrees: the Candidate of Sciences (the first level, equivalent to PhD) and the Doctor of Sciences (the second, highest level). There are 721 state (including 45 regional public HEIs) and 369 accredited non-state HEIs in Russia. The Federal Agency for Education finances 338 state HEIs. The rest is financed by other Ministries or local authorities.

Main laws/decrees governing higher education:

Decree: Decree no 1323 on State Accreditation of HEIs Year: 1999

Decree: Decree no 1766 on the Managerial structure of the state educational standards elaboration Year: 2001

Concerns: All types of HEIs

Decree: Decree no 314 on the System and Structure of Executive Boards Year: 2004

Concerns: All types of HEIs

Decree: Decree no 686 on the Approval of the new state educational standards" Year: 2000

Concerns: All types of HEIs

Decree: Decree no 796 on Education Licensing Year: 2000

Decree: Decree no 940 on Standard regulations of Higher Education Year: 1994

Concerns: to all type of HEIs

Decree: Law no 125-FZ on Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education Year: 1996

Concerns: all types of HEIs

Academic year:

Classes from: Sep to: Jun

Long vacation from: 1 Jul to: 31 Aug

Languages of instruction: Russian

Stages of studies:

Non-university level post-secondary studies (technical/vocational type):

Non-university level:

Basic General Secondary School (9 grades) and Secondary (Complete) General School leavers (+ 2 grades in upper-secondary school) can enrol in lower post-secondary vocational education and non-university level higher education. Lower post-secondary vocational education lasts for 1-2 years and leads to qualified workers qualifications. State, municipal and non-state non-university level HEIs comprise tekhnikums/uchilishche and kolledzes. They train middle-level specialists such as technicians and skilled nurses. They confer Diplomas after at least 2 years of study following upon the Secondary (Complete) General Education and after 3 to 4 1/2 years following upon the Basic General secondary School. Advanced level courses last for one more year. They confer Diplomas after 2 years' study on the basis of Secondary (complete) general education and after three to four-and-a-half years on the basis of Basic general education. If a holder of the non-university level Diploma enters a university-level higher education institution in the same field of study, up to two years of previous studies could be counted by HEIs' authorities as a transferred period of study. Such students follow a shorter period of training whilst completing university level programmes.

University level studies:

University level first stage:

The first stage consists of at least two years of a higher education study programme. On leaving the university, students may ask for the Diploma O Nepolnom Vysshem Obrazovanii (Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education) which entitles them to obtain jobs that require some HE training but not a degree and to continue their studies.

University level second stage: Bakalavr:

Bakalavr (Bachelor's) degree programmes last for at least 4 years of full-time university-level study. The programmes are elaborated in accordance with the State Educational Standards which regulate 50% of the content, the other 50% being developed by the university. The programmes include professional and special courses in Science, the Humanities and Socioeconomic disciplines, professional training, completion of final research paper/project and sitting for State final exams. Having obtained the Bakalavr degree, students may apply to enter the Magistr programmes or continue their studies in the framework of the Specialist Diploma programmes. The Bakalavr degree is awarded in all fields except Medicine after defending a Diploma project prepared under the guidance of a supervisor and sitting for final exams. In Medicine, the first stage lasts for six years.

University level third stage: Magistr, Specialist Diploma:

Holders of the Bakalavr are admitted to enter the Specialist Diploma and Magistr programmes. Access to these programmes is competitive. The Magistr degree is awarded after successful completion of two years of full-time studies. Students must complete advanced studies, prepare and defend a thesis and sit for final examinations. The Specialist Diploma can be earned in two ways: upon completion of at least 1 year's study after the Bakalavr programme or upon completion of five to six years' continuous study beyond the Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii. The Specialist Diploma is a professional qualification that gives the

right to exercise professional activities and to apply for doctoral programmes. It is conferred after the students have completed advanced studies, prepared and defended a thesis and sat for final examinations.

University level fourth stage: Kandidat Nauk (Aspirantura programmes), Doktor Nauk (Doktorantura programmes):

Access to the Aspirantura is competitive. Applicants must hold a Specialist Diploma or a Magistr degree. Studies last for 3 years. The Aspirantura programmes train for research and teaching activities. Students must learn research and teaching methods, ICTs, and pass qualifying (Kandidat Nauk) exams in certain fields of study. After carrying out independent research, preparing and defending a dissertation in public, they are awarded the Kandidat Nauk scientific degree. The Doctor Nauk programme duration is not fixed (from 5 to 15 years). It follows the Kandidat Nauk degree; The Doctor Nauk scientific degree is awarded after the public defence of a dissertation. It does not always have an equivalent in other countries.

Teacher education:

Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers

Non-university level educational institutions (technikums, kolledzes) train teachers for pre-primary and primary schools. The duration of the course is two-and-a-half to four-and-a-half years. Some university level teacher training institutions train teachers for primary schools. The courses last for five years. Graduates of these two types of educational institutions may exercise the profession.

Training of secondary school teachers

Teacher training is carried out in teacher training university-level institutions. The programmes last for at least five years. Graduates may enter the profession.

Training of higher education teachers

University teachers must have followed post-graduate training. A scientific degree (Kandidat Nauk at least) is compulsory to obtain a lecturer's post in HEIs.

Non-traditional studies:

Distance higher education

Distance learning is regarded as ICT utilisation for provision of a wide variety of education programmes or parts (blocks) of programmes in higher professional education, vocational education, school education, lifelong education and upgrading.

Lifelong higher education

Short part time courses (from two to eight weeks) are offered by HEIs to graduates and postgraduates wanting to improve their knowledge and skills in their profession or other areas.

Higher education training in industry

Upgrading courses for industrial workers and professionals in different branches of the national economy are available.

NATIONAL BODIES

Administration & co-ordination:

Responsible authorities:

Ministry of Education and Science

Head: Andrey Fursenko, Minister

Administrative officer: Andrey Svinarenko, Vice-Minister

Tverskaya Street 11
Moscow GSP-3 125993
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 6297062

Fax: +7(495) 6290891

WWW: <http://www.mon.gov.ru>

Role of governing body: The Ministry is responsible for state policy and legal regulation in education, R&D, innovation activities and youth policy, coordination and control of other bodies in the education and research fields.

Federal Agency on Education

Head: Grigory Balykhin

Lusinovskaya Street 51
Moscow M-93, M230 GSP-8 115998
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2376724

Fax: +7(495) 2360171

EMail: bicab@ed.gov.ruWWW: <http://www.ed.gov.ru>

Role of governing body: The Federal Agency on Education manages the state property, implements education and youth development policies, funds HEIs, proposes further development of HEIs.

Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science

Head: Viktor Bolotov

Sadovaya-Sukharevskaya 16
Moscow K-51, GSP-4 127994
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2086158

Fax: +7(495) 2086158

EMail: akkred@ministry.ru

WWW: <http://www.obrnadzor.gov.ru>

Role of governing body: The Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science supervises and controls the implementation of the legislation in education, R&D and youth policy. It is responsible for the quality assurance policy, the licensing of education institutions and programmes.

Russian Rectors' Union

Head: Viktor Sadovnichy, President

Moscow State University (named after M. Lomonosov)
Vorobievsky gory
Moscow GSP-2 119992
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 9392729/ 9393767

Fax: +7(095) 9390259

E-Mail: office@rsr-online.ru

WWW: <http://rsr-online.ru/english/about.htm>

Association of Russian Higher Education Institutions (ARHEI)

Head: Viktor Savinykh, President

4 Gorokhovskiy per.
Moscow 105064
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2613152/ 2369821

Fax: +7(495) 2674681/ 2613089

E-Mail: SVP@miigaik.ru

Association of Non-State Higher Education Establishments

Head: Vladimir Zernov, President

Radio Street 22
Moscow 107005
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 1050383

Fax: +7(495) 1050381

E-Mail: va_zernov@mtu-net.ru

National Accreditation Agency of Russia, Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science

Head: Vladimir Navodnov

3 Lenin Square
Yoshkar-Ola 424000
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(8362) 416194

Fax: +7(8362) 413884

EMail: imo@nica.ru; umo@nica.ru

WWW: <http://www.nica.ru>

Research Institute for Higher Education

Head: Alexander Saveliev, Director

3-rd Kabelnaya Ul., 1
Moscow 111024
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2734819

Fax: +7(495) 2733840

EMail: sav@NIIVO.hetnet.ru

ADMISSIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies

Name of secondary school credential required: Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii

Minimum score/requirement: satisfactory

Other admission requirements:

Competitive exams/tests, Uniform State Exam.

Admission to university-level studies

Name of secondary school credential required: Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii

Minimum score/requirement: satisfactory

Alternatives to credentials: Diplom o Srednem Professionalnom Obrasovanii (non-university level higher education diploma), Diplom o Nachalnom Professional'nom Obrasovanii (lower post-secondary vocational education diploma) conferred after programmes of 2 and more years' duration.

Other admission requirements: Compulsory competitive institutional exams/tests, Uniform State Exam.

Foreign students admission

Definition of foreign student: A student who does not have Russian citizenship.

Admission requirements: Students must hold the Secondary School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent. There are compulsory pre-academic programmes for those who do not have proficiency in Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training. They must successfully pass entrance exams/tests. Foreign applicants entering universities should not be older than 28 (35 for doctoral studies in Aspirantura).

Entry regulations: Student visa and financial guarantees.

Application procedures:

Application closing dates:

For non-university level (technical/vocational type) studies: 15 Jun

For university level studies: 1 Apr

For advanced/doctoral studies: 1 Apr

Recognition of studies & qualifications:

Studies pursued in home country (System of recognition/accreditation): Licensing, accreditation and attestation in Lower post-secondary vocational education are carried out by local authorities. The procedures are more or less the same as for non-university level HEIs. Licensing in non-university level education is the prerogative of the local authorities. It includes a formal assessment by a visiting expert group to ensure that an educational establishment meets the state and local requirements, including facilities, sanitation, equipment, staff, etc. Each new programme must also be assessed and licensed. Accreditation allows the institution to issue state recognized diplomas. Attestation is a confirmation of the quality of educational programmes and consequently of the standard of the diplomas. Accreditation and attestation are carried out by federal ministries-founders of respective institutions in cooperation with local authorities. University level HEIs also have to pass licensing, attestation and accreditation procedures, but carried out by the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science. Licensing: assessment of the compliance of educational facilities, laboratory equipment, expertise of teaching staff, and teaching material with State requirements; Attestation: assessment of contents, level and quality of graduates' preparation in relation to State educational standards; Accreditation: recognition (confirmation for the next term) of the State accreditation status of the HEI according to its type (higher education institution) and kind (institute, academy, university) with the prescribed list of educational programmes of higher professional education according to which the institution has the right to issue diplomas. Non-accredited HEIs issue their own non-state diplomas.

Studies pursued in foreign countries (bodies dealing with recognition of foreign credentials):

Department of Licensing, Attestation and Accreditation, Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science

Head: Ekaterina Vershinina

Shabolovka Street 33
Moscow 115162
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 9251511

EMail: license@ministry.ru

Deals with credential recognition for entry to: University and Profession

Services provided & students dealt with: Recognition of foreign qualifications.

National Centre and National Information Centre on Academic Recognition and Mobility

Head: Gennady Lukichev, Director

Mikluho-Maklaya Street 6
Moscow 1117198
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 9582881/ 9550818

Fax: +7(495) 4341511/ 9582881

EMail: RussianENIC@sci.pfu.edu.ru

WWW: <http://www.russianenic.ru>

Deals with credential recognition for entry to: University and Profession

Services provided & students dealt with: Comprehensive information on credential evaluation and recognition

Supreme Attestation Committee

Sadovo-Suharevskaya Ul 16
Moscow 103051
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2086161

Fax: +7(495) 2086121

Deals with credential recognition for entry to: Profession

Services provided & students dealt with: Responsible for the recognition of doctoral degrees.

Special provisions for recognition:

For access to non-university post-secondary studies: Application form; legalized credentials.

For access to university level studies: Application form; legalized credentials.

For access to advanced studies and research: Application form; legalized credentials.

For the exercise of a profession: Applicants have to obtain a recognition certificate of the foreign qualification, degree, title or diploma at the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science. This certificate facilitates employers' decisions for access to a profession.

Multilateral agreements concerning recognition of foreign studies

Name of agreement: Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, Lisbon, 1997

Year of signature: 2000

Name of agreement: Cooperation Agreement to create a common educational area in the Commonwealth of Independent States

Year of signature: 1997

Name of agreement: UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in the States of Asia and the Pacific

Year of signature: 1983

Bilateral agreements concerning recognition of foreign credentials

Name of agreement: Cooperation in Attestation of Research Fellows

Year of signature: 2002

Country/state involved: Ukraine

Name of agreement: Creation and Functioning of HEIs' Branches on the Territories of Both Countries

Year of signature: 2003

Country/state involved: Ukraine

Name of agreement: Mutual Recognition of Diplomas and Degrees: Armenia (2001); Azerbaijan (2002); Bulgaria (1972); China (1995); Cuba (1971); Finland (1979); Hungary (1974); India (1987); Iraq (1978); Moldova (2003)

Name of agreement: Mutual Recognition of Diplomas and Degrees: Peru (1987); Poland (1974); Serbia and Montenegro (1988); Spain (1990); Syria (1966); Ukraine (2000); Vietnam (1978)

References to further information on foreign student admissions and recognition of studies

Title: List of Accredited HEIs (abitur.nica.ru (Russian) - www.russianenric.ru/english/cred/index.html (Eng)

Publisher: Ministry of Education

Year of publication: 2004

STUDENT LIFE

Main student services at national level

Department of International Education and Cooperation, Federal Agency on Education

Lusinovskaya Street 51
Moscow M-93, M230 GSP-8 115998
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2379263

Fax: +7(095) 2379263

EMail: Dmi@ed.gov.ru

Category of services provided: Academic and career counselling services

Services available to foreign Students: Yes

Division on Youth Issues, Federal Agency on Education

Lusinovskaya Street 51
Moscow M-93, M230 GSP-8 115998
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2378266

Fax: +7(495) 2378724

EMail: updm@mail.ru

Category of services provided: Social and welfare services

Services available to foreign Students: Yes

International Relations' Service Centre (INTEREDUCATION)

Shabolovka Street 33
Moscow 115162
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2545345

EMail: edex@ins.ru

Category of services provided: Special services/Centre for foreign students

Services available to foreign Students: Yes

National student associations and unions

National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR)

Maroseyka 3/13
Moscow RUS-101970
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2068934

Fax: +7(495) 2068012

EMail: nycr@aha.ru

Russian Association of Students' Trade-Union Organizations

Akademika Petrovskogo Street., 5
Moscow 117419
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 6922518

Fax: +7(495) 6925752

EMail: rapos@rapos.ru

WWW: <http://www.rapos.ru>

Health/social provisions

Social security for home students: Yes

Social security for foreign students: Yes

Foreign student social security provisions: Health services for both foreign and Russian students are free of charge.

Special student travel fares:

By road: Yes

By rail: Yes

By air: Yes

Student expenses and financial aid

Student costs:

Foreign students tuition fees: Minimum: 1000 (US Dollar)

Maximum: 8000 (US Dollar)

Bodies providing information on student financial aid:

Department of International Education and Cooperation, Federal Agency on Education

Lusinovskaya Street , 51
Moscow M-93, M230 GSP-8 115998
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2379263

Fax: +7(495) 2379263

EMail: Dmi@ed.gov.ru

Deals with: Grants

Publications on student services and financial aid:

Title: Newspaper "POISK"

Publisher: Russian Academy of Sciences

Title: Vysshee Obrazovanie Segodnya (Higher Education Today)

Publisher: Logos

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & EXCHANGES

Principal national bodies responsible for dealing with international cooperation and exchanges in higher education:

Section of International Organizations and Programmes, Department of International Cooperation and Information Service, Ministry of Education and Science

Head: Alexander Petrov

Tverskaya Street 11
Moscow GSP-3 125993
Russian Federation

Tel: +7(495) 2296342

Fax: +7(495) 2302660

Participation of country in multilateral or bilateral higher education programmes

Name of exchange programme: ERASMUS MUNDUS

Name of exchange programme: TEMPUS

GRADING SYSTEM

Usual grading system in secondary school

Full Description: Pass, "2" - unsatisfactory, "3" - satisfactory, "4" - good, "5" - excellent.

Highest on scale: 5

Pass/fail level: pass, "3"(satisfactory) / "2"(unsatisfactory)

Lowest on scale: 2 unsatisfactory

Main grading system used by higher education institutions

Full Description: unsatisfactory, pass, satisfactory, good, excellent

Highest on scale: excellent

Pass/fail level: satisfactory, pass/unsatisfactory

Lowest on scale: unsatisfactory

Other main grading systems

Awarded / Not Awarded: for Kandidat Nauk and Doktor Nauk dissertations.

NOTES ON HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Data for academic year: 2005-2006

Source: IAU from National Information Centre on Academic Recognition and Mobility, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, 2006

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