Higher education studies are organised by both public and private universities, and other higher education institutions, namely at faculties, art academies, and higher vocational schools and colleges within the regulation of Law for higher education and its latest Amended version from February 2013, Ammended Law on Higher education in Republic of Macedonia.pdf [1].

According to the Ministry of education and science of Republic of Macedonia and Board of accreditation and evaluation of education [[../Akreditirani visokoobrazovni ustanovi.doc|List of accredited higher education institutions in Macedonia]], by the academic year 2012/2013 there are overall 16 accredited universities (from which 5 are public and 11 are private) with 119 faculties (from which 55 are public and 64 private), 6 institutes (from which 2 are public and 4 private), and 5 higher vocational schools (from which 2 are public and 3 are from the private sector).

Educational requirements for admission into study programmes are set by higher education institutions. In the past the admissions process to first cycle programmes at Macedonian universities required students to present their secondary school grades and take an entrance examination. Since 2009, instead of individual entrance exams, universities use the new national examinations administered at the end of secondary school (State Matura). State Examination Center became the central service for administering the State Matura as part of the process of enrolment into higher education in Macedonia. The State Matura was successfully administered for the first time in the school year 2007/2008. The objectives of each Matura exam are determined by subject syllabi for the Matura, whose scope and level of achievement are in compliance with the curricula of the individual subjects. A pass in the Matura is a general admission requirement for University.

Co-financing and financing of students

The Ministry of Education and Science and the universities in the Republic of Macedonia are resolved in assuring that: the higher education institutions define the number of students according to their respective accreditation approved by the Board of Accreditation and evaluation of higher education; public universities propose the number of students to be enrolled and additional student quotas as prescribed by law, whereas the ultimate endorsement on the number of students to be enrolled is to be given by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia; co-financing by students belonging to the state-funded quota be abolished for those students that the Government of the Republic of Macedonia assesses as being of public interest; the level of co-financing of students belonging to the state-funded quota is determined by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with the universities, and on the basis of assessed public interest; a public university may introduce co-financing of study costs for students enrolled outside of the state-funded quota, and within the framework of the number of students endorsed through the accreditation issued by the Board of Accreditation and evaluation of higher education, but in a ratio not greater than 1:1 compared to the statefunded quota. The amount of the co-financing is proposed by the university and approved by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.
The academic year begins on September 15 and ends on June 15. The study programmes are specified in detail by higher education institutions, namely the institutions issue respective study calendars. The school year commonly includes two semesters of 15 working weeks each, three periods of examination and two breaks (winter and summer break). The language of instruction is Macedonian. Under conditions stipulated by Law and relevant Statute, higher education institutions may provide a specific study programme or part of it in a foreign language, too.

According to the State statistical institute of Republic of Macedonia [2], at the end of the school year 2011/2012 there were total of 91167 students who finished secondary education. According to the same source, at the beginning of academic 2012/2013 there were total of 56906 students enrolled in higher education institutions, from which 86,8 % were enrolled at state higher education institutions, while 12,7% were enrolled in private higher education institutions.

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