

Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, which establishes the organisation of university education and the procedure for quality assurance

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More than a decade ago, the Spanish university system reformed its educational offering and its organisation by adopting the principles that constituted the essence of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Thus, the adaptation of a cyclical structure consisting of the bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, which consecutively incorporated more specialised training in terms of employability or research, has been completed in all the universities that make up the Spanish university system.

Similarly, the principles on which the EHEA is based meant building the scaffolding of a university education focused on students and their competences, understood as the set of academically relevant knowledge, skills and abilities conferred by the university degree achieved. These competences enable students to enter the world of work and, logically, to play an active part in society. Thus, progressively, in much of Europe, the academic offerings of universities have converged around this cyclical organisational structure.

Along with a new structuring of studies and the incorporation of a competence-based learning approach, two further principles underpin the great agreement that is the EHEA. The first is to assume the need to promote more active teaching, based on a teaching-learning methodology, in which the master class must share the limelight with other strategies and ways of teaching and learning, which seek to reinforce the students' capacity for autonomous work, and in which the use of new information and communication technologies is one of the main pillars. The second is to promote and facilitate the international mobility of our students to other universities abroad, especially in other European countries. In order to achieve this objective, the common European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) model for calculating academic time in credits was adopted.

These approaches were developed with the ultimate aim of enabling graduates, as professionals in the various fields of knowledge, to enter the local and global labour markets with guarantees. At the same time, the training of university students to become free, critical and committed citizens in our democratic societies is reinforced.

These changes in the teaching activity of universities have taken place in the midst of important transformations in economic, social, political and cultural structures that have affected, in one way or another, the globality of societies, and which, among others, have been driven by the technological revolution that has brought innovation in information and communication systems through their digitalisation. These complex processes have ended up directly and indirectly affecting the world of education and, especially, the university world - opening up opportunities as well as generating new problems or exacerbating some pre-existing ones. Thus, a society in constant flux demands from the University an increasingly rapid and flexible response to the training needs of professionals in accordance with these changes. At the same time, it demands that these professionals from universities are capable of leading these transformations in order to collectively build a society that is open to change, economically and environmentally sustainable, technologically advanced, socially equitable, free of any kind of discrimination based on gender, national or ethnic origin, age, ideology, religion or beliefs, illness, social class, or any other personal or social condition or circumstance, and clearly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Changing societies also require new scientific, technological, humanistic and artistic knowledge to be transferred to students during the teaching and learning process, enabling them to obtain a comprehensive education.

This therefore leads to the need to redefine the organisation and structures of official university education, as set out in this royal decree, taking into account the experience accumulated over the course of this decade of implementation of the EHEA in the country's higher education institutions, and with the demands of increasingly interconnected local and global societies characterised by restructured labour markets very much in mind.

In this sense, the deployment of the EHEA in Spain, which was already announced in Article 37 of Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities, and was subsequently ratified in Organic Law 4/2007, of 12 April, which modifies Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities, was specified in Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October 2007, which established the organisation of official university education, and which has so far undergone up to nine

modifications of various kinds, the most recent being Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, which approves the Statute of Pre-doctoral Research Staff in Training.

This accumulation of modifications in the organisation of official university education in Spain makes a new regulation necessary and proportional which, guaranteeing the principle of legal security in the functioning of the Spanish university system, advances in an organisation adapted to the demands of society and to the disruptive changes taking place in the economy and in technology, as well as more flexible in its components and structure, and which, at the same time, favours the necessary effective innovation in teaching.

This organisation should facilitate the effective exercise of university autonomy in planning and defining the characteristics of its academic offering. And, likewise, it must enable the Autonomous Communities to organise the offer of official university degrees in the exercise of their powers, insofar as it interrelates the changing demands of society and university academic initiatives.

In addition to these objectives, there are two others that should be considered important. Firstly, the new regulation seeks to strengthen the confidence of the university community and society as a whole in the procedures established to guarantee the quality of the academic offering of the entire university system, both public and private. In other words, society must be sure that all official Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in Spain are of verifiable quality. Secondly, the aim is to strengthen the employability capacities conferred by the training received in different degrees, based on the skills and knowledge acquired, as well as through a wide range of academic options, with the aim of providing university graduates with a dignified and quality labour market insertion. This willingness to change must always go hand in hand with the rigour and academic soundness of the university offering.

This royal decree maintains the basic structure of the academic offering, currently in force, configured in three stages: Bachelor's, master's and doctorates. In this sense, it consolidates the fact that bachelor's Degrees must have 240 credits -with the sole exception of those which, according to European directives, must have 300 or 360 credits-. This, then, is the essential structure of the Spanish university model: Degrees of 240 credits, Masters of 60, 90 and 120 credits and the Doctorate, which is accessed after having passed 300 credits in the two previous training stages.

This regulation introduces a significant modification by changing the assignment of bachelor's and master's degrees from the five branches of knowledge to the so-called fields of knowledge. The purpose of this amendment is twofold. Firstly, the fields of knowledge are those which provide the subjects that substantially make up the basic training developed in the degrees, thus guaranteeing a transversal training and reinforcing the generalist nature of this cycle. Secondly, as the areas of knowledge are not as extraordinarily generic and broad as the five branches were, they allow, by guaranteeing transversality, the range of subjects offered to have greater educational coherence, which in the end clearly benefits the students. The fields of knowledge have been proposed taking into account to a large extent the commission structure of the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI), although adapted to the fact that it is a matter of teaching activity and that they must cover more than eight thousand degrees that currently make up the official university offering in Spain, as well as, and above all, grouping thematically the codes of the *International Standard Classification of Education* (ISCED, 2013), which are also used in the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees (RUCT) and in the Integrated University Information System (SIU) by assigning all Bachelor's and Master's degrees to this coding. In any case, it will be the universities that will propose the area in which their degrees will be assigned, thus assuming their autonomy and educational experience and leadership. To facilitate this operation, a transitional period is established to adapt the affiliation of the current branches to the fields of knowledge, and an efficient mechanism is provided to speed up the corresponding administrative procedure.

Similarly, this royal decree introduces the possibility of adopting specific forms of articulation of the curriculum in official courses and, therefore, of singularising their academic project. Together with these new features, for the first time a basic regulation is provided for lifelong learning developed by universities, which regulates this important educational area in which universities demonstrate their social commitment, leaving a wide margin for flexibility, but minimally homogenising the structure of this training and introducing the culture of quality assessment in these degrees.

On the other hand, and in a complementary manner, teaching innovation is promoted so that it becomes a fundamental strategy of the universities, centres and degree coordinators, based on the consideration that the

essential aim of the educational process is to teach and learn, and that this process must adapt to the social, economic, technological and cultural changes that are taking place at each historical moment. It is clear that universities face a fundamental challenge to transform their forms of learning and teaching to meet the demands of changing societies. In this sense, this royal decree opens the door, in order to promote and make it visible, for centres to issue accreditation documents that accompany the official university degree and that verify that the entire teaching organisation of a given degree has been configured on the basis of a teaching innovation strategy or approach that is reflected in all the subjects of the syllabus.

Finally, one of the aspects that this royal decree reformulates is the whole process of verification, monitoring and accreditation of official university degrees. The experience accumulated by the universities in recent years, and the solid and rigorous work carried out by the quality agencies, has led to a procedural rethink with the aim of, while ensuring the quality of the academic offer, simplifying the administrative processes and the necessary documentation, in order to focus on those subjects that effectively constitute the core of the academic training project that is an official university degree, Master's or Doctorate. In this sense, the institutional evaluation of the centres is configured as an essential piece in the quality assurance of the university training offer by empowering the internal quality assurance systems with the orientation and guidance of the agencies, following the approaches developed in most of the EHEA countries, and by promoting a reduction of bureaucracy in the procedures involved in the same.

The articles of this regulation are divided into eight chapters comprising thirty-seven articles. Chapter I and Chapter II, which refer to the general provisions and the organisation of university education, set out the objectives of the Royal Decree, its scope of action and the principles that should govern the organisation and structure of university education. Chapter III deals with the organisation of official university degree courses. Chapter IV and Chapter V expand on this organisation, but focusing on the Master's and Doctoral programmes, respectively. Chapter VI deals with the specific curricular structures that may be adopted in university education. Chapter VII deals with the verification, monitoring and renewal of accreditation and the modification of official university degrees. Finally, Chapter VIII focuses on the basic regulation of the universities' own teaching.

Finally, the final part of the regulation consists of fourteen additional provisions, eight transitional provisions, one derogatory provision and six final provisions, as well as two annexes, which complete the regulatory acquis of this royal decree.

The Royal Decree complies with the principles of good regulation contained in Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations. Thus, it responds to the principle of necessity, insofar as this preamble has already highlighted the need to redefine the organisation and structures of university education, bearing in mind the experience accumulated over the last decade with the development of the EHEA, and also responding to the demands of changing local and global societies, permanently interconnected and with labour markets in permanent transformation, which require new scientific, technological and humanistic knowledge. These are transferred to the students through the teaching and learning process, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive training and access to a better professional and labour insertion. In relation to the principles of effectiveness, legal certainty and efficiency, the new rule provides a new regulatory framework, bringing clarity and simplifying many of the procedures that governed this area, and is otherwise consistent with the legal system and allows for a more efficient management of public resources. With regard to the principle of proportionality, the regulation establishes the essential to meet the need to be covered, and there is no regulatory alternative that is less restrictive of rights. Finally, as regards the principle of transparency, the regulation clearly defines its objectives and justification in the preamble, and during the procedure for drafting the regulation, the active participation of potential addressees has been allowed through the public consultation, hearing and public information procedures.

This Royal Decree is issued in accordance with Title VI of Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, and in use of the regulatory development powers granted to the Government by the third final provision of the aforementioned Organic Law. Likewise, Article 22 is dictated, partially and exclusively in its training aspects, in accordance with Article 11.3 of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015, of 23 October, and in use of the regulatory development powers granted therein.

This Royal Decree is based on the provisions of rules 1 and 30 of Article 149.1, which give the State exclusive competence for the regulation of the basic conditions that guarantee the equality of all Spaniards in the exercise of

rights and in the fulfilment of constitutional duties, and exclusive competence for the regulation of the conditions for obtaining, issuing and validation of academic and professional qualifications and the basic rules for the development of Article 27 of the Spanish Constitution, in order to guarantee the fulfilment of the obligations of the public authorities in this educational area, respectively.

This Royal Decree has been informed by the Council of Universities, by the State Council of University Students and by the General Conference on University Policy. During the drafting process, quality assurance agencies, the Conference of Social Councils of Spanish Universities (CCS), the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities, and other associations and organisations representing university education in Spain were also consulted.

By virtue thereof, at the proposal of the Minister of Universities, with the prior approval of the Minister of Finance and Public Function, in agreement with the Council of State, and following deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of 28 September 2021,

PROVIDES:

CHAPTER 1

General provisions

Article 1. Purpose.

1. The purpose of this Royal Decree is to establish the organisation and structure of university education, based on the general principles that define the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). At the same time, it regulates the official academic offering and the educational offering of other degrees, specifically those related to lifelong learning, and regulates the specific curricular structures and external academic internships that universities may incorporate into their curricula.

2. This royal decree also establishes the guidelines, conditions and procedures for the quality assurance of the study plans, the successful completion of which leads to the award of official university degrees that are valid throughout the national territory. These procedures are specified in the verification of the syllabus as a requirement for the initial accreditation of the degree and its registration in the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees (RUCT); as well as in the monitoring, modification and renewal of the accreditation already granted.

Article 2. Scope of application.

The scope of application of this Royal Decree is the official university courses of bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, as well as other university courses, specifically lifelong learning, taught by the universities of the Spanish university system and which will be defined as their own degrees.

CHAPTER 2

Organisation of university education

Article 3. Official university degrees.

1. University studies leading to official degrees awarded by the universities are structured in three cycles, called bachelor's, master's and doctorate respectively, in accordance with the provisions of Article 37 of Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities.

Successful completion in accordance with the corresponding syllabus, in the case of bachelor's and master's degrees, or programme, in the case of doctorates, will lead to the award of the official university degrees of bachelor's, master's and doctorate, respectively.

2. Official university degrees must be registered in the RUCT of the Ministry of Universities, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1509/2008, of 12 September, which regulates the Registry of Universities, Centres and Degrees.

3. All official bachelor's and master's degrees must be assigned to one of the fields of knowledge listed in Annex I at the time of registration in the RUCT. This area of knowledge must also be included in the syllabus report during the verification process.

4. The official university degrees of bachelor's, master's and doctorate accredit the qualification at the levels in which the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (MECES) is structured, regulated by Royal Decree 1027/2011, of 15 July, which establishes the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.

Article 4. Guiding principles in the design of curricula for official university degrees.

1. The general principles that should inspire the design of the curricula of official university degrees are the following:

- a) the academic rigour of the training project involved in a university education;
- b) the significance for the generalist or specialist nature of the educational cycles where teaching occurs;
- c) the alignment of the educational objectives of the curriculum, pursued core competencies and established systems for evaluating student learning;
- d) its social comprehensibility.

2. As such, study plans should be founded on democratic principles and values as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, specifically:.

- a) respect for human rights and fundamental rights; democratic values - freedom of thought and teaching, tolerance and recognition of and respect for diversity, equality for all citizens, the elimination of all discriminatory content or practices, the culture of peace and participation, among others;
- b) respect for gender equality in accordance with the provisions of Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, for the effective equality of women and men, and the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination on grounds of birth, national or ethnic origin, religion, conviction or opinion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, sexual characteristics, illness, socio-economic situation or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.
- c) respect for the principles of universal accessibility and design for all persons, in accordance with the provisions of the second final provision of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013, of 29 November;
- d) the treatment of sustainability and climate change, in accordance with the provisions of Article 35.2 of Law 7/2021 of 20 May on Climate Change and Energy Transition.

3. These values and objectives must be incorporated as transversal content, skills or competences, in the format decided by the faculty or university, in the different official teaching they offer, and always taking into account their specific academic nature and the training objectives of the degree.

Article 5. Official university degrees syllabuses

1. The syllabuses structure the training objectives of an official university degree, the knowledge and contents that are intended to be transmitted, the competences and skills that characterise it and that are sought to be mastered, the external academic placements that reinforce its training project and the learning assessment system of the students enrolled in the degree.

2. The syllabus of the bachelor's and master's degree courses is structured in courses of 60 academic credits of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), sequenced from the first to the last year, until all the credits that define the degree have been completed. Exceptions to this rule are made for master's with a total syllabus load of 90 credits, in which case one of the courses may be 30 credits.

3. The syllabuses of official university courses shall be drawn up by the universities, in accordance with the regulations in force and approved by their governing bodies, and shall form part of the report that the universities submit for verification.

4. The report for the application for the verification of the study plan of a university degree must have the structure, content and length indicated in Annex II of this Royal Decree. With regard to doctoral studies, the report shall be in accordance with Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies. In order to be fully effective and have the status of an official university degree, the syllabus must be verified by the Council of Universities. Once the study plan has been verified by the Council of Universities, it shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

5. Spanish universities, or with one or more other foreign universities, may propose a joint study plan leading to an official bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, by means of an agreement that will be included in the report to be verified. This agreement will decide which university will act as coordinator and, therefore, will be responsible for the presentation of the report in the various quality assurance procedures established in this Royal Decree, as well as the participation of each university in the teaching through their respective teaching staff, the academic and assessment regulations to be followed, the responsibility for issuing the degree and the management of the enrolled students' records.

6. In the case of joint curricula for official university degrees involving Spanish and foreign universities, if the coordinating institution is a foreign university, the participating Spanish university must have a copy of the transcripts of the students taking the degree in question.

7. The universities shall ensure the participation of the student body in the committees created specifically for the preparation of the bachelor's or master's degree report, which includes the syllabus, or, where appropriate, in the study committees if this is the body that performs this function.

Article 6. Doctoral Programmes.

Doctoral programmes shall be governed by the provisions of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

Article 7. Implementation of curricula for new courses of study.

The universities may implement the syllabuses of official university degrees progressively -course by course- or simultaneously -for all courses or for several courses, depending on the case- in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in the report presented in the verification process.

Article 8. Academic effects and the issuing of official university degrees.

1. University bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees have official status and are valid in Spain, have academic and administrative effects, and, in the case that this is the result of the applicable regulations, qualify for the exercise of certain regulated professions.

2. The awarding of the degrees of bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees leading to the successful completion of the credits of the respective study plans and the successful completion of the doctorate programme shall be carried out in the name of the King by the Rector of the university in which the studies have been completed, in accordance with the guidelines and requirements established by Royal Decree 1002/2010, of 5 August, on the awarding of official university degrees.

Article 9. Accounting and grading of students' academic work.

1. All academic activities carried out by students in bachelor's and master's degree courses will be measured in credits that follow the ECTS system format. These activities may take place in face-to-face learning spaces such as classrooms, laboratories, computer and audiovisual classrooms, simulation classrooms, specialised spaces, or in virtual learning spaces, either synchronous or asynchronous. They may also be activities that are carried out autonomously. In any case, all of them will form part of the teaching planning of a subject or subject area, and their purpose will be the orderly transmission of knowledge and the attainment of skills and competences.

2. The academic activities of each subject must be graded according to the level of learning of the knowledge, competences and skills that the student has achieved, and must be expressed in numerical form in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1125/2003, of 5 September, which establishes the European credit system and the

grading system for official university degrees valid throughout the national territory. In the case of doctoral programmes, the provisions of Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January will be followed.

3. The teaching guide for each subject or subject that forms part of the syllabus of an official bachelor's or master's degree, in accordance with the regulations of each university, shall include the theoretical and practical academic activities and the scheduled learning assessment system. These teaching guides must be made available to students prior to the official enrolment period, in the manner established in the academic regulations of the centre or university.

Article 10. Procedures for the recognition and transfer of academic credits in official university degrees.

1. The procedures for the recognition and transfer of academic credits in official university degrees are intended to facilitate student mobility between official Spanish university degrees, as well as between these and foreign university degrees. The universities shall approve specific regulations to govern these procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Royal Decree.

2. The universities shall reflect in the syllabuses of each degree the volume of credits that may be used in these procedures, and the conditions and generic characteristics of these credits. These recognised or transferred credits will be recorded in the student's transcript of records and in the European Diploma Supplement.

3. The recognition of academic credits refers to the procedure of acceptance by a university of credits obtained in other official studies, in the same or another university, so that they form part of the student's transcript in order to obtain an official university degree other than the one from which they originate. In this procedure, credits corresponding to bachelor's or master's degree final projects cannot be recognised, with the exception of those specifically developed in a mobility programme.

4. The accreditation of professional and work experience may be recognised as academic credits used to obtain an official qualification. This option may be given when this experience is closely related to the knowledge, competences and skills of the official university degree. In the same way, credits passed and taken in university studies of the universities or other official higher studies may be recognised.

5. The volume of credits that can be recognised on the basis of professional or work experience or those from non-official university studies (own or lifelong learning) may not exceed, overall, 15 per cent of the total number of credits that make up the syllabus of the degree to be obtained. These recognised credits will not have a numerical grade and therefore cannot be used when assessing the student's transcript.

6. As an exception to what is established in the preceding paragraph, this percentage may be exceeded up to the point of recognising the totality of the credits that come from non-official university studies, provided that the corresponding non-official degree ceases to be taught and is retired and replaced by the new official university degree in which the academic credits are recognised. In this case, internal quality assurance systems will ensure the academic appropriateness of this procedure.

7. If an agreement is signed between a higher vocational training centre and a university centre, and approved by the governing body of the university and the Department responsible for vocational training in the Autonomous Community, the proportion of credits recognisable in an official university degree may be up to 25 per cent of the total credit load of that degree.

8. The transfer of academic credits refers to the inclusion, in the academic transcript and in the European Diploma Supplement, of all the credits obtained in official courses previously taken, regardless of the university, which have not led to the award of an official university degree.

9. In any case, specifically for bachelor's degrees it should be borne in mind that:

a) Procedures shall cover up to the totality of the basic training credits between degrees in the same field of knowledge.

b) These procedures will be applied to the credits of the rest of the subjects and subjects between degrees in the same field of knowledge or in different fields, always taking into account the academic and training coherence of the

knowledge, competences and skills that define the subjects or subjects to be recognised with those existing in the syllabus of the degree to which access is sought.

c) related to student participation in university cooperation, solidarity, cultural, sporting and student representation activities, which together will be equivalent to at least 6 credits, will be subject to these procedures. Similarly, other academic activities organised by the university for teaching purposes may also be subject to these procedures. Under no circumstances may the total number of credits subject to recognition established in this point exceed 10 per cent of the total number of credits of the study plan.

Article 11. Information on external academic placements.

1. External academic placements are a training activity carried out by university students and supervised by the universities, the aim of which is to enable them to apply and complement the knowledge acquired in their academic training, favouring the acquisition of skills that prepare them for professional activities, facilitate their employability and foster their entrepreneurial capacity. The European Diploma Supplement will record the work placement undertaken by the student.

2. In accordance with Royal Decree 592/2014, of 11 July, which regulates external academic placements for university students, they may be carried out as part of the curriculum (and therefore form part of the syllabus and training project of the degree, and may be specified in compulsory or optional subjects or subjects) and as extracurricular placements.

3. The university shall guarantee that the external academic placements are fully educational in nature and that the conditions under which they are carried out by students are appropriate and subject to their primary educational interest. Given its training nature, under no circumstances will it give rise to the obligations of an employment relationship, nor can its content give rise to the substitution of the employment service proper to jobs.

4. The implementation of external academic placements shall require the signing of an Educational Cooperation Agreement between the university, or its own and affiliated centres, and the entities, companies, social and trade union organisations or the administration, as provided for in article 7 of Royal Decree 592/2014, which shall set out the training project to be developed by said placements and the conditions under which they are to be implemented.

5. The university must have specific regulations for the development of external academic placements, which must have been approved by its governing bodies. These regulations must specify, as a minimum, the requirements for students and collaborating entities, the content of the Educational Cooperation Agreements, the mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the placements, the academic recognition of the student's placements, the work of coordination and academic tutoring, and the duration and timetable for the placements, including the necessary adaptations for students with disabilities and specific educational support needs.

Article 12. Public prices for official university courses at public universities.

The Autonomous Communities will set the public prices of the official university degrees offered by public universities, within the maximum limits established by the General Conference on University Policy, which will be related to the costs of providing the academic service, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree-Law 17/2020, of 5 May, approving measures to support the cultural sector and tax measures to address the economic and social impact of COVID-19, which in turn amends Article 81, section 3, paragraph b) of Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities.

CHAPTER 3

Basic organisation of official undergraduate university courses

Article 13. Objectives and organisation of official university degree courses.

1. The main objective of official degree courses, as the initial cycle of university education, is the basic and general training of students in the various disciplines of scientific, technological, humanistic and artistic knowledge, through the orderly transmission of knowledge, competences and skills that are specific to the respective discipline -or

disciplines involved-, and which prepares them for the development of professional activities and guarantees their comprehensive training as citizens.

2. Quality assurance agencies and public administrations, in the exercise of their respective competences, must guarantee the academic coherence between the name of the official university degree and the training objectives, as well as the structure and fundamental contents of the syllabus. They must also ensure that this name does not lead to confusion in relation to the university cycle in which it is found or to the training objectives that define it, its academic effects or, where appropriate, its professional effects.

3. Official degree courses may be complemented by the incorporation of specialisations. In this sense, the minor or minors that may be included in bachelor's degrees represent a curricular intensification or specific itinerary around a specific training aspect of the set of knowledge, competences and skills that make up the curriculum of said degree, and which complement the general training project of the bachelor's degree. A minor shall be equivalent to at least 20 per cent of the total credit load of a bachelor's degree. In any case, it will be an essential condition for its development that the minor or minors have been included in the report on the syllabus.

4. The official university degree obtained after achieving and passing the credits that make up the syllabus will be that of Graduate in the Degree with the specific denomination that is included in the RUCT, by the issuing university. The degree shall incorporate the respective citation, if any. In the case of Joint University Degrees the name of the other participating universities must be stated in the title.

5. Official undergraduate degrees have a level equivalent to MECES 2. In addition, those Degrees that have specific European guidelines that have at least 300 ECTS credits and of which 60 are in accordance with the training requirements corresponding to a Master's degree, will obtain a level equivalent to MECES 3, for which the university or universities that promote this degree must apply to the Council of Universities, through the General Secretariat of Universities, in accordance with the procedure established in the tenth additional provision.

Article 14. General guidelines for the design of undergraduate curricula.

1. Syllabuses leading to the award of a Graduate degree will have 240 ECTS credits, except for those subject to specific legislation or to the rules of European Union Law, which will have 300 or 360 credits. Its sequential structure is set at 60 credits per year and degree. Exempt from this consideration are the international joint degrees arising within the framework of the European Committee's European University Programme calls for applications and those others referred to in the sixth additional provision of Royal Decree.

2. The design of the syllabus must explain all the theoretical and practical training that students must acquire in their training process, structured through core subjects, compulsory or optional subjects, and the End of Degree Project, and may incorporate external academic placements, as well as seminars, supervised work or other training activities.

3. The verification report of the syllabus of an official bachelor's degree and the European Diploma Supplement must explicitly state the field of knowledge in which the degree falls.

4. The 240-credit curricula shall include a minimum of 60 credits of basic training. Of these, at least half shall be linked to the same field of knowledge in which the degree is registered, and the rest shall be related to other fields of knowledge different from the one to which the degree has been assigned and shall take the form of subjects or subjects with a minimum of 6 credits each, which shall also be offered in the first half of the curriculum. The remaining credits must be made up of other subjects or subjects that reinforce the breadth and solidity of the knowledge, skills and competences of the training project that is the Degree. For bachelor's degrees of 300 and 360 credits, the basic training will include a minimum of 75 and 90 credits, respectively.

5. In Bachelor's degree courses, if curricular external academic placements are included, these shall have a maximum extension equivalent to 25% of the total number of credits of the degree, with the exception of those Degrees which, according to European Union Law regulations, must have a different percentage, and they should preferably be offered in the second half of the syllabus. Also exempted from this rule are the bachelor's Degrees that include the Dual Mention, regulated in Article 22, whose extension will be between 20 and 40 per cent of the credits in bachelor's Degrees.

6. The end-of-degree project, which is compulsory and must be passed in order to obtain the official degree, has the essential objective of demonstrating the student's mastery and application of the knowledge, competences and skills that define the official university degree. The End of Degree Project will have a minimum of 6 credits for all degrees, and a maximum of 24 credits for 240-credit degrees, 30 credits for 300-credit degrees and 36 credits for 360-credit degrees. It must be developed in the final phase of the study plan, following the criteria established by each university or centre. The End of Degree Project must be defended in a public event, in accordance with the regulations established for this purpose by the centre or, where appropriate, the university.

7. Official bachelor's and master's degree courses may be taught in face-to-face, virtual (or remote) and/or hybrid (or blended) teaching modalities. The syllabuses must incorporate the teaching chosen, given that it conditions the educational development of the degree.

Face-to-face teaching mode for bachelor's degrees are those in which the teaching activity that forms part of the syllabus is carried out face-to-face (with teaching staff and students interacting in the same physical space, be it a classroom, laboratories or specialised academic spaces).

Hybrid teaching modality bachelor's degrees are those in which the teaching activity that frames the syllabus encompasses subjects or subjects in face-to-face and virtual (non-face-to-face) modality, always maintaining the unity of the training project and coherence in all the most relevant academic aspects - although the combination of the double teaching modality implies adaptations of the academic elements to the same-. The proportion of remote credits for a degree to be considered a hybrid degree shall be between 40 and 60 per cent of the total credit load of the bachelor's or master's degree.

Virtual teaching mode bachelor's degrees are those in which the teaching activity that frames the curriculum is articulated through academic interaction between teaching staff and students that does not require the physical presence of both in the same teaching space of the university. This modality is primarily characterised by its intensive use of digital information and communication technologies. In terms of credit load, a bachelor's or master's degree can be defined as being taught online when at least 80 percent of the credits (ECTS) that make up the degree or master's degree are taught online.

8. If a syllabus leads to the award of a degree that enables the development of regulated professional activities, these must be structured and organised in accordance with the provisions laid down for this purpose by the Government or, where appropriate, in accordance with the respective European regulations. Likewise, in the event that, although the bachelor's degree does not have a qualifying nature, it is an essential requirement for access to a qualifying university master's degree, the government shall establish the conditions and training requirements of the bachelor's degree that must be reflected in the syllabus.

Article 15. Access and admission to official university degree courses.

1. The procedure for access to official university degree courses shall be that established in Article 38 of Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education, and in Article 42 of Organic Law 6/2001, on Universities, and in its implementing regulations. Likewise, the provisions of Royal Decree 412/2014, of 6 June, which establishes the basic regulations for admission procedures to official university degree courses, shall apply.

2. Universities shall ensure transparent and accessible information on admission procedures, and shall have student guidance systems in place. They shall also ensure that such information and admission procedures take into account students with disabilities or special needs, and provide for appropriate support services and counselling.

3. Universities shall reserve at least 5 percent of the places offered in official undergraduate university degrees for students with a recognised degree of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent, as well as for students with permanent educational support needs associated with personal circumstances of disability, who in their previous studies have required resources and support for their full educational inclusion, bearing in mind the provisions of the Royal Decree. Likewise, the universities will guarantee the availability of places for students who take part in extraordinary university entrance exams, until they reach 5 percent of the reserve quota of the total number of places offered in the degree in question.

CHAPTER 4

Basic organisation of official university master's degree courses

Article 16. Objectives and organisation of official university master's degree courses.

1. The objective of official university master's degree courses is to provide advanced training of a thematically specialised or multidisciplinary nature in scientific, technological, humanistic and artistic knowledge, aimed at academic and professional specialisation, or, where appropriate, aimed at learning in research activities.
2. The quality assurance agencies and the administrations, in the exercise of their respective competences, will ensure the non-generalist nature of the master's degree, taking into account the fact that it comprises the second university cycle. Likewise, they will guarantee coherence between the name of the University Master's degree and its training project as specified in its syllabus, and in the knowledge, competences and skills that underpin it.
3. The achievement and passing of the credits that make up the syllabus of the official university master's degree entitles the holder to obtain the university master's degree with the respective denomination, as stated in the RUCT, by the issuing university. The degree will incorporate the respective speciality if any. In the case of joint degrees, the name of the other participating university or universities must also appear.
4. A master's degree may include one or more specialisations, which must be included in the verified report of the degree syllabus. These incorporate complementary and specific training in a thematic or professional area in accordance with the overall training project of the master's degree. The number of ECTS credits that make up a specialisation may not exceed fifty percent of the total number of credits that make up the master's syllabus.
5. Official university master's degrees have a level equivalent to MECES 3.

Article 17. General guidelines for the design of curricula for master's degree courses.

1. The curricula leading to the award of a master's degree will have 60, 90 or 120 ECTS credits, which will be divided into compulsory and optional subjects, the master's thesis, external academic internships, if any, and other academic activities.
2. The verification report of the syllabus of the official university master's degree and the European Diploma Supplement must explicitly state the field of knowledge in which the degree falls.
3. The syllabuses of a university master's degree may incorporate external academic placements, with the aim of reinforcing the training received by students by means of training development tutored by the university in institutions, administrations, companies, social and trade union organisations, and in other entities, in order to put into practice the competences and skills acquired, or to improve, where appropriate, research capacity. These external academic placements may not exceed one third of the total credit load of the syllabus.
4. All master's degree syllabuses will include an End of Master's project, which may have a minimum of 6 ECTS credits and a maximum of 30, the purpose of which is to verify the level of mastery of the knowledge, competences and skills achieved by the student, and the passing of which is an essential requirement for obtaining the official degree. The master's thesis must be defended in a public event, in accordance with the regulations established for this purpose by the centre or, where appropriate, the university.
5. The curricula shall indicate the teaching modality in which they will be developed. In this sense, these will be: face-to-face, hybrid and virtual. The basic definition of these modalities is set out in Article 14.7.
6. In the case of official university master's degrees that qualify for the exercise of a regulated professional activity, the Government shall establish the qualification or qualifications for access, as well as certain contents, competences or the development of academic practices that must be included in the respective syllabuses.

Article 18. Access and admission to official university master's degree courses.

1. The possession of an official university degree of Spanish bachelor's or equivalent is a condition for access to a university master's degree, or, where appropriate, the possession of another university master's degree, or degrees of

the same level as the Spanish bachelor's or master's degree issued by universities and higher education institutions of an EHEA country that in that country allows access to master's studies.

2. In the same way, people in possession of degrees from educational systems that do not form part of the EHEA, which are equivalent to a bachelor's degree, may access a master's degree in the Spanish university system, without the need for homologation of the degree, but with verification by the university of the level of training involved, as long as in the country where the degree was issued it allows access to postgraduate university studies. In no case will access by this route imply the homologation of the previous degree held by the interested party or its recognition for purposes other than that of undertaking the master's studies.

3. Universities shall ensure transparent and accessible information on admission procedures, and shall have student guidance systems in place. They shall also ensure that such information and admission procedures take into account students with disabilities or special needs, and provide for appropriate support services and counselling.

4. Universities may exceptionally establish, on the basis of specific regulations approved by their governing bodies, conditional enrolment procedures for access to a master's degree. This will consist of allowing a bachelor's degree student who still has to pass the End of Degree Project and a maximum of 9 ECTS credits, to access and enrol in a master's degree, although in no case may he/she obtain the master's degree if he/she has not previously obtained the bachelor's degree. Universities shall guarantee priority enrolment for students who hold the official university degree of Graduate. In this procedure, credits pending recognition or transfer in the bachelor's degree, or the requirement to pass a certain level of knowledge of a foreign language in order to obtain the degree, may be taken into account.

5. Universities or centres shall regulate admission to university master's degree courses, establishing specific requirements and, if necessary, additional training, the credit load of which may not exceed the equivalent of 20 percent of the degree's credit load. Complementary training credits will have the same consideration as the rest of the credits of the master's degree syllabus.

6. Universities shall reserve at least 5 percent of the places offered in official university master's degrees for students with a recognised degree of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent, as well as for students with permanent educational support needs associated with personal circumstances of disability, who in their previous studies have required resources and support for their full educational inclusion.

CHAPTER 5

Basic organisation of official university doctoral programmes

Article 19. Objectives and organisation of official university doctoral studies.

1. Doctoral studies are postgraduate official university studies in Spain, the aim of which is to acquire the competences and skills related to quality university research and its development.

2. Doctoral studies are organised into doctoral programmes in the various fields of scientific, technological, humanistic and artistic knowledge, as well as from an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge.

3. Successful completion of the doctoral programme and the presentation and approval of the doctoral thesis will entitle the holder to obtain the official university degree of Doctor, whose level is equivalent to MECES 4, and with the name that appears in the RUCT.

4. The structure and organisation of doctoral programmes shall be as set out in articles 3 and 4 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

Article 20. Access and admission to official university doctoral studies.

The access requirements and admission criteria for official university doctoral studies will be those established in Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January. Universities shall apply the same criteria for access to doctoral programmes as set out in Article 18(6).

CHAPTER 6

Specific curricular structures and teaching innovation in official university courses

Article 21. Specific curriculum structures and justification of their objectives

1. The universities, in the exercise of their autonomy, may incorporate specific curricular structures in their syllabuses, if they have been included in the corresponding degree syllabus report. The reference to these structures will be reflected in the European Diploma Supplement.
2. The university, in the exercise of its autonomy in the planning and management of teaching and with the aim of permanently improving the quality of teaching and learning, may develop specific and differentiated methodological strategies for teaching innovation that cover the whole of an official university degree and, therefore, affect all the subjects and subjects that make up the syllabus—. These may be reflected in the European Diploma Supplement, and must have been reflected in the degree syllabus.
3. These global teaching innovation proposals may be reflected in the European Diploma Supplement, as well as being recognised by the university for the students through the issuing of a certificate or specific accreditation document, with the aim of valuing them. These proposals may include teaching through methods such as the flipped classroom, learning based on project work or case studies, the development of collaborative and cooperative work, learning based on problem-solving skills, multilingual competences, teaching based on the intensive use of digital information and communication technologies, and other initiatives promoted by the university or the institution.

Article 22. Dual mention in official university education.

1. Official university Bachelor's and Master's degrees may be a Dual Mention, which involves a common training project that is developed both at the university centre and in a collaborating entity, which may be a company, a social or trade union organisation, an institution or an administration, under the supervision and formative leadership of the university centre, and whose objective is the adequate training of students to improve their comprehensive education and enhance their employability.
2. In order to obtain the Dual Mention in an official qualification, the following circumstances must be met:
 - a) the percentage of credits included in the syllabus that are completed in the collaborating entity (company, organisation, institution or administration), is of:
 - 1.º Between 20 and 40 per cent of credits in bachelor's degrees.
 - 2.º Between 25 and 50 per cent of credits in master's degrees.

These percentages must include the bachelor's or master's End of Degree Project.

- b) The dual training activity carried out at the university and the collaborating entity shall alternate with a paid employment activity, through a contract for dual university training, under the terms established in article 11.3 of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015, of 23 October, and in its implementing regulations, as well as in the rest of the applicable labour regulations.
 - c) Within the dual training activity, the competencies and basic knowledge to be achieved will be defined, in a coordinated and complementary way with the competencies to be worked on during the academic time students spend at the university centre, always bearing in mind the uniqueness of the syllabus and training activities of the bachelor's or master's degree. In addition, the possibility of combining the training activity in the university centre and in the collaborating entity (company, organisation, institution and administration) must be ensured at all times.
3. The university and the collaborating entity in which the student carries out part of his or her training through an employment contract must have previously signed a Framework Agreement for Educational Collaboration, which includes the specific agreement to be signed between the parties in accordance with the provisions of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, of the Public Sector Legal Regime. This agreement will specify the training project, and will indicate the obligations of the parties that sign it, the tutoring and supervision mechanisms, the evaluation systems, and the rest of the conditions that are considered necessary for the correct implementation of the common training project. In this sense, students will have a tutor appointed by the university and another appointed by the entity, company,

organisation, institution or administration, who must jointly supervise the development of the training project, under the leadership of the university tutor. The universities shall guarantee the adequacy of the conditions for carrying out the activities framed in the contract and which are the vehicle for the training development in the agreed entity.

4. The universities may draw up or adapt the curricula leading to the award of the official university degree of graduate and master's degree to the provisions of this Article, by means of the verification or modification procedures regulated in Articles 26, 32 and 33, respectively. Likewise, the corresponding report of the competent external assessment body shall state that the Dual Mention may be awarded to those degrees in which the circumstances set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are met. Under no circumstances may this modification of the syllabus entail an increase in the number of places initially verified by the competent Administration, which would require the relevant substantial modification of the degree report before the Council of Universities and the subsequent determination of the teaching offer and places by the General Conference on University Policy.

5. The proposed study plan must be designed in such a way as to guarantee that students who have chosen to take the Dual Mention within a bachelor's or master's degree course may, if they deem it appropriate, abandon it and return to the general pathway, provided that they have not passed half of the credits defined for obtaining the Dual Mention in the respective syllabus.

Article 23. Bachelor's degree programmes with an open academic pathway.

1. Universities, in the exercise of their autonomy, may offer, with the aim of making the initial training of students more flexible, degree programmes with an open academic pathway, in order to take subjects from two or more official university degrees that belong to the same field of knowledge or to related fields of knowledge, provided that the following conditions are met:

a) Subjects from at least two different official bachelor's degrees must be taken.

b) The open academic pathway must have a credit load of between 60 and 120 credits for bachelor's degrees of 240 credits. These credits shall correspond to basic training subjects of the university courses that make up the programme, and other compulsory subjects of the respective syllabuses. The credits of the open academic pathway must be taken by students in the first two years of the bachelor's degree.

c) The university's governing bodies shall approve specific regulations governing this type of specialisation.

d) These must have the favourable report of the Internal Quality Assurance System, prior to their approval by the university's governing bodies.

2. At the end of the open academic pathway, the student will be able to continue his/her studies in one of the official university degrees included in the programme. At the end of their studies in this official university bachelor's degree, students may apply for the Mention "official university degree included in a programme with an open academic pathway". The university must ensure that the student has attained the fundamental knowledge, competences and skills of the official university bachelor's degree that he/she finally obtains.

3. The universities will establish an admission quota within each degree for students who wish to follow these open pathways. These quotas may in no case exceed 10 per cent of the lowest limit of new admission places in the bachelor's degrees included in the corresponding open pathway. In any case, the university will expressly include this type of admission in its enrolment regulations, in order to establish its regulation.

4. In order for an official university degree to be included in a programme with an open academic pathway, it will not be necessary to verify or modify the curriculum of the degree(s), but rather that it shall be sufficient to notify the corresponding evaluation agency, the Council of Universities and the Autonomous Community, after approval by the university's governing bodies.

Article 24. In the case of academic programmes of simultaneity of double degrees with a specific itinerary , information will be provided:

1. Universities, within the scope of their autonomy, may organise and offer academic programmes for the simultaneous awarding of double bachelor's or master's degrees with a specific pathway, which will lead to the

awarding, if all the subjects that make up the programme are passed, of each of the official university degrees that make up the programme. In any case, academic programmes of simultaneity of three or more degrees may not be implemented.

2. These programmes must be based on the construction of a common training project for two different degrees that is academically coherent and reinforces the comprehensive training of students. The aim of this simultaneity programme is, therefore, the sum of training synergies of degrees that complement each other from an educational and professional point of view.

3. These double degree programmes will be articulated through the establishment of a specific training itinerary based on the subjects considered essential in the respective curricula of each of the degrees involved. All significant information for the development of the double degree should be included. In any case, the university must guarantee that with this specific training pathway, students will be able to acquire the fundamental knowledge and competences defined in the reports of the respective degrees.

4. The governing bodies of the university or universities involved, following a mandatory and favourable report from their own internal quality systems -or from the centre or centres involved-, shall approve a document that explains the training project of these double degree programmes, the syllabus resulting from the specific pathway, the knowledge and essential competences to be attained, the internships and the model for the recognition of subjects between the degrees involved.

CHAPTER 7

Quality assurance procedures for official university studies

Article 25. Quality assurance of official university education.

1. In order to ensure the quality of university studies as an educational service for the whole of Spanish society, official university degrees must undergo external evaluation procedures in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area(ESG), in accordance with the provisions of Title V of Organic Law 6/2001 of 21 December 2001, and in accordance with the provisions of this Royal Decree. Universities should take co-responsibility for quality assurance by developing their internal quality assurance systems and promoting a culture of quality among the university community.

2. The external evaluation bodies responsible for processing the quality assurance procedures of the Spanish university system are the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) and, for their corresponding territorial scope, the quality agencies of the Autonomous Communities registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) , after having successfully passed an external evaluation in accordance with the ESG.

3. The quality assurance procedures that involve all the syllabuses of official university degrees are those of verification, monitoring and modification, as well as the renewal of degree accreditation. To this end, the quality agencies will jointly establish the quality assessment protocols that underpin them.

4. The Ministry of Universities will maintain an Integrated University Information System (IUIS) to cover the information needs of the Spanish university system as a whole and of the administrations, and will provide the competent external assessment bodies with the necessary information to carry out quality assurance procedures. In addition, the IUIS will develop activities, based on the statistics and information gathering, observation, analysis and foresight, in collaboration with universities and quality agencies.

Section 1. Verification of syllabuses and establishment of the official status of degrees

Article 26. Procedure for the verification of syllabuses for official studies.

1. The Council of Universities shall verify that the syllabuses, the completion of which gives the right to obtain an official university degree, comply with the guidelines and conditions established by this Royal Decree and other applicable regulations.

2. The syllabus verification procedure, which will culminate with the notification to the applicant university of the decision of the Council of Universities on the verification of the syllabus, must not last longer than six months (not including the possible complaints procedure). In the case of degrees proposed in institutions with institutional accreditation, this period shall not exceed four months. All public administrations shall ensure compliance with these maximum deadlines, after which the application shall be deemed to have been accepted and the study plan verified.

3. The Autonomous Communities, in the exercise of their powers over university programming and the organisation of the map of official degrees in their territorial area, shall draw up a mandatory report on the academic and social need and viability of the implementation of the official university degree prior to the start of the verification procedure. In the event of a favourable report, the university may initiate the procedure for the verification of the degree.

4. This procedure shall commence with the submission by the applicant university of the report referred to in section 3 of this Article and of the syllabus report referred to in Article 5.3, in accordance with the structure, content and length indicated in Annex II, to the Council of Universities through the unit of the General Secretariat for Universities responsible for the processing of this procedure, which shall check whether the documentation complies with the established requirements. The General Secretariat for Universities shall notify the body of the Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities responsible for universities of the receipt of the study plan report.

Subsequently, the unit of the General Secretariat for Universities in charge of processing, if applicable, upon detecting insufficiencies in the documentation, will warn the university of the need to rectify them, for which it will have 10 working days to do so. If the request has not been made within this period, the request shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. Once this period of time has elapsed, the unit of the General Secretariat for Universities will have a maximum of 3 working days to send the syllabus report to the corresponding quality agency.

For institutions with institutional accreditation, the syllabus report shall be sent simultaneously to the processing unit of the General Secretariat for Universities and to the agency in charge of evaluation.

5. The quality agencies will carry out a quality assurance report on the quality of the syllabus of the official university degree, in accordance with the specific protocols that these agencies have established in common for the entire university system, and bearing in mind the provisions of the aforementioned Royal Decree. This report shall be mandatory and shall be carried out by commissions of academic and professional experts, with university degrees, who must be independent and of recognised academic prestige in the field of knowledge in which the degree is included or in related fields, to be chosen by the agencies. Similarly, university students must participate in these committees, and representatives of society chosen for their relationship with the subject area of the degree being evaluated may also participate.

6. The relevant quality agency will propose an interim quality assurance report on the quality of the syllabus. The interim report, which must state the reasons, may be favourable, favourable with conditions or unfavourable. If it is favourable with conditions, the agency shall indicate the issues to be amended with the aim of reaching a final proposal for a favourable report. The provisional report shall be sent to the university applying for the degree so that, within 15 working days of its receipt, it may make any corrections and modify any issues that have been requested in the report, or present any allegations it deems appropriate.

7. At the end of the period for the submission of corrections and allegations, if applicable, the corresponding quality agency will issue a final quality assurance report, which will be favourable or unfavourable, which it will send to the applicant university, the Council of Universities, the competent body of the Autonomous Community and the Ministry of Universities. In the event of a favourable final report, it may incorporate some relevant aspects that administrations, universities and agencies will have to follow up on.

8. In accordance with article 12 of the Regulations of the Council of Universities, approved by Royal Decree 1677/2009, of 13 November, the Verification and Accreditation Committee of the Council of Universities, having received the final favourable report issued by the quality agency, will accredit that the proposed name of the degree is coherent with the syllabus and complies with the provisions of the regulations in force, issuing the resolution of positive verification of the degree. In the event that the report is unfavourable, the Verification and Accreditation Committee of the Council of Universities will issue a negative verification outcome.

9. Once the decision has been issued, the Council of Universities shall notify the applicant university within a maximum period of 3 working days, and shall also notify the Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities where these universities are located, the corresponding quality agency and the Ministry of Universities.

10. Once the applicant university has received notification from the Council of Universities, it may request a review of the verification resolution before the Presidency of the Council of Universities, for which it will have 10 working days from the moment of receipt of the notification. If the complaint is admitted for processing, it must be assessed by the University Council's Committee for Complaints on the Verification and Accreditation of Study Plans, in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Regulations of the University Council. The committee shall be composed of academic and professional experts who have not been involved in the evaluation procedure so far.

This committee shall assess the verification report, taking into account only the syllabus report submitted by the university. In the event that it has the necessary evidence to do so, the committee shall draw up a proposal for a resolution to the Standing Committee of the Council of Universities. In this case, the duration of the review procedure may not exceed one month from the lodging of the complaint.

The committee may, if it deems it necessary, refer the dossier to the quality agency that issued the report for review in the light of the aspects detected that merit a new assessment. Once the quality agency's report has been received, the committee will draw up a resolution proposal that will be sent to the Standing Committee of the Council of Universities for its final decision. In this case, the duration of the entire review procedure may not exceed three months from the Presidency of the Council of Universities' receipt of the university's complaint.

The corresponding decision will put an end to administrative proceedings in accordance with the provisions of article 114.1b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October. If the time limits foreseen have elapsed without the corresponding decision on the appeal having been issued, the appeal may be understood to have been rejected.

The Council of Universities shall notify the applicant university of the final decision, and shall also notify the Autonomous Community and the quality agency involved, and the Ministry of Universities.

Article 27. Official status and registration of official university degrees in the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees.

1. Once the syllabus has been verified by the Council of Universities and after the authorisation of the Autonomous Community has been issued, the official nature of the degree will be established by agreement of the Council of Ministers at the proposal of the head of the Ministry of Universities, and will be published in the "Official State Gazette", thereby making the university degree fully valid throughout the national territory.

2. Once the degree has been declared official and subsequently published in the Official State Gazette, it will be registered in the RUCT, with the name of the degree whose syllabus report has been verified. This information will be public and the Ministry of Universities, as the body responsible for RUCT, will guarantee its accessibility to the public citizenship as a whole. Registration in the RUCT referred to in this article shall also have constitutive effects with regard to the creation of official university degrees and shall be considered as an initial accredited degree for the legal and regulatory purposes established.

3. The teaching of the official university degree may not commence until the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article have been fulfilled.

4. Once the official status and validity of the university degree has been established, the Rector of the corresponding university -or of the university that will coordinate the degree- shall order the publication in the "Official State Gazette" and in the official gazette of the Autonomous Community where the university is located of the syllabus, which shall be specified in the publication of the academic structure of the degree.

5. From the moment of its official publication, the university or universities that have promoted the degree will have a maximum of two academic years to implement and start teaching it.

6. If such a start is not made, the qualification will lose its initial accreditation. The competent body of the Autonomous Community where the university is located must accredit whether the implementation and commencement of teaching has taken place. If this is not the case, the degree must be terminated and the Ministry of

Universities must be informed so that it can be duly entered in the RUCT, with publication in the official gazette of the Autonomous Community.

Section 2.^a Monitoring of degrees

Article 28. Follow-up procedure for degrees taught in institutionally accredited university centres.

1. Compliance with the academic project contained in the syllabus will be monitored for all official university degrees taught in non-institutionally accredited centres, new degrees that have been verified and those that have obtained the renewal of accreditation. This procedure shall be developed by the centres through the bodies established in the university regulations. To this end, in accordance with the guidelines of the corresponding quality agency and with what is reflected in the external evaluation reports, they shall draw up at least one follow-up report, which is mandatory three years after the effective implementation or renewal of accreditation.
2. The purpose of these reports is to monitor the development of the syllabus of the official university degree with the aim of assessing compliance with the fundamental academic criteria and approaches set out in the syllabus report. These monitoring reports will also accredit the transparency of the information and indicators that show the academic results of the degree, detect possible deficiencies in the implementation and identify good practices in the monitoring and continuous improvement of university studies. The aforementioned reports shall be sent to the corresponding quality agency for assessment, in accordance with the protocol established by each agency.
3. In the event that, on the occasion of the monitoring report, serious breaches of the commitments made in the syllabus report are detected, the quality agency will notify the governing bodies of the centre and the university of these facts and will inform the Autonomous Community, so that the appropriate measures can be taken to safeguard the educational interests of the student body, which may, if necessary, lead to the termination of the degree.
4. The evaluation agencies shall jointly establish a protocol with basic criteria to guide the preparation of monitoring reports.

Article 29. Follow-up procedure for degrees taught in institutionally accredited university centres.

The monitoring of degrees taught in institutionally accredited university centres will be carried out within the scope of the monitoring of these centres, in accordance with the provisions of article 14 and concordant articles of Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres".

Section 3. Modification of syllabuses

Article 30. Procedure for the non-substantial modification of syllabuses taught in non-institutionally accredited university centres.

1. In the event that the modifications do not entail a change in the nature, objectives and fundamental characteristics of the registered degree, and are therefore non-substantial modifications, these, once approved by the university's governing bodies following a favourable report from the internal quality assurance systems, shall be submitted to the competent quality agency for acceptance.
2. The competent quality agency shall notify its decision within two months of the date of receipt of the request for amendment. After this period has elapsed without an express pronouncement, the university may consider its proposal to be accepted.
3. The university shall incorporate the modifications to the curriculum report of the respective degree programme through the application of the Ministry of Universities and shall communicate the modified report to the competent agency and to the corresponding Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities.
4. The quality agencies shall establish in a common manner the general criteria for delimiting which types of changes to a degree programme's syllabus are to be considered as non-substantial.

Article 31. Procedure for the non-substantial modification of syllabuses taught in institutionally accredited university centres.

1. Modifications that do not entail a change in the nature, objectives and fundamental characteristics of the registered degree, and are therefore non-substantial modifications, shall be approved by the university's governing bodies, following a mandatory and binding favourable report from the internal quality assurance systems.
2. The university shall incorporate the modifications into the syllabus report of the respective degree, through the corresponding application of the Ministry of Universities, and shall communicate the modified report to the competent agency and to the corresponding Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities.
3. The quality agencies shall establish in a common manner the general criteria for delimiting which types of changes to a degree programme's syllabus are to be considered as non-substantial.

Article 32. Procedure for the substantial modification of syllabuses taught in non-institutionally accredited university centres.

1. The non-institutionally accredited university centres may propose, through their university, substantial modifications to the verified syllabuses, which will be submitted to the Council of Universities for approval.
2. Without prejudice to what may be agreed by the quality agencies, at least the following aspects that affect the nature, objectives and characteristics of the degree will be subject to substantial modification: the incorporation or modification of mentions and specialisations and their distribution of credits; the change in the mode of delivery; the incorporation or change in training complements; the distribution of subjects and subjects of basic and compulsory training; the change in the volume of credits of the final bachelor's and master's degree project; the change in the number of places offered and the partial modification in the name of the degree. Notwithstanding the above, if, in accordance with the university's proposal, the modifications presented imply, in the opinion of the corresponding agency, the design of a new degree, the agency will issue a report rejecting the modifications requested and a new degree will be requested to be verified.
3. The procedure for substantial modification shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions for the process of verification of study plans set out in Article 26.
4. Once the substantial modification has been finally approved, it will take effect in accordance with the implementation timetable set out in the amended memorandum.
5. In the event that the accepted modifications affect the terms of the name of the degree contained in the resolution of verification of the syllabus report, or significantly affect the structure of the degree programme, the following modifications may be made to the degree programme of the teaching in the terms expressed in the corresponding section of the report established in Annex II of this Royal Decree, a new publication of the syllabus shall be made, in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.
6. In any case, the quality assurance agencies shall jointly establish the general criteria for defining the types of changes to the syllabus of an official university degree that may be included in this type of procedure.

Article 33. Procedure for the substantial modification of syllabuses taught in institutionally accredited university centres.

1. Institutionally accredited university centres may propose, through their university, substantial modifications to the verified curricula, which will be requested for approval by the Council of Universities. This proposal shall be accompanied by a reasoned report on the academic and regulatory suitability of the substantial modification carried out by the Internal Quality Assurance System of the faculty or university.
2. Without prejudice to what may be agreed by the quality agencies, at least the aspects provided for in Article 32.2 shall be subject to substantial modification.
3. The procedure for substantial modification shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions for the process of verification of study plans set out in Article 26. When issuing its report, the quality agency shall primarily take into

consideration the report drawn up by the Internal Quality Assurance System of the faculty or university proposing the substantial modification.

4. Once the substantial modification has been finally approved, it will take effect in accordance with the implementation timetable set out in the amended memorandum.

5. In the event that the accepted modifications affect the terms of the name of the degree contained in the resolution of verification of the syllabus report, or significantly affect the teaching structure in the terms expressed in the corresponding section of the report established in Annex II of this Royal Decree, a new publication of the syllabus will be made, in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

6. In any case, the quality assurance agencies shall jointly establish the general criteria for defining the types of changes to the syllabus of an official university degree that may be included in this type of procedure.

Section 4. Renewal of accreditation

Article 34. Procedure for the renewal of accreditation of degrees taught in non-institutionally accredited university centres.

1. Article 34 of Royal Decree 822/2021 establishes that university centres that are not institutionally accredited must renew the accreditation of their official university degrees in accordance with the procedure that each Autonomous Community establishes in relation to the universities within its jurisdiction, which will be resolved by the Council of Universities on the basis of a mandatory and binding report from the corresponding quality agency, within the following deadlines:

a) The accreditation of official undergraduate degrees with 240 credits must have been renewed within a maximum period of six years from the date of commencement of the degree or renewal of the previous accreditation.

b) The accreditation of official undergraduate degrees with 300 or 360 credits must have been renewed within a maximum period of eight years from the date of commencement of the degree or renewal of the previous accreditation.

c) The accreditation of official university master's degrees must have been renewed within a maximum period of six years from the date of commencement of the degree or renewal of the previous accreditation.

d) The accreditation of official university doctoral degrees must have been renewed within a maximum period of six years from the date of commencement of the doctoral programme or renewal of the previous accreditation.

2. The procedure for the renewal of the accreditation of an official university degree may not last longer than six months.

3. In order to initiate this procedure, the university shall apply to the Council of Universities via the Ministry of Universities' application.

4. The application for renewal of the accreditation received shall be sent, within a maximum period of 5 working days, to the competent quality agency so that it can check that the study plan is being carried out in accordance with its initial project, by means of an evaluation that must include, in any case, a visit by experts from outside the university, with the participation of at least one student, and which shall conclude with the drawing up of a mandatory evaluation report for the University Council.

In the case of second or successive renewals of the accreditation of the degree, the evaluation process shall address those aspects that have been identified as requiring special attention in previous renewals of accreditation, without prejudice to quality assurance in all aspects of the degree.

5. The agency shall draw up a substantiated proposal for a report on the renewal of accreditation, which shall be sent to the university so that it may submit its observations within 20 working days.

6. Once the allegations, if any, have been assessed, the evaluation agency shall propose a final report, which may be favourable or unfavourable to the renewal of accreditation, and shall send it to the applicant university, the Council of Universities, the Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities concerned and the Ministry of Universities.

7. Once the Council of Universities has received the DEVA's report, the Council of Universities shall issue the corresponding decision. If the report is favourable, a favourable decision will be issued, and if the report is unfavourable, a decision rejecting the renewal of accreditation will be issued. The decision shall state the grounds for appeal, the administrative or judicial body before which an appeal is to be lodged and the time limit for lodging it. Once the deadlines have elapsed without the corresponding decision having been issued, administrative silence will be taken to mean a favourable outcome.

8. The Council of Universities shall notify the university of the decision on re-accreditation or non-renewal within 3 working days of its approval to the university applying for the degree, notifying the Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities concerned, the assessment agency involved in the procedure and the Ministry of Universities. In the event that a diploma is not renewed, the diploma shall be declared "extinct" and an entry to that effect shall be made in the RUCT. As a consequence, the competent Autonomous Community shall determine the progressive extinction of its syllabus, on an annual basis, from the academic year following that in which the aforementioned decision was taken, and shall declare its definitive extinction when this occurs for the purposes of its registration in the RUCT. In any case, both the Autonomous Community and the university, within the scope of their respective competences, shall adopt the appropriate measures to guarantee the academic rights of the students who are taking these studies.

9. The university involved may submit a complaint to the Presidency of the Council of Universities within 15 working days of receipt of the resolution of the Council of Universities, which shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedure established in Article 26.10 of Royal Decree 822/2021.

10. Once the procedure has been completed, the Council of Universities shall communicate the decision of the accreditation renewal procedure to the RUCT, in order to include the favourable or unfavourable re-accreditation in the degree's file. The corresponding decision will put an end to administrative proceedings in accordance with the provisions of article 114.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October. If the time limits foreseen have elapsed without the corresponding decision on the appeal having been issued, the appeal may be understood to have been rejected.

11. The university whose official university degree has not applied for renewal of the accreditation of an official university degree within the corresponding period or which, having done so, has not obtained it, may not submit a syllabus report for a new verification process within the following two years, starting from the date on which the accreditation of the degree expired, if the syllabus is similar in name and basic content to the syllabus of the degree that has not renewed accreditation.

Article 35. Renewal procedure for degrees taught in institutionally accredited university centres.

University centres that have obtained institutional accreditation through the procedure established in Article 14 of Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, will renew the accreditation of the official university degrees they offer as long as these centres maintain their institutional accreditation. In the RUCT, the date of renewal shall be the date corresponding to the institutional accreditation resolution issued by the Council of Universities.

CHAPTER 8

The universities' own teaching

Lifelong learning

Article 36. The universities' own teaching.

Universities, in the exercise of their autonomy, may offer courses of study leading to qualifications other than the official university degrees referred to in Article 3.1, which shall be defined as their own degrees. The issuing of these degrees shall be carried out in the manner determined by the university, bearing in mind the provisions of this Royal Decree, and under no circumstances may their name or the format in which the corresponding degrees are drawn up and made public lead to confusion with official university degrees.

Article 37. Lifelong learning.

1. Within the university studies, lifelong learning will be made up of a series of courses whose purpose is to strengthen the training of citizens throughout their lives, updating and extending their knowledge, their abilities and their general, specific or multidisciplinary skills in the various fields of knowledge.
2. This type of teaching may be provided by lifelong learning centres or institutes, university foundations, faculties or schools, whether their own or affiliated, as well as research institutes, on the basis of the provisions of the respective university statutes or rules of organisation and operation. The governing bodies of the university shall regulate by means of specific regulations at least the teaching conditions, the places available, the syllabus, the participation of the university's own and external teaching staff, and the prices of these degrees which, in public universities, shall be approved by the Social Council. Likewise, the universities shall expressly state in their institutional information that these degrees are lifelong learning degrees.
3. These lifelong learning courses may take place in face-to-face, hybrid or virtual teaching modes.
4. All lifelong learning qualifications must have at least one lecturer from the university in which they are taught as the person in charge, and may have co-directors from other universities, professionals of recognised prestige, staff from social and business organisations or entities, or members of other administrations.
5. In any case, universities must differentiate between lifelong learning courses that require a university degree and those that do not.
6. Within the first group, which aims to broaden knowledge and skills, specialise and update the training of university graduates, the following degrees can be distinguished: the Master of Lifelong Learning (with a load of 60, 90 and 120 ECTS credits), the Diploma of Specialisation (with between 30 and 59 credits) and the Diploma of Expert (with less than 30 credits).
7. In the second group, whose purpose is to broaden and update knowledge, competences and training or professional skills that contribute to a better employability of citizens without a university degree, a certificate will be awarded with the name of the respective course (with a maximum load of 30 ECTS credits).
8. Universities may also offer their own courses of less than 15 ECTS that may or may not require a previous university degree, in the form of micro-credentials or micro-modules, which make it possible to certify learning outcomes linked to short-term training activities. Under no circumstances may these courses be confused with the qualifications offered by intermediate or higher vocational training centres.
9. The universities, in the exercise of their autonomy, may use other names for their lifelong learning degrees, except in the case of the master's degree in Lifelong Learning, which will always have this name. In any case, if this is the case, the characteristics established in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this article must be maintained, always expressly differentiating these lifelong learning qualifications from official university qualifications.
10. The governing bodies of the universities shall approve the lifelong learning programme on an annual basis. Likewise, they shall ensure that the units, centres, institutes or foundations that implement lifelong learning qualifications in their institutional, documentary or advertising information do not lead to confusion as to the level of these qualifications, especially in the case of the master's degree in Lifelong Learning, which must always include this name in its dissemination.
11. The university shall guarantee the quality and academic and scientific rigour of lifelong learning qualifications, which shall be the responsibility of the internal quality assurance systems determined by the university institution. Specifically, in the case of the Lifelong Learning Master's Degree, prior to its approval by the governing bodies, it must have a favourable report from the university's Internal Quality Assurance System, which will be binding on the university. Once this favourable report has been obtained, the university may request its inclusion in the RUCT, always under the name of Lifelong Learning Master's Degree in the subject in question.

First additional provision. Effectiveness of the official university degrees corresponding to the pre-EHEA system.

1. Official university degrees obtained in accordance with syllabuses prior to the current organisation of university education implemented under the principles of the European Higher Education Area shall maintain all their academic and, where appropriate, professional effects.
2. Persons who hold an official Spanish degree of Graduate/BSc, Architect or Engineer and who wish to access official degree courses may obtain the appropriate recognition of credits in academic terms in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of this Royal Decree. Likewise, this qualification will give them access to master's degree courses. In this case, if appropriate, credits could be recognised in relation to the knowledge, competences and skills learnt in previous degrees and their adaptation to the syllabus of the corresponding master's degree to which access is sought.
3. Persons who hold an official degree of Diploma, Technical Architect or Technical Engineer, and who wish to access official degree courses, may obtain the appropriate credit recognition in academic terms in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of this Royal Decree. In the same way, this qualification will give them access to master's degree courses, with the university being able, in the exercise of its autonomy, to require additional training if academically necessary. In addition, if appropriate and exceptionally and with reasons, credits may be recognised in relation to the knowledge, competences and skills learnt in previous degrees and their adaptation to the syllabus of the corresponding master's degree to which the student wishes to gain access.

Second additional provision. Implementation of international conventions on the mutual recognition of university degrees.

By means of the corresponding bilateral or multilateral international agreements or conventions, university degrees issued by universities in the signatory country or countries may be expressly recognised as equivalent to official Spanish university degrees, regardless of what is established in the specific regulations on the recognition and equivalence of foreign university education.

Third additional provision. Universities and Centres dependent on the State.

All references in this Royal Decree to the Administrations of the Autonomous Communities and their bodies shall be understood to refer, in the case of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) and the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (UIMP), to the Ministry of Universities.

Fourth additional provision. Concordat Universities of the Catholic Church.

1. In accordance with the provisions of the fourth additional provision of Organic Law 6/2001 of 21 December, the universities of the Catholic Church established in Spain prior to the Agreement of 3 January 1979 between the Spanish State and the Holy See on Education and Cultural Affairs, by virtue of the provisions of the Agreement between the Holy See and the Spanish State of 10 May 1962 and the aforementioned Agreement, maintain their special procedures for the recognition of the civil effects of curricula and degrees, as long as they do not opt to transform themselves into private universities.
2. In any case, in order to make these procedures effective, these universities shall request the Council of Universities to verify the report of the syllabus leading to the award of an official university degree, which shall be assessed by the corresponding quality agency like the rest of the official offerings of the university system. This verification shall be carried out once it has been verified that these curricula comply with the guidelines and conditions established by the Government in general, as set out in this Royal Decree.
3. The Council of Universities, once the university degree has been verified, shall send it to the Ministry of Universities so that its holder may propose to the Government that, by agreement of the Council of Ministers, its official status be established and order its registration in the RUCT and its publication in the "Official State Gazette".
4. For the development of the procedures for the modification, monitoring and renewal of the accreditation of these official university degrees, the procedure will be identical to that established in this Royal Decree, depending on whether they are institutionally accredited centres or not.

Fifth additional provision. Faculty of Health Sciences

1. Under no circumstances may university degrees lead to confusion or coincide in their name and content with those of university degrees that enable the exercise of a health profession or with those of specialists in health sciences regulated in Law 44/2003, of 21 November, on the organisation of health professions.
2. The universities shall decide, on the basis of the research training accredited by each of the health science specialists referred to in the previous section, the complementary training that they may have to undertake for the presentation and defence of the doctoral thesis within the framework of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

Sixth additional provision. International joint university degrees.

1. In the procedure for the verification of syllabuses leading to international joint degrees, understood as official Spanish university degrees leading to joint studies between one or more Spanish universities and a foreign university or several foreign universities, the assessment reports issued by assessment bodies registered in the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (EQAR) shall be recognised by the competent Spanish quality assurance agencies for the purposes of issuing the report provided for in Article 26.

In the case of joint university degrees with countries whose agencies do not form part of this register or do not have quality assessment agencies, the joint degree must have a favourable ANECA report or the evaluation agency of the Autonomous Community where the applicant Spanish university is located.

2. In any case, the university or universities may also use the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Higher Education (European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes) *European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes* in the different stages of the evaluation, substantial modification and accreditation process, provided that the country of the coordinating university has signed this agreement.
3. The deadline for the renewal of the accreditation of these degrees will be determined by the regulations of the country where the external evaluation report has been issued.
4. In the event that the joint university degree has a credit load different from that established by this Royal Decree, it will be necessary, prior to its authorisation, to have a favourable report from ANECA or from the evaluation agency of the Autonomous Community where the applicant Spanish university is located.
5. The management of the students' academic records, the academic regulations, the issuing of degrees and the European Diploma Supplement, as well as the price of the academic service, will be reflected in the agreement signed between the universities promoting the joint degree programme. In any case, the Spanish university or universities will always have a copy of the file of the students enrolled.

Sixth additional provision. International joint university degrees in the framework of the European Commission's European University Programme.

1. Official joint bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes that are developed as an inseparable part of a project approved within the framework of the official call of the European Commission of the European Universities Programme (Erasmus+ European Universities), in which one or more Spanish universities participate, will be subject to a series of specificities regarding the evaluation of the quality of the report and its accreditation, the enrolment of students, the management of the student's file, and the issuing of the degree.
2. For the purposes of the above, a joint degree is understood to be that corresponding to a single official curriculum designed and participated in by all or at least three of the universities in the consortium that have made up the universities participating in a given alliance and which have signed the corresponding agreement.
3. The syllabus report of official international joint bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in which one or more Spanish universities participate within the framework of a call of the European University Programme may be assessed by a quality agency of one of the countries to which the universities promoting the degree belong, provided that this agency is registered in the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (EQAR) or is considered as such in the respective national legislation - if applicable by the evaluation body established in the country. The report resulting from this evaluation will be valid for all purposes in the verification procedure of an

official university degree in Spain. The same procedure may be implemented for substantial modifications of curricula and for the renewal of the accreditation of an official university degree.

4. The reports of curricula leading to joint Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degrees of three or more universities (provided that they include one or more Spanish universities) participating in a project approved within the framework of a call of the European Commission's European Universities Programme, may use the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Higher Education), in the different stages of the process of verification, monitoring, substantial modification of curricula and renewal of the accreditation of the official university degree, provided that the country of the coordinating university has signed this agreement.

5. The deadline for the renewal of the accreditation of these degrees will be determined by the regulations of the country where the external evaluation report has been issued.

6. If the report issued by the quality assurance agency is positive, it will be sent to the Council of Universities so that it can issue the corresponding resolution of verification, informing all the universities that promote the degree, as well as the Autonomous Community or Autonomous Communities of the participating Spanish university or universities, and the Ministry of Universities. Subsequently, once its implementation has been authorised by the corresponding Autonomous Community, it shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

7. The level of learning achieved and passed by students in official bachelor's and master's degree courses shall be expressed by means of the qualifications established in the agreement. The table of equivalences with the qualifications framework of the countries involved in the degree must also be available. Similarly, the evaluation procedure to be followed in the case of the joint doctoral programme must be specified.

8. Exceptionally, in these international joint courses leading to official university degrees within the framework of the European Universities Programme call, the prices of the academic services will be fixed by the consortium and will be reflected in the agreement, and will be related to the costs of providing the service in all the countries involved.

9. The management of the academic records of students enrolled in these joint official university degrees, the academic regulations, the issuing of the degrees and the European Diploma Supplement will be reflected in the agreement signed between the universities of each alliance, which will define how they are to be implemented. In any case, the Spanish university or universities will always have a copy of the file of the students enrolled.

10. The duration of the official university degrees involved in these joint academic projects within the European University Programme may be different from that established in this Royal Decree, as long as this has been established in the project approved by the European Commission in the respective call for proposals and receives a favourable report from a quality agency, as indicated in sections 3 and 4.

Eighth additional provision. Procedure for the verification and renewal of accreditation of Erasmus Mundus international joint university degrees.

1. For all purposes, official university courses promoted through international consortia involving Spanish and foreign universities that have been evaluated and selected by the European Commission in competitive calls for applications and have obtained the Erasmus Mundus seal will be considered to have the favourable verification report referred to in Article 26 of this Royal Decree.

2. The applicant Spanish university participating in a specific Erasmus programme will send to the Ministry of Universities the study plan approved by the European Commission, together with the agreement signed by the participants in the consortium and the written justification of having achieved the Erasmus Mundus seal, as well as the documentation that provides the essential information for the registration of the degree in the RUCT.

3. The Ministry of Universities shall send the file to the Council of Universities for the purpose of issuing the corresponding resolution in accordance with the provisions of Article 26.

4. These degrees shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirement to renew their accreditation as long as the Erasmus Mundus label remains in force. At the end of the period of validity, if it is not renewed, the universities that wish to continue teaching the syllabus of this degree must apply for a substantial modification of the syllabus without the Erasmus Mundus qualification.

Ninth additional provision. Successive academic programmes in the field of engineering and architecture

1. "Universities, within the scope of their autonomy, may offer as a pilot teaching experience academic programmes as successive pathways -consecutive cycles-, linking a bachelor's degree and a master's degree oriented towards professional specialisation, maintaining their differentiation and structural independence. The aim of these programmes is to reinforce the student's comprehensive training. In no case may the name of the academic programme lead to confusion with the possible professional qualification to which the degrees that comprise it may lead.
2. The academic planning proposed for the academic programme must have been favourably reported by the competent quality agency. The offer of these academic programmes shall in no case constitute a new registration in the RUCT.
3. Universities may establish, by means of regulations approved by their governing bodies, a procedure for access to official master's degree courses in these programmes without having passed the related bachelor's degree. This will consist of allowing a linked bachelor's degree student who has yet to pass the End of Degree Project and one or more subjects, which in no case together (End of Degree Project and subjects) may exceed 30 ECTS credits, to access and enrol in the linked master's degree. Under no circumstances may students obtain a master's degree if they have not previously obtained the official university degree of bachelor's. Universities shall guarantee priority enrolment for students who hold an official university degree.
4. It is expressly forbidden to reserve a place in the university master's degree involved in an academic programme with successive courses in the field of engineering and architecture for those students who have studied it from bachelor's degree level. Likewise, a student may leave this specific academic programme at any time, whether he/she is enrolled in the bachelor's or the master's degree.

Tenth additional provision. Certain bachelor's degrees are assigned to Level 3 (master's) of the MECES.

1. bachelor's degrees of at least 300 credits comprising a minimum of 60 credits at master's level may be assigned to Level 3 (master's) of the MECES by resolution of the Council of Universities.
2. Universities seeking the aforementioned affiliation of their degrees must submit the corresponding application to the Council of Universities through the competent processing unit of the General Secretariat for Universities. The application may be made at the same time as the application for verification of the syllabus, or as soon as the degree has been declared official with its registration in the RUCT.
3. The Council of Universities shall adopt the appropriate decision within a period of six months after verifying that the conditions required to achieve the aforementioned affiliation have been met, following a favourable report from the competent external assessment body. In the absence of a decision and notification within the deadline, the application submitted shall be deemed to have been rejected.
4. The resolutions of the Council of Universities shall be transferred to RUCT, for the purposes of their being recorded therein.
5. Once the MECES Level 3 (master's) award has been obtained, it will apply to all graduates of the degree programme with the assessed syllabus, regardless of the date of completion of their studies, unless the syllabus had to be modified in order to obtain it, in which case it will only apply to graduates after such modification.
6. When the modifications introduced in a bachelor's degree awarded at Level 3 of the MECES entail the loss of any of the conditions necessary for the awarding of this level, the assessment body responsible for its processing shall state this circumstance in its assessment report so that the Council of Universities may decide on the revocation of this recognition and, where appropriate, notify the RUCT accordingly.
7. Decisions of the Council of Universities in this matter may be appealed against as provided for in Article 26(10). The corresponding decision will put an end to administrative proceedings in accordance with the provisions of article 114.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

Eleventh additional provision. Specific regimes.

1. The title of Doctor awarded by the European University Institute of Florence is equivalent for all purposes to the title of Doctor awarded by a Spanish university in accordance with this Royal Decree.
2. Armament and Material Engineers, Construction and Electricity Engineers and Naval Weapons Engineers may obtain the official degrees of Master or Doctorate in accordance with the provisions of Decree 3058/1964, of 28 September, establishing the Army Polytechnic and Naval Weapons Engineers as Higher Technical Schools and the conditions for awarding the degree of Doctor to Army Armament and Construction Engineers and Naval Weapons Engineers, and concordant regulations. To this end, they must meet the general requirements for bachelor's and master's degrees established in this Royal Decree, as applicable, and the specific conditions established by the Ministry of Defence in this respect.
3. Professional experience and the studies of advanced training courses for officers and non-commissioned officers of the Armed Forces and the Higher Studies of National Defence may be recognised in accordance with the provisions of Article 10.4 of this Royal Decree, with the limitation of recognisable credits established in paragraph 5 of the same article.

Twelfth additional provision. Verification of compliance with the conditions for qualifications entitling access to and exercise of a regulated profession.

The Ministry of Universities shall specify the specific contents to which applications for the verification of syllabuses must conform in the cases referred to in Articles 14.8 and 17.6 of this Royal Decree, following a report from the Council of Universities and having heard, where appropriate, the professional bodies and associations concerned.

Thirteenth additional provision. Mentions in the qualifications that enable the exercise of the professions of Teacher in Early Years Education and Teacher in Primary Education.

Exceptionally, it is possible to take the specialisations envisaged in the syllabuses of official undergraduate university degrees that enable students to practise the professions of Teacher in Early Years Education or Teacher in Primary Education at a university other than the one from which the university degree in question was previously obtained. In this case, a new degree may not be issued to those who take such mentions, so the university will issue an official academic certificate that will be considered as a valid document for the purpose of accrediting the award of such a mention.

Thirteenth additional provision. "Do no significant harm" principle.

In compliance with the provisions of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, with Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Resilience and Recovery Mechanism and its implementing rules, with the Commission's Communication Technical Guidance (2021/C 58/01) on the application of the principle of "do no significant harm", as well as with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan, as well as the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the evaluation of the Spanish recovery and resilience plan, all actions to be carried out in compliance with this Royal Decree must respect the principle of doing no significant harm to the environment.

This obligation includes compliance with the specific conditions foreseen in Component 21 "Modernisation and digitisation of the education system, including early education from 0-3 years", in particular in measure R3 "Comprehensive reform of the university system" of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, in which these actions are framed.

First transitional provision. 180-credit degrees.

1. Official university degree courses of 180 ECTS credits which, on the entry into force of this Royal Decree, have official status, must apply for a modification of their syllabus to change it to 240 credits, within a period of two years.

Syllabuses verified on the entry into force of this Royal Decree and which have not obtained official status must also request a modification of their syllabus to adapt to this circumstance. In developing this procedure, they will be supported and guided by both the institution's internal quality assurance systems and the relevant quality agency.

These modifications shall be processed in accordance with the procedures regulated in Articles 32 and 33 of this Royal Decree.

2. Exceptionally, students enrolled in these Degrees on the entry into force of this Royal Decree may complete their studies with the duration of their degree programme.

Second transitional provision. Degrees in the process of verification or establishment of their official status in relation to the branches of knowledge.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the fifth transitional provision, official university bachelor's or master's degrees that at the time of the entry into force of this Royal Decree are in the process of verification by a quality agency or of establishing their official status, will maintain their assignment to the branches of knowledge and all those academic issues related to the branches of knowledge, so that it will not be necessary to modify the report under evaluation to adapt it to their assignment to the fields of knowledge and all those issues involved.

Third transitional provision. Adaptation of degree programmes to the format of face-to-face, hybrid and virtual teaching modalities.

Bachelor's and master's degrees which, at the time of entry into force of this Royal Decree, have teaching modalities whose percentages of credits are different from the intervals established in this regulation, shall have up to three years to adapt to the provisions of this regulation.

Fourth transitional provision. Quality assurance agencies in the process of EQAR registration.

The quality assurance agencies of the Autonomous Communities which, at the time of entry into force of this Royal Decree, are not yet registered in the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education (EQAR), will have a transitional period of four years in which they may continue to carry out their own functions established in this regulation in relation to university quality assurance procedures.

Fifth transitional provision. Adaptation of the assignment to the fields of knowledge and of the syllabus verification report.

1. Official university degrees must be assigned to a field of knowledge within a maximum period of four years from the entry into force of this Royal Decree. To this end, the university shall request the corresponding modification, and may choose to modify only those aspects related to the affiliation to a specific field of knowledge or adapt the curriculum vetting report to the model established in this Royal Decree.

2. Likewise, the curriculum vetting report shall be adapted to the model set out in Annex II when the university proposes a substantial modification of the aforementioned report.

Sixth transitional provision. Official master's degrees with a duration different from that established in this Royal Decree.

Official university master's degrees which, on the entry into force of this regulation, are structured in a different number of ECTS credits than those established in the regulation, will have a maximum of three years to adapt. In order to do so, they must apply for a substantial modification of their curriculum to 60, 90 or 120 credits, prior to the renewal of their accreditation.

Seventh transitional provision. Name of the universities' own master's degrees.

The universities' own master's degrees shall have two years from the date of entry into force of this regulation to adapt their names to the format established in Article 37.

Eighth transitional provision. Official university studies with Dual recognition.

1. Official university bachelor's and master's degrees which, on the entry into force of this Royal Decree, have Dual recognition granted by a competent quality assurance agency must apply for a modification of their syllabus in order to adapt to the requirements established in Article 22 of this Royal Decree. These modifications shall be processed in accordance with the procedures regulated in Articles 32 and 33 of this Royal Decree.

2. Students enrolled in official university bachelor's and master's degrees who, on the entry into force of Royal Decree, have been awarded a Dual recognition granted by a competent quality assurance agency will be able to complete their studies with this recognition.

Sole repealing provision. Repeal of legislation.

Royal Decree 1393/2007 of 29 October 2007, which establishes the organisation of official university education, and any other provisions of equal or lower rank that oppose the provisions of this Royal Decree are hereby repealed.

First final provision. Amendment of Royal Decree 1558/1986 of 28 June 1986, establishing the general bases for the system of agreements between universities and health institutions.

Royal Decree 1558/1986 of 28 June 1986, which establishes the general bases for the system of agreements between universities and health institutions, is amended as follows:

One. Article 4, fifth base, is amended as follows:

Five. The term "university hospital" shall be used when the agreement refers to the hospital as a whole or covers 75 per cent of its services or care units. If only some services are provided, this is referred to as a "university teaching hospital". The same principles will apply to health centres.

University hospitals may not be linked by agreement to more than one university for the delivery of the same degree programme, except in exceptional situations, in which case the university that initially signed the agreement must agree to extend the activity of the university hospital to another university or universities. In any case, there is the possibility of carrying out academic internships at a university other than the partner university under a specific agreement and with the prior authorisation of the partner university.

It will also be necessary to harmonise the training capacity of the public health system in the field of public university hospitals and public universities"

Second final provision. Modification of Royal Decree 1509/2008, of 12 September, which regulates the Registry of Universities, Centres and Degrees.

Paragraph b) of article 15.1 of Royal Decree 1509/2008, of 12 September, which regulates the Registry of Universities, Centres and Degrees, shall read as follows:

"b) Title of the degree: In the case of bachelor's and master's degrees, the field of knowledge to which they are attached shall be indicated"

Third final provision. Amendment of Royal Decree 1002/2010, of 5 August, on the issuing of official university degrees.

Royal Decree 1002/2010 of 5 August 2010 on the awarding of official university degrees is amended as follows:

One. Article 11(6) shall read as follows:

"6. In the event that the doctoral thesis is co-supervised by two or more PhDs from a Spanish and a foreign university, in accordance with the provisions of article 15.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, a note with the following text will be included on the front of the degree: "Thesis in co-supervision with university U."

Two. Article 17(1)(h) shall read as follows:

"h) Mention of the legal grounds, if any, affecting the effectiveness of the certificate. If the legal cause is the death of the holder, the details of the death shall be stated on the back of the title. Where appropriate, it shall be stated whether a duplicate has been issued and the reasons for the issue of the duplicate

Fourth final provision. Jurisdictional authority.

This Royal Decree is issued under the provisions of Articles 149.1.1.1 and 30.^a of the Spanish Constitution, which assign to the State the exclusive competence for the regulation of the basic conditions that guarantee the equality of all Spaniards in the exercise of rights and in the fulfilment of constitutional duties, and the exclusive competence for the regulation of the conditions for obtaining, issuing and homologation of academic and professional qualifications and the basic rules for the development of Article 27 of the Spanish Constitution, in order to guarantee the fulfilment of the obligations of the public authorities in this educational matter, respectively.

Fifth final provision. Enabling regulatory development.

1. The head of the Ministry of Universities is empowered to issue the necessary provisions for the development and application of the provisions of this Royal Decree.

2. Likewise, the head of the Ministry of Universities, having heard the Council of Universities, is empowered to modify or update the annexes of this Royal Decree by means of a ministerial order.

Sixth final provision. Entry into force.

This Royal Decree shall enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official State Gazette.

Given in Madrid, 28 September 2021.

FELIPE R.

The Minister for Universities,

MANUEL CASTELLS OLIVÁN

ANNEX I**Field of knowledge**

The fields of knowledge in which the official university bachelor's and master's degrees must be registered are the following:

- Physical activity and sports science.
- Architecture, construction, building and urban planning, and civil engineering.
- Biology and genetics.
- Biochemistry and biotechnology.
- Agricultural sciences and food technology.
- Biomedical sciences.
- Behavioural sciences and psychology.
- Economics, business administration and management, marketing, commerce, accounting and tourism.
- Education sciences.
- Environmental science and ecology.
- Social sciences, social work, labour relations and human resources, sociology, political science and international relations.
- Earth sciences.
- Law and legal specialities.
- Nursing.
- Gender studies and feminist studies.

- Pharmacy.
- Philology, classical studies, translation and linguistics.
- Physics and astronomy.
- Physiotherapy, podiatry, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, optics and optometry and speech therapy.
- History of art and artistic expression, and fine arts.
- History, archaeology, geography, philosophy and humanities.
- Cultural industries: design, animation, cinematography and audiovisual production.
- Electrical engineering, electronic engineering and telecommunication engineering.
- Industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, automatic engineering, industrial organisation engineering and navigation engineering.
- Computer and systems engineering.
- Chemical engineering, materials engineering and environmental engineering.
- Mathematics and statistics.
- Medicine and dentistry.
- Journalism, communication, advertising and public relations.
- Chemistry.
- Veterinary.
- Interdisciplinary.

ANNEX II.

Model report for the application for the verification of the syllabus of an official university degree

Presentation

The syllabus configures the official bachelor's and master's degree project that the universities must present for its corresponding verification by the Council of Universities following a favourable report from the corresponding quality agency, in order to subsequently, once the authorisation of the Autonomous Community has been obtained, establish its official nature by means of an Agreement of the Council of Ministers, its subsequent registration in the RUCT and its publication in the BOE (Official State Gazette).

The project constitutes the institution's commitment to the characteristics of the degree and the conditions in which the teaching is to be carried out, which specify the academic training project that defines it. In the accreditation phase, the university must justify the adjustment of the development and deployment of the degree with that proposed in the draft report submitted, or in any case justify the academic, infrastructural or teaching staff availability causes that explain the mismatch and the actions carried out in each of the areas.

The completion of the syllabus report that will accompany the application for the verification of the syllabus will be materialised in an open exchange electronic file, which will be sent to the competent external assessment bodies through the computer support enabled for this purpose by ANECA, provided by agreement to other agencies, or through other supports of their own, which in turn will connect with the computer support of the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees (RUCT).

The configuration and terminology used in the syllabus should be aligned with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), in order to facilitate international joint degrees and the international recognition of Spanish university degrees.

The length of the report is limited to a maximum of 10,000 words, which may contain references to official documents of the university (agreements, regulations or institutional accreditations) or of the centre, with hyperlinks, where appropriate, to their location on the institutional website of the centre or of the university.

These official documents may refer to aspects common to a set of curricula of the university, and should be publicly accessible, without the need to incorporate them in their literal form in each syllabus report. This is without prejudice to the possibility of establishing particular developments of these common aspects in the syllabus, if considered essential and without exceeding the limit of extension.

In particular, if the university centre responsible for the study plan is institutionally accredited, it will not be necessary to provide evidence that affects the study plan to be verified and that has already been assessed in the institutional accreditation procedure.

1. Description, training objectives and rationale of the degree

1.1 The full title of the degree will be written in Spanish, and may be in English or another language if the entire degree is taught in this language. It may also have a bilingual denomination.

1.2 Field of knowledge to which it belongs.

1.3 Minors in the bachelor's degree and specialisations in the master's degree;

1.4 University or universities, in the case of joint degrees, which deliver the courses.

1.4.bis) In the case of several universities, the applicant shall be responsible for the procedures of verification, monitoring, renewal of accreditation, modification or termination. In these cases, the corresponding agreement signed by all participating universities must be provided.

1.5 University centre(s) at which this degree is taught at the university(ies).

1.5.a) In the case of bachelor's or master's degrees taught in several centres, the centre responsible for coordinating the harmonised development of the courses.

1.6 Teaching modality (face-to-face, hybrid and virtual);

1.7 Total number of credits.

1.8 Language(s) of instruction.

1.9 Number of places offered for the degree.

1.9.bis) In the case of a degree that combines a face-to-face mode with a virtual mode, the number of places offered in each pathway or itinerary shall be identified.

The university must adequately provide the academic, scientific, professional and social basis for the degree and how it fits into the context of the strategic planning of the university or the university system of the Autonomous Community.

1.11 Main training objectives of the degree.

1.11.bis) If applicable, training objectives of specialisations or specialisations according to the degree.

1.12 Specific curriculum structures and justification of their objectives

1.13 Specific methodological strategies for teaching innovation and justification of their objectives

1.14 Key graduate profiles to which the courses of study are oriented

1.14.bis) If applicable, regulated professional activity for which the diploma qualifies access.

2. Outcomes of the training and learning process

The results of the training and learning process that an academic degree entails, and which take the form of knowledge or content, competences and abilities or skills acquired by students, must take into account the general principles of the organisation of official university education established in this Royal Decree, in particular those set out

in Article 3 and Article 4; and in the case of degrees that enable students to carry out a regulated professional activity, they must comply with the provisions established in the corresponding ministerial order. They must also be aligned with the MECES level of qualification of the degree in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and be coherent with the name of the degree, its field of knowledge, and the graduate profile.

These outcomes should be assessable, and should focus on those academically relevant and significant knowledge or content, competences and skills or abilities that define the learning project that is an official university degree. Their number should in no case exceed the capacity for their acquisition by the student body, the organisational feasibility of the curriculum or the rationality of the assessment system that evaluates learning progress.

A list of the key outcomes of the training and learning process will be provided. The university shall identify each learning outcome, referring to its classification (knowledge or content, competences and skills).

3. Admission, recognition and mobility

3.1 Access requirements and student admission procedures. Where applicable, special entrance examinations or special admission criteria.

Criteria for the recognition and transfer of credits In the case of courses of study that will become extinct due to the implementation of the corresponding proposed degree, reflect the recognitions in the degree to be implemented.

Procedure for the organisation of mobility of home and host students

4. Teaching Planning

4.1 Basic teaching structure: description of the modules, subjects or subjects of the proposed study plan, indicating in each case:

a) Name.

b) Number of ECTS credits

c) Type (basic, compulsory, optional, external academic placements, final degree project).

d) Time organisation

e) Core learning outcomes (identification of the most relevant ones).

f) If the study plan is articulated in modules, provide the distribution of subjects or subjects they comprise - with their respective number of ECTS credits).

4.2 Basic description of teaching activities and methodologies.

4.3 Basic description of evaluation systems.

4.4 Basic description of the specific curriculum structures.

5. Academic and teaching support staff

5.1 Description of the basic profiles of teaching staff and other human resources necessary and available to adequately develop the proposed syllabus.

5.2 The profiles can be described in an aggregated manner by fields of knowledge (in relation to teaching) or areas of knowledge of the teaching staff involved (understood in terms of the profile of the teaching post), if it may be downgraded to the level of the teacher involved, without the need to provide nominal information.

5.3 In particular, the following information shall be provided:

a) Name of the field of knowledge or area of knowledge.

b) Number of teachers

c) Number of doctors

- d) Categories and accreditations.
- e) Teaching merits (only in the case of non-accredited teachers)
- f) Research merits (only in the case of non-doctorate teaching staff)
- g) Subjects or subjects in which they are involved.
- h) name of modules, subjects or subjects of the curriculum;
- i) Teaching availability (in ECTS) by field of knowledge or area of knowledge.

6. Learning resources: materials and infrastructures, practices and services, memory.

6.1 The material resources and services available must be described and justified, including teaching spaces, academic facilities and equipment; laboratories; computer rooms; scientific, technical, humanistic or artistic equipment; library and reading rooms; and the availability of technologies (Internet, virtual teaching campus, etc.), are adequate to guarantee the quality acquisition of knowledge or contents, abilities or skills and competences, as well as the development of the planned training activities, observing the criteria of universal accessibility and design for all of the proposed degree.

6.2 In the event that external academic placements are included, briefly indicate the organisational mechanism and also attach as annexes the main agreements or commitments of the entities, institutions, organisations and companies that will receive the students.

6.3 In the event that not all the necessary material resources and services are available at the time of the curriculum proposal, the planned acquisition of these resources and services should be indicated.

7. Implementation schedule

7.1 Timetable for the implementation of the degree programme - timing of the deployment of teaching by academic year, or, where appropriate, deployment by several academic years or in total.

7.2 Procedure for adaptation, where appropriate, to the new syllabus for students coming from the previous university system.

7.3 Courses of study that will become extinct due to the implementation of the corresponding proposed degree.

8. Quality Guarantee System

8.1 The university shall identify the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) applicable to the degree, which shall be in accordance with the criteria and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

To this end, access to IQAS documentation shall be provided, indicating, where appropriate, whether it is an institutional system that has been subject to external certification.

8.2 Identification of curriculum-relevant public information media aimed at addressing the needs of the student body.

Annexes.

The university may include as annexes, where appropriate, proposals for particular developments for the degree of certain institutional regulations of academic organisation in relation to the specificities of its academic or professionalising nature.