

Higher Education Quality Assurance System and Higher Education Quality Council
Law No. 2547 on Higher Education, Additional Provision 35 (18/6/2017-7033/18 art.)

Higher Education Quality Assurance System sets out the principles regarding the authorization of independent external evaluation institutions, accreditation processes, and internal-external quality assurance of education and research activities as well as administrative services of higher education institutions.

The Higher Education Quality Council is a public legal entity with administrative and financial autonomy and special budget founded with the aim of evaluating the quality levels of education and research activities as well as administrative services of higher education institutions in accordance with national and international quality standards, and coordinating the processes of accreditation, internal and external quality assurance, and authorization of independent external evaluation organizations.

The Higher Education Quality Council is made up of 13 members, including:

- a. Three chosen by the Council of Higher Education General Board,
- b. Three chosen by the Inter-University Council,
- c. One chosen by the Ministry of National Education,
- d. One representing the Vocational Qualification Institution,
- e. One representing the Health Institutes of Turkey,
- f. One representing the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey,
- g. One representing the Health Institutes of Turkey,
- h. One representing the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey,
- i. One student representative.

The members are chosen by the Council of Higher Education and the Inter-University Council among scholars who are specialized in different disciplines and assigned in different higher education institutions, experienced in the organization, operation and administration of higher education system as well as quality evaluation and improvement implementations with minimum ten years of work experience in national or international higher education institutions. The member chosen by the Ministry of National Education is required to be a teaching fellow who is assigned in a higher education institution, experienced in the organization, operation and administration of higher education system as well as quality evaluation and improvement implementations with minimum ten years of work experience in national or international higher education institutions. The student representative is chosen in consideration of the procedures and principles set by the Higher Education Quality Council. The Higher Education Quality Council members are required to fulfill the general conditions stated in Article 48 of the Law No. 657.

The Higher Education Quality Council elects the President and Vice President among the Council members with absolute majority.

The student representative's term of duty in the Council is one year. The other members' term of office is four years. The members have a term limit of two terms (totaling eight years). The Higher Education Quality Council shall convene with at least two-third of the

total number of members and shall take decisions by an absolute majority of the total number of members.

The Higher Education Quality Council President and Vice President are appointed on a full-time basis and deemed on leave without pay from their affiliated institutions during their term in office. When their term in office ends or when they leave the office before the end of their term, they are entitled to return to their cadre without any requirement for extra proceedings. Subsequent to the end of their term, the members are paid the salaries of their permanent post as of the payday of the month following the date they reassume their duty. The Higher Education Quality Council President and Vice President are not allowed to work for any public or private organization, with or without pay, except in the case of exceptional temporary duties assigned by the Council of Ministers during their term in office.

The Higher Education Quality Council's organizational structure consists of the Quality Council and the General Secretariat. The General Secretariat consists of the institutional evaluation and external evaluation organizations registry unit, publicity and stakeholder relations unit and administrative services unit.

The revenues of the Higher Education Quality Council consist of:

- a. The aids from the government budget
- b. Operating revenues
- c. Donations and grants
- d. Other revenues

The General Secretariat personnel is subject to the Law No. 657.

The payments determined as part of financial and social rights to the Higher Education Quality Council President, Higher Education Quality Council Vice President and Higher Education Quality Council Secretary General are in the framework of same principles and procedures with the payments determined for the Council of Higher Education Vice President, Council of Higher Education Executive Board members and Inter-University Council Secretary General respectively. Due to this clause, these payments will be considered legally equivalent to the payments made to the personnel designated as their equivalent and they shall not be subject to taxes or any other legal deductions if the corresponding payments to their equivalents are not subject to such deductions. With the exception of the President and the Vice President, per diem payments to the Higher Education Quality Council members shall be executed in the framework of the same methods and principles with Council of Higher Education General Board members.

Civil servants employed as staff within the senior offices of the Council of Higher Education and higher education institutions, with the consent and approval of their institutions, can be appointed to serve the Higher Education Quality Council by the Higher Education Quality Council President on condition that the time period of each such appointment shall not exceed two years.

The working procedures and principles of the Higher Education Quality Council as well as the procedures and principles regarding the establishment of quality control systems in higher education institutions, the processes of external and internal evaluations, quality committees to be created within higher education institutions, obtainment of quality control evaluation certificates, the work of the General Secretariat and the responsibilities and missions of units formed within the General Secretariat shall be determined by the regulations issued by the Higher Education Quality Council.