



هيئة اعتماد مؤسسات التعليم العالي وضمان جودتها
Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions

Version of this Law Includes all Amendments Up Until 25/11/2018

**Law of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions
No. (20) for the year 2007**

Article (1):

This law shall be called the Law of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions for the year 2007 and shall come into effect sixty days after the date of its publication in the Official Newspaper.

Article (2):

The following words and phrases, wherever stated in this Law, shall have the meanings assigned to them below unless the context indicates otherwise:

Higher education: education of a minimum of one academic year after the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent.

Institutions of Higher Education: Institutions that are in charge of higher education, whether they are universities, colleges or community colleges or other.

The Commission: The Higher Education Institutions Accreditation Commission and its Quality Assurance established in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The Council: The Council for the commission, established in accordance with the provisions of this Law. **The President:** The President of the Council.

Article 3:

(a) A body shall be established in the Kingdom to be called the Higher Education Accreditation Commission and its quality assurance. It shall have a juridical status with financial and administrative independence. In this capacity, it shall have the right to possess movable and immovable property and shall take all necessary legal actions to achieve its objectives, including the conclusion of contracts and the acceptance of aid, donations, grants, gifts and wills and have the right to litigation and to give them in judicial proceedings to the public prosecutor.

(b) The Commission shall be linked to the Prime Minister.

Article 4: The Commission aims to:

- a.** Improve the quality of higher education in the Kingdom and ensure the quality of its outcomes using standards of measurement that comply with international standards.
- b.** Encourage institutions of higher education to open up and interact with universities, distinguished scientific research institutions and commissions of international accreditation and quality assurance.

- c. To urge higher education institutions to maintain their excellence in facing challenges to achieve a high level of competitiveness, knowledge transfer and capacity building.**
- d. To assume the role of leadership practices, excellence and creativity based on mutual participatory concept between the public and private sectors to align the outcomes of higher education with the needs of the labor market.**
- e. To promote the culture of quality and enhance its values and develop the practice of its own activities.**

Article 5:

(a) The Council of Ministers shall, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister, form a Council called the Council of the Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions and its quality assurance of seven members, who shall be selected as follows:

- 1. The President shall be a full-time professor appointed by a Royal Decree.**
- 2. The Vice-President shall be appointed as a full-time professor.**
- 3. Five members from the academic, business and service sectors as shown below:**
 - Two full-time members of higher education institutions in the Kingdom at the rank of professor.
 - Three highly qualified PhD holders with the proper expertise and competence.

(b) A member of the Council shall be:

- 1. A Jordanian national.**
- 2. Full civil status.**
- 3. Not convicted of a felony or misdemeanor.**

(c) The financial rights of the President, his deputy and the full-time members of the Council shall be specified for each in their appointment decision.

(d) In the case of appointing members of the Commission's full-time council of professors working in Jordanian universities, their term of service in the Council shall be regarded as an ongoing service to cover all their financial and academic privileges.

(e) The two full-time members provided for in item (3) of paragraph (a) of this Article shall be regarded as assistants to the President and their technical and administrative duties shall be determined by a decision issued by the President to this end.

Article 6:

(a) The term of the Council Presidency and its membership shall be four years renewable once only. If the position of the President or his deputy or any member of the Council becomes vacant for any reason, the Council of Ministers shall appoint a replacement for the remaining term of his membership in the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of the said law.

(b) In the first Council formed in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the Vice-President and two other members shall be appointed for two years and the others for four years.

- (c)** The President and the members of the Council shall take the following oath before the Prime Minister: I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the King and the Homeland and to respect the laws and regulations in force and to perform the duties and duties entrusted to me with honor, honesty and loyalty.

Article 7:

The Council shall have the following functions and jurisdiction:

- (a)** To set standards for the accreditation, quality assurance, ranking and their periodic review.
- (b)** To monitor the compliance of institutions of higher education with the laws, regulations and instructions related to the accreditation standards, its quality assurance and ranking.
- (c)** To design a national framework for the classification of the levels of qualifications and certificates associated with higher education programs, public education and vocational and technical training in accordance with a specific regulation to that end.
- (d)** Accreditation of higher education institutions as well as accreditation of their academic programs.
- (e)** Evaluation of higher education institutions and the quality of their academic and professional programs and outcomes and the publication of their findings as they deem appropriate.
- (f)** Gather information and conduct studies and research on the quality of higher education and the quality of its outcomes.
- (g)** Approve the reports prepared by the president or committees and issue studies, research and publications related to the activities of the Commission.
- (h)** Ensure that higher education institutions conduct self-evaluation of their programs and their outcomes.
- (i)** Determine the allowance paid by the Higher Education Institution in return for the Council's general and private approval, annual follow-up, quality assurance certificates and ranking in return for providing any services to the Commission upon request in accordance with the functions and jurisdiction of the Council.
- (j)** Approve the draft annual budget of the Commission and submit it to the Council of Ministers for approval.
- (k)** Establish a national testing center whose functions and duties shall be determined by a system issued to this end.
- (l)** Establish centers related to the Commission's scope of work, which shall determine its functions and all other related matters in accordance with a system issued to this end.
- (m)** Grant certificate of quality assurance to institutions of higher education at the level of the institution and at the level of academic programs.
- (n)** Non-Jordanian higher education institutions outside the Kingdom shall be granted public and private accreditation upon request and shall be granted a certificate of quality assurance at the level of the institution and at the level of the academic programs in accordance with the instructions issued by the Council to this end.
- (o)** Issue the instructions, standards and principles relating to the Commission's scope of work and activities.
- (p)** Form the committees necessary to assist him in carrying out his duties and determine their jurisdiction.
- (q)** Propose draft legislations necessary for the work of the Commission.

Article 8:

The Council shall meet at the invitation of the President or his Deputy in the event of his absence whenever the need arises, and its meeting shall be legal in the presence of the majority of his members, including the president or his deputy.

Article 9:

(a) The President is the Executive Chairman of the Commission and represents it to third parties and to all parties. The President shall assume the following duties and jurisdiction:

1. Implement the decisions of the Council.
2. Supervise the executive body of the Commission and follow up its technical, financial and administrative affairs and coordinate its activities and the activities of any relevant party.
3. Propose the organizational structure of the executive body of the Commission and work to provide the human cadres and technical manpower necessary for the Commission to perform its tasks and submit it to the Council for approval.
4. Signe contracts and agreements approved by the Council.
5. Prepare the draft annual budget of the Commission and its balance sheet and final financial statements and submit them to the Council for approval.
6. Prepare the annual report on the functions of the Commission and submit it to the Council for approval.
7. Any other functions or duties delegated by the Council.

Article 10:

(a) The President, his deputy or any one of the members of the Council shall not be an owner, shareholder, nor a beneficiary in any higher education institution directly or indirectly throughout his term of office or membership in the Council for a period of three years after the date of the end of the Presidency or council membership. This provision shall apply to their spouses, children and relatives up to the second degree, and each of them shall submit a written declaration before commencing his duties, and shall undertake to inform the Council of any such benefits arising during such period, subject to legal liability.

(b) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of this Article, the benefits contained therein shall not include the material and academic rights of the members of the Council in their universities of origin, their spouses, their children and their relatives up to the second degree in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d) of Article 5 of this Law.

Article 11:

(a) The president or his deputy or the members of the council and all the employees of the Commission, subject to the legal liability, shall not disclose any confidential information related to the Commission obtained by virtue of their work or during their performance of duties in accordance with the provisions of this law or the use of such information for personal purposes or benefits.

(b) The Council shall determine confidential information.

Article 12:

The provisions of the civil service system shall be applied to the employees of the executive body of the Commission. To this end, the Council shall exercise the powers of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister. The President shall

exercise the powers of the Minister. The Vice - President shall exercise the powers of the Secretary - General provided for in that Law.

Article 13:

- (a) Each higher education institution shall be committed to an annual membership fee.**
- (b) The amount of the fee of each higher education institution shall be determined in the budget of the Commission provided for in paragraph (a) of this Article under a special regulation issued for this purpose.**

Article 14:

(a) The Council may impose any of the penalties and take any of the measures set forth below to the institutions of higher education that violate any of the provisions of this law or the regulations and instructions issued accordingly or the standards or rules issued by it.

1. The notification that the violation must be removed within a period determined by the Council if that is required.
2. The warning that the violation must be removed within a period determined by the Council if that is required.
3. A fine determined by the Council commensurate with the gravity of the violation.
4. Suspension of acceptance in one or more major fields of specialization.
5. Recommendation to the Higher Education Council by suspending admission to institutions of higher education permanently or temporarily.
6. Cancellation of accreditation of one or more major fields of specialization.
7. Recommendation to the Council of Higher Education to cancel the license of one or more fields of specialization.
8. Recommendation to the Higher Education Council to close the Higher Education Institution temporarily or permanently.
9. Recommendation to the Higher Education Council the formation of a committee to supervise the institutions of higher education immediately until the causes of the violation are removed and the tasks and powers of this committee shall be defined by the decision of its formation.

(b) Two or more of the penalties provided for in paragraph (a) of this Article may be combined.

Article 15:

The Commission shall publish an annual report on the current situation of higher education institutions and publish it.

Article 16:

- (a) The Commission shall have an independent budget and its financial year shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the 31st day of December of the same year.**
- (b) The financial resources of the Commission shall consist of the following:**
 1. General and private appropriations, quality assurance, supervision, follow-up, ranking and any other accreditation services provided by the Commission to higher education institutions inside or outside the Kingdom.
 2. The membership fees of each higher education institution in the Commission shall be provided for in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

3. Donations and grants submitted to it by the various authorities and institutions shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.
4. Financial support, which is allotted for it shall be monitored by the State Budget Law.
5. Fines collected from institutions of higher education in accordance with the provisions of this law.

(c) The annual surplus of the Commission's funds shall be transferred to the General Treasury.

Article 17:

The Commission shall enjoy all privileges, exemptions and facilities granted to ministries and government departments.

Article 18:

Any provisions of any other legislation inconsistent with the provisions of this law shall not apply, provided that the regulations and instructions issued under the Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research relating to the Council of Accreditation shall remain in effect until they are canceled, amended or replaced by another within one year from the date of entry into the force of this Law.

Article 19:

The Council of Ministers shall issue the necessary regulations to implement the provisions of this Law.

Article 20:

The Prime Minister and the Ministers are responsible for implementing the provisions of this law.