

Islamic Republic of Iran

Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education

Supreme Planning Council of Medical Sciences

Educational regulations for non-Iranian students (International Students)

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Approved by the 80th meeting of the Supreme Planning Council of Medical Sciences dated 2021-08-01

Educational regulations for non-Iranian students (International Students) are approved at the 80th meeting of the Supreme Planning Council of Medical Sciences dated 2021-08-01, and It is valid for non-Iranian students who start their studies in medical sciences universities in Iran from October of the academic year 2021-2022 onwards. The educational council of the university can adjust the academic status of the students entering the years before the academic year 2021-2022 with the provisions of this regulation and act accordingly.

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Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education

And the head of Supreme Planning Council of Medical Sciences

Introduction

In line with the implementation of the general policies of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution regarding the recruitment of non-Iranian students and transformation programs in the education of medical sciences for the internationalization of universities of medical sciences, for more than a decade, the universities of medical sciences in the country have been accepting and training non-Iranian students. Each university has provided regulations for the admission and education of these students according to its conditions and in many cases, the rules and regulations of Iranian students have been cited but some regulations related to Iranian students do not meet the needs of international students. The use of a common and comprehensive educational regulation, while increasing the status and educational prestige of the country's universities at the international level, will result in the optimal use of existing capacities to improve the quality of education and research of non-Iranian students at the field / level (Associate degree, BSc, MS, Doctor of Medicine, Speciality, Dentistry, Pharmacology).

The purpose of providing this regulation is to organize the academic affairs of non-Iranian students studying in universities of medical sciences in order to implement educational programs in a coordinated and integrated manner at the level of all universities of medical sciences in the country by determining the necessary legal frameworks. This regulation includes a set of educational rules and regulations related to the admission, training and graduation or non-continuation of non-Iranian students in all academic levels, with the aim of creating coordination in the educational activities of the country's medical sciences universities with the approach of facilitating and accelerating the educational course of non-Iranian students and improving the quality of education.

It is necessary to pay attention to the following items.

- 1) In providing this regulation, regulations for Iranian students of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education as well as educational regulations for foreign students in some leading universities in international education have been used.
- 2) In this regulation, only the principles are mentioned, and what includes in the educational regulations of Iranian students is the responsibility of the educational council of the universities, and in this regulation it is also the responsibility of the university educational council to decide it. Other things that are not mentioned in this regulation are according to the provisions of the educational regulations of Iranian students who are inside the country.
- 3) It is necessary for universities of medical sciences that have non-Iranian students to familiarize them with the important provisions of this regulation from the beginning of their studies.

Chapter 1

General Items

Article 1- Definitions: The following definitions are accepted in this regulation.

1-1- University: All universities of medical sciences of the country and institutions of higher education of medical sciences that have non-Iranian students are called “university”.

2-1- Faculty: A faculty is a unit of a university that operates in a certain category of medical sciences. Such as medical faculty, nursing faculty, etc.

3-1- Educational group: The educational group is a unit of a faculty or a university that is active in a specific field or similar field, such as children group, anatomy group, etc.

4-1- Educational status: “Undergraduate” includes associate degree, BSc, doctor of medicine, MBBS, BDS and “Postgraduate” includes MS and speciality .

5-1- Student: In all parts of this regulation, a student means a non-Iranian student.

Chapter 2

Conditions of universities and faculties accepting students

Article 2- Universities in all academic levels and faculties in associate and bachelor degrees can accept and attract non-Iranian students and they must have the following conditions:

1-2- having an international vice-chancellery or independent management of international affairs.

2-2- Having the conditions of institutional accreditation and program accreditation.

3-2- The website of the university or faculty should be bilingual (Farsi & English)

4-2- If the university offers some parts of the educational units in a virtual way, it must have a suitable structure for providing virtual education approved by the Ministry of Health.

5-2- Universities and faculties can accept international students only in fields that have permission to accept Iranian students.

Article 3- Universities and faculties that do not have the main criteria for accepting international students in accordance with the provisions in Article 2 or in a specific field that they do not have the criteria for accepting students in that field/course, can accept students in the form of inter-university cooperation with other universities in the study area and after the approval of the Educational vice-chancellery of Health Ministry.

Article 4- All universities/faculties are required to do the following process in order to accept international students in each field/level:

1-4- Providing the curriculum of that field / level in English language: The provided educational program must match 80% with the educational program currently being implemented for Iranian students or the educational program being implemented for international students in other universities.

2-4- Obtaining a student acceptance permission from the administration committee: Approving the educational program, the existence of a suitable educational environment and determining the student acceptance capacity is the responsibility of administration committee.

3-4- Annual acceptance capacity: The admission capacity is a maximum of 20% of the capacity of each field/section for undergraduate courses and 50% of capacity of each field/section for postgraduate courses approved to Iranian students.

Chapter 3

Entry and registration conditions

Article 5- admission conditions:

1-5- Having non-Iranian citizenship.

2-5- Having specific conditions (physical / mental) to enter any field / level according to the conditions listed in the domestic exams booklet.

3-5- Education for students will be only in Farsi or English, but conversational and writing skills in English are required for all students.

1-3-5- English language: Having an English language certificate at the time of registration. For undergraduate, academic IELTS: minimum score = 5.5, TOEFL IBT: minimum score = 69, TOEFL BPT: minimum score: 525 and for postgraduate, academic IELTS: minimum score = 6, TOEFL IBT: minimum score = 69 and TOEFL BPT: minimum score = 525.

2-3-5- Farsi language: students in fields that are related to the patient (such as MD and DDS) and according to their curriculum, need to attend Farsi language courses and acquire the necessary abilities. They must acquire these abilities before starting the internship courses.

4-5- Completing the admission application forms related to the applicant's desired university.

5-5- Providing the necessary documents according to the requested field / level and as follows:

- Educational documents in which the field of study, graduation date, the name of the place of study and the applicant's marks are mentioned.
- Passport with at least 6 month expiry date.
- New photo.
- Motivation letter: this letter must be written in English by applicant and it is compulsory for postgraduate students.
- Recommendation letter: It must be provided by at least 2 of applicant's professors and it's compulsory for postgraduate students.

- CV: It is compulsory for postgraduate students.

Article 6- The way of admission:

1-6- Student can start studying when he/she obtains a student visa, which is issued at the request of the relevant university and for the purpose of the student's studies in that university.

Note: Definite acceptance of the student is subject to can be done according to the uploading of documents in SAORG website and confirmation of documents by the consular affairs of ministry of health. After the approval of this ministry in SAORG, the steps of student entry and obtaining a visa can be done.

Article 7- Tuition fees:

1-7- The method of obtaining tuition fees is based on financial rules for international students in an annual or semestral system, which has been approved by the administrative committee of university.

2-7- Tuition fees are based on current currencies approved by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and It is forbidden to charge Riyal tuition fee from students.

3-7- Based on the cost of student education, the minimum annual tuition fee for different levels is predicted as follows and universities are obliged to comply with the minimum price.

- Associate degree, bachelor and postgraduate courses = 2000 Dollars
- Medical degree, dentistry, Pharmacology, MBBS and BDS = 3000 Dollars
- Specialty courses (PH.D.) = 4000 Dollars

Note 1: According to universities' policies, they can discount up to 25% of tuition fees to applicants for undergraduate and master courses after the approval of that university.

Note 2: The maximum of annual tuition fee is four times the minimum of annual tuition fee (Paragraph 3-7)

Note 3: The minimum annual tuition fee and the maximum of receiving tuition fee, will be annually notified by the educational vice-chancellery of ministry of health.

Chapter 4

Educational system and rules

Article 8- Educational system:

1-8- The higher education system in Iran is semester-based for all levels and fields so each student is required to register and take the lesson units for each semester.

2-8- Each academic year consists of 2 academic semesters and, if necessary and having the conditions and facilities, 1 summer semester. Each academic year consists of 17 educational weeks and the summer semester is equal to 6 educational weeks.

Note: Changing the field of international students to lower levels in the fields of the sub-group of medical sciences can be done based on the student's request or due to exclusion from education because of educational regulations with the agreement of the university / faculty.

3-8- The educational system can be face-to-face or combined (face to face – virtual) and universities can offer a part of their theoretical education units in virtual form.

4-8- If a student is absent for 3 sessions for an educational unit during a semester, he is given a written caution and If he is absent for 4 sessions, that educational unit will be deleted.

Article 9- Educational units and duration of study:

1-9- In each academic semester, the student must choose at least 12 and in maximum 20 educational units in the undergraduate level, and at least 8 and in maximum 14 educational units in the postgraduate level.

2-9- At the bachelor level, if the average of student's marks in one academic semester is at least 16, he / she can choose up to 24 educational units in the next semester.

3-9- In cases that the student has a maximum of 24 educational units remaining, If they are not conditioned (i.e. Mashroot) in their previous semester, they can take all those units (24 educational units) in that semester with the approval of the faculty.

4-9- In the summer period (summer semester), the student is not allowed to take more than 8 educational units at the undergraduate level and 6 educational units at the postgraduate level.

Article 10- Deleting and adding the courses

1-10- In each academic semester, up to two weeks after the beginning of the semester, the student can delete a maximum of two taken courses or take 2 other courses. Or they replace their 2 taken courses with 2 other courses. Provided that the number of taken educational units by them does not exceed the limitation in Article 9.

2-10- In case of emergency, the student can delete 2 courses for the theoretical and practical courses with the approval of the relevant educational group up to 3 weeks before the end of the academic year, provided that firstly, the absence of the student in that course does not exceed the permitted limitation and secondly, the number of remaining units must not be fewer than 12 units.

3-10- Deleting all the taken courses in a semester, maximum up to the beginning of that semester's final exams, is allowed only if, according to the educational council of faculty, the student is not able to continue studying in that semester. In this case, that semester will be considered as a study leave (study vacation) for the student. The educational council of faculty can decide if this study leave can be included in the student's permitted academic years or not.

Note: It is possible to delete all the taken courses in the summer period (semester) up to the beginning of exams of that period with the approval of the educational council of faculty.

Article 11- Evaluation of student academic progress

1-11- If a student takes a course after failing in that course and gets mark 15 or higher, their failing mark will be deleted and will not be included in the average of the semester and the overall average of the student.

Note: The number of allowed times to use this article at associate degree level is one time, bachelor degree two times, and general PH.D. four times.

2-11- In associate degree, bachelor and general PH.D. levels, if the average of each semester is fewer than 11, and in master's and speciality levels, if the average of each semester is fewer than 14, they are considered as conditioned semester (i.e. Mashroot).

3-11- A student who is conditioned for 3 academic semesters, either consecutively or alternately in the associate degree level, and in the bachelor and general PH.D. levels for 4 consecutive semesters or 5 alternate semesters, will be banned from continuing their studies and If the average in total of units that they pass is at least 10, according to the relevant instructions they can change their field at the lower level.

Article 12- Language of exams

1-12- The exams must be in the same language as stated in the conditions listed on the university's website.

2-12- If the exam is given in Persian and English, the student can choose the language of the exam.

3-12- Non-Persian speaking students at any academic level who participate in the Persian language exam can use 25% extra time to take this exam.

4-12- If one or more subjects are not taught according to the curriculum proposed by universities for international students, the questions of those subjects in the comprehensive exam will be removed from the evaluation of international students.

5-12- For non-Iranian students, the maximum number of allowed times to participate in the comprehensive exams of basic sciences and pre-internship is 4 times and the comprehensive exam of the speciality level (PH.D.) is 3 times.

Article 13- Student transfer

1-13- Transfer means changing the student's place of study from one university to another university in the same academic field/level.

2-13- It is forbidden to transfer students from one university to another within Iran.

3-13- Transferring students from universities outside Iran to universities inside Iran is prohibited but a student can apply to study in a university inside Iran as a new applicant.

Note: In case of accepting the student as a new applicant, the student can apply for admission of some units passed in the previous university according to Article 16 of this regulation.

4-13- There is no problem in transferring a student from one faculty to another faculty inside the same university if the university agrees.

5-13- Requesting for a transfer from a university from a domestic university to a foreign university is possible if the foreign university accepts, so in this case, the transfer of student depends on the following conditions:

1-5-13- The continuation of the applicant's studies in the domestic university must not be prohibited in terms of educational and disciplinary regulations.

2-5-13- The applicant has to pass at least two semesters of their educational courses in the domestic university.

3-5-13- The remaining units of the student for the destination university should be at least half of the total of units at the level.

4-5-13- The average of marks for the units passed by the applicant must be at least 12.

5-5-13- The student must not have any financial debt to the university.

6-5-13- The student must repay all the scholarship fees received during their studies before the transfer.

7-5-13- The student's certificate is issued by the destination university.

Article 14- How a student can study in another university as a guest

1-14- If all the consular affairs are observed, student can change their place of study temporarily and for a certain period with the agreement of the first university and the destination university inside Iran.

2-14- In order to be a guest in foreign universities, in addition to the agreement of the first and destination university, the conformation for the validity of the destination university is necessary.

3-14- If a student wants to be as a guest at another university, they must pass at least one semester at the first university.

4-14- Before becoming a guest, the student is obliged to pay the first university all financial fees until the end of the guest period.

5-14- The number of units that the student has taken as a guest in one or more universities must not exceed 40% of the total of units at the level.

6-14- A student who wants to be a guest is required to submit their guest request along with their academic profile and the name of the destination university to the first university at least one month before the start of the academic semester.

7-14- The student certificate of guest student for completion of study is issued only by the first university.

Article 15- Changing the field

1-15- During their academic period, a student can change their field to another field in the same university if they meet the following conditions and if it is approved by the university:

1-1-15- The continuation of the applicant's studies in the previous field must not be prohibited in terms of educational regulations.

2-1-15- The student must have the conditions for studying in the new field in accordance with the conditions set in the educational program of the relevant field.

3-1-15- She must pass at least one academic semester and a maximum one third of the total of units at the level.

4-1-15- if the university has the capacity to accept the requested field.

2-15- A student can change their major only once during their studies.

3-15- Applicants who wants to change majors must submit their application along with the necessary documents to the university at least 8 weeks before the start of the academic semester.

4-15- If a student registers in a new field, they can no longer study in the previous field.

5-15- The units that the student has passed in the previous field can be checked and equated in the educational group of new field.

Article 16- Accepting the educational units

1-16- Applying for the acceptance of passed units in another university is related to the rules of that university.

2-16- Equation and acceptance of units that the student has already passed in universities or other educational levels is allowed by observing the following conditions:

1-2-16- The applicant's previous university and field of study must be approved by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education or the Ministry of Science.

2-2-16- The educational content of the passed units must be at least 80% similar (in terms of contents) to the units of the new field and the score of each unit must be at least 12.

3-2-16- The previous university approves the student's original educational documents along with the documents of passed units.

4-2-16- At maximum 5 years passes since the end of that academic period.

5-2-16- Equation of specialized units in the same level or from higher to lower levels is possible.

3-16- Accepted units are mentioned in the student's marks card and their marks are included in the calculation of the overall average.

4-16- The student must pay the fee for the evaluation of the units to the destination university before applying for this evaluation for admission to the destination university.

5-16- For every 20 accepted units, one academic semester is reduced from the maximum of period of student's study.

Chapter 5

Finishing the study

Article 17- Finishing the study process: The student's educational process ends with one of the methods of graduation, withdrawal from study, and expulsion from study. In any case, at the end of the study, the student can request an official academic marks report if they pay the full financial fees.

Article 18- Graduation

1-18- A student who completes all the units / courses according to the university program is considered a graduate.

2-18- At the time of graduation, the title of level and field mentioned in the certificate is exactly the same title of field of study that the student was enrolled in and approved by the university.

3-18- The use of similar titles that are used in different countries is allowed only if it is in parentheses next to the original title.

4-18- Certificates are issued by the university in both English and Farsi languages.

5-18- When the university presents the certificate to the student, the student is obligated to sign a piece of paper that is written in it “to use this certificate for professional activities in Iran, you need to obtain the necessary permits”.

Article 19- withdrawal from study.

1-19- A student who wants to withdraw from study must submit their request to the university. However, the student can cancel their withdrawal request only once and up to the one month before the end of the same semester and that semester is only considered as a study leave for them so they are not allowed to study in that semester.

2-19- If a student intends to return to their previous field after withdrawing from the study, it is possible to return only once and if the following conditions are observed:

1-2-19- From the time of study withdrawal to the time of return to the study must not be more than one year.

2-2-19- Submitting the payment receipt of full financial fees of previous educational period.

3-2-19- paying the tuition fees for one year from the time of returning to study.

4-2-19- Non-Iranian scholarship students will not be allowed to study again as scholarship student if they withdraw from their study, however they can continue their study if they pay the tuition fees for all educational units.

5-2-19- University approval.

Article 20- expulsion from study

1-20- A student's request to return to study after being expelled can only be debated once by the university council.