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Degree Regulations of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

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The key legislation, as amended, governing these Degree Regulations consists of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (932/2014), the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences (1129/2014), the Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences (1440/2014), the Act on the Legal Protection Board for Students (956/2011), the Aliens Act (301/2004), the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (424/2003) and the EU's Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION..... | 5 |
| Section 1 Introduction..... | 5 |
| Section 2 Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Ltd | 5 |
| Section 3 Studies leading to a degree | 5 |
| Section 3a Commissioned education | 6 |
| Section 4 Studies that do not lead to a degree | 7 |
| Section 4a Open university of applied sciences education | 7 |
| Section 4b Specialisation studies..... | 8 |
| Section 4c Courses preparing immigrants for university of applied sciences studies..... | 9 |
| Section 4d Continuing studies..... | 9 |
| 2 STUDENT SELECTIONS AND ADMISSION | 9 |
| Section 5 Preparation and decision-making..... | 9 |
| Section 6 Selection of degree students | 9 |
| Section 7 Admission as a transfer student..... | 10 |
| Section 8 Transfer from one degree programme to another | 11 |
| Section 9 Admission to a professional major subject | 12 |
| Section 10 Change of professional major subject..... | 12 |
| 3 ENROLMENT AND RIGHT TO STUDY | 12 |
| Section 11 Academic year | 12 |
| Section 12 Period of the right to study | 12 |
| Section 13 Registration as an attending or non-attending student | 13 |
| Section 14 Rights of attending students | 14 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Section 15 Rights and obligations of non-attending students..... | 14 |
| Section 16 Right of absence of students who have accepted a study place for studies beginning on or after 1 August 2015..... | 14 |
| Section 17 Right of absence of students who accepted a study place for studies that began before 1 August 2015..... | 15 |
| Section 18 Discretionary extension period..... | 15 |
| Section 19 Discontinuation of the right to study..... | 17 |
| Section 20 Regranting the right to study after a student neglects to register for the academic year or to pay the tuition fee for the academic year or after they resign..... | 17 |
| Section 21 Regranting the right to study after the expiry of the period of the right to study or a discretionary extension period..... | 18 |
| Section 22 Special regulations concerning the right to study in the field of health care and social services..... | 19 |
| Section 22a Revocation and reinstatement of the right to study..... | 19 |
| Section 22 b Suspension of the right to study..... | 20 |
| Section 23 Resigning from Metropolia..... | 21 |
| Section 24 Tuition fees and the scholarship system..... | 21 |
| Section 24a Payment of the tuition fee..... | 22 |
| Section 24b Scholarship system for students who began their studies between 1 August 2017 and 31 December 2018..... | 22 |
| Section 24c Scholarship system for students who began their studies on or after 1 January 2019..... | 23 |
| Section 24d Scholarship system for students who began their studies on or after 1 August 2024..... | 24 |
| Section 24e Early Bird discount..... | 24 |
| Section 24f Scholarship based on humanitarian reasons..... | 24 |
| 4 COMPLETION OF STUDIES..... | 25 |
| Section 25 Curricula..... | 25 |
| Section 26 Student's individual study plan (ISP)..... | 26 |
| Section 27 Recognition of prior learning (RPL)..... | 26 |
| Section 28 Exchange studies..... | 28 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Section 28a Admission as an exchange student | 28 |
| Section 28b Accreditation of studies completed during an international student exchange | 29 |
| Section 29 Registration for a course | 30 |
| Section 30 Attending teaching and guidance sessions | 31 |
| Section 31 Thesis and maturity test..... | 31 |
| Section 32 Language proficiency..... | 34 |
| Section 33 Assessment of course performance..... | 34 |
| Section 34 Retaking exams and raising grades | 36 |
| Section 35 Rectification requests and appeals | 36 |
| Section 36 Expiry of studies | 37 |
| Section 37 Degree certificates..... | 37 |
| 5 OTHER REGULATIONS | 38 |
| Section 38 Accessible learning and operating environment..... | 38 |
| Section 39 Safety and order | 38 |
| Section 40 Misconduct | 39 |
| Section 41 Providing information to the students | 39 |
| 6 ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DEGREE REGULATIONS..... | 40 |

1 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

Section 1 Introduction

These Degree Regulations of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Ltd set forth internal regulations and guidelines for executing its educational provision as defined in the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (932/2014; ammattikorkeakoululaki) and the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences (1129/2014; valtioneuvoston asetus ammattikorkeakouluista).

The Degree Regulations are approved by the President of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Ltd. The Degree Regulations will be supplemented with more detailed guidelines, the preparation, updating and approval of which will be specified separately by the Management Group.

Section 2 Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Ltd

Under a licence issued on 1 January 2015 (decision by the Finnish Government on 11 December 2014), Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (hereinafter “Metropolia”) has been granted educational provisions for organising education leading to a degree. The educational provisions, their details and their qualification titles are presented in appendix 1.

The teaching language at Metropolia is Finnish, but teaching can be arranged in other languages in accordance with the curricula. English-language degree programmes may include courses or modules in Finnish that support the student’s integration into the Finnish labour market.

Section 3 Studies leading to a degree

Metropolia enables students to complete Bachelor’s degrees and Master’s degrees under the educational provisions specified in the operating licence. Tuition under the educational provisions is provided in accordance with the confirmed curricula. The curricula define the structure, competence goals and timetable for the studies.

The studies leading to a UAS Bachelor’s degree consist of basic and professional studies, elective studies, a work placement to promote professional skills and a final thesis. In accordance with section 4 of the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences, the aim of the studies is that degree holders:

- 1) possess comprehensive and practically oriented basic knowledge and competence and a theoretical basis allowing them to work as experts in their own field;
- 2) are able to follow developments in their own professional field and contribute to its progress;

- 3) are in a position to develop their own professional competence and to engage in lifelong learning;
- 4) possess adequate communication and language skills for tasks in their own field and for international activities and cooperation.

Studies leading to a Bachelor's degree include a *work placement to promote professional skills*, the scope of which is at least 30 credit points in accordance with section 3 of the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences.

Education leading to a UAS Master's degree consists of advanced professional studies, elective studies and a thesis. In accordance with section 5 of the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences, the aim of the studies leading to a Master's degree is to ensure that degree holders:

- 1) possess comprehensive and in-depth knowledge and the required theoretical competence allowing them to work in demanding expert and management tasks involving the development of professional life;
- 2) have in-depth understanding of their own professional field, their role in the workplace and in society at large and the ability to follow and analyse developments in research and professional practices in their field;
- 3) have the ability to engage in lifelong learning and continuous development of their own professional competence;
- 4) possess good communication and language skills for tasks in their own field and for international activities and cooperation.

The scope of a UAS Bachelor's degree at Metropolia is 210, 240 or 270 credit points and the scope of studies leading to a UAS Master's degree is 60 or 90 credit points, in accordance with the Annex to the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences and the educational provisions of Metropolia. The scope of studies leading to a UAS Master's degree that are arranged through international collaboration may amount to 120 credit points. The scope of a degree may only be exceeded on the basis of an approved individual study plan (ISP).

Section 3a Commissioned education

In accordance with section 13 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, Metropolia may arrange degree studies which are customised for a group of students and which have been commissioned and paid for by the Finnish State, another state, an international organisation, a Finnish or foreign public corporation, a foundation or a private corporation. A separate agreement is concluded for commissioned education between the commissioning party and the provider of the education.

Tuition provided in the form of commissioned education must relate to a field of education specified in the operating licence of the university of applied sciences. The provision of commissioned education may not undermine the undergraduate and graduate education provided by the university of applied sciences. The university of applied sciences may not provide commissioned education if it is apparent that the purpose of commissioning such studies is to allow the participants to circumvent the student selection process in accordance with section 28.

The university of applied sciences must charge a fee for commissioned education covering at least the costs incurred from it. In accordance with section 13 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, the party which commissions the education is entitled to charge fees from participating students in accordance with the legislation of the country where the education is offered or in accordance with its own practices. However, the commissioning party may not charge fees from citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or from persons who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another party, nor from any family members of the above. Furthermore, the commissioning party may not charge fees from persons who, under the Aliens Act, have a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals, nor from any family members of the above. The Aliens Act is applied in the definition of persons regarded as family members.

Persons participating in commissioned education are subject to the provisions of sections 25–27, 33–40 and 57–61 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act. A student enrolled in commissioned education may use the same student services of Metropolia as degree students.

Section 4 Studies that do not lead to a degree

The provisions of these Degree Regulations are observed, as applicable, in studies not leading to a degree.

Section 4a Open university of applied sciences education

Open university of applied sciences ("open UAS") education is provided in accordance with the qualification requirements of the university of applied sciences. Studies included in a UAS Bachelor's degree or Master's degree, including a thesis, can be completed as open UAS studies. The teaching offering for such studies consists of study modules and courses specified separately by the university of applied sciences and available for a limited period. Students are usually accepted for the studies in the order of registration.

In some studies offered as open UAS education, certain requirements may be set with regard to

prior knowledge. Those applying for path studies at the open UAS may be given priority in accordance with the selection criteria that have been decided. The path studies in the open UAS are primarily intended for persons who have not participated in path studies earlier at Metropolia. Due to this criterion, the selections for the path studies may deviate from the order of registration, if necessary. In the open UAS path studies leading to a UAS Master's degree, no work experience is required after the completion of a UAS Bachelor's degree. If a path student later applies as a degree student for a UAS Master's degree, they are required to have at least two years of professional experience in the field of the degree after completing the degree that makes them eligible to apply.

Students participating in open UAS studies or separate studies organised in some other manner, as referred to in section 10 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, may be charged a maximum of 45 euros for each credit point included in the right to study (Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences, section 1). Degree students who have enrolled for attendance may not participate in Metropolia's open UAS studies. An exception to this rule are students who have transferred from studies in the open UAS to studies leading to a degree as well as students completing studies related to the recognition of professional qualifications and granting the right to engage in a profession. In these cases, the studies may overlap.

Section 4b Specialisation studies

Specialisation studies promote professional development and specialisation for holders of a higher education degree or those who possess similar competence.

The scope of specialisation studies is a minimum of 30 credit points. A certificate is issued for the completion of specialisation studies. Specialisation studies are subject to a fee that can amount to a maximum of 120 euros for each credit point (Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences, section 1).

Specialisation studies at Metropolia follow the same educational and studying principles and guidelines as those of degree education. Students participating in specialisation studies have access to the same student services of Metropolia as degree students. The Vice President of Education decides on the provision of specialisation studies based on a proposal by the director of school. A mutual planning group of the universities of applied sciences prepares the proposals for selection criteria and timetables and plans for the implementation of the application process. The person responsible for specialisation studies presents the planning group's proposals for selection criteria to the Vice President of Education, who decides on Metropolia's criteria for selecting the students. The application and student selection processes are carried out by the person responsible for the specialisation studies with support from the Student and Admission Services.

Section 4c Courses preparing immigrants for university of applied sciences studies

The free-of-charge courses preparing immigrants for UAS studies are organised with the purpose of providing them with the linguistic and other skills needed for studying at the university of applied sciences. The decision to provide courses preparing immigrants for UAS studies is made by the Vice President of Education upon a proposal by the responsible director of school. The Student and Admission Services coordinate the application and student selection process in cooperation with the contact persons for the courses preparing immigrants for UAS studies.

Section 4d Continuing studies

In addition to the aforementioned, Metropolia may also organise continuing studies that are provided separately. A separate agreement is concluded for continuing education between the commissioning party and the provider of the education.

2 STUDENT SELECTIONS AND ADMISSION

The provisions below apply to student selections and admission to education leading to a degree in accordance with section 28 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act. The guidelines concerning commissioned education (section 13 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act) are presented separately in section 3a.

Section 5 Preparation and decision-making

The student selections for studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's degree or a UAS Master's degree are held through the joint application process of the universities of applied sciences. Metropolia may use a separate selection process instead of the joint application process under exceptions laid down in the law (Universities of Applied Sciences Act, section 28a). Metropolia's Vice President of Education decides on the use of the joint application process or the separate application process. The decision is made based on a proposal by Metropolia's student selections steering group.

The selection criteria are decided on by Metropolia's Vice President of Education. The decision is made based on a proposal by Metropolia's student selections steering group. The student selections steering group issues selection criteria recommendations to support work on these criteria by the schools, which create their proposals for the selection criteria by commenting on the recommendations.

Section 6 Selection of degree students

The application and student selection processes are carried out in accordance with the selection criteria as well as the regulations, official guidelines and Metropolia's decisions concerning student selections. The Student and Admission Services, in cooperation with the schools, are responsible

for the application and student selection processes.

The Student and Admission Services are responsible for arranging the joint entrance examinations (UAS Bachelor's entrance examinations and UAS Exam), while the schools are responsible for Metropolia's other entrance examinations.

An applicant who is dissatisfied with a student selection decision may request, in writing, a rectification of a decision concerning student selections from Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee within 14 days of the announcement of the results.

An applicant who objects to a decision by Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court within 30 days of having been notified of the decision.

Section 7 Admission as a transfer student

In accordance with section 28 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, a transfer student is a student who has been accepted for studies leading to a higher education degree and whose right to study is transferred from one higher education institution to another, or within the same higher education institution from one field of education to another, as a result of which the degree title they are pursuing changes. Transfer students within the university of applied sciences may be selected separately from other transfer students.

At Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, transfer students are selected in the transfer application process, with the exception of transfers within Metropolia's Health Care and Social Services double degree from one degree title to another (from Paramedic to Registered Nurse, from Registered Public Health Nurse to Registered Nurse or from Registered Midwife to Registered Nurse), which takes place upon a separate decision made by the head of degree programme.

A student submitting an application in the transfer application process must have a valid right to study in their original higher education institution, as well as sufficient time remaining to complete the studies. In accordance with section 32 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, once a student accepts the new right to study offered in the transfer application, they lose the previous right to study on which the transfer was based.

The standard duration of the transfer student's degree is determined on the basis of the right to complete the degree granted in the transfer. All academic terms in which the student was enrolled as present or absent in the original higher education institution will count towards the period of the

right to study.

An applicant who is dissatisfied with a student selection decision may request, in writing, a rectification of a decision concerning student selections from Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee within 14 days of the announcement of the results.

An applicant who objects to a decision by Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court within 30 days of having been notified of the decision.

Section 8 Transfer from one degree programme to another

When a student transfers within the same higher education institution from one degree programme to another without a change in the degree or degree title pursued, they are not considered a transfer student, but instead the process is referred to as a transfer from one degree programme to another. A student must apply for a transfer from one degree programme to another if they wish to switch within Metropolia to another degree programme, with the exception of transfers within Metropolia's Health Care and Social Services double degree from one degree title to another (from Paramedic to Registered Nurse, from Registered Public Health Nurse to Registered Nurse or from Registered Midwife to Registered Nurse), which takes place upon a separate decision made by the head of degree programme. A transfer within a degree programme from one form of implementation to another (e.g. from daytime studies to multiform studies) or one specialisation option to another takes place upon a separate decision made by the head of degree programme.

A transfer from one degree programme to another can be applied for during application periods determined by Metropolia and in accordance with the instructions found in OMA. OMA is a web-based work and study application compiling the services used by Metropolia's staff and students. The decision is made by the dean responsible for the degree programme based on a proposal by the head of the degree programme.

An applicant who is dissatisfied with a decision concerning a transfer from one degree programme to another may request, in writing, a rectification of the decision from Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee within 14 days of having been informed of the decision.

An applicant who objects to a decision by Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court within 30 days of having been notified of the decision.

Section 9 Admission to a professional major subject

The head of degree programme decides on the student selections for the different professional major subjects for the different degrees. Studies for a professional major subject will be provided if a sufficient number of students can be admitted to it. The primary criteria for the selection are completed prior studies and success in these studies. Student selections for professional major subjects may not be appealed against.

Section 10 Change of professional major subject

A student in a degree programme may apply for a transfer from one professional major subject to another. The primary criteria for the selection are completed prior studies and success in these studies. The transfer from one professional major subject to another or from one campus to another does not require an internal transfer process. The head of degree programme decides on the change of professional major subject. An individual study plan (ISP) indicating the study modules and courses to be completed will be prepared for every student transferring from a professional major subject to another.

3 ENROLMENT AND RIGHT TO STUDY

Section 11 Academic year

Metropolia's academic year starts on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The academic year is divided into periods that are decided by the Vice President of Education.

Section 12 Period of the right to study

The right to study begins at the start of the academic term in which the student accepts the study place, or on another date specified by Metropolia. In accordance with section 30 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, students have the right to pursue studies leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a university of applied sciences in the manner laid down in the degree regulations and curriculum of the university of applied sciences.

Full-time students have the right to complete their studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in a period that exceeds their normative duration by one year. Metropolia may in special cases grant a student an extension period for completing their degree.

Metropolia must organise degree studies and study guidance in such a way that a full-time student can complete the studies in a period which is equivalent to their extent. Studies may also be com-

pleted over a period that is longer than their normative duration if the student is not a full-time student.

Section 13 Registration as an attending or non-attending student

An applicant who has been admitted as a student and accepts the study place must register in the manner required by Metropolia, after which they will be enrolled as a student. Students must make their first registration as attending or non-attending through the Opintopolku.fi service.

If a student who has accepted a study place does not register as attending, or register as non-attending based on the reasons stated in section 29 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act or section 16 of these Degree Regulations, the student will lose their right to study.

In the case of a student obliged to pay a tuition fee, the acceptance of a study place and registration as attending will become valid after the tuition fee for the academic term in question has been paid in full. If a student who has been accepted does not pay the tuition fee by the due date, they will be recorded as resigned on the grounds that the study place was not properly accepted and the registration is not valid.

Under the one-place-per-student principle specified in section 28c of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, students are committed to the study place they have been granted until the end of the first academic term. Students starting their education in the spring term must register as attending or non-attending only for the spring term when accepting their study place.

Degree students continuing their studies must register as attending or non-attending for every academic year between 1 May and 31 May through OMA. Students can change their registration for the spring term in OMA between 1 August and 15 December. In the case of a student obliged to pay a tuition fee, registration as attending will become valid after the tuition fee for the academic term in question has been paid in full. A student who neglects the obligation to register will lose their right to study, which will be decided on in accordance with Metropolia's timetable by the Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them, and the student will be recorded as resigned in the student administration system.

After the expiry of the registration period, a student may change their registration for an unexpected justified reason beyond the student's control. The Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them will decide on the change of registration based on an application submitted by the student, with consideration for regulations concerning the right of absence.

Only students completing studies leading to a degree have the legal right to register as non-attending. Metropolia will not separately organise studies that have changed or have been discontinued during the student's absence.

Section 14 Rights of attending students

Attending students are entitled to complete studies and receive student financial aid and meal subsidies as well as benefits related to membership of the student union. Attending students are also entitled to the services of the Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS). Only attending students may graduate.

Section 15 Rights and obligations of non-attending students

Students who have registered as non-attending may not complete studies as a degree student in the university of applied sciences with which they have registered as non-attending, nor receive records of performance in their study credit register during their period of non-attendance. Non-attending students are not entitled to receive student financial aid or meal subsidies, nor are they covered by the insurances of the university of applied sciences. A non-attending student is personally responsible for considering how non-attendance will affect their social benefits for students.

A student who has registered as non-attending has access to a Metropolia user ID and email address. After a period of absence, students must also re-register primarily through the student administration system.

Section 16 Right of absence of students who have accepted a study place for studies beginning on or after 1 August 2015

In accordance with section 29 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, having accepted a study place, a student may enrol as a non-attending student during the first academic year provided that they are:

- 1) in active service in accordance with the Conscription Act, the Non-Military Service Act or the Act on Women's Voluntary Military Service;
- 2) on maternity, paternity or parental leave or on leave due to the adoption of a child; or
- 3) unable to start their studies owing to a medical condition.

The reason for the absence must be proven with official documents during the registration period. The documents with which the reason for the absence can be proven are:

- draft card
- certificate from Kela on the payment of maternity, paternity or parental allowance or, if the

certificate cannot yet be given, a doctor's certificate of the pregnancy

- corresponding certificates on statutory parental leave issued by authorities in other countries
- a decision on sick pay or, if such a decision has not been made, a doctor's certificate that indicates the illness or injury preventing the student from starting their studies.

If the documents are insufficient or they are not delivered at all within the registration period, the student will be enrolled as attending.

Students have the right to register as non-attending without a specific reason for one academic year after the first academic year. This period does not count towards the normative duration of the studies. In addition, a student may register as non-attending because of active military service, non-military service or women's voluntary military service or maternity, paternity or parental leave at any time during their studies without this period counting towards the normative duration of the studies, i.e. the period of the right to study.

Registration as non-attending because of sickness or injury in the first academic year or at a later time during the studies will always count towards the right to be absent for one year. If the absence because of sickness or injury continues, it will be included in the normative duration of the studies, i.e. the period of the right to study. If the student's sickness delays their studies, the student may apply for a discretionary extension period.

It is not possible to change the status of attending or non-attending retroactively. Changes to the status for the current academic term may only be made for strong reasons.

Section 17 Right of absence of students who accepted a study place for studies that began before 1 August 2015

Students who have started their studies before 1 August 2015 have the right to register as non-attending for two academic years during their studies. The absence will not be included in the normative duration of the studies, i.e. the period of the right to study. The reason for the absence does not need to be declared.

Section 18 Discretionary extension period

Metropolia may, on application, grant a student an additional period of a maximum of one academic year for completing their studies if the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies.

The application must include a statement on why the studies have been prolonged. The student must attach a doctor's certificate or an extract from the My Kanta service (OmaKanta) if their studies have been delayed for health reasons. In questions relating to the application, including the preparation of a study plan, a student can contact the Student Counsellor or another designated person in their degree programme. The student may also be asked for additional information to support the decision on the discretionary extension period.

The student's personal circumstances are also taken into consideration when granting an extension period. An extension will not be granted if the required degree studies have already been completed.

A discretionary extension period may be applied for in accordance with the application instructions during the validity of the right to study. A fee of 50 euros will be charged for processing the application, in accordance with section 3 of the Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences. The Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them will make the decision upon a proposal by the degree programme, and the student will be informed of the decision by 30 June in the spring term and by 15 December in the autumn term, provided that the student has submitted the application within the deadline in accordance with the application instructions.

Any discretionary extension period is always granted or denied at Metropolia's discretion and calls for well-founded reasons. Metropolia must ensure equal treatment of all students applying for a discretionary extension of their study period, and similar criteria must be applied to all when an extension is granted.

Students granted a discretionary extension period do not have the option of registering as non-attending. An exception to this will be made if the student performs military or compulsory non-military service, goes on maternity, paternity or parental leave or on leave due to the adoption of a child, or if the student is unable to complete their studies due to their personal illness or injury. The right to study must be valid on the graduation date.

If no extension period is granted, the student must complete their remaining studies in the manner required by the degree programme before they can apply for a regranting of the right to study.

A student dissatisfied with a decision concerning a discretionary extension period may request, in writing, a rectification of the decision from Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee within 14 days of having been notified of it.

If the student is dissatisfied with the Legal Protection Committee's decision, they may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court. The period of appeal is 30 days as of the date on which a notification of the decision was received.

Section 19 Discontinuation of the right to study

A student will lose the right to study for the following reasons:

- failing to register as attending or non-attending by the deadline
- failing to finish their studies within the period prescribed by law and any discretionary extension period granted
- resigning at their own request
- failing to pay the tuition fee for the academic year by the deadline given by the university of applied sciences (if they are obliged to pay such a fee) and not registering as non-attending.

Section 20 Regranting the right to study after a student neglects to register for the academic year or to pay the tuition fee for the academic year or after they resign

In accordance with section 32 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, a former student of Metropolia who has lost their right to study after neglecting to register as attending or non-attending for the academic year or after resigning may reapply to the university of applied sciences for admission without participating in the student selection process. A fee of 50 euros will be charged for processing the application, in accordance with section 3 of the Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences.

The right to study can be regranted if the student has the possibility to complete the remaining studies within the period of the right to study. Metropolia considers the academic terms spent and those remaining when granting a period of the right to study. All the academic terms when the student did not have a right to study because they failed to register, will be counted as terms when the student was registered as non-attending. If all the permitted non-attendance terms have been used, absences due to failing to register will be deducted from the period of the right to study.

The Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them may, upon application, grant the student the right to study for the remaining period of the right to study if the student neglected to register during the previous academic term. In other cases, the Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them may grant the right to study for the remaining period of the right to study upon a proposal by the head of degree programme.

If a student who is obliged to pay tuition fees fails to pay the tuition fee for an academic year by the deadline without registering as non-attending, they may reapply for the right to study in accordance with the procedure above. A fee of 50 euros will be charged for processing the application.

A student may request a rectification of a decision concerning their application for regrating the right to study from Metropolia's Legal Protection Committee in writing within 14 days of receiving notice of the decision.

If the student is dissatisfied with the Legal Protection Committee's decision, they may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court. The period of appeal is 30 days as of the date on which a notification of the decision was received.

Section 21 Regrating the right to study after the expiry of the period of the right to study or a discretionary extension period

A former student of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences who has started their studies on or after 1 August 2015 and who has not completed their degree during the period of the right to study or the discretionary extension period is allowed, under section 32 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, to apply to the university of applied sciences for re-admission without participating in the student selection process. A fee of 50 euros will be charged for processing the application, in accordance with section 3 of the Government Decree on Fees Charged by the Universities of Applied Sciences.

The Manager of Student Affairs or a person appointed by them may grant the right to study in order to finish the degree upon a proposal by the head of degree programme. In this case, the student is, in practice, granted an extension period for the old right to study (not a new right to study).

Metropolia may re-grant the right to study for the student to complete their studies if the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for doing so. The right to study can be regrated only once and for a maximum of one academic year. The application must include a study plan and timetable for completing the studies prepared by the student and the Student Counsellor or some other designated person. The student may be asked for further explanation to support the decision on regrating the right to study.

As a rule, it is not possible to immediately apply for a regrating of the right to study after a discretionary extension period.

The recommendation is that the right to study may be regrated if the student has to complete a

maximum of 60 credit points of the studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's degree or a maximum of 30 credit points of the studies leading to a UAS Master's degree.

A student whose right to study has been regranted may not apply for a discretionary extension period nor register as non-attending. An exception to this will be made if the student performs military or compulsory non-military service, goes on maternity, paternity or parental leave or on leave due to the adoption of a child, or if the student is unable to complete their studies due to their personal illness or injury.

If the student must complete more than 60 credit points of the studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's degree or more than 30 credit points of the studies leading to a UAS Master's degree, the credit points exceeding these limits must first be completed in the manner required by the degree programme before the right to complete the degree can be regranted.

A former student of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences or a student who has started their studies before 1 August 2015 and lost their right to study due to failure to register for the academic year, the expiry of their period of the right to study or some other reason, will be instructed to apply for admission through the joint application process or the separate application process, and they may be granted a new right to study for a period determined by the university of applied sciences. A student may request a rectification of Metropolia's decision from the Legal Protection Committee in writing within 14 days of receiving notice of the decision.

If the student is dissatisfied with the Legal Protection Committee's decision, they may lodge an appeal against it with the Helsinki Administrative Court. The appeal period is 30 days from the date on which the student was notified of the decision.

Section 22 Special regulations concerning the right to study in the field of health care and social services

Section 22a Revocation and reinstatement of the right to study

If the studies impose demands on the safety of minors, patient or client safety or traffic safety, the university of applied sciences may revoke the right to study under the criteria set out in section 33 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act. The right to study may be revoked if a student has demonstrated that they are unsuitable for attending to practical assignments or training related to the studies by endangering other people's health or safety. The right to study may also be revoked if the student does not fulfil the requirements for admission in regard of their health or functional capacity. Additionally, the right to study may be revoked if the student, when applying, has withheld

information on a revocation decision they received earlier or if the student has been convicted of crimes that may pose an obstacle to working with minors under valid legislation. Before the revocation, Metropolia will examine with the student the possibility of applying for another degree programme

A revoked right to study may be reinstated upon the student's application if the revocation was due to an issue concerning his or her health or functioning ability and the student is able to demonstrate that the reason for the revocation has ceased to exist.

Decisions concerning the revocation or reinstatement of the right to study for degrees governed by SORA (solutions for unsuitability to study) legislation that are made on the basis of section 33 or 35 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act may be appealed to the national Students' Legal Protection Board within 14 days of receiving the decision in accordance with section 58 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act.

An appellant who is dissatisfied with the decision of the national Students' Legal Protection Board may appeal against it to the Helsinki Administrative Court within 14 days of being notified of the decision, in accordance with section 8a of the Act on the Students' Legal Protection Board.

Section 22 b Suspension of the right to study

If a student refuses to submit to tests and examinations of their health and functional capacity as required by Metropolia, the right to study may be suspended until they agree to submit to these tests and examinations.

While the tests or examinations of the student's health and functional capacity are ongoing, the student does not have the right to complete practical training included in the studies that is subject to requirements concerning the safety of minors, patient or client safety or traffic safety.

At Metropolia's request, a student must present an extract from their criminal record if the student is given assignments in their studies or practical training that essentially require working with minors. If the student refuses to submit a criminal record extract, their right to study may be suspended until they submit the extract.

The Board of Directors of Metropolia decides on the suspension of the right to study. Before such a decision is made, the Board of Examiners must give the student the opportunity to be heard.

An appeal may be lodged with the Helsinki Administrative Court against a decision made by the

Board of Directors of Metropolia in a disciplinary matter referred to in section 38 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act. A decision of the Helsinki Administrative Court concerning disciplinary action referred to in section 38 may not be appealed against.

Section 23 Resigning from Metropolia

A student may notify Metropolia of their resignation, thereby losing the right to study. The notification of resignation must be completed in OMA. The student will be automatically recorded in the student administration system as resigned beginning from the date the notification was submitted. A resigning student is given upon request a certificate of resignation and a transcript of records (in Finnish and English), which are subject to a fee. The student is obliged to make sure that the studies they have completed have been recorded in the student administration system before submitting a notification of resignation. A resigning student must cancel their study benefits and return all property belonging to Metropolia.

Section 24 Tuition fees and the scholarship system

Metropolia charges the tuition fee set in section 13a of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act from students admitted to a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme taught in a language other than Finnish or Swedish.

However, tuition fees are not charged from citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or from persons who are deemed comparable to European Union citizens under a treaty concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another party, nor from any family members of the above. Fees are not charged from persons who, under the Aliens Act, have a European Union Blue Card, a continuous residence permit granted for a reason other than studying, a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's European Union residence permit issued to third-country nationals, nor from any family members of the above. The Aliens Act is applied in the definition of persons regarded as family members. Fees are also not charged from students taking part in commissioned education.

Metropolia has a scholarship scheme to support students taking part in degree studies that are subject to a fee. Students participating in commissioned education are not entitled to scholarships. This rule does not apply to students who started their studies in commissioned education before 1 January 2022.

Section 24a Payment of the tuition fee

In order to confirm their study place, an applicant must accept it and pay the tuition fee for the academic term through the Opintopolku.fi service within the deadline announced by the university of applied sciences. If a student does not pay the tuition fee by the deadline announced by the university of applied sciences and register for the academic year, they will be considered to have neglected to register, in which case they will lose the right to study. A student may reapply for the right to study. A fee of 50 euros will be charged for processing the application.

The applicant's documents (degree certificate, residence permit and identity documents) will be verified at the start of the studies.

Procedures related to the duration of the right to study and to the right of absence also apply to students obliged to pay tuition fees. Students may register as non-attending, in which case they are not obliged to pay the tuition fee. The rules concerning registration as non-attending for the first academic year also apply to students obliged to pay tuition fees.

The payment obligation concerns all the academic terms during which a student is registered as attending. Metropolia students who are obliged to pay tuition fees must pay the tuition fee to Metropolia also during student exchange periods. The tuition fees must be paid for every academic year by the deadline announced by Metropolia. If a student does not pay the tuition fee for an academic year by the deadline given by Metropolia and does not register as non-attending, they will lose the right to study.

Metropolia must organise degree studies and study guidance in such a way that a full-time student can complete the studies in a period which is equivalent to their extent.

In the case of double degrees, the partner institutions' students from non-EU/non-EEA countries and students taken under bilateral agreements are obliged to pay a tuition fee equal to the minimum fee specified in the Universities of Applied Sciences Act. In these cases, the students will be granted a scholarship equal to 100% of the tuition fee.

Section 24b Scholarship system for students who began their studies between 1 August 2017 and 31 December 2018

In studies leading to a Bachelor's degree, students may apply to receive a scholarship equivalent to 75% of the tuition fee for study years 2–4 if, during the previous academic year, they have completed at least 55 credit points in studies that form a part of their degree.

When deciding on scholarships, the student's social, health and other reasons may also be taken into account in study years 2–4. In such a case, a scholarship of 100% may also be granted at the committee's discretion. In the scholarship application, the student must present the reasons for releasing them from paying the tuition fee (e.g. own or family member's serious illness, difficult life situation) and provide documents to prove the reasons (certificate from a Finnish authority).

The scholarships policy for study years 2–4 also applies to degree students admitted through the open UAS. In studies leading to a Master's degree, students may apply to receive a scholarship equivalent to 75% of the tuition fee for the study years following the first year if, during the previous academic term, they have completed at least 25 credit points in studies that form a part of their degree.

A request for rectifying a decision of Metropolia's scholarships committee can be lodged with the scholarships committee. In accordance with section 60(1)(4) of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, no appeals may be lodged against a decision by Metropolia's scholarships committee concerning a request for rectification submitted by a student.

Section 24c Scholarship system for students who began their studies on or after 1 January 2019

Scholarships are granted to students who have begun their studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's or a UAS Master's degree on or after 1 January 2019 based on their skills in the Finnish language. Students can apply for scholarships during the academic year based on Finnish language skills level tests (YKI, yleinen kielitaitotesti) they have completed. A student may be granted one scholarship (3,000 euros) at most during each academic year. If a student completes several language skills level tests during an academic year, they can be taken into consideration in subsequent academic years. A language skills level test must be completed during a student's studies at Metropolia – language skills level tests completed before the start of the studies will not be considered when granting scholarships.

A request for rectifying a decision concerning a scholarship can be lodged with Metropolia's scholarships committee. In accordance with section 60(1)(4) of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, no appeals may be lodged against a decision by Metropolia's scholarships committee concerning a request for rectification submitted by a student.

Section 24d Scholarship system for students who began their studies on or after 1 August 2024

Scholarships are granted to students who have begun their studies leading to a UAS Bachelor's degree on or after 1 August 2024 based on the Finnish-language courses they have completed at Metropolia (Finnish 1, Finnish 2, Finnish 3 and Finnish 4) as well as Finnish language skills level tests (YKI, yleinen kielitaitotesti) they have completed. A student may be granted a scholarship a maximum of three times while they are completing a Bachelor's degree, and a scholarship may be granted only once during each academic year. During the first academic year, a student may be granted a scholarship of 1,000 euros if they complete the Finnish 1 and Finnish 2 courses with a minimum grade of 3. During the second academic year, a student may be granted a scholarship of 2,000 euros if they complete the Finnish 3 and Finnish 4 courses with a minimum grade of 3. During the third academic year, a student may be granted a scholarship of 3,000 euros if they complete the Finnish language skills level test with a minimum level of B1. The Finnish language skills level test must be completed during the studies at Metropolia.

Scholarships are granted to students who have begun their studies leading to a UAS Master's degree on or after 1 August 2024 based on their performance in the Finnish language skills level test (YKI, yleinen kielitaitotesti). The Finnish language skills levels are basic, intermediate and advanced. If a student completes the Finnish language skills level test with the basic level of A1, they may be granted a scholarship of 1,000 euros. If a student completes the Finnish language skills level test with the basic level of A2, they may be granted a scholarship of 2,000 euros. If a student completes the Finnish language skills level test with the intermediate level of B1, they may be granted a scholarship of 3,000 euros. A scholarship may be granted to students completing a Master's degree only once during their studies at Metropolia, and the Finnish language skills level test must be completed during the studies at Metropolia.

Section 24e Early Bird discount

An Early Bird discount may be given on the tuition fee for the first academic year if an applicant accepts a study place in Metropolia education leading to a degree that starts in autumn 2022 or later and registers as attending by 3.00 p.m. within 7 days of the publication of the results of the student selections. The amount of the discount will be decided on in the manner set out in the Regulations of Metropolia and in the Degree Regulations.

Section 24f Scholarship based on humanitarian reasons

In accordance with a decision of the Board of Directors of Metropolia, humanitarian reasons may also be used as grounds for granting a scholarship. The decision applies to the years 2022–2025

and is in force as of 30 March 2022. A humanitarian reason applies to students who have been granted temporary protection based on Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 due to the mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine.

A scholarship based on humanitarian reasons will be used to pay for the entire tuition fees charged from the student in the years 2022–2025, beginning from 30 March 2022.

4 COMPLETION OF STUDIES

Section 25 Curricula

An approved curriculum is followed in studies leading to a degree as well as other studies (with a scope of at least 20 credit points). The curricula and any changes to them are approved in accordance with Metropolia's curricular process. The Vice President of Education decides on the curricula at Metropolia.

The curricula observe national requirements as well as the regulations of the European Higher Education Area concerning development, the description of competences and the scope of studies, which facilitate the comparison of education on a national and international level.

The learning outcomes, content, requirements for prior knowledge and assessment criteria related to learning, as well as the scope of studies, are defined in the study modules and courses. The forms of work used in studying and other matters related to performance are available in the published implementation information.

The studies are measured in credit points. The number of credit points for each course is based on the amount of work it requires. An average academic year consists of 1,600 hours of work, which is equivalent to 60 credit points (1 credit point = 27 hours). The scope of studies (in credit points) is designed so that the learning outcomes are achievable with the average amount of work indicated by the credit points.

The Vice President of Education decides on extensive study modules (at least 15 credit points) offered to all the degree students. The extensive study modules that are specific to certain fields of study (at least 15 credit points) are decided on by the director of school in the unit responsible for implementing each module. Each director of school decides on the teaching offered by their school.

Section 26 Student's individual study plan (ISP)

Each student must prepare an individual study plan (ISP) within the restrictions set by the curriculum. It is the student's duty to study in accordance with their approved ISP and to check the plan annually together with a person appointed by the degree programme. Students are entitled to receive support for preparing their ISPs.

Students must follow the curriculum-based ISP which was prepared when they registered as attending for the first time. If a student is regranted the right to study, as a general rule they will be subject to the degree requirements valid at the time the studies are resumed. A student returning after an absence or an interruption in studies must agree on the necessary changes to be made to their ISP in accordance with the valid degree requirements. Any changes to the ISP must always be made in agreement with the student.

The student has the right to complete the studies in accordance with the curriculum for the degree in question and with the approved ISP.

Section 27 Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

The recognition of prior learning (RPL) refers to the accreditation of previous studies, training, work experience or other competence as a part of compulsory or optional studies for a degree, study module or course to be completed. The prior learning must fulfil the competence requirements of the curriculum. The degree-specific principles for the recognition of prior learning (RPL) are published in OMA.

In accordance with section 37 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, students enrolled for education leading to a degree or for specialisation studies have the right to apply for the accreditation of prior competence regardless of where and how such competence has been achieved. In the case of studies in the open UAS and courses preparing immigrants for UAS studies, prior learning may be accredited only partially by applying a pedagogical solution, such as a demonstration of professional skill, and using the same procedure as with education leading to a degree.

The forms of accreditation are substitution and inclusion. *Substitution* refers to the substitution of studies included in a curriculum with learning that has a similar content. *Inclusion* refers to the inclusion of prior learning as part of a degree (e.g. in optional or elective studies).

Prior learning can be recognised either in full, or in part through a pedagogical solution. In a pedagogical solution the final assessment is made and the completed studies are recorded in the

course register once the studies have been supplemented in a manner determined by the degree programme.

Studies completed in Finnish or international universities or higher education institutions can be accredited as part of studies leading to a degree. The studies accredited must be EQF and NQF level 6 for UAS Bachelor's degrees and EQF and NQF level 7 for UAS Master's degrees.

The student must take the initiative to have their prior learning recognised. Accreditation is handled on the basis of an eRPL application. The students are responsible for demonstrating their know-how, and to provide the required certificates and sufficient information.

The recognition of prior learning is processed in two steps. The lecturer responsible for the course or another person appointed by the head of degree programme is responsible for recognising the competence. The head of degree programme or another person appointed by them is responsible for making the final decision on the recognition of the competence.

A two-step decision is not required for the recognition of prior learning to be included under elective studies or in frequently recurring cases for which there are standard procedures and on which information has been provided to the students in advance.

If the prior studies and credit points were completed more than 10 years ago, they cannot be included as such in the studies (section 36 Expiry of studies).

The grade received for studies completed elsewhere is retained if these studies will be included in the degree or the studies are used to substitute for similar studies at Metropolia. However, studies completed in an international exchange are recorded in accordance with section 28b. In the demonstration of competence or the assessment of partial accreditation, the same assessment criteria and grades are used as with a similar course or module. The original date of completion is recorded as the date of accreditation. Accreditation can only be carried out based on original documents. No accreditation can be made on the basis of prior accreditation.

Students are entitled to apply for the recognition of prior learning throughout the duration of their studies. The degree programme may at its discretion set a timetable for the submission of RPL applications to support the planning of ISPs and the annual planning of studies in such a way that the RPL process serves as an orientation to the learning outcomes of the degree or the next academic term. In the timetable for the RPL applications, the degree programme will account for the applica-

tion processing time, the timetable for the degree programme's annual planning and the joint registration periods for the studies.

As a general rule, an RPL application is processed within four working weeks of the receipt of the application, with the exception of applications from new students, whose RPL applications are processed at the beginning of the studies without undue delay.

The degree programmes may decide on the partial accreditation of a thesis for a Bachelor's degree as a pedagogical solution on the basis of a thesis for a previous higher education degree. This may be done if the learning outcomes of the Bachelor's degree thesis can be achieved through the thesis for the previous higher education degree and by writing an article demonstrating professional expertise or completing some other study performance. Even if a student's Finnish or Swedish language skills have been demonstrated in a prior higher education degree, the student must also write a maturity test – to demonstrate proficiency in the degree's field of study – concerning a thesis that was partially accredited or concerning the professional article used as a basis for the accreditation. In a UAS Master's degree, a thesis may be partially accredited for a special reason. A thesis completed through Metropolia's Open UAS can be recognised as prior learning in its entirety for the degree programme in question. In double degrees in the School of Health, i.e. midwifery, public-health nursing and emergency care degrees that include the nursing degree, a previous thesis completed for nursing degree studies may be accredited in full.

Section 28 Exchange studies

As a general rule, Metropolia sends students to the higher education institutions with which it has a valid agreement, a separate programme or an exchange programme. Students embarking on a student exchange abroad must conclude a written agreement on their curriculum during the exchange (Learning Agreement) before leaving. The rules for outgoing students are defined in more detail in the rules and principles of student exchange, which are published in OMA.

The Head of International Relations will make any decisions on the interruption of an international exchange or practical training period and the recall of an individual student to their home country, as well as on the recovery of any related funding. In crisis situations concerning several students, the decision on the interruption of an international exchange and the recall of students is made by the President and CEO.

Section 28a Admission as an exchange student

Metropolia only accepts exchange students from higher education institutions abroad with which it has a valid student exchange agreement. Metropolia will not accept an exchange student if they

cannot be offered the studies planned at their sending institution. In addition, the degree programmes may set their own requirements for accepting exchange students.

Section 28b Accreditation of studies completed during an international student exchange

Metropolia applies the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) approved by the European Union, which means studies and practical training successfully completed abroad will be fully accredited to the degree being completed if such credits are in accordance with what has been agreed in advance.

Once the studies abroad have been completed, the receiving higher education institution must provide a transcript of records and/or a certificate indicating the studies completed and an assessment of their success.

The initiative for the accreditation of studies completed during an international student exchange must be made by the student. If the accreditation is based on electronic documentation, the student is responsible for delivering the information needed for the accreditation. The student must submit the accreditation application for the studies completed during an international student exchange (or the request for accreditation of studies completed in accordance with the advance agreement) immediately after receiving a certificate of the studies.

Practical training completed during an international student exchange is always recorded through an implementation assessment. The end date of the international exchange is recorded as the date of accreditation. Studies completed during the international exchange are generally graded as pass/fail. Upon a separate request by the student, the grades may be marked using the credit transfer system.

Accreditation may be denied only if the student does not meet the performance standards of the receiving higher education institution, follow the Learning Agreement or fulfil the criteria set by the higher education institutions participating in the exchange. If a student does not fulfil the requirements of the period of study abroad, they may be required to pay back the grant for the exchange or a part of it.

The studies completed in Finland by students completing an international double degree are assessed in the course implementations. However, the international student exchange process is applied to studies completed abroad. This also applies to the recording of a thesis that has been fully or partially completed in the international part of a double degree.

Section 29 Registration for a course

Participation in a course requires an accepted registration. Registration takes place during a predetermined period. The minimum and maximum number of participants in a course implementation is specified in the published course information. A joint registration period that covers more than one degree programme is determined in the annual clock for education.

Once the registration period is over, the lecturer accepts registrations for the course implementation up to the defined maximum number of students. The lecturer may, under a decision by the head of degree programme, accept more than the maximum number of students for the course implementation.

Registration for studies offered to students of more than one degree programme can be arranged in two stages: primary registration and secondary registration. An exception to this are Master's degree programmes, in which registration takes place in one stage. If there is an insufficient number of registered students for a course implementation in the primary registration stage, the implementation may be cancelled. A head of degree programme may, at his or her discretion, extend the registration period with the secondary registration stage or implement a course without the minimum number of participants.

In the primary registration, degree students are accepted for the course implementations as follows:

- The main principle is that priority is given to those students whose ISPs and compulsory studies in their own group include the course in question at this time.
- If there are no more registered students than the maximum number for the course implementation, all registrations (that fulfil the prior competence requirements) are accepted. If the number of registrations exceeds the maximum number of participants, students will be accepted in the order of registration.
- Those who were not accepted in the primary registration may remain on a waiting list for any vacant places in the course implementation.
- In the secondary registration, students are accepted solely on the basis of the order of registration. However, students who were granted the right to study in the academic term/year in question have priority for their first-term/year course implementations.

Students must confirm their attendance for a course implementation by being present when tuition begins or in another manner agreed with the lecturer; for example, by returning the first course as-

signment. Students who are unable to attend the first teaching session due to illness may also confirm their attendance by informing the lecturer in advance. Being accepted to a course is conditional until the prior competence requirements determined for the course have been checked. If a registered student does not participate in the course implementation, the lecturer responsible for the course will remove the student from the implementation within two weeks from its start. The registration periods are determined in the annual clock for education.

Section 30 Attending teaching and guidance sessions

Studies are provided on the basis of the objectives and contents of the study modules or courses. Students are entitled and obliged to participate in the different study forms included in the studies so as to achieve the objectives of the courses.

It is the duty of the lecturer responsible for a course implementation to ensure that the course's electronic implementation plan describes the forms of work, performance requirements, order of completion, timetable, attendance requirements, forms of feedback and assessment criteria before the start of the course. The aforementioned information is discussed in more detail with the students at the beginning of the course. All assignments or examinations related to the course implementation must be completed, at the latest, in the exam retakes specified in the implementation plan.

Both the lecturer and the student are obliged to give and receive feedback in a constructive and timely manner. Feedback collected on learning, the learning environment and teaching is used to develop educational activities.

Degree students are entitled to personal study guidance throughout their studies at their university of applied sciences. Students who complete at least 30 credit points per academic term in the open UAS are entitled to personal study guidance during their studies. Students are obliged to participate in study guidance sessions and to take responsibility for the progress of their studies.

Section 31 Thesis and maturity test

The aim of the thesis in a university of applied sciences degree is to develop and demonstrate the student's ability to apply their knowledge and skills in a development assignment related to their studies. In the thesis for a Metropolia Bachelor's degree, the student learns and implements professional life oriented development work based on researched information and other evidence.

The purpose of the thesis for a Master's degree is to develop and demonstrate not only an ability to

apply researched information and to use the selected methods to analyse and solve problems related to professional life, but also to demonstrate a readiness for independent expert work in demanding positions. In the thesis for a Metropolia Master's degree, the student aims to generate new competence and to develop professional life and the field of study in an innovative way.

The thesis must fulfil Metropolia's competence goals for theses. The thesis must fulfil the aims of research and development work in accordance with the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences.

Every student must prepare an implementation plan and timetable for their thesis, which is approved by the thesis supervisor at Metropolia. If two students prepare a thesis jointly, the thesis must demonstrate each student's personal contribution so that it can be assessed. If the thesis involves a workplace partner, the student and the Metropolia supervisor will, if necessary, conclude a three-party agreement on the completion of the thesis with the workplace partner. If necessary, the student will obtain a research permit for the thesis under the guidance of the Metropolia supervisor.

The thesis must be written in the language of the degree programme. A university of applied sciences student may write their thesis in a language other than the language of the degree programme if the degree programme gives consents to this and offers the student guidance in writing in the chosen language.

Metropolia is responsible for the overall supervision and assessment of the thesis. Once the thesis is completed, the supervisor from the workplace partner provides Metropolia with a statement for the assessment of the thesis. The statement deals with the progress and outcomes of the thesis and its importance to the partner, as well as the competence, knowledge, skills and attitude demonstrated by the student when completing the thesis.

The assessment of the thesis takes into consideration the entire thesis process. The areas assessed are the profession-specific competence and development, the methods used, the outcomes obtained and skills in communication and expression. The written report is assessed with due attention to both the factual content of the work and the language and layout. The thesis is assessed by at least two assessors. An approved grade for a thesis cannot be raised.

In order to complete their degree (Bachelor's and Master's), students are required to take a written maturity test in the field of their thesis to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the field and proficiency in Finnish or Swedish. Students to whom the language proficiency requirements of Section 32 of these Degree Regulations do not apply will write their maturity test in Finnish in a Finnish-language degree programme and in English in an English-language degree programme. The maturity

test is performed as a supervised exam, where the student must prove his or her identity upon request.

Students must write a report on their thesis in accordance with Metropolia's instructions for theses. The report on a thesis for a Master's degree may also take the form of an article, in which case it must include an article manuscript and a more extensive theoretical review. The copyrights to the thesis belong to the student. The student may assign parallel rights to the thesis to the workplace partner.

A university of applied sciences thesis is always a public document, and the written assessment of the thesis is also public. Information subject to secrecy that is created in connection with the thesis process must be placed in an appendix in the background material. In such a case, the appendix is declared secret, while the rest of the thesis is public.

The student must maintain the confidentiality of confidential information that they obtain from a workplace partner (business or professional secrets declared to be confidential by the partner, such as information on products, research results, technology, methods, aims or plans) and refrain from utilising it for other purposes than the preparation of the thesis. No confidential information or information that must be kept secret under the law is included in the published thesis.

The resulting thesis will be published in the Theseus database of the universities of applied sciences in Finland. In special cases, a thesis will not be published in the Theseus database but instead in Metropolia's digital archive. Special reasons for this may include an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons by the student or theses that are not suitable for publication in Theseus (e.g. artistic theses).

When preparing their thesis, students must follow the responsible conduct of research and the professional ethical guidelines of their field in accordance with the [instructions of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\)](#) and applicable law.

The origin of the thesis text is checked using the Turnitin plagiarism detection system in connection with the assessment. The plagiarism check is recorded on the thesis report.

Guidelines on the possible accreditation of a thesis for a Bachelor's degree are provided in section 27 of these Degree Regulations.

Section 32 Language proficiency

Students must prove in the course of their Bachelor's degree studies or by other means to have attained:

- such a command of Finnish and Swedish which is required in bilingual districts under the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (424/2003) of State personnel who need an academic degree to hold the position and which is necessary to practice the profession and to develop oneself professionally; and
- such written and verbal skills in one or two foreign languages that is necessary to practice the profession and to develop oneself professionally.

The language proficiency demonstrated by students is included in the degree certificates. Depending on the student's mother tongue, the Finnish and Swedish language skills are demonstrated through language studies or some other means, and through a maturity test.

What is prescribed in Paragraph 1 above does not apply to students who have received a school education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish in Finland or abroad. Such students must at the beginning of their studies present how they received their school education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish. This statement must be presented on the Notification of School Education (Ilmoitus koulusivistyskielestä) form.

According to the regulations governing studies at a university of applied sciences, language proficiency must be demonstrated in the UAS Bachelor's degree. If a student pursuing a UAS Master's degree has not demonstrated language proficiency in prior studies, the student may demonstrate it in other ways referred to in the Government Decree on Language Proficiency Qualifications (kielitutkintoasetus) to a board of examiners or an examiner appointed by the National Board of Education.

The director of school responsible for the degree may, for a special reason, exempt a student from the language proficiency requirements partially or in full. The student must complete a number of other studies agreed with Metropolia, the extent of which must be similar to the studies from which they have been exempted. More detailed guidelines can be found in the instructions for language and communication studies in OMA.

Section 33 Assessment of course performance

Assessment is based on the competence goals and assessment criteria for a course or study module. The assessment criteria for courses, and the way grades are determined, are described in detail in the implementation plans of the courses, and they are discussed with the students at the

start of each course. A course is considered to be passed only after all compulsory parts of the implementation have been passed.

Courses are either assessed on a competence scale of excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), very satisfactory (2), satisfactory (1) and fail (0), or for a justified reason with a grade of pass/fail. The assessment criteria for a 'pass' grade are the same as the assessment criteria for a 'satisfactory' (1) grade, which is that the student has achieved the core competence. The assessment scale selected for a course or a passing grade (1–5 or 'pass') can be changed or removed only for a justified reason in cases where an error has occurred. If the thesis process is divided into courses, the 'pass' grade of the courses will be changed to match the grade given for the thesis once the thesis is complete and its grade has been saved in Wihi and the automatic transfer of the grade to OMA has been selected.

Any exam or other demonstration of competence related to a course must be held during the implementation of the course in question. Students are informed of their grade for a course implementation by recording it in the study credit register within four working weeks of the conclusion of the implementation. The assessment of and information on course components and other separate performance must be given to the students within four working weeks of the completion of the performance. If there are delays in the assessment of course performance, the students must be informed of this. The assessment is recorded by the lecturer responsible for the course implementation. The assessment period may be changed for a special reason through a decision of the director of school.

Students have the right to receive feedback on their performance. In addition, in accordance with section 37 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, students have the right to view the assessed course performance and to receive information on the application of the assessment criteria to their course performance.

Lecturers must record the course credits for each academic year in the study credit register by 31 July. The number of credit points from a course cannot be changed after the completed course has been recorded in the register. Students are obliged to annually check that their transcript of records is up to date. Upon request, students may during their studies obtain an official transcript of their study credit register indicating their completed studies and grades.

In accordance with section 37 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, Metropolia stores written course performance for six months after the results have been published.

Section 34 Retaking exams and raising grades

A course exam can be retaken at the course's designated sessions for retaking the exam or raising the course grade, which are stated in the course implementation information. Students have the right to retake a failed exam twice and a passed exam once. The same assessment criteria and principles are followed in retakes and attempts to raise grades as those observed during the course performance. The opportunity to retake an exam or raise a grade does not apply to course components, unless this has been specifically stated in the course implementation plan.

If the assessment is based on a form of performance for which the assessment method cannot be repeated (such as a pair or group exam), the student cannot attempt to raise his or her grade. Grades cannot be raised after the degree has been completed.

If a student's course performance is assessed as failed or the student has been unable to complete the implementation within the allotted time due to illness or another reason, the date of completion will be recorded as the date of the exam retake or the date on which other demonstration of competence was conducted.

If a student fails to justify their absence from an exam or a re-sitting of it, the exam will count as one attempt. For a well-founded reason, the person in charge of the course may grant a student an extra chance to sit an exam. A student who fails a course despite repeated attempts or does not complete the required components of a course must register again for the course and complete it in a manner agreed with the lecturer. A student who has passed a course may not participate in the course in question when it is held again. This rule also applies to studies completed in the Open UAS. The highest grade among passed grades will be valid.

Section 35 Rectification requests and appeals

A student who is dissatisfied with the assessment of their course performance or the accreditation of their studies or competence may present a verbal or written rectification request to the lecturer who has assessed the performance or the person who made the decision on accreditation within 14 days of being informed of the assessment. A reply to the rectification request must be given in writing within 14 days of the date on which the request was received.

A student who is dissatisfied with the decision on their rectification request may lodge a written appeal with Metropolia's Board of Examiners within 14 days of having been notified of the decision.

No appeal may be lodged against a decision of the Board of Examiners in accordance with section

60 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act.

Section 36 Expiry of studies

The expiry of studies is assessed in relation to the competence goals presented in the curriculum. However, as a general rule, individual course performance will expire within ten years of the date of completion, unless the student can demonstrate otherwise through the recognition of prior learning.

As a general rule, course performance that is more than ten years old is not accredited to the student's degree. The student, however, has the opportunity to demonstrate their competence in a manner agreed with the lecturer.

Section 37 Degree certificates

Metropolia provides its graduates with an electronic certificate of the degree they have completed, including an appendix detailing the courses performed and a Diploma Supplement intended for international use. The certificate indicates the degree completed, its extent, its degree title, the name of the programme, any professional major subject or specialisation and the key content of the degree.

In accordance with section 10 of the Government Decree on Universities of Applied Sciences, students graduating from Finnish-language programmes receive a degree certificate in Finnish and students graduating from English-language programmes receive a degree certificate in English and in Finnish.

Degree certificates are granted and signed by the President and CEO. The course performance details included in the appendix to the degree certificate are checked and approved by a person appointed by the director of school responsible for the degree.

Students may graduate in every month of the year, with the exception of July, on the graduation dates decided by the Vice President of Education.

Students must submit an electronic graduation notification at least four weeks before the date of graduation. While submitting the notification, the student must check that the course performance and other information stated on the certificate is correct. The graduation notification must be submitted during the period of the right to study. The graduation process also includes answering the national (Ministry of Education and Culture) UAS Graduated Feedback Questionnaire (AVOP).

5 OTHER REGULATIONS

Section 38 Accessible learning and operating environment

Metropolia is committed to promoting accessible studies in a higher education institution in accordance with the Non-Discrimination Act. Wherever possible, the students' individual circumstances and ability to complete their studies will be taken into consideration when organising studies and providing study guidance.

Section 39 Safety and order

All members of Metropolia's work or study community must do their part to ensure that their work and study environment is safe and pleasant by following general safety instructions and principles of good behaviour.

Students and staff must behave appropriately at Metropolia. Substance abuse and appearing under their influence in Metropolia premises and any study contexts is prohibited. A lecturer or work placement supervisor may order a student or any other person who disrupts studying and teaching, or disturbs other people, to leave the teaching premises or an event organised by Metropolia. Any action taken must be recorded. If a lecturer so proposes and the dean responsible for the degree so decides, a student may be suspended from attending tuition for a maximum of three working days.

A student may be given a verbal warning if they behave disruptively, act deceitfully or otherwise disrupt order at the university of applied sciences and if there is no reason to issue a written warning due to the nature of the case.

In accordance with section 38 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, a student may be given a written warning if they:

- disrupt teaching
- behave violently or threateningly
- act deceitfully or otherwise disrupt order at the university of applied sciences
- refuse to present a certificate of a drug test or have used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines their functional capacity.

If an act or negligence is grave or if a student continues to behave inappropriately after having received a written warning, the student may be temporarily expelled for a maximum period of 12 months.

If a student refuses to submit to tests and examinations of their health, the student's right to study may be suspended until they have agreed to submit to them. If a student refuses to submit a criminal record extract, their right to study may be suspended until they have agreed to submit it.

The President and CEO decides on any written warnings given to a student, while the Board of Directors of Metropolia decides on the suspension of a student's right to study or the temporary expulsion of a student. Before such a decision is made, the Board of Examiners must give the student the opportunity to be heard.

In a disciplinary matter in accordance with section 38 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act, an appeal may be lodged with the Helsinki Administrative Court against a decision made by the President and CEO or the Board of Directors of Metropolia. A decision of the Helsinki Administrative Court concerning disciplinary action referred to in section 38 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act may not be appealed against.

Section 40 Misconduct

All misconduct (including cheating) in matters related to studies, exams and learning assignments is prohibited. If a student is suspected of misconduct, they will be removed from the event or their performance of the learning assignment will be suspended immediately.

The copying of practical assignments, theses and other complete course performance or material and presenting it as one's own (i.e. plagiarism) is prohibited. The performance of a course will be failed if a student is found guilty of misconduct in the form of plagiarism. The more detailed procedure for handling suspected cases of misconduct is described in the [Guidelines for Handling Disciplinary Matters of Metropolia's Board of Examiners](#).

Metropolia also applies the procedural guidelines of [the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\), which is appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, concerning responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct](#).

Section 41 Providing information to the students

Information on general matters related to studies is provided in OMA. Information on individual courses and projects is provided through a channel agreed with the lecturer. The students are obliged to follow these information channels throughout their studies. The students must make sure that their contact details are up to date in the student administration system (OMA) throughout

their studies.

6 ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DEGREE REGULATIONS

These Degree Regulations were approved by the decision of the President of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences on 18 May 2018, section 1. The Degree Regulations entered into force on 1 August 2018, as of which date they will be applied to all students.

The Degree Regulations have been updated with respect to the sections stated below, and the amendments have been approved through the following decisions of the President of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences:

Decision on 26 June 2019, amendments effective as of 1 August 2019

The updated sections are the following:

23, 25a, 27, 27a, 27c, 27d, 42 and 43

Decision on 22 June 2020, amendments effective as of 1 August 2020

The updated sections are the following:

3, 3a, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25b, 26, 27, 27a, 27b, 27c, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 40 and 42

Decision on 13 December 2021, amendments effective as of 1 January 2022

The updated sections are the following:

4a–4c, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 20, 21, 24, 24a–24d, 25, 28 (divided into sections 28a and 28b), 31, 32, 34 and 41

- sections 7–8 were removed and the numbering of the sections was updated from section 7 onwards
- the previous section 13 was moved to section 28
- a new section 24e was added

Decision on 13 June 2022, amendments effective as of 1 August 2022

The updated sections are the following:

4a, 5, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22a, 22b, 23, 24, 24c, 24d, 24e, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 39

Decision on 12 December 2022, amendments effective as of 1 January 2023

The updated sections are the following:

7, 8, 13, 18, 21, 22b, 24, 27, 28, 28b, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 37

Decision on 11 September 2023, amendments effective as of 1 January 2024

The updated sections are the following:

24a

Decision on 12 June 2024

The updated sections are the following:

4a, 4b, 4c, 13, 16, 21, 24b, 24d, 24f, 25, 27, 28, 28b, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39 and 40

- the previous section 24b was removed and a new section 24d was added; the numbering of the sections was updated in section 24

The amendments will enter into force on 1 August 2024 and the Degree Regulations will be applied to all students after the amendments have become effective.

APPENDICES: Appendix 1, Decision by the Finnish Government on issuing a licence to
Metropolia