

Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Art.1 (1) This Code contains all the rights and responsibilities of students enrolled in higher education institutions in Romania.

(2) Students enrolled in military educational institutions and institutions of public order and national security information are entitled to the rights and obligations stated in this Code as long as they do not contradict the rights and obligations provided by competent structures of defense, public order and national security.

(3) Students enrolled in religious universities are entitled to the rights and obligations stated in this Code as long as they do not contradict the rights and obligations provided by different doctrinal and canonical regulations specifics for each cult.

Art. 2 The newly elected Senate adopts the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, proposed by the students, as stipulated in The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments, and the provisions of this Code, and must be enacted within 60 days of its adoption.

Art. 3 (1) The status of student or PhD-student is obtained after the admission to a bachelor`s, master`s or PhD degree program, according to paragraph (7) of art.142 and paragraph (2) of art.199 from The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(2) The rights and responsibilities of PhD-students are set forth by the Government Decision no. 681/2011 on approving the Code of doctoral studies.

(3) The study contract concluded between student and university after the admission to a program degree cannot be changed during the academic year.

Art. 4 (1) Students have the right to associate in structures or student organizations according to paragraph (1) of art.203 of The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(2) Legally formed student organizations have the right to access university spaces and facilities in order to organize projects for students or for internal activities and other pre-established activities outside the classroom hours. The university is required to regulate the issues listed above through the Code mentioned in Article 2.

(3) Institutions of higher education must cooperate with legally formed student organizations and consult them on issues of higher education development.

Art. 5 Legally constituted student organizations must develop an annual report describing how the university has implemented the provisions of this Code for each university from Romania. The report must be published on the university website before the start of every academic year. If the Code has not been fully implemented, the university is required to disclose compliance measures and the implementation time line.

Art. 6 (1) Students are partners in the decision making process at institutions of higher education and members of the academic community and benefit from the rights and responsibilities based on the principles stated in art.118 from The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(2) Students activity in the academic community is governed by the principles stated in paragraph (1) of art.202 from The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

Art. 7 The state guarantees to all the students from the national education system an equitable education regarding the admission process, the process of studying during the program degree and the process of graduating.

Art. 8 Student applicants from a high-risk socio-economic environment or from marginalized backgrounds, including high school graduates from rural area or from towns or cities with a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants, can benefit from a guaranteed number of subsidized places, according the legislation in force. Providing for this category of students free educational and professional guidance and counseling services, tutoring services as well as monitoring their evolution in order to ensure their academic, social and cultural integration in the community represents, together with their quality, a criteria for quality assurance evaluation.

Art. 9 Political propaganda, as well as any form of individual or group discrimination, is prohibited within higher education institutions.

Art. 10 Rights for students with physical disabilities which may affect their academic, social and cultural activities are stated in paragraph (3) of art.118 from The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

Art. 11 Students are entitled to the following rights, based on the principles set on The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments:

- a) the right to a quality education;
- b) the right to access internal and external mobility programs, with the recognition of the credits obtained, according to law regulations;
- c) the right to transfer from one university to another, according to legislation in force and University Charters;
- d) the right to protection of private data;
- e) the right to receive a free course support (of at least 5 pages), on physical or electronic format and the ability to freely access all the educational materials available in university libraries or institutional websites including faculty websites;
- f) the right to be informed, within the first two weeks of the semester regarding the curricula, year structure and course objectives, the general competences or outcomes students will achieve, as well as evaluation and examination methods. Any further modification of the above mentioned elements can be made only with the students' agreement.
- g) the right to receive at the beginning of each academic year a "Student Guide", containing information about student rights and responsibilities, details about facilities and services

provided by the university, evaluation methods, justification for fee establishment, details about the legally constituted student organizations, scholarships and other financial facilities, mobility programs, as well as other facilities or subventions;

h) the right to have a year/section/group guiding professor, depending on the size of these structures;

i) the right to participate in evaluation of courses, seminars, practical activities, teachers activity and other educational and/or organizational issues related to the study program according to paragraph (2) of art.303 from The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments. Evaluations are considered public information and are used in performance evaluations of these courses, seminars, practical activities or teachers activities.

j) The university will publish the evaluation results on its website, in an easily readable format, according the law. The results will include centralized evaluations for each individual professor;

k) the right to access regulations, decisions, meeting minutes and all other legal documents at the university in which they study;

l) the right to intellectual property and copyright for results of research, artistic creation and innovation, according to current legislation and the University Charter or any possible contracts between the parties;

m) the right to freely receive information and academic, professional psychological and social counseling, related to educational activities, provided by the university according the University Charter;

n) the right to participate in practice programs and internships related to the study program objectives and the right to be provided the necessary materials, transportation and meals;

o) the right of recognition of individual practice activity after evaluating the achievement of the objectives of that activity in accordance with the curricula;

p) the right to postpone and resume studies as required by law;

q) the right to study in one's native language or a foreign language which is commonly used for international communication if a course or program is offered at the university;

r) the right to refuse to participate in the educational process more than 8 hours per day, representing courses, seminars and workshops, excepting practice programs, internships, trainings or residences;

s) the right to receive an objective and nondiscriminatory evaluation of acquired skills advertized in the stated curriculum, after attending a course and the right to know the scale used on their evaluation;

t) the right to have an examination through alternative methods when student's suffer from a medically certified temporary or permanent disability, which makes it difficult to participate in evaluations requested by the professor. Alternative methods should not limit or influence the examination standards;

u) the right to appeal marks obtained in written exams, according to the internal regulations of the university. Decisions will be made by a committee specially created for that and students may request to be present during the appealing hearing. The instructor or evaluator who originally graded the exam cannot sit on the decision-making committee.

v) the right to obtain a copy of the diploma/thesis, along with information about their score;

- w) the right a student centered educational process which is focused on providing opportunities for personal development, social integration, developing their skills and ability to find and to keep a job and to be mobile in the labor market;
- x) the right to information which details the methods used for identification, implementation and evaluation of professional practice, information that represent a mandatory criteria in evaluating the quality of the study programs;
- y) the right to flexible learning paths as defined by The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments. To achieve this, every study program must provide a minimum number of optional courses and/or facultative courses from the total number all courses offered by the university.

Art. 12 (1) Students are represented in consultative, deliberative and executive bodies in universities according to The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments and the University Charter.

(2) Students participate in university decisions and have the following rights:

- a) the right to elect and to be elected in the university governance structures, according to The National Education Law 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;
- b) the right to be represented in the University Senate and the Faculty Council at a rate exceeding 25% according to law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments and the University Charter;
- c) Institutions of higher education cannot restrict the possibility to be elected as student representative, based on academic performance, class attendance, seminars or laboratories. The teaching staff cannot be involved in the election of any student representative, at any level. Any form involvement in the election process is sanctioned according to art. 312 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;
- d) the right to serve as a student representative deliberative structures (Faculty Council, Senate, Administrative Board) for up to four years. A student cannot serve for more than 4 years, regardless of the whether they have performed their mandates and its interruptions;
- e) the right to be represented in the university structures that manage social services, such as committees for accommodation, scholarship allocation and the allocation of thematic camps;
- f) the right to participate through representatives in proceedings concerning the manner of choosing and appointing of the rector, regardless of the election method, according to paragraph (2) of art.209 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;
- g) the right to be informed and consulted by the student representatives who vote in institutional governance processes;

(3) Student representatives in Faculty Councils and University Senates are elected through direct, secret and universal vote by all students at the faculty and university levels. Legally constituted student organizations are entitled to delegate officials in these structures. The number of officials delegated by student organizations in these structures is established autonomously by the university regulations.

(4) The individual university may autonomously determine, at the proposal of students, the process for designating student members in any other consultative, deliberative and executive structures than those stipulated in law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(5) Student federations legally constituted at national level appoint representatives to the consultative councils of Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports according to paragraph (1) of art.217 from the law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

Art. 13 (1) Students freely benefit from:

a) Bachelors, masters and PhD degree study programs, within the limit of subsidized places and according to law no.1/2011, with its subsequent amendments, for Romanian citizens, citizens of EU member states, of the European Economic Area member states and of the Swiss Confederation, according to paragraph (4) of art.142, for ethnic Romanians worldwide according to paragraph (3) of art.205, and in the cases specified in paragraphs (5) and (6) of art.205;

b) access to all documents issued by the university (including undergraduate, masters and doctorate transcripts and diplomas, certificates and diploma supplements) and verifications of student status (certificates, cards, library passes);

c) Access to museums, concerts, theaters, operas, cinemas and other cultural and sporting events organized in Romania for Romanian ethnics living abroad according to paragraph (4) of art.205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(2) When institutions of higher education release duplicates of study documents, they may autonomously charge fees established by the university.

(3) Students benefit from the following discount charges:

a) At least 50% transport discount for local surface and underground transport, as well as internal road, rail and sea transport, according to paragraph (2) of art. 205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;

b) 75% discount for access to museums, concerts, theaters, opera, movies and other cultural and sporting events organized by public institutions, according to paragraph (3) of art. 205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;

(4) Students are encouraged to participate in volunteer opportunities and can receive a number of credits(ECTS) according to paragraph (9) of art. 203 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;

Art. 14 Students benefit from the following social rights:

a) free medical assistance according to paragraph (1) of art. 205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;

b) housing accommodation, unless they study in the place of residence, according to the law;

c) subsidies for housing accommodation, according to paragraph (15) of art. 205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments;

d) access to university spaces and facilities in order to organize projects for students or for internal activities and other pre-established activities outside classroom hours, according with the University Charter;

- e) the right to recourse under identity protection, abuses and irregularities and to request a review and evaluation of these complaints by specialized bodies, under the law in force according the law no. 571/2004 on protection of personnel from public authorities, public institutions and other units who report violations of law;
- f) the right to have all written or online requests registered and receive a written or online answer to their requests, as specified by law and university regulations;
- g) the right to have a registration period of at least 5 working days after posting announcements about university competitions or information about scholarships, camps, accommodation and motilities;

Art. 15 (1) Students have the right to know how the tuitions fees and other charges levied by the university are established according to the University Charter.

(2) Students have the right to be informed about the number, type and amount of each fee charged by universities.

Art. 16 Students can benefit from the following types of scholarships:

- a) Scholarships intended to stimulate excellence in education, distributed under the internal regulations of the university and can be divided into merit scholarships, study scholarships and excellence scholarships;
- b) Social grants, as a financial support to low-income students, of which minimum amount is proposed annually by the National Higher Education Funding Council, taking into account the actual costs for meals and accommodation. Social grants can be combined with other types of scholarships;
- c) Scholarships from budgetary allocations or own universities incomes and other special scholarships, according to criteria established by the law, whose amount must cover at least the cost of meals and accommodation;
- d) Contract based or private scholarships with economic agents or other legal or natural entities according to paragraph (10) of art.205 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments.

(2) Students can benefit from loans provided by the Agency of Loans and Grants for Students, according to art.204 from law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent amendments

Art. 17 (1) Students from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with outstanding results in their educational, professional, cultural or sportive activity can participate in thematic camps, so long as a budget exists for this purpose.

(2) These camps provide a series of professional trainings held in a non-formal context for which students can receive a number of ECVET/ECTS credits, according to the University Charter;

(3) The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the legally constituted national federation of students, can organize theme camps during the holidays.

Art. 18 Students have the following responsibilities:

- a) to perform all their tasks according the curricula and the syllabi of the disciplines;
- b) to respect the Charter, regulations and university decisions;
- c) to participate, if elected as student representatives, in meetings held by governance structures within institutions of higher education;
- d) to comply with the quality standards imposed by the university;
- e) to respect the copyright of others and recognize the ownership of information presented in the elaborated works;
- f) to comply with the university`s code of ethics;
- g) to develop and present original academic work including graduation thesis`s which are at the appropriate level of study;
- h) to inform the appropriate competent authorities regarding irregularities in the educational process and its related activities;
- i) to participate in academic activities without being under the influence of alcohol or other prohibited substances;
- j) to not use inappropriate language and have an inadequate academic conduct;
- k) to use properly all the received facilities and subsidies, according to the established use guidelines;
- l) to comply with university guidelines which establish cleanliness, peace and order in the university;
- m) to maintain the integrity and the proper functionality of the materials provided by institutions of higher education;
- n) to reimburse universities for damages produced to the materials provided to them by institutions of higher education;
- o) to inform the competent authorities regarding the existence of any situation which might influence the proper performance of individual or general study;
- p) meet his/her financial commitments agreed to by students and institutions of higher education;

Art. 19 National student federations develop an annual report regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Code in institutions of higher education within the national education system.