

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Riga

Date indicated in timestamp

No. 2-2/9

APPROVED

with UL Council decision No. 1-48/10 of 16.05.2022

with UL senate decision No. 2-3/55 of 10.05.2022

with UL senate decision No. 2-3/22 of 28.02.2022

Constitution of the University of Latvia

Issued in accordance with
Law on Higher Education Institutions, Section 10

Higher education and research in the native language is a proof of a nation's maturity, a university is the foundation of a nation's advanced and comprehensive development. The founders of the state of Latvia recognised it, the society of that time understood and supported it, and under the conditions of war, social and economic turmoil dared to dream of creating an academic tradition based on Latvian language and culture, of its own University of Latvia.

The will for statehood was crowned with the founding of a national state, the idea of a national university became a reality. On 15 July 1919, the People's Council of the Republic of Latvia charged the Provisional Government with establishing the University of Latvia, and it was instituted with a ceremonial act on 28 September 1919. The word Latvia in the name of the University symbolizes the closely intertwined destinies of the University and the state of Latvia, and the University as the source of the Latvian scientific language.

The University of Latvia serves science and fatherland. By participating in worldwide research and educational processes, it contributes to growth and sustainability of the Latvian state and nation.

1. General provisions

1. The University of Latvia (hereinafter – the University) is a state-founded higher education institution (a derivative public entity) – a comprehensive research university rooted in the classical European university tradition.

2. The university has consolidated and developed the country's main body of multidisciplinary study and scientific research potential in the areas of strategic specialisation defined by the Cabinet of Ministers:

2.1. natural sciences;

2.2. humanities and arts;

2.3. medicine and health sciences;

2.4. social sciences.

3. The main directions of the University's operation are the studies based on science and practice, scientific research, development of society and economy, perpetuation and development of the Latvian language and culture.

4. The University has the following tasks:

4.1. in its study programmes, to educate highly qualified specialists in the fields important for the development of Latvian society, culture and economy;

4.2. in its doctoral study programmes, to educate internationally competitive scientists, intellectual leaders of society;

4.3. to achieve research excellence in the University's areas of strategic specialisation;

4.4. to offer further education and interest education in accordance with the needs of the society;

4.5. to cooperate with entrepreneurs, as well as engage in technology development, transfer and innovation;

4.6. to guarantee the academic freedom of academic staff and students, promote harmonious personality development and a healthy lifestyle;

4.7. to uphold and improve the principles of academic honesty, openness, equal treatment, and forestall conflicts of interest;

4.8. to ensure an academic activity and social environment that meets international standards, to maintain the property necessary for the operation and to augment it;

4.9. to provide studies in the Latvian language and conduct research in the sciences related to the country of Latvia, its nature, society, Latvian culture and language;

4.10. to promote the growth of Latvian civil society;

4.11. to promote the development of internationally accessible study programmes, the internationalization of the study and research environment, continuing to develop the University as an internationally recognized academic institution;

4.12. to cooperate with other higher education institutions and research organizations, as well as social partners and companies, creating a science, research and innovation ecosystem in the areas of strategic specialization.

5. This Constitution has the highest legal force in the hierarchy of normative acts of the University. In case of contradictions with other normative acts, the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail.

6. This Constitution determines the University's status, operation, as well as the principles of establishment and operation of the main decision-making institutions and other issues of the University's operation insofar as they are not governed by law.

2. The main decision-making institutions of the University

2.1. Basic provisions

7. The main decision-making institutions of the University are the Constitutional Assembly, the Senate, the Council, the Rector and the Academic Arbitration Court.

8. Each main decision-making institution has its own competence stipulated by law and this Constitution, and they are not subordinated to one another.

9. The main decision-making bodies are entitled to request explanations from other institutions and officials of the University.

10. The Constitutional Assembly, the Senate and the Council issue normative acts and other decisions within their competence, and can also authorize the Rector to issue decisions necessary for the implementation thereof. The Rector issues normative acts in the cases specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, other external normative acts, as well as by the Constitutional Assembly, the Senate and the Council. The Rector has the right to issue normative acts and other decisions also in any matter that is not directly defined as the competence of other main decision-making institutions.

11. The work of the Constitutional Assembly, the Senate, the Council and the Academic Arbitration Court is regulated by the regulations approved by them.

2.2. Constitutional Assembly

12. The Constitutional Assembly has 200 members – 130 members of the academic staff, 20 members of the general staff and 50 students.

13. The members of the Constitutional Assembly, except for students, are elected by the staff from the respective staff group. The number of members to be elected from each institution is determined in

proportion to the number of employees of the respective personnel group employed therein. The representation of academic staff is determined in such a way that 65 members from the fields of life sciences, health care, medicine, natural sciences, mathematics and computer science and 65 members from the fields of social sciences, humanities and arts are elected to the Constitutional Assembly.

14. The procedure for the election of members of the Constitutional Assembly, except for students, as well as the procedure for considering the proposal of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly to recall a member of the Constitutional Assembly, is determined by the regulations approved by the Senate and the Council.

15. Elections of the members of the Constitutional Assembly take place once in three years, unless the mandate of the Constitutional Assembly expires prematurely in the cases specified by law. The date by which the members of the Constitutional Assembly are elected is determined by the Senate. The first session of the Constitutional Assembly shall be held within a month from this date. With the convening of the newly elected Constituent Assembly for the first session, the powers of the previous Constitutional Assembly expire. The first meeting of the Constitutional Assembly until the election of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly is chaired by the chairperson of the previous Constitutional Assembly or another person on his/her behalf.

16. The Constitutional Assembly shall be valid if at least 100 members of the Constitutional Assembly participate in it.

17. The decision of the Constitutional Assembly has been adopted if more than half of the voting members of the Constitutional Assembly have voted in favour of it, with the exception of the decisions indicated in the law, as well as clauses 22 and 34 of the Constitution.

18. At the meeting of the Constitutional Assembly, in which the Senate or the Rector are elected, the Senate Chairperson or the Rector presents a report on the accomplished work during the term of office.

19. Institutions and officials who, according to the law, are entitled to convene or propose to convene a session of the Constitutional Assembly are entitled to submit draft decisions to the Constitutional Assembly.

2.3. Senate

20. There are 50 senators in the Senate – 38 representatives of the academic staff, ensuring representation of each faculty, including exactly 25 professors and associate professors, 10 students, the rector and one representative of general staff.

21. The Senate is elected by the Constitutional Assembly for three years in accordance with the procedure approved by the Senate and the Council.

22. Candidates elected in the Senate elections are determined, as follows:

22.1. the votes cast in favour of each candidate are counted;

22.2. the applicants are ranked according to the number of votes obtained;

22.3. the 38 representatives of the academic staff and the representative of the general staff, who have obtained the most votes in the respective staff category, ensuring the specified representation from each faculty and the number of professors and associate professors, are considered elected.

23. The first session of the Senate is convened by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly or another person on his/her behalf no later than two weeks after the election. With the first session of the newly elected Senate, the powers of the previous Senate expire.

24. The meeting of the Senate is valid if at least 25 senators participate in the Senate meeting.

25. The decision of the Senate is adopted if more than half of the senators who have cast their votes have voted in favour of it, except for the cases indicated in clause 26 and the law, when a greater number of votes is required for the adoption of the decision.

26. At least 26 votes in favour are required for the election of the Senate chairperson and the deputies, as well as for the approval of the Senate regulations.

27. The rector, vice-rector, senator, Council, Student Council, faculty councils, scientific councils of institutes and heads of other institutions are entitled to submit draft decisions to the Senate, and with regard to the Constitution or its amendments – also other entities indicated in the law.

2.4. Council

28. Council members nominated by the Senate shall be nominated in accordance with the procedure established by the Senate.

29. The Council is valid if at least six members of the Council participate in its session. The decision of the Council is adopted if more than half of the members of the Council who have cast their votes have voted in favour of it.

30. The rector, vice-rector, member of the Council, Senate, Student Council, faculty councils, scientific councils of institutes and heads of other institutions have the right to submit draft decisions to the Council.

2.5. Rector

31. The Rector is nominated and elected in accordance with the procedure provided by law for four years.

32. The Rector may have one or more vice-rectors, who are appointed by the rector after approval by the Council.

33. The Rector heads the administrative work of the University and represents the University without a special authorization. The Rector has the right to delegate the implementation of certain University

governance issues to vice-rectors as well as other University officials. In such a case, the respective official is responsible for the legitimacy of the respective decisions.

2.6. Academic Arbitration Court

34. The Academic Arbitration Court has five members – four representatives of the academic staff and one representative of the Student Council. The representatives of the academic staff are elected by the Constitutional Assembly for its term of office. The representatives elected to the Academic Arbitration Court are determined according to the same order as in the Senate elections.

3. Structure of the University

3.1. Basic provisions

35. University institutions are established, reorganized and liquidated by the Council based on the Rector's proposal. The regulations of the institution are approved by the Rector.

36. The institution is directly subordinated to the Rector or another institution, or to an official, if it is stipulated in the regulations. The Rector or another institution or official indicated in the regulations is entitled to check the legitimacy and efficiency of the work of the institution, insofar as it is stipulated in the regulations of the institution.

37. The head of the institution is appointed and dismissed by the Rector, unless the law provides otherwise. The institution may also have a collegial management, which is formed in accordance with the regulations.

38. The Rector can determine the tasks to be performed jointly by several institutions, as well as appoint the institutions and officials who participate in the performance of these tasks.

39. Based on the Rector's proposal, the Council may form an association of institutions and other entities for permanent operation or for the achievement of particular goals. University institutions can be included in such an association, whereas other legal entities and their institutions – in accordance with the concluded agreements. In such a case, the Council approves the name of the association of institutions, the tasks to be performed jointly, as well as the institutions and officials who perform these tasks.

40. The head of the institution is responsible for the compliance of the institution's operation with the normative acts. The Rector determines the competence of the head of the institution, as well as whether and to what extent the head of the institution is entitled to handle the financial resources intended for the operation of the institution and to conclude transactions.

41. Operational support of the University's main decision-making institutions and other entities is provided by the University Administration.

42. Furthermore, the Rector has the right to permanently or temporarily establish commissions, advisory councils, working groups. Such institutions are not entitled to make decisions binding on other persons or to dispose of the financial resources of the University.

43. Heads of academic structural units of faculties and institutes (clause 50) and other collegial institutions shall be appointed or elected for the term specified in legal acts for no more than two consecutive times.

3.2. Academic institutions and their structural units

44. To carry out academic, i.e., study and research work, the University creates academic institutions: faculties, scientific research institutes, interdisciplinary cooperation centres, as well as associations of these institutions.

45. The legal regulation of the activity of academic institutions is determined by laws and a single regulation approved by the Council for all academic institutions. In their fields, academic institutions fulfill the common tasks of the University and observe its principles of operation.

46. A faculty can be formed to organize academic operation in the areas of strategic specialization of the University. The faculty ensures the creation and implementation of study programmes, as well as scientific research.

47. A scientific institute can be formed for the organization of scientific activities, i.e., fundamental, applied and industrial research, as well as experimental developments and science communication in the areas of strategic specialization of the University, as well as for participation in the creation and implementation of study programmes.

48. Interdisciplinary cooperation centre is created in the fields of scientific activity, where the involvement of several fields of science is necessary for the solution of current academic problems. The name of the centre is stated in its regulations.

49. The association of academic institutions is formed for the coordination and consolidation of academic activities in several related branches or fields of science. The name of the association is stated in its statutes. The association of academic institutions can represent the interests of the University by forming the associations referred to in clause 39 with other legal entities and their institutions.

50. Academic structural units (departments, institutes, units, laboratories, centres) and other structural units are formed in academic institutions. The work of the academic structural unit is determined by the meeting of its academic staff and it is headed by the head of the structural unit. The head of the academic structural unit, in consultation with the collegial body of the academic institution, is appointed by the head of the academic institution, in case of departments and institutes – for four years, in case of other academic structural units – for six years and no more than two consecutive appointments.

3.3. Governance of academic institutions

51. Self-governance of academic institutions is carried out by its administrative head – dean or director, collegial decision-making institution – council or scientific council and the chairperson of the collegial decision-making body. The academic institution may also form other self-governance structures in accordance with its regulations and requirements, observing the procedure established in the normative acts.

52. The self-government of the academic institution determines its internal structure, organizes record-keeping, recruits personnel, develops and adopts the rules necessary for the performance of its tasks in matters that are not regulated by the rules adopted by other University institutions and officials.

53. Certain academic, economic, financial and other operational issues within the competence of the constituent faculties, scientific institutes or interdisciplinary cooperation centres are transferred to the self-governance of the association of academic institutions. The issues within the competence of the association of academic institutions are defined in its regulations.

54. Certain academic, economic, financial and other operational issues within the competence of these institutions may be transferred to the structural units of faculties, scientific institutes and interdisciplinary cooperation centres in accordance with the procedure specified in the regulations of the institutions.

55. The highest collegial decision-making bodies of academic institutions are elected from the representatives of the academic and general staff. Faculty councils are elected for three years, while councils of scientific institutes are elected for five years. Students are delegated to faculty councils by the student self-government of the faculty, their number shall constitute no less than 20 percent of the councillors. Student representation in other academic institutions is determined by the regulations thereof. Representatives of the academic staff must constitute at least two-thirds of the composition of the highest collegial decision-making body of the academic institution. In addition to the elected persons, these bodies may include representatives of other institutions in accordance with the regulations of that academic institution. The composition of the highest collegial decision-making body of the academic institution is approved by the Rector.

56. The highest collegial decision-making body shall elect a chairperson from its members who have a doctor's degree. The chairperson directs the work of the decision-making body and represents it outside the academic institution. The administrative head or deputy head of the respective academic institution cannot be the chairperson of the decision-making body.

57. The head of the academic institution is the dean (in the faculty) or the director (in the scientific institute or interdisciplinary cooperation centre). The term of office of the head of the academic institution is four years. The head may have one or more deputies (vice-deans, deputy directors), who are appointed by the Rector based on the proposal by the respective head of the academic institution.

58. The head of an academic institution is an official who carries out its general administrative management and represents the institution without special authorization. His/her competence includes:

58.1. ensuring the institution's administrative, organizational and technical functioning;

58.2. implementation of decisions made by the highest collegial decision-making body;

58.3. approval of development programmes of the academic institution;

58.4. management and responsibility for the use of the academic institution's financial resources and the part of the state property transferred to its possession or use.

59. The highest collegial decision-making body of the academic institution:

59.1. determines the basic directions of the institution's academic activity, its development strategy and perspectives, the use of its name and attributes;

59.2. conducts election to academic positions (in faculties and scientific institutes, the positions determined by law and regulations);

59.3. examines and forwards to the Rector proposals for the election and appointment of professors and associate professors to academic positions;

59.4. makes decisions regarding the creation, reorganization or liquidation of academic structural units of the institution;

59.5. performs other tasks specified in normative acts.

4. Student Self-Government

60. The students of the University have their own self-government. It operates in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Self-Government, which is developed by the students and approved by the Council. The highest institution of student self-government is the University Student Council. Within the framework of self-government, students have the right to form student councils and other institutions of academic institutions.

61. The Student Self-Government of the University represents the students of the University, advocates and represents the interests of students in matters of academic, material and cultural life at the University and other institutions, determines the procedure for the election of students to the Constitutional Assembly and the Senate.

62. Decisions of the Student Council after their approval by the Senate must be followed by all students.

63. The Student Self-Government is entitled to request and receive information and explanations from any institution of the University regarding all issues affecting the interests of students.

64. The representatives of the Student Self-Government are entitled to participate in the decision-making bodies of the University at all levels, as well as participate as observers in examinations.

65. The University provides support, including financial support, and promotes the activities of Student Self-Government. The funds are used by the Student Self-Government to fulfill the functions prescribed by law.

5. Symbols of the University

66. The symbols of the University are the flag, coat of arms, motto and anthem.
67. The flag of the University is cobalt blue with the coat of arms of the Republic of Latvia in golden colour on one side and the coat of arms of the University in encircled by the emblems of sciences on the other side.
68. The coat of arms of the University is an oak within a wreath of laurel leaves with its Latin name “Universitas Latviensis” above it and the motto of the University “Scientiae et patriae” below it.
69. The motto of the University is “Scientiae et patriae” (Latin), translated as “For Science and Fatherland”.
70. The University's anthem is “Veltījums Latvijas Universitātei” (“Dedication to the University of Latvia”, music by Jāzeps Vītols, text by Edvarts Virza).
71. The day when the University was officially opened – 28 September – is the day of celebration at the University.
72. The name of the University in other languages is Universitas Latviensis (Latin), University of Latvia (English), in Latvijos Universitetas (Lithuanian), Laäti Ülikool (Estonian), Латвийский Университет (Russian), Universität Lettlands (German), Université de Lettonie (French), Universidad de Letonia (Spanish).

6. Transitional provisions

73. This Constitution enters into force on 1 June 2022.
74. Normative acts issued by the Constitutional Assembly and the Senate, which have been adopted before the date of entry into force of this Constitution, remain in force insofar as they do not contradict the law and this Constitution.
75. The term “basic structural unit” used in the University's normative acts until the day of entry into force of this Constitution, corresponds to the term “institution” used in this Constitution.

Chairperson of Constitutional Assembly (signature) Z. Rubene

THIS DOCUMENT IS ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED WITH A SECURE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND CONTAINS A TIMESTAMP

