

DECISION
No. 128, dated 6.3.2024

ON SOME ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO DECISION NO. 112, DATED 23.2.2018, OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, “ON THE DETERMINATION OF CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF THE SCIENTIFIC DEGREE ‘DOCTOR’ AND THE STATE STANDARDS FOR THE AWARD OF ACADEMIC TITLES ‘ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR’ AND ‘PROFESSOR’”, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and Articles 60(3) and 79(7) of Law No. 80/2015, “On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania”, upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Sports, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

I. In Decision No. 112, dated 23.2.2018, of the Council of Ministers, as amended, the following additions and amendments are made:

1. In Chapter I, the following changes and additions are introduced:

a) In point 3, the words “... includes all supervisions that academic staff carry out in all higher education institutions where they are engaged ...” are replaced with “... includes all supervisions that academic staff carry out in all higher education institutions within the country and supervisions/co-supervisions conducted in higher education institutions within the country or in OECD, EU, or G-20 member states where they are engaged ...”.

b) Letter “b” of point 6 is amended as follows:

“b) The candidate must have published at least three (3) scientific articles in national or international peer-reviewed journals that are indexed. At least one (1) of these articles must be published in an international indexed journal included in *Scopus*, with citation indicators such as *Cite Score* or *Scimago Journal Rank (SJR)*, and/or *Web of Science* with citation indicators such as *Journal Citation Report (JCR)*, *Impact Factor (IF)*, or *Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)*, where the candidate is, at a minimum, the second author.”

c) After point 6, points 6/1 and 6/2 are added, as follows:

“6/1. Exceptions from letters “a” and “b” of point 6 of this chapter apply to academic staff of higher education institutions with a special status, operating in the field of the arts.

The basic criteria that the candidate must fulfill prior to the defense of the dissertation are:

a) To have presented, as first or second author, at least three (3) conference papers, at least two (2) of which must have been delivered at international scientific events (symposium, conference, or congress);

b) To have published at least three (3) scientific articles in journals dedicated to artistic creation, of which at least one (1) must have been published in an international journal, where the candidate is, at a minimum, the second author.”

“6/2. Exceptions from letters “a” and “b” of point 6 of this chapter also apply to academic staff of higher education institutions with a special status, operating in the field of defense and national security.

The basic criteria that the candidate must fulfill prior to the defense of the dissertation are:

- a) To have presented, as first or second author, at least three (3) conference papers, at least two (2) of which must have been delivered at international scientific events (symposium, conference, or congress);
- b) To have published at least three (3) scientific articles in journals in the field of defense and national security, of which at least one (1) must have been published in an international journal, where the candidate is, at a minimum, the second author.”

In Chapter II, the following changes and additions are introduced

- a) Letter “b” of point 4 is amended as follows:

“b) The candidate must have at least five (5) years of full-time work experience as academic staff, with or without interruption, or eight (8) academic years of part-time experience as lecturer, with or without interruption.

Academic staff who have less than five years of full-time academic experience, but have part-time experience of less than eight (8) years, shall have their part-time work converted into full-time equivalent experience, calculated with a coefficient whereby 1.6 years of part-time experience is converted into one (1) year of full-time experience, after obtaining the scientific degree ‘Doctor’.”

- b) Letter “a” of point 5 is amended as follows:

“a) The candidate must have published at least five (5) scientific articles in indexed national or international scientific journals. At least two (2) of these articles must have been published in international indexed journals included in *Scopus*, with citation indicators such as *Cite Score* or *Scimago Journal Rank (SJR)*, and/or *Web of Science* with citation indicators such as *Journal Citation Report (JCR)*, *Impact Factor (IF)*, or *Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)*.”

- c) After point 5, points 5/1 and 5/2 are added, with the following content:

“5/1. Exceptions from letters ‘a’ and ‘b’ of point 5 of this chapter apply to academic staff of higher education institutions with a special status, operating in the field of the arts.

2. Academic staff in the field of the arts who apply for the academic title of ‘Associate Professor’ carry out scientific research activity in the field of artistic creation, reflected in the fulfillment of the following obligations:

- a) For composers: creation of musical works performed on stage that include the cyclic sonata form (works with more than two movements) or vocal-symphonic works.
- b) For instrumentalists: performance of solo works in sonata or cyclic form (works with more than two movements).
- c) For opera singers: performance in a leading role in operas.
- ç) For conductors: conducting symphonic, cyclic (works with more than two movements), vocal-symphonic works, or operas on stage.
- d) For actors: performance in leading roles in theater or film.
- dh) For directors: stage production of theatrical, film, or television works.

- e) For scenographers/costume designers: stage design for theatrical, television, operatic/ballet productions or artistic films.
- ë) For creators in the visual and applied arts: organization of a solo exhibition, creation of monumental public works, or visual artistic performances at the national level.
- f) For choreographers: stage production of a ballet or televised performance.
- g) For ballet dancers: performance in leading roles on stage in ballet or televised productions.

3. Each of the above categories must have participated in at least five (5) artistic realizations as soloist, creator, exhibitor, stage director, or performer in recognized national or international activities (festivals, seasons, etc.), of which at least two (2) works must have been performed with international ensembles (renowned instrumentalists, major ensembles, orchestras and opera companies, direction or roles in performances/films, or equivalent activities in visual and applied arts) in an international event (festival or season).

4. The work/performance must have been accepted through prior evaluation, published in the respective catalogues/agendas, and accompanied by the corresponding professional critique.

5/2. Exceptions from letters “a” and “b” of point 5 of this chapter apply to academic staff of higher education institutions with a special status, operating in the field of defense and national security.

Academic staff in the field of defense and national security who apply for the academic title of *Associate Professor* must demonstrate comprehensive mastery of their field and military leadership, as well as participation in training and academic or scientific-research activities, as reflected in the fulfillment of at least two (2) of the following requirements:

- a) Have published at least five (5) scientific articles in indexed national or international journals in the field of defense and national security, of which at least three (3) must be in national scientific journals as first author, and two (2) in international scientific journals as second author or co-author.
- b) Have presented, as first author, at least two (2) conference papers, of which at least one (1) must have been delivered at an international scientific event (symposium, conference, or congress) held in an OECD, EU, or G20 member country, accepted through prior scientific review and published in the *Proceedings*, indexed with an ISBN or ISSN code.
- c) Have participated in at least three (3) short-term missions/operations, exercises, or high-level military courses, of which at least one (1) must have been in a leadership role.
- ç) Have represented the country on behalf of the Ministry of Defense at least once, for a period of no less than one (1) year, in high-level structures, staffs, or diplomatic representations abroad.”
- ç) In point 6, the following amendments are made:
 - i. The first paragraph is amended as follows:
“When the candidate submits a monograph that meets the following criteria, he or she is exempted from the obligations set out in letters ‘a’ and ‘b’ of point 5 of this chapter, according to the following equivalence:”
 - ii. Subparagraph “ii” of letter “b” is amended as follows:
“ii. One (1) scientific article published in an international journal indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific databases such as Scopus (with citation indicators Cite

Score or Scimago Journal Rank – SJR) and/or Web of Science (with citation indicators Journal Citation Report – JCR, Impact Factor – IF, or Journal Citation Indicator – JCI).”

iii. Subparagraph “ii” of letter “c” is amended as follows:

“ii. Two (2) scientific articles published in international journals indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific databases such as Scopus (with citation indicators Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank – SJR) and/or Web of Science (with citation indicators Journal Citation Report – JCR, Impact Factor – IF, or Journal Citation Indicator – JCI).”

d) Letter “a” of point 8 is amended as follows:

“a) One (1) scientific article published in an international journal indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific databases such as Scopus (with citation indicators Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank – SJR) and/or Web of Science (with citation indicators Journal Citation Report – JCR, Impact Factor – IF, or Journal Citation Indicator – JCI).”

3. In Chapter III, the following additions and amendments are made:

a) Letters “b” and “c” of point 3 are amended as follows:

“b) Must be or have been employed as full-time academic staff for a period of eight (8) academic years after obtaining the scientific degree ‘Doctor’, or as part-time academic staff for a period of twelve (12) academic years after obtaining the scientific degree ‘Doctor’.

Academic staff who have less than eight (8) years of full-time academic experience but have part-time academic experience of less than twelve (12) years shall have their part-time work converted into full-time equivalent experience, calculated with a coefficient whereby 1.5 years...”

part-time, converted into one (1) year of full-time work experience, after obtaining the scientific degree “Doctor”.

c) As a rule, must have supervised or co-supervised at least two (2) doctoral theses. Co-supervision must be carried out with academic staff holding the title of “Professor” from higher education institutions within or outside the country, based on a bilateral agreement. In cases where the candidate performs his/her academic and scientific activity in a main unit with fewer than forty (40) full-time academic staff members, he/she must have supervised/co-supervised at least one (1) completed doctorate, while the criterion for supervising the second doctorate shall be considered fulfilled if the candidate has been engaged in teaching in one of the member states of the European Union, OECD, or G20, for at least six (6) consecutive months or one (1) year intermittently, within the last three years.

b) Letter “a” of point 4 is amended as follows:

“a) Has published at least seven (7) scientific articles in national or international indexed scientific journals. At least three (3) of these articles must be published in international journals indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific journal databases, such as Scopus, with citation indicators like Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), and/or Web of Science with citation indicators from the Journal Citation Report (JCR), Impact Factor (IF), or Journal Citation Indicator (JCI).”

c) After point 4, points 4/1 and 4/2 are added, with the following content:

“4/1. Exceptions to the provisions of point 4 of this section apply to the academic staff of higher education institutions with special status, operating in the field of arts.

Academic staff in the field of arts applying for the academic title of “Professor” must demonstrate full mastery of their artistic-research-scientific field, which is reflected in the fulfillment of the following requirements:

- a) For composers: creation of works performed on stage that include the cyclic sonata form (works with more than two movements) or vocal-symphonic works.
- b) For instrumentalists: performances of solo works in the sonata or cyclic form (works with more than two movements).
- c) For lyric singers: performances in leading roles in operas.
- ç) For conductors: stage direction of symphonic, cyclic (works with more than two movements), vocal-symphonic works, or operas.
- d) For actors: performances in leading roles in theater or film.
- dh) For directors: stage productions of theatrical, cinematic, or television works.
- e) For set designers/costume designers: stage productions of theatrical, television, operatic/ballet, or feature film performances.
- ë) For creators of visual and applied arts: organization of personal exhibitions, creation of monumental public works, or visual artistic performances in the national arena.
- f) For choreographers: stage production of ballet works or television performances.
- g) For ballet dancers: performances in leading roles on stage in ballet or television performances.

Each of the categories specified in this point must have participated in at least seven (7) artistic realizations as a soloist, creator, exhibitor, or performer in notable activities (festivals, seasons, etc.) recognized nationally or internationally, of which at least three (3) works must have been performed with international ensembles (distinguished instrumentalists, significant ensembles, orchestras, and opera companies, direction or leading roles in performances/films, etc., or equivalent activities in visual and applied arts) in international events (festivals, seasons). The work/performance must have been accepted based on a prior evaluation, published in the respective catalogues/agendas, and accompanied by corresponding professional critique.

4/2. Academic staff in the field of defense and national security applying for the academic title of “Professor” must demonstrate full mastery of their field and of military leadership.

participation in training activities and academic, research-scientific activities, which is reflected in the completion of at least two (2) of the following obligations:

- a) Has published five (5) scientific articles nationally or internationally indexed in the field of defense and national security, of which at least three (3) must be in national scientific journals as first author, and two (2) in international scientific journals. When these articles are co-authored, the candidate must be the first or second author. The candidate must be the first author in at least three (3) of the scientific articles submitted for the title application.
- b) Has presented, as first author, at least three (3) papers, of which at least two (2) have been delivered at international scientific events (symposia, conferences, congresses), accepted on the basis of prior scientific review.
- c) Has published, as first author or co-author, no fewer than three (3) research, scientific, or instructional works such as textbooks, manuals, doctrines, or other strategic-level documents.
- ç) Has participated in at least four (4) short-term missions/operations, exercises, or high-level military courses, where, in at least two (2) of them, he/she has served in a leadership role."
- ç) In point 5, the following changes are made:
 - i. Subparagraph “ii” of letter “b” is amended as follows:
 - "ii. One (1) scientific article published in an international journal indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific journal databases, such as Scopus, with citation indicators

like Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), and/or Web of Science with citation indicators from the Journal Citation Report (JCR), Impact Factor (IF), or Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)."

ii. Subparagraph "ii" of letter "c" of point 5 is amended as follows:

"ii. Two (2) scientific articles published in an international journal indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific journal databases, such as Scopus, with citation indicators like Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), and/or Web of Science with citation indicators from the Journal Citation Report (JCR), Impact Factor (IF), or Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)."

d) The first paragraph and letter "a" of point 7 are amended as follows:

"7. The candidate's engagement and participation in one or more of the activities defined in point 6 of this section may be considered equivalent to:

a) One (1) scientific article published in an international journal indexed in one of the internationally recognized scientific journal databases, such as Scopus, with citation indicators like Cite Score or Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), and/or Web of Science with citation indicators from the Journal Citation Report (JCR), Impact Factor (IF), or Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)."

In Chapter V, the following additions and amendments are made:

a) After point 7, point 7/1 is added with the following content:

"7/1. For full-time or part-time academic staff applying for the academic title "Professor" until the beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year, the criterion in letter "c" of point 3 of Chapter III shall be considered fulfilled if the candidate has supervised/co-supervised at least one (1) completed doctorate.

Meanwhile, if the candidate performs his/her academic and scientific activity in a main unit with fewer than forty (40) full-time academic staff members, the criterion in letter "c" of point 3 of Chapter III shall be considered fulfilled if the candidate is supervising/co-supervising at least one (1) doctorate and meets one of the following conditions:

i. Has had or currently has a leadership role in an international project;

ii. Has taught or is teaching in a program delivered in a foreign language, in one of the five European languages: English, French, German, Spanish, or Italian."

iii. Has successfully completed at least all the requirements of the second year, according to the provisions of the respective regulations of the doctoral study program, for the doctoral candidate whose doctorate he/she supervises or co-supervises."

b) Point 9 is repealed.

c) After point 9, points 9/1, 9/2, and 9/3 are added with the following content:

"9/1. Candidates who have begun the procedure for obtaining the scientific degree or academic titles and have passed the approval stage by the Commission for the Award of the Scientific Degree "Doctor" or the Commission for the Promotion of Academic Staff shall complete the procedure for obtaining the scientific degree or academic title according to the criteria set out in the legislation in force, at the moment of submission of the file to the head of the main unit.

9/2. An exception to the provisions of letter "b" of point 3 of Chapter III is made for the academic staff of higher education institutions with special status operating in the field of arts, who currently hold the academic title of "Associate Professor," and who were exempted from the requirement to obtain the scientific degree "Doctor," but have been course holders for a period of five (5) years

full-time. The part-time teaching period as a course holder after obtaining the academic title “Associate Professor” shall be converted to full-time with a coefficient of 1.5.

9/3. The Commander of the Armed Forces Academy, who holds at least the rank of “Brigadier General,” shall, solely for the purpose of institutional and program accreditation of the Armed Forces Academy, serve simultaneously as the Rector of the Armed Forces Academy for a four-year period from the entry into force of this decision."

II. The Ministry of Education and Sports, the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, and the higher education institutions are charged with the implementation of this decision.

This decision shall enter into force upon publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER

Edi Rama