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**GENERAL DIRECTORATE  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Order No. 2019-073: /MESRSI/SG/DGESup**

*Establishing the general study regulations for the Bachelor's degree in public and private institutions of higher education and research.*

**REFERENCE: DCMF No. 2/0 l1**

*Dated 20 January 2019*

**THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION**

*Considering the Constitution;*

*Considering Decree No. 2019-004/PRES of 21 January 2019 appointing the Prime Minister; Considering Decree No. 2019-0042/PRES/PM of 24 January 2019 on the composition of the Government;*

*Considering Decree No. 2016-027/PRES/PM/SGG-CM of 23 February 2016 on the standard organization of ministerial departments;*

*Considering Decree No. 2016-382/PRES/PM/MESRSI of 20 May 2016 on the organization of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation (MESRSI);*

*Considering Directive No. 03/2007/CM/UEMOA of 4 July 2007 adopting the Bachelor-Master-PhD (LMD) system in universities and higher education institutions within UEMOA;*

*Considering Law No. 013-2007/AN of 30 July 2007 on the framework for education;*

*Considering Decree No. 2018-1271/PRES/PM/MESRSI/MINEFID of 31 December 2018 on the organization of higher education;*

*Considering Decree No. 2012-828/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS/MENA/MESS of 22 October 2012 on social measures for persons with disabilities in health and education;*

*Considering Order No. 2017-145/MESRSI/SG/DGESup of 13 April 2017 on the roles, organization, and functioning of the General Directorate of Higher Education;*

*Upon the proposal of the General Directorate of Higher Education;*

**ORDERS**

## CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Article 1:** This order defines the study regulations for the Bachelor's degree in public and private institutions of higher education and research.

**Article 2:** The Bachelor's degree prepares students for professional integration or further studies. The training program is organized by field, major, and specialization, or by field and major through pathways in initial and/or continuing education, delivered in-person and/or remotely.

**Article 3:** The Bachelor's program is structured into six semesters of 30 credits each, organized into teaching units (TU). Semesters 1 (S1) and 2 (S2) correspond to the first year of the Bachelor's degree (L1); Semesters 3 (S3) and 4 (S4) correspond to the second year (L2); Semesters 5 (S5) and 6 (S6) correspond to the third year (L3). Each semester lasts between fourteen (14) and sixteen (16) weeks.

**Article 4:** The Bachelor's degree is the first level of the Bachelor-Master-PhD (LMD) system. It certifies the attainment of a level corresponding to 180 credits validated through in-person and/or remote teaching units.

**Article 5:** For national and international mobility purposes, the Bachelor's diploma is accompanied by a descriptive annex called the "diploma supplement," which includes the name of the higher education institution(s) awarding the degree. A ministerial order specifies the format and content of the Bachelor's diploma supplement.

**Article 6:** Bachelor's programs are open without discrimination to any person meeting the required admission criteria and complying with the administrative and academic registration conditions of the higher education institution.

**Article 7:** There are two registration regimes in higher education and research institutions:

1. **"Student" regime:** Applies to new baccalaureate holders (from the current year or up to one year prior) and learners who have not yet lost their registration rights. These are learners with a new, uninterrupted academic path or those granted a suspension.
2. **"Particular" regime:** Applies to:
  - Former baccalaureate holders (baccalaureate obtained more than one (1) year prior) and those who have lost their eligibility for the "student" regime (e.g., employees, salaried workers, self-employed individuals).
  - Learners whose academic path was interrupted without prior authorization from the university administration.
  - Learners who, under the LMD system, failed to complete their program within the allotted time (Bachelor's degree within 5 years).
  - New baccalaureate holders aged over 28 at the time of obtaining the

baccalaureate.

## **CHAPTER II : AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

**Article 8:** Authorization to award the Bachelor's degree is granted to higher education institutions by ministerial order, following an evaluation of their training programs by the General Directorate of Higher Education.

**Article 9:** Authorization may be requested by a public or private institution, or jointly by multiple institutions legally established and accredited. The application dossier must include:

- Pedagogical details of the program (objectives, teaching methods, admission criteria, validation procedures).
- The program structure (teaching units, content, credits, workload distribution).
- Assessment methods (types of exams, duration, weighting).
- The composition of the training team and the area(s) of responsibility of each team member.

When multiple public or private higher education institutions jointly apply for authorization to award the bachelor's degree, they must establish a cooperation agreement, which is attached to the application for authorization.

In any case, the graduation procedures must be specified in the agreement signed by the parties responsible for the higher education institutions.

## **CHAPTER III: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR'S STUDIES**

**Article 10:** A candidate may enroll in the first year of the Bachelor's program (L1) if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Hold a baccalaureate diploma in a series compatible with the chosen program;
- Hold a qualification recognized as an exemption or equivalent to the baccalaureate, including Validation of Acquired Experience (VAE) or Validation of Professional Acquired Experience (VAP), in accordance with current regulations. For private higher education institutions, the VAE or VAP must be conducted by a public higher education institution at the expense of the applicants;
- Pass the special entrance examination for the requested public higher education institution. For private higher education institutions, this special examination must be organized by a public higher education institution at the expense of the applicants.

A student enrolled in L1 is authorized to attend and be assessed in Semester 1 (S1) and Semester 2 (S2).

**Article 11:** A student may enroll in the second year of the Bachelor's program (L2) if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Successfully completed the first two semesters (S1 and S2) of L1, obtaining all 60 credits;
- Hold a qualification recognized as equivalent to L1, VAE, or VAP and compatible with the chosen program.

A student enrolled in L2 is authorized to attend and be assessed in Semester 3 (S3) and Semester 4 (S4).

**Article 12:** A student may enroll in the third year of the Bachelor's program (L3) if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Successfully completed the first four semesters (S1, S2, S3, and S4) of L1 and L2, obtaining all 120 credits;
- Hold a qualification recognized as equivalent to L2, VAE, or VAP and compatible with the chosen program.

A student enrolled in L3 is authorized to attend and be assessed in Semester 5 (S5) and Semester 6 (S6).

**Article 13:** In the context of academic mobility, students who have begun their studies at a given level may be admitted to a higher level after an evaluation of their cumulative academic achievements by the pedagogical committee of the higher education institution.

**Article 14:** Candidates holding a General University Studies Diploma (DEUG), University Diploma of Technology (DUT), Higher Technician Certificate (BTS), or an equivalent qualification may integrate a Bachelor's program after a review of their application by the pedagogical committee of the higher education institution.

**Article 15:** The Bachelor's program must be completed within a maximum of **five (5) annual administrative enrollments**. However:

- No more than **three (3) annual administrative enrollments** are permitted for the first year (L1).
- For professional Bachelor's degrees, repeating the first year (L1) is prohibited in professional schools and institutes of public higher education institutions.
- Upon request, students who have exhausted their five (5) annual administrative enrollments but have validated the second year (L2) may be granted **up to two (2) additional annual administrative enrollments** under the "particular" regime for the third year (L3).
- Similarly, students who have exhausted their five (5) annual administrative enrollments in L3 without validating it may request **two (2) additional annual administrative enrollments** under the "particular" regime for L3.

- Students may request a suspension of their academic path with valid justification.

## CHAPTER IV: ORGANIZATION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

**Article 16:** The Bachelor's curriculum ensures the student's acquisition of fundamental, transversal, and/or professional knowledge. It is organized as initial or continuing education, delivered in-person and/or remotely.

**Article 17:** The pedagogical structure of the Bachelor's program is as follows:

- **Semesters 1 and 2 (S1–S2):** Dedicated to the student's orientation in their chosen pathway and the consolidation of prior knowledge.
- **Semesters 3 and 4 (S3–S4):** Focused on the acquisition of knowledge guiding the student toward a major and/or specialization.
- **Semesters 5 and 6 (S5–S6):** Correspond to the student's major and/or specialization phase, with reinforcement of disciplinary expertise. Specialized capacity-building courses are aligned with the disciplinary field.

The articulation between semesters must adhere to pedagogical coherence, providing all tools necessary for high-quality training to produce graduates competent in their major/specialization.

**Article 18:** Training is organized through lectures, conferences, seminars, tutorials, practical work, internships, and individual or collective projects.

**Article 19:** The curriculum, delivered in-person and/or remotely, includes theoretical, methodological, and practical instruction. It also mandates the teaching of a foreign living language and computer science.

**Article 20:** For professional Bachelor's programs, the training is designed and organized through close partnerships with the socio-professional sector. Sector representatives are involved in curriculum design and participate in teaching. Part of the training is completed in a professional environment through internships.

Internships and individual or collective projects require the submission of a final report, which is defended orally.

**Article 21:** The curriculum is composed of Teaching Units (TU) subdivided into Constituent Elements of Teaching Units (CETU). Each TU is assigned a defined credit value.

- **General programs:** 1 credit = 20 hours of student workload (60% contact hours, 40% independent work).
- **Professional programs:** 1 credit = 25 hours of student workload (60% contact hours, 40% independent work).

**Article 22:** Each training program includes **mandatory, optional, or elective Teaching Units (TUs)**.

- **Mandatory TUs:** Classified as **major TUs (4–6 credits)** and **minor TUs (2–3 credits)**.
- **Elective TUs:** 1 credit per semester.  
Major and minor TUs are categorized as fundamental knowledge, specialization, methodology, or general culture units, depending on the program's focus.

**Article 23:** To facilitate student mobility, institutions may establish pathways allowing students to transfer between internal or external programs. Mobility between higher education institutions requires the submission of a transfer dossier to the head of the receiving institution, including:

- A recommendation from the head of the student's original institution.
- Approval from the pedagogical committee of the receiving institution.

**Article 24:** Institutions must implement specific pedagogical accommodations for students engaged in professional activities, students with disabilities, or high-level athletes, in accordance with applicable regulations.

## **CHAPTER V: ASSESSMENT METHODS AND DEFENSES**

**Article 25:** Assessments for the Bachelor's degree are organized within the framework of Teaching Units (TUs). They include continuous assessments and/or final exams.

- **Minor TU:** 1 assessment.
- **Major TU:** 2 assessments.

**Article 26:** Final exams for even-numbered semesters (S2, S4, S6) are scheduled at the end of each semester. A single makeup session for both semesters of the same academic year is organized no earlier than two weeks after the publication of results for S2, S4, and S6.

**Article 27:** Assessment methods (number of tests, nature, duration, weighting) must be

communicated to students. These must specify the weighting between continuous assessment and final exams, where applicable.

**Article 28:** Only students who have completed administrative and academic registration with their institution's competent services are permitted to participate in assessments.

**Article 29:** Absence from an assessment results in a score of **zero (0)**.

**Article 30:** Students may only sit for exams if they have met attendance requirements for tutorials and practical work, where applicable.

**Article 31:** For Bachelor's programs requiring a defense, a jury evaluates the student's internship report. After consultation with the internship supervisor(s) and upon proposal by the program coordinator, the defense is authorized by the institution's head.

- The jury is chaired by a senior faculty member (Professor rank or equivalent) from the discipline, excluding the student's supervisor, and includes three (3) members.
- Special accommodations are made for students with disabilities during defenses.

## **CHAPTER VI: VALIDATION OF TRAINING PATHWAYS**

**Article 32:** The Bachelor's degree is awarded either by validating all TUs in the pathway or through compensation mechanisms outlined in Articles 33 and 34.

- Each TU is assigned a coefficient and credit value. Coefficients may vary between 1 and 6.
- The degree confers the title of Bachelor in a specific major.

**Article 33:** A TU or CETU is validated if the student achieves:

- **≥10/20** for general Bachelor's programs.
- **≥12/20** for professional Bachelor's programs.
- Compensation between CETUs within a TU is permitted regardless of the semester average.
- Validated TUs are permanently retained.
- Students retain credit for CETUs with passing grades during makeup sessions unless they formally renounce them in writing within one week of result publication.

**Article 34:** A semester is validated if:

- All TUs within it are individually validated, or
- The weighted average of TUs (using coefficients) meets the passing threshold.

**Article 35:** Validated semesters are irrevocable and confer 30 credits.

**Article 36:** Students transferring institutions retain credits earned at their original institution and need only validate remaining credits for degree completion.

**Article 37:** The Bachelor's degree is awarded upon validation of all six (6) semesters (180 credits).

**Article 38:** Degree classifications are as follows:

- **Pass (D):** 10–11.99/20
- **Fairly Good (C):** 12–13.99/20
- **Good (B):** 14–15.99/20
- **Very Good (A):**  $\geq 16/20$

*Classification is based on the average of S5 and S6.*

**Article 39:** Examination boards produce signed minutes and pass lists in four copies, one of which is publicly posted. Board deliberations are confidential and binding under applicable laws.

## **CHAPTER VII: TRANSCRIPTS, CERTIFICATES, AND DIPLOMAS**

**Article 40:** After deliberation, students receive an official transcript signed by the jury president or the institution's academic affairs officer.

**Article 41:** A provisional certificate of success is issued by the institution's head or academic affairs officer. A final certificate is later issued by the competent academic services.

**Article 42:** Upon request, the diploma is issued by the authorized institution's head. It includes:

- The student's classification.
- The faculty/department name.
- The institution's name and seal.
- For joint degrees, signatures and seals of all partner institutions.

## **CHAPTER VIII: TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 43:** Temporarily, dual enrollment in two distinct degree programs within the same semester is prohibited.

**Article 44:** Institutions have **one (1) year** from the date of this order to comply with its provisions.

**Article 45:** This order repeals all prior conflicting provisions.

**Article 46:** The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research,



and Innovation is responsible for implementing this order, which shall be published in the *Journal Officiel du Faso*.

*Ouagadougou, 25 February 2019*

*Pr. Alkassouna MANGA*

*Officer of the Order of the Stallion*