

English introduction:

Changes on the law on admission requirements for universities in Iceland

The bill is proposed to amend the Act on Universities no. 63/2006 and the Act on Public Universities no. 85/2008 in such a way as to change the conditions of admission to a university for students who want to start studies to a first university degree.

The matriculation examination has long been regarded as the main admission requirement for a university in Iceland. With this bill the changes will be that students who begin their studies at a university must have completed a matriculation examination or a final exam from an upper secondary school at the third level of competence.

According to Lilja Alfreðsdóttir, Minister of Education, Science and Culture, the change is not in any way reducing the independence and responsibility of universities for their activities but is removing obstacles that have existed between book and internships. The bill thus entails increased equality in education. The change creates an incentive for universities to define access criteria in accordance with the requirements for different studies.

This bill is drafted in the Ministry of Education and Culture on the basis of proposals in the Minister's action plan to increase young people's interest in vocational and technical education that is being developed in collaboration with the Association of Icelandic Municipalities and the Confederation of Icelandic Industries.

Icelandic:

Starfshópur APELE fagnar frumvarpi ráðherra um breytingu á lögum um háskóla, nr. 63/2006 og lögum um opinbera háskóla, nr. 85/2008 og telur það mikilvægt skref í átt að því að auka aðgengi nemendahóps með fjölbreyttan bakgrunn að háskólanámi.

APELE er Erasmus verkefni sem miðar að því að hvetja fólk með færri tækifæri, að meðtöldum innflytjendum, til að leggja sitt mikilvæga framlag til sem þátttakendur í háskólasamfélaginu. APELE vinnur að því að skrá hvernig fyrri reynsla og nám er viðurkennt í mismunandi löndum Evrópu og bera kennsl á hindranir og sameiginlega veikleika í viðurkenningarferlinu. Starfshópurinn vinnur að matsaðferð, til viðurkenningar á fyrri námi og reynslu, með gerð færnimöppu.

Hópurinn telur mikilvægt að raunfærnimat verði innleitt á háskólastig sem fyrst, en engin formleg aðferðarfræði er á Íslandi á háskólastigi til raunfrænimats. Það er því ánægjuefni að verkefnið Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Practice hafi farið af stað árið 2019 en það verkefni snýst um að þróa leiðir til innleiðingu raunfærnimats á háskólastigi.

Opinbert og lýðræðislegt hlutverk háskóla hefur orðið sífellt mikilvægara umræðuefni á undanförunum árum í ljósi félagslegrar, pólitískrar og efnahagslegrar þróunar, sem og breytinga á fjölmiðlum og samskiptum.

Samfélagið á Íslandi hefur breyst mikið á undanförunum árum og samkvæmt nýjustu tölum eru 14% landsmanna innflytjendur. Þrátt fyrir það er aðeins fáa af þeim, fyrir utan Erasmus-nemendur, að finna við opinbera háskóla á Íslandi.

Aðgangur að háskólum er ekki aðeins þýðingarmikill fyrir nærsamfélagið heldur afar mikilvægur fyrir innflytjendur um alla Evrópu þar sem háskólanám býður upp á möguleika til frekari menntunar og þróunar.

Fyrir hönd starfshóps APELE við Háskólann á Akureyri
Markus Meckl, Anna Karen Úlfarsdóttir og Heiða Kristín Jónsdóttir.

English:

The working group of APELE welcomes the Minister's bill on amendments to the Act on Universities, no. 63/2006 and the Act on Public Universities, no. 85/2008 and considers it an important step towards increasing the access of students with diverse backgrounds to higher education.

APELE is an Erasmus project that aims to encourage people with fewer opportunities, including migrants, to make an important contribution as participants in the university community. APELE works to record how previous experiences and learning are recognized in different European countries and to identify obstacles and common weaknesses in the recognition process. The working group works on an assessment method, for recognition of previous studies and experience, by creating a skills portfolio.

The group considers it important that recognition of prior learning is implemented at the university level as soon as possible, for there is no formal methodology in Iceland at the university level for accreditation of prior experiential learning. It is therefore gratifying that the project Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Practice was launched in 2019, a project that aims at developing ways for the implementation of recognition of prior learning at the university level.

The official and democratic role of universities has become an increasingly important topic of discussion in recent years in the light of social, political and economic developments, as well as changes in the media and communication.

The society in Iceland has changed a great deal in recent years and according to the latest figures, 14% of the population are immigrants. Despite this, only a few of them, apart from Erasmus students, can be found at public universities in Iceland.

Access to universities is not only important for the local community but also very important for immigrants throughout Europe, as higher education offers opportunities for further education and development.

On behalf of the APELE working group at the University of Akureyri
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