

Polytechnics Act

(932/2014)

Translation from Finnish.
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish.
Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

Chapter 1

General provisions

Section 1

Scope of application

1. This Act applies to polytechnics under the remit of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 2

Status of polytechnics in the education system

1. Polytechnics form part of the system of higher education. Polytechnics and universities together constitute the system of higher education institutions.

Section 3

Polytechnic community

1. A *polytechnic community* refers to a community consisting of teachers and other staff of a polytechnic and students participating in studies leading to a degree.

Section 4

Mission

1. Working on research, artistic and cultural premises, polytechnics shall provide higher education for professional expert jobs based on the requirements of working life and its development and support the professional growth of students.
2. They shall also carry out applied research, development and innovation activities and artistic activities that serve polytechnic education, promote industry and commerce and regional development and regenerate the industrial structure of the region. In executing these tasks, polytechnics shall promote lifelong learning.

Section 5

Status as legal person

1. A polytechnic is a joint-stock legal person (*polytechnic as a limited liability company*) governed by the Limited Liability Companies Act (624/2006), unless otherwise provided in this act.
2. The purpose of the operations of a polytechnic as a limited liability company may not be profit seeking, and it may not distribute dividends or generate other financial gain for shareholders

or other actors taking part in the activities. When distributing assets in any other manner specified in Chapter 13, section 1, of the Limited Liability Companies Act, assets can be refunded to shareholders only up to the amount they have invested in the company. The refund of assets from the reserves of unrestricted equity referred to in Chapter 13, section 1(1), paragraph 1, of the Limited Liability Companies Act or in situations referred to in paragraph 2 or 3 of the subsection in question is possible only in the event that the operations of the polytechnic are terminated. Otherwise, the assets must be used for the purposes described in section 4 of this Act.

3. A polytechnic may engage in business activities, provided that they support the discharge of the mission laid down in section 4.

Section 6

Cooperation with the operating environment

1. In carrying out its mission, each polytechnic shall cooperate with business and industry and other sectors of the labour market, in particular within its own region, and with Finnish and foreign higher education institutions and other education providers.

Chapter 2

Operating licence and operating terms of polytechnics

Section 7

Operating licence

1. To operate a polytechnic, an operating licence is required. The licence is granted by the Government. The licence shall be granted on condition that the polytechnic is needed to satisfy an educational need and, taking into account the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, possesses the financial and operational prerequisites for proper fulfilment of the tasks laid down in section 4. A further requirement is that the articles of association or shareholders' agreement of the polytechnic as a limited liability company shall not contain conditions requiring decisions to be made by a qualified majority that would function to prevent the structural development of the polytechnic. Further provisions on applying for an operating licence and documents and information to be included in the application shall be issued by government decree.
2. The licensee is entitled to engage in polytechnic operations in accordance with the educational mission specified in the operating licence. The licence may also impose development and other obligations on the polytechnic pertaining to its mission.
3. The operating licence stipulates the name of the polytechnic. The term polytechnic may only be used for polytechnics referred to in this Act, unless otherwise provided in an act.

4. The Government may revoke the operating licence or alter it, if so required by fundamental changes in educational needs or for other essential reasons relating to the running of the polytechnic, or if the polytechnic in its operation fails to fulfil the requirements and obligations referred to in subsections (1) and (2). Before the altering or revoking the operating licence, the polytechnic must be reserved the chance to be heard.

Section 8

Educational mission

1. The operating licence of a polytechnic stipulates the polytechnic Bachelor's degrees to be conferred by the polytechnic and the degree titles associated with them (*educational responsibility*). Where necessary, the operating licence can also be used to itemise degree specific-educational responsibilities. The operating licence of a polytechnic also specifies the polytechnic Master's degrees to be conferred by the polytechnic and the degree titles associated with them.
2. The polytechnic's right to organise the necessary teacher education for teachers and prospective teachers in polytechnics and in vocational education and training is also decreed in the operating licence (*professional teacher education*).
3. The language used for instruction and for the degrees of the polytechnic is defined in the operating licence as either Finnish or Swedish. In addition to this, the polytechnic may decide that some other language is used for instruction and for the degrees.

Chapter 3

Instruction, degrees and research and development activities

Section 9

Freedom of instruction and research

1. In carrying out the mission referred to in section 4, a polytechnic shall enjoy freedom of instruction and research. However, instruction shall comply with statutes and regulations issued on the provision of education.
2. Polytechnic instruction shall be public. Access to instruction may be restricted in duly motivated cases.

Section 10

Instruction in polytechnics

1. Within the scope of the operating licence granted to it, a polytechnic shall provide studies leading to higher education degrees and professional teacher education. A polytechnic may

also provide professional specialisation studies, education consisting of modules in the form of open polytechnic instruction or other types of separate studies, and continuing education. A polytechnic shall issue certificates on studies completed at the polytechnic. Provisions on certificates issued by polytechnics shall be issued by government decree. (19.12.2014/1173)

2. Studies forming part of a polytechnic Bachelor's degree or a polytechnic Master's degree for the completion of which the student has been granted a right to study, limited either in duration or scope, can be completed as open polytechnic instruction or separate studies organised in some other manner.
3. A polytechnic may provide education for immigrants free of charge with a view to providing them with language proficiency and other knowledge and skills needed for studies at the polytechnic. Provisions on the scope of the education may be issued by government decree.

Section 11

Degrees and requirements

1. The polytechnics shall confer polytechnic Bachelor's degrees and polytechnic Master's degrees. The polytechnic Bachelor's degrees are first-cycle degrees and the polytechnic Master's degrees are second-cycle degrees. Provisions on the status of the degrees in the system of higher education degrees shall be issued by government decree.
2. A degree conferred by a polytechnic shall be affixed with the name of the field of study concerned and the degree title and, where needed, as concerns the first-cycle polytechnic degree the abbreviation AMK, and, as concerns the second-cycle polytechnic degree the abbreviation ylempi AMK.
3. Provisions on the degrees conferred by a polytechnic, the objectives of the degrees and the structure of studies and other study requirements shall be issued by government decree.

Section 11a (19.12.2014/1173)

Professional specialisation studies

1. Professional specialisation studies offered by polytechnics are studies intended to be completed after a higher education degree and aimed at those already working in order to promote their professional development and specialisation. They are intended to generate competence in areas of expertise with no market-based provision of education.
2. Provisions on the joint objectives and minimum scope of professional specialisation studies shall be issued by government decree. Studies offered by a polytechnic in the form of business activities under section 5(3) are not provided as professional specialisation studies.
3. Only studies, the requirements for which have been established through inter-polytechnic cooperation, can be provided as professional specialisation studies. Cooperation with representatives of the workplace and business life must be carried out during the agreement procedure. Further provisions on the agreements and the provision of the studies shall be issued by government decree.

4. A public register is maintained of agreements on professional specialisation studies. Further provisions regarding the public register and information to be included in it shall be issued by government decree.

Section 12 (13.12.2013/257)

Free instruction and fees concerning other activities

1. Studies leading to a polytechnic Bachelor's degree (first-cycle polytechnic degree) and a polytechnic Master's degree (second-cycle polytechnic degree) and entrance examinations for student admissions shall be free of charge for students. The principle of free instruction does not prevent a polytechnic from organising such instruction leading to a joint or double degree where payment is charged by a foreign institution of higher education for its share.
2. The Finnish National Board of Education charges a term-specific processing fee from those who apply based on education provided outside of the education systems of countries belonging to the European Economic Area or Switzerland. Payment of the fee is a prerequisite for the processing of the application.
3. Persons applying studies other than those given in Finnish or Swedish may be required to take a fee-charging international test. For activities other than those referred to in subsection (1) the polytechnic may charge fees. Further provisions on fees for performances under public law charged by polytechnics shall be issued by government decree in conformity with the provisions on the cost price of performances under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992).
4. If the fee chargeable to a student under public law has not been paid by the due date, it is possible to collect annual interest for late payment from the due date onwards in accordance with the provisions of the Interest Act(633/1982). The payment may be recovered by an enforcement order without a court decision. Provisions on collecting the fee are laid down in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges (706/2007).

Section 13

Customised education

1. A polytechnic may arrange degree education geared to a group of students which has been commissioned and is paid by the Finnish government, another state, an international organisation, a Finnish or foreign public corporation, a foundation or a private corporation (*customised education*).
2. Customised education may not be arranged for citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or for persons who are considered equivalent to European Union citizens under a treaty concluded by the European Community and its Member States with another contracting party, or for a family member of the above-mentioned individuals. Nor can customised education be arranged for a person with a European Union Blue Card, a continuous or a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's EU residence permit

issued to third-country nationals referred to in the Aliens Act (301/2004), or for a family member of the above-mentioned individuals. The Aliens Act is applied in the definition of persons regarded as family members. A person participating in customised education shall be governed by sections 25–27, 33–40 and 57–61 of this Act.

3. Instruction given as customised education must relate to a field of education specified in the operating licence of the polytechnic. The arrangement of customised education may not undermine the first-cycle and second-cycle education provided by the polytechnic. The polytechnic must charge a fee for customised education covering at least the costs incurring from it.

Section 14 (20.3.2015/325)

Curricula and normative duration of studies

1. Polytechnics decide on their curricula.
2. The scope of studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree must correspond to full-time studies of at least three academic years and, at most, four academic years in duration. On special grounds, the duration of studies may be longer than this. The scope of studies leading to a second-cycle polytechnic degree must correspond to full-time studies of at least one academic year and, at most, one and a half academic years in duration. The polytechnic must arrange degree-awarding teaching so as to enable full-time students to complete their degrees within a period of time that corresponds to the scope of the studies (*normative duration*).
3. The normative duration of studies in professional teacher education is one year.

Section 14 amended with the Act 325/2015 enters into force on 8 August 2015. The previous wording was:

Section 14

Curricula and the duration of studies

1. A polytechnic decides on its curricula.
2. The duration of studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree must correspond to at minimum three and at maximum four academic years of full-time studies. On special grounds, the duration of studies may be longer than this. The scope of studies leading to a second-cycle polytechnic degree must correspond to full-time studies of at least one academic year and, at maximum, three terms in duration. A polytechnic must organise studies leading to a degree in a manner that allows for a full-time student to complete them in the time specified.

Chapter 4

Organisation

Section 15

Organs a polytechnic

1. The organs of a polytechnic are the board and the rector acting as managing director. In addition, the polytechnic must have at least one board of examiners or an equivalent body.
2. The polytechnic may also contain other organs, as stipulated by its rules of procedure.

Section 16

Duties of the board

1. In addition to those laid down in the Limited Liability Companies Act, the remit of the board shall be to:
 - 1) determine the main objectives of the polytechnic operations and economy, the strategy and management principles;
 - 2) decide on the action and operating and financial plans and the budget of the polytechnic, and to prepare a financial statement;
 - 3) arrange the supervision of the accounting and asset management;
 - 4) be accountable for the management and use of the assets of the polytechnic, unless the board has devolved the power to the rector;
 - 5) adopt agreements of major importance or financial consequence for the polytechnic and issue opinions on important matters of principle concerning the polytechnic;
 - 6) adopt the agreement with the Ministry of Education and Culture referred to in section 42 on behalf of the polytechnic;
 - 7) elect and dismiss the rector;
 - 8) adopt the rules of procedure and other corresponding rules pertaining to general organisation and operations and to decide on the operational structure of the polytechnic;
 - 9) decide on the number of students to be admitted to the polytechnic.
2. In addition, the board shall be charged with hiring the leading staff working directly under the rector, unless the board has devolved the task to another organ of the polytechnic.
3. The duties of the board laid down above in subsection (1) may not be transferred to the competence of the general meeting. Chapter 5, section 2(2), of the Limited Liability Companies Act on the right of shareholders to make a decision in matters that fall within the general competence of the board and Chapter 6, section 7, on submitting a matter to be decided by the general meeting are not applied to polytechnics as limited companies.

Section 17

Composition of the board

1. The board of a polytechnic shall consist of a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine members, offering a diverse representation of expertise associated with the duties of society and the polytechnic. The board must also include members with practical experience and knowledge about the workplace and economic life. The rector may not be a member of the board.
2. Two of the board members shall represent the polytechnic community, one staff and the other a student. The staff representative in the board is elected from among the staff. The procedure for the selection of the staff representative is specified in the rules of procedure, and more detailed stipulations on the selection of the student representative are included in the rules of the student body. The general meeting shall confirm the selections.

Section 18

Rector's duties and eligibility requirements

1. In addition to the tasks of the managing director laid down in the Limited Liability Companies Act, the duties of the rector are to:
 - 1) lead the operations of the polytechnic and resolve matters concerning the polytechnic which have not been assigned to some other organ by statute or regulation;
 - 2) be responsible for the economical, efficient and effective discharge of the mission of the polytechnic;
 - 3) be responsible for the preparation, presentation and implementation of matters to be addressed by the board;
 - 4) decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.
2. The rector may devolve the hiring of staff or other matters within his or her remit to another organ or staff member of the polytechnic. The rector shall have the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the organs of the polytechnic.
3. The requirement for the rector elect is that he or she has a doctorate degree and the competence required for discharging the duties as well as proven good leadership skills. It is, however, also possible to opt for a person with a Master's degree, provided that they are otherwise deemed particularly well-suited for the task in terms of their merits. Further, the rector must have knowledge of the language of instruction and degrees determined in the operating licence of the polytechnic.
4. The duties of the rector listed above in subsection (1) may not be transferred to the competence of the general meeting. Chapter 5, section 2(2), of the Limited Liability Companies Act on the right of shareholders to make a decision in matters that fall within the general competence of the managing director and Chapter 6, section 7, on submitting a matter to be decided by the general meeting are not applied to polytechnics as limited companies.

Section 19

Board of examiners

1. For the purpose of processing requests for rectification regarding study attainments, the polytechnic may have one or several boards of examiners or other corresponding organs.
2. A board of examiners or corresponding body shall consist of a chairperson and other members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The chairperson and members of a board of examiners and their personal deputies are appointed by the board of the polytechnic.
3. The chairperson and his or her deputy must be a principal lecturer or a senior lecturer. The other members of a board of examiners are teachers at the polytechnic and at least one student participating in education leading to a degree.

Section 20

Rules and regulations

1. The organisation or the operations and administration of the polytechnic shall be governed by the polytechnic's rules of procedure and other corresponding internal regulations of the polytechnic.

Section 21

Administrative procedure and confidentiality

1. In performing a public administrative function, a polytechnic and the student body of the polytechnic shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). However, the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act on disqualification shall apply to all polytechnic activity. Section 28(1), paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Act shall apply to polytechnics and to corporations belonging to the polytechnic group referred to in the Accounting Act (1336/1997) only in matters where the interests of the polytechnic and the community conflict or where required by fair handling of the matters.
2. The confidentiality of the activities pursued by a polytechnic and the student body of the polytechnic under this Act shall be governed by the provisions of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) on the confidentiality of the activities of authorities referred to in section 4(1) of the Act.

Chapter 5

Staff and language of administration

Section 22

Teaching and research staff and eligibility requirements

1. Polytechnics employ principal lecturers, senior lecturers and other teaching and research staff.

2. Further provisions on the eligibility requirements, and if necessary, tasks of teachers may be issued by government decree.

Section 23

Criminal liability for acts in office and liability for damages

1. Criminal liability for acts in office is applied to the staff of a polytechnic and members of its organs as they perform tasks referred to in this Act. Provisions on liability for damages are laid down in the Tort Liability Act (412/1974).

Section 24

Language of administration in polytechnics

1. The language of administration of a polytechnic is the same as the language of instruction and degrees as determined in the polytechnic's operating licence.

Chapter 6

Studying at a polytechnic and students

Section 25

Eligibility for polytechnic education

1. Eligibility for studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree shall be conferred to those who have:
 - 1) completed the general upper secondary curriculum or passed the examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Act (672/2005);
 - 2) completed a minimum of a three-year vocational upper secondary qualification or equivalent prior studies;
 - 3) a vocational upper secondary qualification, a further vocational qualification or a specialist vocational qualification referred to in the Vocational Adult Education Act (631/1998) or an equivalent prior qualification; or
 - 4) completed studies abroad which give eligibility for higher education in the country in question.
2. Eligibility for studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree may also apply to a person other than one referred to in subsection (1) whom the polytechnic deems to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.
3. Eligibility for studies leading to a second-cycle polytechnic degree may be conferred to a person who has completed an applicable polytechnic degree or another applicable higher education degree and who has a minimum of three years of work experience in the field

concerned after graduation. The required work experience must have fully accrued by the beginning of the term when the studies start. In Crafts and Design, Media and Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, and Music the requirement may be artistic activity of corresponding duration instead of work experience. In regard of a holder of an upper secondary or a post-secondary qualification awarded by a vocational college, who has subsequently studied for an applicable university or polytechnic degree, the acceptable requirement may also be work experience acquired before the completion of the higher education degree.

4. Eligibility for professional teacher education may be conferred to those with education and work experience required for working as a teacher in a polytechnic or in vocational education and training.
5. Eligibility for professional specialisation studies may be conferred to those who have completed an applicable polytechnic or university degree or whom the polytechnic deems to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies. (19.12.2014/1173)

Section 26

Accessibility and prerequisites for admission

1. A factor relating to the health and functional capacity of an applicant may not preclude admission. However, a person whose state of health or functional capacity makes him or her incapable of acquitting the practical tasks or practice included in the syllabus where the safety requirements relating to studies referred to in section 33 so entail and where the impediment cannot be removed with reasonable measures shall not be admitted as a student.
2. In the case of studies referred to in section 33, admission shall also be precluded by a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in 32 of the Vocational Education and Training Act (630/1998), section 11(9) of the Vocational Adult Education Act, section 33 of this Act or section 43a of the Universities Act (558/2009) where considerations relating to the protection of the health and safety of other persons so require.
3. The polytechnic shall inform the applicants about the health-related demands and other prerequisites imposed by studies.

Section 27

Access to information relating to admission

1. Persons applying for studies referred to in section 33 shall, by request of the polytechnic, provide information regarding their health required for admission and information about any decision to revoke the right to study.
2. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, for the purposes of admission requirements, the polytechnic shall have the right to obtain information from other polytechnics, universities or education providers about any decision, including its justifications, to revoke the applicant's right to study.

Section 28 (13.12.2013/257)

Student selection

1. New students are admitted by the polytechnic. Students are admitted to complete a first-cycle polytechnic degree, a second-cycle polytechnic degree or professional specialisation studies.
2. A polytechnic may admit transfer students. A *transfer student* refers to a student whose right to study is transferred from one higher education institution to another or within a single higher education institution from one programme to another so that the qualification title to be gained from the studies changes.
3. Subsection (2) will enter into force on 1 August 2015.
4. Admissions criteria are decided on by the polytechnic. In the admissions process, applicants may be divided into separate groups on the basis of their different educational backgrounds. The applied admissions criteria must be consistent for all applicants belonging to the same group.

Section 28 amended with the Act 257/2015 will enter into force on 1 April 2015. The previous wording was:

Section 28

Student selection and acceptance of a student place

1. New students are admitted by the polytechnic. Students are admitted to complete a first-cycle polytechnic degree, a second-cycle polytechnic degree or professional specialisation studies. (19.12.2014/1173)
2. In the admissions process, when selecting students for studies leading to a polytechnic Bachelor's degree or polytechnic Master's degree, the student selection is organised in the joint application process for higher education institutions. However, the joint application process for higher education institutions is not used when admitting students for studies other than those funded under this Act or when admitting transfer students. In addition, a polytechnic may decide to exclude from the scope of the joint application system foreign-language education and studies designed for at a limited target group, where the eligibility of applicants is separately defined by the polytechnic.
3. Admissions criteria are decided on by the polytechnic. In the admissions process, applicants may be divided into separate groups on the basis of their different educational backgrounds. The applied admissions criteria must be consistent for all applicants belonging to the same group.
4. Some of the student places may be reserved for persons who have not completed a higher education degree in accordance with the Finnish education system and have not accepted a student place leading to a higher education degree. In such cases, the polytechnic must reserve reasonable possibilities to gain admission for those who have completed a higher education degree and accepted a student place. Polytechnics must ensure that no

unreasonably large discrepancies exist between the possibilities of individuals belonging to different applicant groups to gain admission in terms of equitable treatment of applicants. When assessing reasonability, the following factors are accounted for: the share of applicants belonging to the different applicant groups, the opportunity to gain admission through routes other than the joint application procedure and other factors comparable to these.

5. In the joint application system of higher education institutions, an applicant may only be accepted for a single target. The student admissions register referred to in the Applicant and Matriculation Examination Registers Act (1058/1998) is used in the joint application procedure. Further provisions on the implementation of the joint application process and procedures associated with it shall be issued by government decree.
6. An admitted student shall notify the polytechnic of his or her acceptance of the student place within the time indicated in the offer of admission or he or she shall forfeit the student place. The polytechnic must, without delay, enter information on the acceptance of a student place in the higher education applicant register referred to in section 1 of the Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register (1058/1998).

Section 28a (20.3.2015/257)

Joint application procedure and separate admissions

1. Student admissions for studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree or a second-cycle polytechnic degree are organised in the joint application process for higher education institutions.
2. A polytechnic may opt for separate admissions instead of the joint application system when selecting:
 - 1) students for studies designed for a limited target group, where the eligibility of applicants has been defined separately by the polytechnic and the application process for which cannot be organised within the schedule for the joint application procedure;
 - 2) students for studies provided in a foreign language;
 - 3) students for studies provided in Finnish or Swedish leading to a second-cycle polytechnic degree, the application process for which is organised in connection with the application process for the equivalent foreign-language programme;
 - 4) transfer students;
 - 5) students on the basis of studies completed in open higher education.
3. The student admissions register referred to in the Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register (1058/1998) is used in the joint application procedure. Further provisions on the implementation of the joint application process and procedures associated with it shall be issued by government decree.

Section 28b (20.3.2015/257)

Reserving a student place

1. In the joint application system, a polytechnic must reserve some of the student places leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree for people who have not previously completed a higher education degree in accordance with the Finnish education system and have not accepted a student place leading to a higher education degree or have accepted a student place for studies beginning in spring term 2014 or earlier but have not completed a higher education degree.
2. It is, however, not necessary to reserve student places in the manner referred to in subsection (1) when selecting students for a programme offered in a foreign language or for such studies, targeted at a limited target group, where the eligibility of applicants has been separately defined by the polytechnic, or for a programme for which the number of admissions offered is so small that reserving places would generate unreasonable inequality between applicants.
3. A polytechnic may reserve some of the student places for applicants referred to in subsection (1) also in case of separate admissions.
4. A polytechnic must also reserve reasonable possibilities to gain admission for those who have completed a higher education degree or accepted a student place. Polytechnics must ensure that no unreasonably large discrepancies exist between the possibilities of individuals belonging to different applicant groups to gain admission in terms of equitable treatment of applicants. When assessing reasonability, the following factors are accounted for: the share of applicants belonging to the different applicant groups, the opportunity to gain admission through routes other than the joint application procedure and other factors comparable to these.

Section 28c (20.8.2010/257)

Acceptance of a student place

1. During any given academic term, a student may accept only one student place leading to a higher education degree. This provision does not apply to the acceptance of a student place in the case of transfer students.
2. Students who have been admitted into a polytechnic shall notify the polytechnic within the time indicated whether they accept the student place or they shall forfeit the student place. The polytechnic must, without delay, enter information on the acceptance of a student place in the applicant register referred to in section 1 of the Act on the student admissions register, the national data warehouse for higher education and the matriculation examination register (1058/1998).

Section 29 (13.12.2013/257)

Academic year, terms and student enrolment

1. The academic year of a polytechnic starts on the first August and ends on the 31st of July. The autumn term starts on the first of August and ends on the 31st of December. The spring term starts on the first of January and ends on the 31st of July. Instruction is given during periods determined by the polytechnic.
2. Students who have been admitted and who have accepted a student place shall enrol at the polytechnic in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic, whereupon they are enrolled as a student. The student must enrol as being present or absent for each academic year in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic. (16.12.2011/325)
3. Subsection (2) amended with the Act 325/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015. The previous wording was:
4. An admitted student who has notified the polytechnic of his or her acceptance of the student place shall enrol at the polytechnic in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic, whereupon he or she is enrolled as a student. The student must enrol as either present or absent for each academic year in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic. For a well-founded reason, the student may change his or her registration as present or absent during the academic year.
5. Having accepted a student place, the student may enrol as absent during the academic year provided he or she
 - 1) is in active service in accordance with the Conscription Act (1438/2007), the Non-Military Service Act (1446/2007) or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act (194/1995);
 - 2) is on maternity, paternity or parental leave; or
 - 3) is unable to start studying owing to a medical illness or injury.
6. (16.12.2011/325)
7. Subsection (3) amended with the Act 325/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015.

Section 30 (20.3.2015/325)

Right to study

1. A student has the right to pursue studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree or a second-cycle polytechnic degree in the manner laid down in the regulations on polytechnic degrees and in the curriculum.
2. Full-time students have the right to complete the studies referred to in subsection (1) at the latest one year after exceeding their normative duration. The grounds for determining the maximum duration of studies referred to in subsection (1) in regard of other students shall be laid down in the degree regulations of the polytechnic.
3. Studies in professional teacher education may be completed in a time exceeding their normative duration by a maximum of one year. Studies in teacher education intended to be completed part-time must be completed in a maximum of three years.
4. Absence due to a service rendered under the Conscription Act, the Non-Military Service Act or the Women's Voluntary Military Service Act (194/1995) or due to taking maternity, paternity or parental leave shall not be counted towards the maximum duration of studies. Other

absences of a maximum of two terms for which the student is enrolled as absent under section 29 shall also not be counted towards the maximum duration of studies.

5. Students are considered to start their degree studies on the date when they accept a student place in the polytechnic.
6. A transfer student's right to complete a degree is determined based on the degree for which the student was given the right to study with the transfer. The time that the student has spent, whether enrolled as absent or present, on studies within the study right upon which the transfer is based is counted towards the duration of studies.

Section 30 amended with the Act 325/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015. The previous wording was:

Section 30

Right to study

1. Students have the right to pursue studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree or a second-cycle polytechnic degree in accordance with the curriculum concerned and the requirements stipulated in the polytechnic degree regulations.
2. Full-time students must complete the studies referred to in subsection (1) within one year after exceeding the scope of the studies. A student may be absent for two academic years in total by virtue of a notification of absence. This period of time shall not be counted towards the maximum duration of studies. The grounds for determining the maximum duration of studies referred to in subsection (1) in regard of other students are stipulated in the polytechnic degree regulations.
3. Studies in professional teacher education may be completed in a time exceeding their normative duration by a maximum of one year, unless the polytechnic grants the student an exception in this for special reasons. Studies in teacher education intended to be completed part-time must be completed in a maximum of three years.
4. A transfer student's right to complete a degree is determined based on the degree for which the student was given the right to study with the transfer. The time that the student has spent, whether enrolled as absent or present, on studies within the study right upon which the transfer is based on is counted towards the duration of studies. (16.12.2011/257)
5. Subsection (4) amended with the Act 257/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015.

Section 30a (20.3.2015/325)

Extension of right to study

1. The polytechnic grants extension to the duration of studies on application to a student who has not finished his or her studies in the time referred to in section 30 if the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. In the plan, the student must itemise the studies to be completed and the timetable for completing the degree.

2. The duration of studies is extended if it is possible for the student, in consideration of the number and extent of completed and valid study attainments and the missing study attainments and any prior decisions on extensions to the duration of studies, to complete his or her studies in a reasonable period of time. When granting extension to the duration of studies, the polytechnic shall consider the life situation of the student.
3. Section 30 amended with the Act 325/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015.

Section 31

Right to a safe learning environment

1. Students have the right to a safe learning environment.
2. The polytechnic may adopt its own rules or issue other regulations geared to promote internal order, unhindered progress in studies and a safe and pleasant polytechnic community.
3. The school rules and other regulations referred to in subsection (2) above may lay down rules on practical arrangements and proper conduct necessary for safety and satisfaction in the polytechnic. Regulations may additionally be issued with regard to the handling of school property and to staying and moving on the premises and grounds of the polytechnic.

Section 32 (20.3.2015/325)

Forfeiture of the right to study

1. Students who have not enrolled in the manner specified in section 29 or fail to complete their studies within the period of time specified in section 30 or in the extended period of time specified in section 30a, as well as students who have not been granted an extension to their studies, shall forfeit their right to study. Should the student later wish to start or resume his or her studies, he or she must reapply to the polytechnic for admission. The application can be completed without participating in the student admissions procedure referred to in section 28.
2. When transfer students accept a new right to study, they forfeit the study right that the transfer was based on.

Section 32 amended with the Act 325/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015. The previous wording was:

Section 32

Forfeiture of the right to study

1. Students who have not enrolled in the manner provided in section 29 shall forfeit their right to study. Should the student later wish to start or resume his or her studies, he or she must reapply to the polytechnic for admission.

2. Students who fail to complete their studies within the period of time specified in section 30(2) shall forfeit their right to study, unless the polytechnic for a special reason grants them an extension to finish the studies.
3. When a transfer student accepts a new right to study, he or she shall forfeit the study right that the transfer was based on. (20.3.2015/257)
4. Subsection (3) amended with the Act 257/2015 will enter into force on 1 August 2015.

Section 33

Revocation of the right to study

1. Where the studies impose demands on the safety of minors or patient or client safety, the polytechnic may revoke the right to study where:
 - 1) The student, by repeatedly or seriously endangering the health or safety of another person, has proven to be manifestly unsuitable to perform practical assignments or practical training relating to studies;
 - 2) It is evident that the student does not fulfil the prerequisites for admissions referred to in section 26(1) in regard of the state of health or functional capacity; or
 - 3) At the application stage, the student has concealed a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in section 26(2) which could have prevented his or her admission as a student.
2. Where the studies or practical training relating to studies substantially require work with minors, the polytechnic may revoke the right to study where necessary in order to protect minors and if the student has been sentenced for a crime referred to in Chapter 17, sections 18, 18a or 19, Chapter 20, Chapter 21, sections 1–3 or 6, Chapter 31, section 2, or Chapter 50, sections 1, 2, 3, 4 or 4a, of the Criminal Code (39/1889).
3. Before revoking the right to study, the polytechnic, together with the student, shall explore the student's possibilities to apply for some other form of education. With his or her consent, the student may be transferred to other studies in the polytechnic where he or she fulfils the admission prerequisites.
4. Further provisions on the studies governed by this section shall be issued by government decree.

Section 34

Access to information relating to revocation of the right to study

1. Where there is just cause to suspect that the student has an impediment due to the state of health or functional capacity referred to in section 33(1)(2), he or she may be ordered to be examined by a registered health care professional, where necessary, for ascertaining the student's state of health or functional capacity. The polytechnic shall defray the cost of the examinations it orders.

2. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the polytechnic shall have the right, for the purpose of assessing the right to study, to obtain a written statement by a physician authorised to practice the profession independently and designated by the polytechnic, which shows that the student has undergone an examination for ascertaining his or her state of health and, based on the examination, an assessment is made of the student's functional capacity, because of the demands the studies make on health.
3. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the polytechnic shall have the right to obtain information other polytechnics, universities and education providers about any decision including its justifications to revoke an applicant's right to study where it is deemed necessary for assessing the right to study.
4. At the request of the polytechnic, the student shall provide an extract on his or her own entries in the criminal records referred to in section 33(2) of the Criminal Records Act (770/1993), for the purpose of an assessment of the right to study referred to in section 6(2) if the student is given assignments in studies or in practical training relating to the studies which substantially require working with minors.
5. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the polytechnic shall have the right to obtain information necessary for admission from another polytechnic concerning a process pending related to a revocation of the right to study referred to in section 33, when the student has applied to the polytechnic as a transfer student.
6. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the polytechnic shall have the obligation to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on a process pending related to a revocation of the right to study referred to in section 33 and other decisions relating to the revocation of the right to study or to the transfer of the student to other studies and its justifications which is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 35

Reinstatement of the right to study

1. A person whose right to study has been revoked under Section 33(1)(2), may apply to the polytechnic concerned for the reinstatement of the right to study. The right to study must be restored if the applicant proves that the reasons for the revocation no longer exist. The student must submit statements on his or her state of health to the polytechnic. The decision to restore the right to study shall be made by the board of the polytechnic.
2. Notwithstanding provisions on confidentiality, the polytechnic shall have the obligation to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information on a decision to restore the right to study and its justifications which is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 36

Drug testing

1. A polytechnic may oblige the student to present a drug test certificate, where there is just cause to suspect that the student is under the influence of drugs referred to in section 3(1)(5), of the Narcotics Act (373/2008) while performing practical tasks relating to studies or in practical training or that the student is addicted to drugs. Another condition is that the testing is necessary for ascertaining the student's functional capacity and the student performs tasks which require especial acuity, reliability, independent judgement or good reactions and where working under the influence of drugs or drug addiction:
 - 1) seriously endangers the student's or some other person's life or health;
 - 2) seriously endangers traffic safety;
 - 3) seriously endangers the protection or integrity of data protected by provisions on confidentiality; or
 - 4) significantly increases the risk of illicit trafficking or distribution of substances which are in the possession of the polytechnic, the education provider or the place of training.
2. A drug test certificate means certification by a registered health care professional attesting that the student has undergone a test to detect the presence or absence of a substance referred to in section 3(1)(5) of the Narcotics Act and an account based on the test whether the student has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity. The certificate must be presented within a reasonable time frame determined by the polytechnic.
3. If a student is to be required to present a drug test certificate referred to in this section, the polytechnic must have written instructions drawn up in cooperation with the student health care officials for preventing the use of narcotics by students and for intervening in drug problems.
4. The polytechnic shall defray the cost of the drug test certificate referred to in this section.
5. Otherwise a drug test performed on a student shall be governed by the provisions of section 19 of the Occupational Health Care Act (1383/2001).

Section 37

Assessment and recognition of study attainments

1. Students have the right to obtain information on how the assessment criteria are applied to their study attainment. Students shall be given an opportunity to see the assessed written or otherwise recorded study attainment. Written and otherwise recorded study attainments must be retained for a minimum of six months from the publication of the results.
2. When studying for a degree or when completing professional specialisation studies, the student may, as determined by the polytechnic, have studies completed in another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or other educational establishment counted towards the degree or specialisation programme and substitute studies in the degree syllabus or specialisation programme with other studies of the same level. The student may, as determined by the polytechnic, have knowledge and skills attested in some other manner counted towards the degree or specialisation or substitute studies in the degree syllabus or

specialisation programme with knowledge and skills attested in some other manner.
(19.12.2014/1173)

Section 38

Disciplinary action

1. A student may be cautioned if he or she:
 - 1) disrupts teaching;
 - 2) behaves threateningly or violently;
 - 3) acts under false pretences or otherwise causes disorder at the polytechnic;
 - 4) refuses to present the drug test certificate referred to in section 36, or
 - 5) based on the account referred to in section 36, has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his or her functional capacity.
2. If the student's deed or neglectful action is serious in nature or if the student continues to behave inappropriately in the sense referred to in subsection (1) after having been cautioned, he or she may be suspended from the polytechnic for a fixed period of one year at most.
3. A student who disrupts teaching, behaves threateningly or violently or endangers the life or health of another person may be ordered to leave the premises where teaching takes place or from an event being organised by the polytechnic. A student may be banned from attending teaching for a maximum of three days where there is a danger that the safety of another student or a person working in the polytechnic or some other teaching facility is threatened as a result of the student's threatening or violent behaviour or where the disruptive conduct of the student makes teaching and associated activities unduly difficult.
4. If a student refuses to undergo the examinations for ascertaining his or her state of health referred to in section 34(1), he or she may be banned from studies until he or she consents to undergo the necessary examinations. If a student refuses to provide an extract on his or her entries in the criminal records referred to in section 34(4), he or she may be banned from studies until he or she consents to present the extract.

Section 39

Procedure in a matter regarding revocation of the right to study and disciplinary action

1. The decision to revoke the right to study shall be made by the board of the polytechnic. Before any decision to revoke the right to study can be taken, an account pertinent to the matter must be obtained and the student must be given an opportunity to be heard in the matter.
2. The decision to give a student a written warning shall be made by the rector of the polytechnic and the decision on suspension by the board of the polytechnic. Before any such decision can be taken, the deed or neglectful action causing the disciplinary measure must be specified and a relevant investigation carried out, and the student must be given an opportunity to be heard in the matter.

3. The rector and the teacher and the practical training instructor may work together or separately in situations referred to in section 38(3). The measures must be recorded. The board of the polytechnic shall make the decision referred to in section 38(4).
4. The decision on the enforcement of an appealable decision and on the date on which the enforcement is implemented shall be made at the same time as the decision to revoke the student's right to study, to suspend the student or to ban the student from studies.

Section 40

Handling of sensitive material

1. Information relating to an applicant's and a student's state of health referred to in sections 27 and 34–36 may be handled only by those who prepare or make the decision on admissions, revocation of the right to study, reinstatement of the right to study or a disciplinary action or who issue opinions on these matters.
2. Information on the student's criminal register about matters referred to in section 33(2) shall be handled only by those who prepare or make the decision on the revocation of the right to study.
3. The polytechnic shall specify the tasks which involve the handling of sensitive materials.
4. The polytechnic shall store the sensitive materials separately from other personal data. The sensitive materials must be removed from the register immediately when there no longer is any mandatory reason to preserve them, at the latest, however, within four years of the date on which they were entered in the register.
5. The handling of personal data shall be governed by the Personal Data Act (523/1999) unless otherwise enacted in this Act.

Section 41

Student body

1. A polytechnic shall have a student body to which the full-time students of the polytechnic may belong. The student body may also admit other polytechnic students as members. The student body shall liaise between and on behalf of its members and promote their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and those relating to studies and the status of students in society. The student body shall also contribute to preparing students for an active, cognizant and critical citizenship. The especial duties of the student body shall be to:
 - 1) nominate student representatives to the administrative bodies of the polytechnic referred to in Chapter 4;
 - 2) nominate student representatives to the student financial aid board of the polytechnic referred to in section 9 of the Student Financial Aid Act (65/1994); and
 - 3) contribute, where needed, to the performance of the tasks relating to students' primary health care referred to in section 17 of the Health Care Act (1326/2010) and in Chapter 13, sections 11–14, of the Health Insurance Act (1224/2004).

2. The costs incurring from activities geared to implementing the purpose and remit of the student body shall be defrayed from the assets of the student body and the income accruing from the activities of the student body and membership fees, which the student body shall be entitled to charge to its members.
3. The student body of a polytechnic shall have self-government. The power of decision in the student body shall be vested in its executive board and the student parliament. Provisions on the administration of the student body shall be laid down in the rules of the student body confirmed by the rector. The administrative language of the student body is the language of instruction and degrees as stipulated in the operating licence of the polytechnic.
4. The activities of the student body are governed by the Associations Act (503/1989), unless otherwise provided in this Act.
5. In matters relating to the administration of the student body, rectification can be sought from the body that issued the decision. Provisions on the procedure for rectifications are laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act. An appeal against a decision issued regarding a request for rectification shall be lodged in an administrative court as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). A decision by an administrative court may not be appealed against.
6. A member of the student body is considered to have been informed of a decision once it has been placed on public display.

Chapter 7

Steering and financing of polytechnics

Section 42

Objective-setting

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the polytechnic shall conclude a fixed-term agreement on the quantitative and qualitative targets of pivotal relevance to education, research, development and innovation activities and on the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. On the part of the polytechnic, the agreement shall be signed by the chairperson of the board and the rector.
2. Where the quantitative targets of a polytechnic cannot be coordinated at the national or regional level, the Ministry of Education and Culture may, after hearing representatives of the polytechnic, decide on quantitative and qualitative targets in regard of an individual polytechnic.
3. The opportunity of the polytechnic to realise its objectives in Finnish or Swedish shall be secured.

Section 43

Criteria for the allocation of government funding

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants funding to polytechnics for the performance of the duties laid down in this Act within the scope of the appropriation included in the national Budget.
2. The polytechnic appropriation in the Budget referred to in subsection (1) above, with the exception of one-off items, shall be increased from the previous year in accordance with the annual cost-related rise in the polytechnics index. The polytechnics index is comprised of the index of wage and salary earnings, the consumer price index and the wholesale price index.
3. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants imputed core funding to the polytechnics taking into account the extent, quality and effectiveness of the operations and other education, research and science policy objectives.
4. The polytechnics shall be reimbursed for the value added tax included in the cost incurred by the polytechnics for providing educational services referred to in sections 39 and 40 of the Value Added Tax Act (1501/1993) and in procurements and facilities rents relating to research other than commercial research. The reimbursement is based on information in the most recently approved financial statement.
5. In granting funding, the Ministry of Education and Culture may set conditions and restrictions on the use of the funds.
6. Further provisions shall be issued by government decree on the computation of the polytechnics index and the consideration of the rise in the cost level referred to in subsection (2) above and on the computation and the relative weight of the financing criteria referred to in subsection (3). Further provisions on the computation criteria underlying the allocation of the imputed funding shall be issued by Ministry of Education and Culture Decree.

Section 43a (19.12.2014/1183)

Increase in the appropriation in 2015

1. By derogation from the provisions in section 43(2), the polytechnics appropriation in the Budget referred to in section 43(1) will be increased in 2015, barring one-off items, by half of the annual cost-related rise in the polytechnics index.
2. Section 43a amended with Act 1183/2014 will be in force temporarily between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015.

Section 44

Funding of expenses shared by polytechnics

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture and Culture may finance operations jointly undertaken by all the polytechnics within the scope of the appropriation included in the Budget.

Section 45

Supervision and reporting

1. When requested by the Ministry of Education and Culture, each polytechnic must provide the Ministry of Education and Culture with data necessary for the evaluation, development, statistics and other supervision and steering of education and research in a manner determined by the Ministry.

Section 46

Payment

1. The operational funding shall be paid to the polytechnics in payments of the same amount on the third banking day of each month.

Section 47

Discontinuation of payments

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture may order the payment referred to in this Act to be discontinued where:
 - 1) it is evident that the recipient no longer arranges the activity on the basis of which the funding is allocated, or the recipient of funding significantly acts in violation of the provisions of this Act; or
 - 2) the criteria for allocating the funding for a specific activity have essentially changed or have been incorrect.

Section 48

Repayment of financing received

1. A polytechnic must without delay repay erroneously paid, excess or manifestly groundless funding. The polytechnic must also return any portion of funding that cannot be used for the purposes that were agreed.
2. The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to the difference between imputed operational funding and actual expenditure.

Section 49

Recovery of payments

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture shall order allocated funding to be recovered where the polytechnic has:
 - 1) failed to return funding repayable under section 48;
 - 2) used funding for a purpose essentially different from that for which it had been allocated;

- 3) given false or misleading information to the Ministry of Education and Culture about a matter which was critical to the granting of the funding, the amount or the terms of funding or has concealed such a fact; or
 - 4) otherwise, in a way comparable to paragraphs 1–3 above, essentially violated regulations governing the use of funding or the terms set in the funding decision.
2. The Ministry of Education and Culture must make the decision on the recovery of payments within two years of the date on which the fact based on which the discontinuation or termination of payments or the recovery of funding can be undertaken was brought to the knowledge of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The decision on the recovery of payments must be taken within five years of the date on which the payment was made.

Section 50

Interest and interest for late payment

1. The polytechnic shall pay an annual interest as provided in section 3(2) of the Interest Act raised by three percentage points, on the amount to be repaid or recovered from the payment date onward.
2. Where the recoverable amount is not paid by the due date set by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the polytechnic shall pay annual interest for delayed payment in accordance with the interest rate referred to in section 4 of the Interest Act.

Section 51

Offsetting of payments

1. Repayable or recoverable sums, with interest, may be recovered by means of a reduction in funding paid to the polytechnic under this Act.

Section 52

Appeal concerning a funding decision

1. Appeals against and requests for rectification of a decision of the Ministry of Education and Culture to grant funding, discontinue payment under section 47, recover funding under section 49 and offset payment under section 51 shall come under the provisions of section 34 of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001).

Section 53

Implementation

1. A decision may be implemented notwithstanding an appeal unless otherwise decreed by the appeals authority. A decision on the recovery of funding referred to in section 49 issued owing to a request for rectification may be recovered by an enforcement order without a court decision. Provisions on the recovery are laid down in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges (706/2007).

Chapter 8

Finances of polytechnics

Section 54

Accounting and the accounting year

2. In polytechnics, the accounting year referred to in the Accounting Act is a calendar year.
3. Further provisions on the profit and loss account and balance sheet formulas may be issued by government decree.

Section 55

Data on business activities

1. Where the polytechnic pursues business activities in a form other than a separate unit under legal obligation to keep accounts, the business profitability information of the business must be presented separately as a profit and loss account in an annex to the financial statement.

Section 56

Confidentiality of financial statement

1. After their formal adoption, the financial statements and the annual reports of polytechnics and polytechnic groups are public documents.

Chapter 9

Appeals

Section 57 (13.12.2013/257)

Rectification procedure

2. A person who has applied for entry to a polytechnic may lodge a request in writing with the polytechnic to redress the decision on admissions within 14 days from the publication of the

admissions results. The publication of the admissions results must be accompanied by instructions on how the applicant can obtain information about the way in which the admissions criteria were applied in his or her case and how to seek rectification. The admissions results may not be changed to the detriment of any other admitted person in consequence of the rectification request.

3. A student may apply to the polytechnic in writing for a rectification of a decision on the forfeiture of the right to study issued under section 32 within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.
4. A student dissatisfied with the grading of a study attainment or with the recognition of studies completed elsewhere or of prior knowledge demonstrated in some other manner may apply for a review of the grading orally or in writing, in the case of grading, from the teacher who decided on the grade and, in the case of recognition of prior studies, from the person who made the decision on recognition. The rectification request must be made within 14 days of the date on which the information about the grades and the application of the assessment criteria to the student's study attainment became accessible to the student. The rectification request concerning recognition of prior learning must be made within 14 days of the receipt of the notification of the decision. A student dissatisfied with the decision on the rectification request referred to in this subsection may apply for rectification from a board of examiners or other administrative body designated for the purpose within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.
5. Provisions on the procedure for rectification requests are laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 58

Appeal against a decision by a polytechnic

1. An appeal against a decision of a polytechnic to revoke the right to study referred to in section 33 or to reinstate the right to study referred to in section 35 shall be lodged with the students' legal protection board within 14 days of the receipt of the decision and otherwise as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. Provisions on appeals lodged with the students' legal protection board are laid down in the Act on Students' Legal Protection Board (956/2011).
2. An appeal against other administrative decisions of a polytechnic is lodged with the administrative court within whose jurisdiction the polytechnic headquarters is located, as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996), unless otherwise provided in this Act or other statutes.
3. An appeal against a decision on the revocation of the right to study, the reinstatement of the right to study as well as the cautioning, suspension and ban from attending teaching referred to in section 38 shall be handled as an urgent matter.

Section 59

Implementation of a decision to revoke the right to study and disciplinary action

1. A decision to revoke the right to study, to suspend a student and to ban a student from studies may be carried out notwithstanding an appeal pending against it, unless otherwise decreed by the appellate authority.

Section 60

Ban on appeals

1. No appeal may be lodged against a polytechnic decision pertaining to:
 - 1) the election of an administrative organ of the polytechnic by the board, rector or an organ stipulated in the rules of procedure;
 - 2) rules of procedure or other general regulation;
 - 3) a curriculum or other stipulation concerning teaching arrangements;
 - 4) a scholarship or grant.
2. A decision on the rectification of the grading of a study attainment may not be appealed against.
3. A decision issued by an administrative court on student admissions referred to in section 28, forfeiture of the right to study referred to in section 32 or a disciplinary action referred to in section 38 may not be appealed against.

Section 61

Leave to appeal

1. Unless otherwise provided by law, a decision by an administrative court may only be appealed against provided that leave to appeal is granted by the Supreme Administrative Court.

Chapter 10

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 62

Quality assessment

1. Polytechnics are responsible for the standard of quality and for continuous development of the education provided by it and its other operations. In addition, the polytechnics must evaluate their education, research and artistic activities as well as the effectiveness thereof. Polytechnics must also regularly participate in the external evaluation of their operations and quality assurance systems and publish the results of the evaluations they have organised.

2. Provisions on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre are laid down in the Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (1295/2013).

Section 63

Development plan for education and research

1. The Government adopts a development plan for education and research for a fixed number of years at a time, which sets out the general development targets for polytechnics. Further provisions on the development plan for education and research shall be enacted by government decree.

Section 64

Cooperation between polytechnics

1. Polytechnics may agree on joint education and research units to improve the consolidation of the operations of polytechnics or to promote joint projects, cooperation in the field of research and development or in other areas.
2. To support the management of its statutory duties, a polytechnic may have common units with universities, research institutes or other public or private communities or foundations.

Section 65

Right to obtain information

1. In carrying out its duties, a polytechnic has the right to obtain statistical and other similar data necessary for the planning and provision of education from government and local authorities.
2. Upon request, the polytechnic shall furnish data needed for the evaluation, development, statistics and monitoring of education as specified by the Ministry of Education and Culture.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions on confidentiality, information on a student's state of health and functional capacity which are necessary for the execution of duties may be supplied by the holder of this information to:
 - 1) the rector of a polytechnic and those responsible for the security of the polytechnic for the purpose of safeguarding the safety of studies;
 - 2) a person responsible for study counselling for the purpose of guiding the student to other studies or support services;
 - 3) a person responsible for student health care for the purpose of safeguarding the student's health and safety and guiding the student to the necessary support measures;
 - 4)) a person responsible for practical training for the purpose of safeguarding the safety of the student and the safety of the staff and customers of the place of training; and

- 5) the police and a representative of the polytechnic who is primarily responsible for investigating a threat to security for the purpose of assessing an immediate threat to safety or if the student's state of health endangers the safety of others in the assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions on confidentiality, those executing the duties referred to in this Act have the right to inform the police essential details for the purpose of assessing an immediate threat to life or health and to prevent a threatening act, if they, in performing their duties, have obtained information about circumstances leads them to believe that someone may be in danger of becoming the target of violence. (20.3.2015/279)

Section 66

Contingency plans

1. The polytechnics must ensure as undisturbed operation in emergency conditions and in abnormal and exceptional situations as possible by means of contingency plans, advance preparation of operations and by other means. Contingency plans and situation picture reports produced regarding abnormal and exceptional situations must be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Culture upon request.
2. The Ministry of Education and Culture shall supervise the contingency planning. Where shortcomings are identified in the plans, the Ministry of Education and Culture may order the shortcomings to be put right.

Section 67

Coordination of higher education provided in Swedish

1. Provisions on the advisory board for the coordination and development of higher education provided in Swedish are laid down in section 92 of the Universities Act.

Section 68

Entry into force and transitional provisions

1. This Act enters into force on 1 January 2015.
2. This Act shall repeal the Polytechnics Act (351/2003), subsequently *the old Polytechnics Act*.
3. The opportunity referred to in section 28(4) of this Act to reserve some of the student places to applicants who have not previously completed a higher education degree under the education system of Finland and have not accepted a student place leading to a higher education degree, is applied to applicants who have accepted a student place for studies starting in spring 2014 or earlier but have not completed a higher education degree.
4. Students who have begun their studies after 31 December 2011 are governed by section 33(2) of this Act.

5. Operating licences in force at the time of this Act's entry into force will expire with this Act's entry into force.
6. The operating licences of the education providers of polytechnics organised as a limited liability companies are transferred as operating licences for limited liability companies in accordance with this Act as of 1 January 2015. If the education provider has failed to submit to the Ministry of Education and Culture articles of association and a shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act by the time appointed by the Ministry, the operating licence to be transferred is granted as temporary for the purpose of rendering the articles of association and the shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act and a time limit is set in the temporary operating licence for the elimination of deficiencies.
7. Education providers not organised as limited liability companies shall apply for an operating licence for polytechnic operations for limited liability companies.
8. The government may issue a temporary operating licence for a joint municipal authority who, at the time of this Act's entry into force, holds an operating licence under the old Polytechnics Act and who will not be granted an operating licence under section 7 of this Act. A temporary operating licence may be granted if it is necessary to secure the status of persons who have begun their studies before this Act's entry into force, to reorganise polytechnic operations or for some other special reason. At maximum, a temporary operating licence may be valid until 31 December 2016. If an education provider that is organised in some other manner than as a limited liability company and applies for an operating licence to be granted to limited liability companies has failed to submit to the Ministry of Education and Culture articles of association and a shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act by the time appointed by the Ministry, the operating licence is granted as temporary one for the purpose of rendering the articles of association and the shareholders' agreement in accordance with this Act and a time limit is set in the temporary operating licence for eliminating any shortcomings.
9. Notwithstanding provisions laid down elsewhere on fees related to operating licences, parties applying for operating licences are not charged a fee for operating licences to be granted under this Act, where the validity of the licence starts at the entry into force of this Act.
10. Polytechnics applying for the transfer of an operating licence or for an operating licence must ensure that polytechnics under this Act are capable of being organised and commence full operations as polytechnics under this Act on 1 January 2015.
11. Notwithstanding provisions in section 43, restrictions on the number of students and unit prices under the funding system of 2014 shall be taken into account in the transitional period from 2015 to 2016 through funding instalments calculated individually for each polytechnic.
12. Upon application, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall, for years 2015 and 2016, grant polytechnics funding to cover the value added taxes referred to in section 30 of the Value Added Tax Act.
13. In 2016, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall compensate upon application the increases in unit price that polytechnics have been entitled to under section 32(2) of the Act on the Financing of the Provision of Education and Culture (1705/2009).