



2015

SKVC

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher
Education

[Analysis of new study programmes submitted to SKVC in 2010-2015]



General statistics

From 2010 to 30 September 2015, a total of 1,109 new study programmes were submitted to SKVC, of which SKVC accredited slightly more than half – 654 (59 per cent). Of all of the new study programmes that were accredited, more than half – 348 (53 per cent) – were registered in the study area of social sciences. There were 117 programmes registered in the study area of technology (18 per cent), 65 in biomedicine (10 per cent), 53 in the humanities (eight per cent), 31 in natural sciences (five per cent) and 40 in the arts (six per cent).

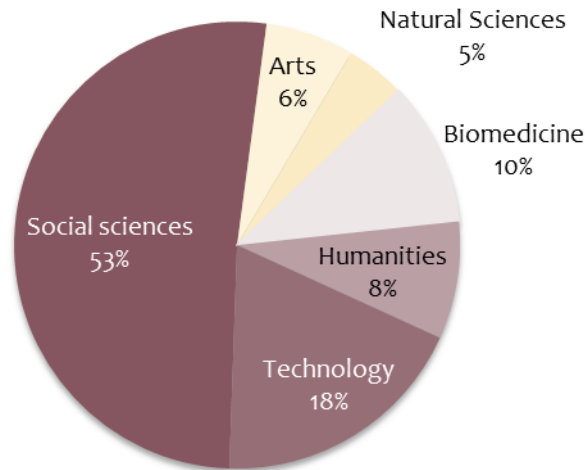


Fig. 1. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015, by study area.

SKVC assesses new programmes in two ways: 1. Simplified evaluation, when the documents submitted by the higher education institution that are required for registration of a new study programme are analysed. In this case, expert evaluation of the programme curriculum is not carried out. Only compliance of the study programme with the set requirements is evaluated. 2. External evaluation, which came into effect in August 2011 and allowed SKVC to organise external evaluation with expert visits to higher education institutions. The latter evaluation method is applicable when a higher education institution does not have accredited study programmes in the same group of fields, when a study programme in the respective field and cycle was not accredited, when the higher education institution is not accredited, etc. Of the 654 new study programmes that were accredited by SKVC from the beginning of 2010 to 30 September 2015, 79 programmes (12 per cent) were accredited after external evaluation and 575 (88 per cent) were accredited according to the simplified procedure. Since 2011, the number of programmes which required external expert evaluation grew. Only in 2015 did this figure decrease (it should be noted that this report provides data up to 30 September 2015).

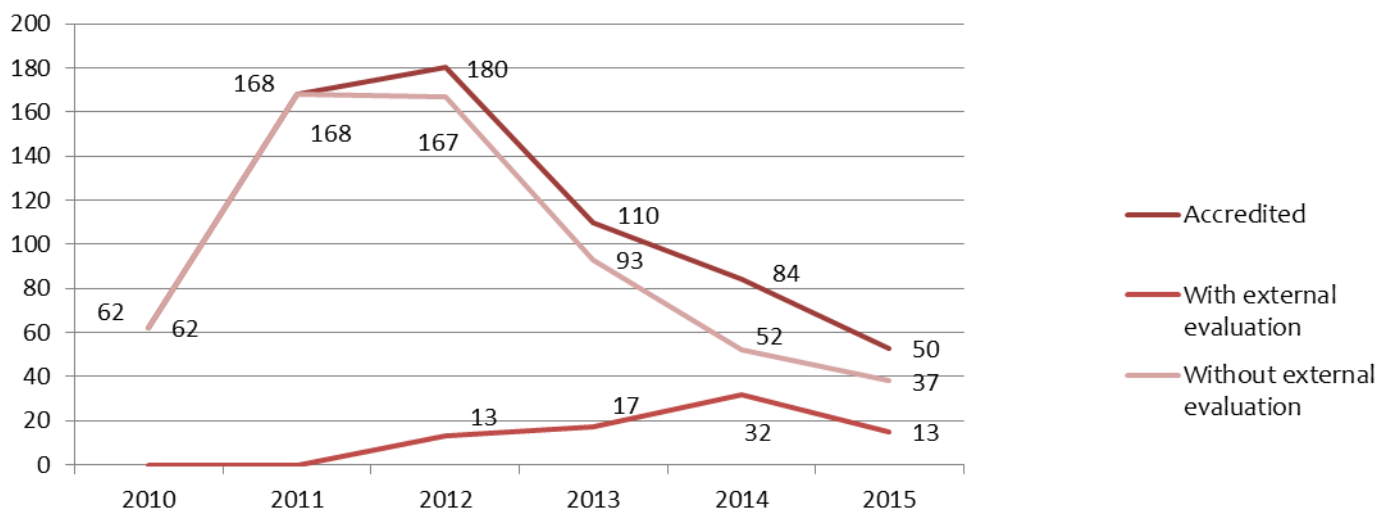


Fig. 2. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015.

The number of new study programmes being submitted is declining; this decline began in 2011. The downward trend from the second half of 2011 to 2012 was conditional, since up until July 2011, programmes were not accredited if any non-compliance was established at all. There were situations where the same programme was not accredited several times in a row. Changes took place in the evaluation of new study programmes in the second half of 2011 – a portion of new study programmes began to be accredited according to a simplified procedure, and in the presence of shortcomings, the accreditation procedure was stopped and the programme organisers were given the chance to correct the shortcomings that had been identified. As the number of programmes submitted decreases, so does the number of accredited study programmes. In analysing the evaluation results, the number of programmes which were not accredited stands out, as these decreased significantly after 2011. This shows that higher education institutions are submitting documents that have been completed properly (though not always the first time around) for the accreditation of new study programmes; in 2012-2015, the majority of programmes which were not accredited are those which underwent external evaluation and were negatively evaluated by the experts.

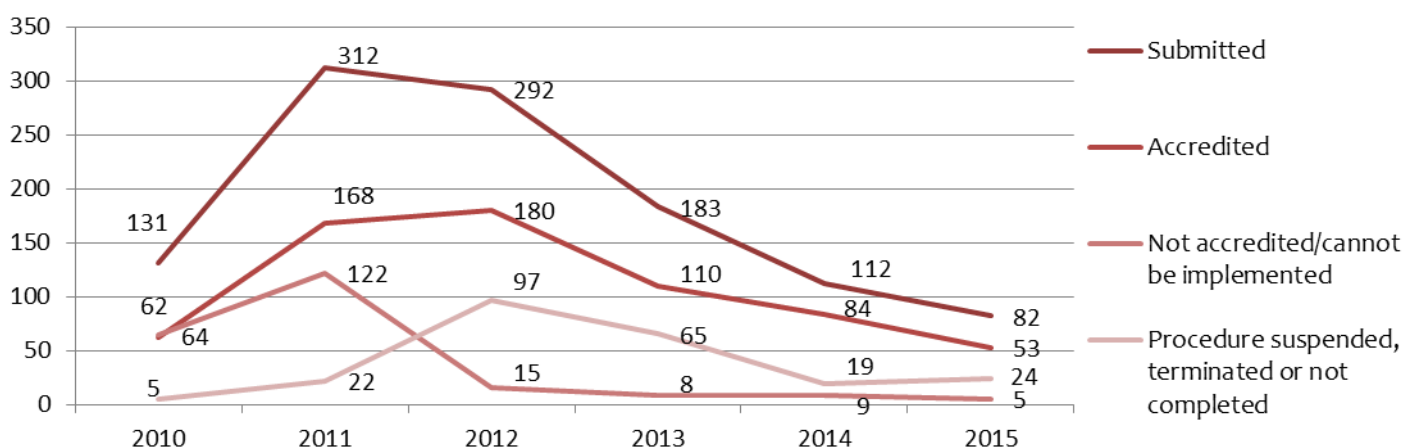


Fig. 3. Results of the new study programmes received by SKVC in 2010-2015.

Of the 654 new study programmes that were accredited in total, 193 (29 per cent) were professional bachelor's programmes, 236 (36 per cent) were bachelor's programmes, 201 (30 per cent) were master's programmes, six (0.9 per cent) were integrated study programmes, seven (1 per cent) were non-degree programmes, and 10 (1.5 per cent) were residency programmes (Fig. 4).

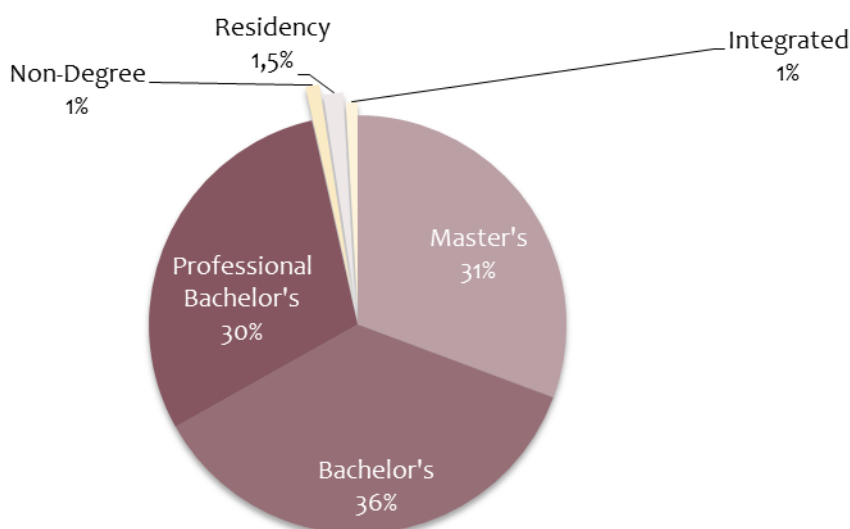


Fig. 4. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015, by study cycle.

Of the 654 programmes that were accredited as new since 2010, 173 (35.8 per cent) were evaluated as implementing study programmes. Of these study programmes, 8 (3 per cent) were not accredited, 70 (30 per cent) were accredited for three years, and 95 (41 per cent) were accredited for six years. A total of 60 programmes

(26 per cent) were deregistered or not submitted for evaluation. The remaining 419 programmes (64.1 per cent) were not evaluated as study programmes already being implemented.

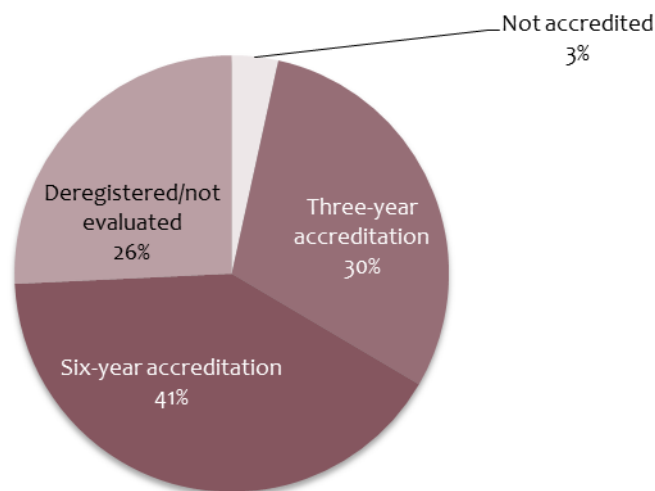


Fig. 5. External international evaluation results for new study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015.

The most new study programmes were accredited at the following institutions of higher education:

Universities	Submitted since 2010 ¹	Number of new study programmes accredited since 2010	Colleges	Submitted since 2010	Number of new study programmes accredited since 2010
Mykolas Romeris University	120	59	Vilnius College	38	22
Vilnius University	77	55	Utena College	27	18
Kaunas University of Technology	81	53	Marijampolė College	44	18
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	66	52	SMK College of Applied Social Sciences	24	15
Vytautas Magnus University	74	40	Vilnius College of Technologies and Design	20	14
Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences	75	40	International School of Law and Business	18	13

The fewest new study programmes were accredited at the following institutions of higher education:

Universities	Submitted since 2010 ¹	Number of new study programmes accredited since 2010	Colleges	Submitted since 2010	Number of new study programmes accredited since 2010
Lithuanian Sports University	5	2	Lithuanian Maritime Academy	3	2
General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania	7	3	Lithuanian Business College	6	3
LCC International University	3	3	Kaunas College of Applied Engineering Sciences	3	3

¹ Including programmes that were submitted a second time after rectifying the shortcomings established by SKVC.

ISM University of Management and Economics	7	5	Northern Lithuania College	4	3
Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre	8	5	V. A. Graičiūnas School of Management	7	3
European Humanities University	18	10	Kolping College	7	4

External expert evaluation results

Since August 2011, when the new Description of the Procedure for External Evaluation and Accreditation of Study Programmes came into force (when organising external evaluations with visits to the higher education institutions began), 108 programmes underwent external evaluation. Of these, 79 study programmes were accredited after in-depth external evaluation, and 29 study programmes were given a negative evaluation.

Of the 79 study programmes that were accredited after external expert evaluation (Fig. 6), more than half – 52 (67 per cent) – were registered in the study area of social sciences, and 10 study programmes (12 per cent) were registered in the study area of technology. Five programmes (six per cent) were accredited in both natural sciences and biomedicine. Four new study programmes (five per cent) were accredited in the humanities, and three (four per cent) were accredited in the arts.

The breakdown of simplified evaluation results in terms of study areas (Fig. 7) is very similar to that of in-depth external evaluation. More than half of the programmes – 296 (52 per cent) – were registered in the study area of social sciences, and 108 study programmes (19 per cent) were registered in the study area of technology. A total of 60 study programmes (10 per cent) were accredited in the area of biomedicine; 49 new programmes (nine per cent) were accredited in the humanities, and 37 (six per cent) were accredited in the arts. The fewest programmes – 25 (four per cent) – were accredited in the field of natural sciences.

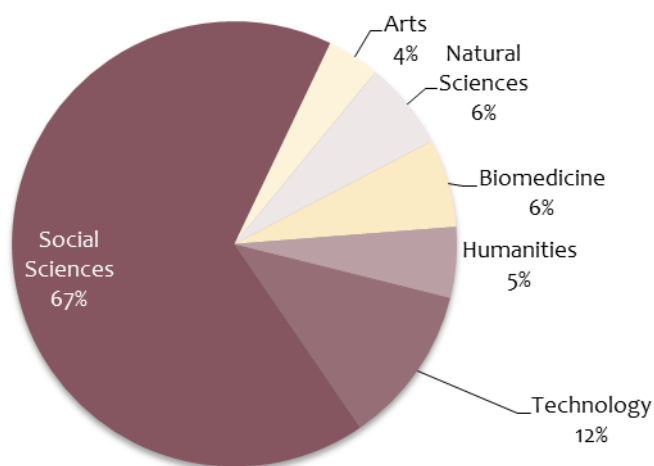


Fig. 6. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015 after in-depth expert evaluation, by study area.

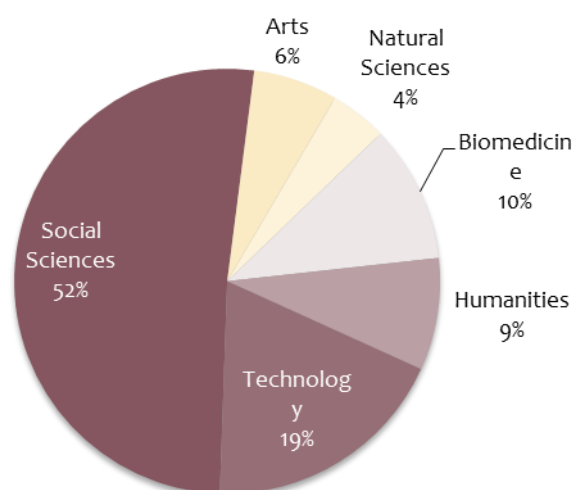


Fig. 7. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015 after simplified evaluation, by study area.

Distribution of the accredited programmes according to study cycle was fairly uniform (Fig. 8): 25 (32 per cent) were professional bachelor's programmes, 27 (35 per cent) were university bachelor's programmes, 20 (25 per cent) were master's programmes, and six (eight per cent) were non-degree programmes.



Fig. 8. New study programmes accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015 after external expert evaluation, by study cycle.

The statistics for the 29 programmes that were not accredited are as follows (Fig. 9): social sciences – 19 (66 per cent), natural sciences – three (10 per cent), humanities – three (10 per cent), technology – two (seven per cent), biomedicine – two (seven per cent).

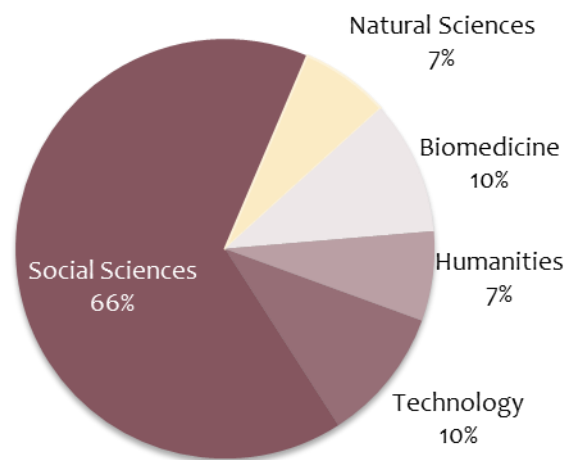


Fig. 9. New study programmes that were not accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015 after external expert evaluation, by study area.

The distribution of non-accredited programmes according to study cycle is as follows (Fig. 10): 13 (45 per cent) were professional bachelor's programmes, seven (24 per cent) were bachelor's programmes, eight (28 per cent) were master's programmes, and one (three per cent) was a minor study programme.

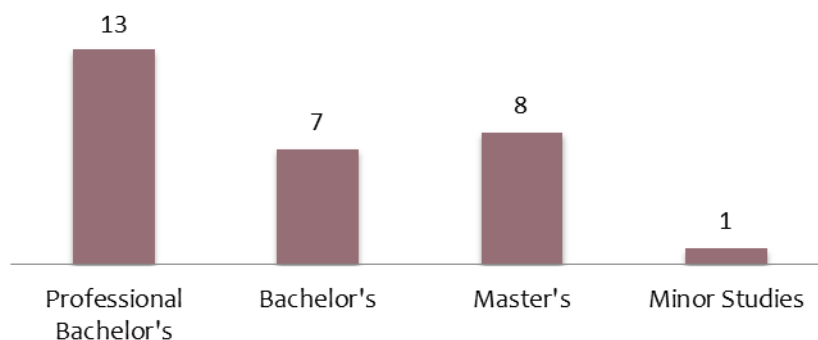


Fig. 10. New study programmes that were not accredited by SKVC in 2010-2015 after external expert evaluation, by study cycle.

The decision not to accredit a programme was usually due to an unsatisfactory evaluation in the field of programme aims and outcomes. Evaluation in this field was negative in 23 (70 per cent) of the 29 cases where programmes were not accredited. The area of programme structure was evaluated with an unsatisfactory score in 16 cases (55 per cent). Unsatisfactory scores in the other areas of evaluation were significantly less common than

in these two areas. It is also worth pointing out that both these areas are strongly linked and are often evaluated with an unsatisfactory score in the same programme. The evaluation results are illustrated in the following table.

Evaluation points Evaluation areas	1 - Unsatisfactory (there are major shortcomings that must be rectified)	2 - Satisfactory (meets the minimum requirements, but needs to be improved)	3 - Good (a systematically developed area that has distinctive features)	4 - Very good (the area is exceptional)
Programme aims and learning outcomes	29/23	29/5	29/1	-
Programme structure	29/16	29/11	29/2	-
Staff	29/4	29/16	29/9	-
Material resources	29/5	29/12	29/11	29/1
Course of studies and its assessment	29/1	29/18	29/10	-
Programme management	29/2	29/16	29/10	29/1

Note: The first number in the table shows the total number of negatively evaluated study programmes, while the second number shows the number of cases evaluated with the respective score.

None of the programmes that underwent in-depth external evaluation are currently considered ongoing study programmes. The first positive decision on an in-depth external evaluation was made in May 2012. The accreditation date for these programmes is by 2015, but their accreditation period was extended for one year to 2016 for study field evaluation.