

The basic characteristics of the Higher Education System in Montenegro

Main institutions of the Higher Education System:

- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation
- Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- Council for Higher Education
- Council for Qualifications
- Ethics Committee

The legal framework of the higher education system in Montenegro

- Law on Higher Education (2025)
- Law on Scientific Research Activity
- Law on Academic Integrity
- Set of rules, by-laws and standards

A strategic framework is defined by the **Strategy for the development of higher education in Montenegro (2024-2027)**.

The goals set up by the Strategy are in line with **the Bologna Process**.

Montenegro is part of the Bologna Process since 2003, and once became independent, **our membership and status were confirmed in the Ministerial conference held in London in 2007**.

Strategy for Higher Education 2024–2027

The Strategy defines **three key strategic objectives** for the development of higher education in Montenegro:

- 1.Improvement of study programmes** and their alignment with labour market needs, including enhanced recognition of diplomas and improved infrastructure.
- 2.Further development of the higher education system** in line with European quality standards and frameworks (e.g. **EHEA, ERA**).
- 3.Strengthening the international role of Montenegrin universities**, with a focus on academic mobility, international cooperation, and joint programmes.

Higher Education in Montenegro – Overview and Strategic Framework

- The higher education system in Montenegro is aligned with the **Bologna Process** and **European higher education principles**.
- It includes **public and private higher education institutions**, offering academic and applied study programmes.
- Higher education institutions play a key role in:
 - education and research
 - innovation and knowledge transfer
 - cooperation with industry and society

Bologna Process at the national and institutional level in Montenegro

As part of the European Higher Education Area, all participating countries agreed to:

- Introduce a three-cycle higher education system consisting of bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies – **introduced in Montenegro in 2017.**
- Ensure the mutual recognition of qualifications and learning periods completed at other universities abroad - **Montenegro has taken steps to ensure the mutual recognition of qualifications and learning periods.**
- Implement a system of quality assurance, to strengthen the quality and relevance of learning and teaching – **introduced by establishment of the Montenegrin QA Agency in 2017.**

Data Overview of the Montenegrin Higher Education System

- 287 study programs are conducted at 10 institutions: 4 universities and 6 independent higher education institutions;
- 1 public university and 3 private universities, 1 public faculty and 5 private higher education institutions;
- Average number of enrolled students per year (for the last ten years) in all three cycles: 23,000;
- Average number of graduates per year (for the last ten years) in all three cycles: 4,700;
- The largest number of all enrolled students for the last ten years begin their studies at a public university: 70% on average.

Information on the Upcoming BFUG Board Meeting

- **Proposed date of the BFUG Board meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro: 29 September 2026**
- **Meeting agenda will cover:**
 - 28–29 September 2026
- **Venue:**
 - 📍 **Science and Technology Park, Podgorica**
- **Additional information:**
 - All members of the BUFG Board will receive **detailed information and a comprehensive guidance package in due time.**