

NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY
DIRECTIVE ON THE AWARD OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE DIPLOMA TO STUDENTS
WHO DO NOT OR CANNOT COMPLETE THEIR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

PART ONE

Purpose, Scope, Legal Basis and Definitions

Purpose

ARTICLE 1 – (1) The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the principles and procedures governing the award of an associate degree diploma to students enrolled in an undergraduate programme of four years or longer at Near East University who do not or cannot complete their undergraduate studies, but who have successfully completed all courses and other academic requirements prescribed for at least the first four semesters of their respective undergraduate programme.

Scope

ARTICLE 2 – (1) This Directive applies to students who are enrolled in, or who have left without obtaining an undergraduate degree from, an undergraduate programme of four years or longer at Near East University.

(2) An associate degree diploma awarded under this Directive does not constitute completion of the undergraduate programme in which the student was enrolled and does not confer any professional title, professional authority, licence to practise, or other professional right attached to the completion of that undergraduate programme.

Legal Basis

ARTICLE 3 – (1) This Directive has been prepared on the basis of:

- a) the relevant provisions of the Turkish Higher Education Law No. 2547;
- b) the provisions of the *Regulation on the Award of Associate Degree Diplomas or Transfer to Vocational Schools of Higher Education for Students Who Have Not Completed or Have Been Unable to Complete Their Undergraduate Studies*, published in the Official Gazette No. 20112 dated 18 March 1989;
- c) the relevant provisions of the higher education legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus; and
- d) the relevant provisions of the Near East University Regulation for Associate and Undergraduate Degree Education.

Definitions

ARTICLE 4 – (1) For the purposes of this Directive:

- a) University means Near East University;
- b) University Administrative Board means the Near East University Administrative Board;
- c) Relevant Administrative Board means the Administrative Board of the faculty or school in which the student is or was enrolled;
- d) Associate Degree Diploma means a diploma awarded, upon request, to a student who has successfully completed all courses and other academic requirements prescribed for at least the first four semesters of an undergraduate programme but who has not completed or has been unable to complete the undergraduate programme, and which does not confer an undergraduate degree or professional title;
- e) Student means a person who is enrolled in, or who has left without obtaining an undergraduate degree from, an undergraduate programme of four years or longer at the University.

PART TWO

Principles Governing the Award of an Associate Degree Diploma

Eligibility for an Associate Degree Diploma

ARTICLE 5 – (1) In order to be eligible for an associate degree diploma, the student must:

- a) have been admitted to and enrolled in an undergraduate programme of four years or longer;

- b) have successfully completed all compulsory courses and other academic requirements prescribed by the curriculum for the first four semesters of the undergraduate programme in which the student was enrolled;
 - c) have no failed courses among the courses required under the curriculum for the first four semesters;
 - d) have satisfied the minimum passing grades and other academic requirements stipulated in the University's education and examination regulations;
 - e) not have completed, or have been unable to complete, the undergraduate programme; and
 - f) submit a written application requesting the award of an associate degree diploma.
- (2) Courses transferred or recognised through exemption, horizontal transfer, vertical transfer, credit transfer, or recognition of prior learning shall be taken into consideration for the purposes of this Article, provided that they have been formally recognised by the University as equivalent to courses included in the curriculum of the first four semesters.
- (3) Where a student has taken courses from higher semesters during the first four semesters and has failed such courses, such failure shall not, by itself, prevent the award of an associate degree diploma, provided that the student has successfully completed all courses and academic requirements prescribed for the first four semesters.

Application

ARTICLE 6 – (1) An associate degree diploma shall be awarded upon the student's written request.

(2) Applications shall be submitted to the Student Affairs Directorate.

(3) Applications for an associate degree diploma shall not be subject to a time limitation.

(4) Students whose registration with the University has previously been terminated may also apply for an associate degree diploma, provided that they satisfy the requirements set out in this Directive.

Evaluation of Applications

ARTICLE 7 – (1) The Student Affairs Directorate shall review the student's academic record on the basis of the curriculum applicable to the programme during the period in which the student pursued their studies.

(2) The relevant academic unit shall determine whether the student has successfully completed all academic requirements prescribed for the first four semesters.

(3) The student's eligibility for an associate degree diploma shall be determined by a decision of the Relevant Administrative Board.

(4) The decision of the Relevant Administrative Board shall be forwarded to the Student Affairs Directorate, and the diploma procedures shall be completed in accordance with the University's regulations and procedures governing the issuance of diplomas.

Nature of the Diploma and Professional Rights

ARTICLE 8 – (1) An associate degree diploma awarded under this Directive certifies that the student has successfully completed the first four semesters of higher education prescribed by the relevant undergraduate programme.

(2) The undergraduate programme or field of study in which the student pursued their studies may be indicated on the diploma in accordance with the University's diploma issuance procedures and the applicable higher education legislation.

(3) An associate degree diploma awarded under this Directive shall not confer any professional title, authority, licence, or right attached to the undergraduate degree programme from which the student has withdrawn or otherwise left without graduation.

(4) In particular, in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, and other regulated professional fields, an associate degree diploma awarded under this Directive shall not confer the right to use the professional title of Medical Doctor, Dentist, Pharmacist, Veterinarian/Veterinary Surgeon, or any other professional title that requires completion of the relevant undergraduate programme, nor shall it confer the right to practise the corresponding profession.

(5) An associate degree diploma awarded under this Directive shall not be deemed equivalent to graduation from any separate associate degree programme offered by the University. Accordingly, a student shall not be awarded the diploma title or professional qualification of any specific associate degree programme offered by the University unless the student has independently fulfilled the graduation requirements of that programme.

PART THREE

Miscellaneous and Final Provisions

Effect of the Award of an Associate Degree Diploma on Student Status

ARTICLE 9 – (1) Where a student who is currently registered in an undergraduate programme requests and is awarded an associate degree diploma under this Directive, the student's registration in the relevant undergraduate programme shall be terminated upon issuance of the associate degree diploma.

(2) The award of an associate degree diploma shall not prejudice any rights the student may have under applicable legislation concerning re-entry into higher education, student amnesty provisions, or other higher education rights. Such matters shall be governed by the applicable legislation in force.

Financial and Administrative Obligations

ARTICLE 10 – (1) Prior to the delivery of the diploma, the University's general provisions governing graduation and diploma procedures shall apply with respect to any outstanding financial or administrative obligations of the student towards the University.

Cases Not Covered by this Directive

ARTICLE 11 – (1) In matters not specifically regulated by this Directive, the applicable higher education legislation, the Near East University Regulation for Associate and Undergraduate Degree Education, other relevant University regulations and directives, and decisions of the University Administrative Board shall apply.

Transitional Provision

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 1 – (1) Students who, prior to the effective date of this Directive, withdrew from or had their registration terminated from an undergraduate programme of four years or longer at the University may also apply for an associate degree diploma, provided that they satisfy the requirements stipulated in this Directive.

Entry into Force

ARTICLE 12 – (1) This Directive shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the Near East University Administrative Board.

Execution

ARTICLE 13 – (1) The provisions of this Directive shall be executed by the Rector of Near East University.