

# **Turkish Higher Education Law No. 2547**

## **Objectives**

The Higher Education Law No. 2547, enacted on November 4, 1981, serves to regulate all aspects of higher education in Turkey. It defines the purposes, principles, and organizational structure of higher education institutions and their governing bodies. The key objectives outlined in Article 1 include:

- Establishing principles for education, research, and development activities.
- Structuring the responsibilities and authorities of institutions and personnel.
- Promoting a cohesive system that aligns educational and administrative functions.

## **Scope:**

Law applies to:

- All higher education institutions, including universities, faculties, vocational schools, conservatories, research centers, and institutes.
- Supervisory and coordinating bodies such as the Council of Higher Education (Yükseköğretim Kurulu, YÖK) and the Interuniversity Council.

Exceptions are granted to higher education institutions governed by the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, which operate under separate legislative frameworks.

## **Governance Structure**

The law establishes a hierarchical structure to ensure smooth functioning and strategic planning in higher education.

### **1. Council of Higher Education (YÖK)**

- Defined as the supreme autonomous body responsible for planning, coordinating, and supervising higher education.
- Members are appointed by the President of Turkey and selected from experienced academics and public officials.
- Core functions include establishing new institutions, determining student capacities, and allocating resources.

### **2. Universities:**

- Universities are defined as autonomous entities focused on education, research, and societal contributions.
- They comprise faculties, institutes, and vocational schools, each led by designated administrative officers.
- The law mandates collaboration with public and private sectors to align with national development goals.

## Fundamental Principles

The law emphasizes adherence to the following principles:

1. **National Integrity and Atatürk's Reforms:** Ensuring students understand and value national unity and historical reforms.
2. **Scientific Autonomy:** Promoting academic freedom while maintaining accountability.
3. **Equality:** Providing equal opportunities in higher education.
4. **Quality Assurance:** Continually updating curricula to meet international standards and national needs.

## Educational Programs and Research

- Higher education is divided into undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels, with specialized pathways for medical and technical professions.
- Institutions are tasked with conducting research that supports national development and innovation.

## Administration and Personnel

The roles and responsibilities of academic and administrative personnel are clearly delineated. Key provisions include:

- **Rector:** Appointed by the President and responsible for overall governance of the university.
- **Senate:** Governs academic activities and approves curricula.
- **Faculty Deans:** Manage departmental activities and report to the Rector.

## Evaluation and Oversight

The law grants the YÖK the authority to:

- Monitor institutional performance.
- Approve budgets and evaluate resource allocation.
- Ensure compliance with educational standards through regular audits.

## Conclusion

Law No. 2547 establishes a comprehensive framework for the governance, administration, and development of higher education in Turkey. It promotes national development through structured education and research activities while ensuring adherence to democratic and scientific principles. The law's detailed provisions aim to balance autonomy with accountability, aligning higher education with the country's cultural and socioeconomic goals.