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Conditions for the establishment of New Universities

Section 43 (1) of the Universities Act 2005 states: “Any person may, with the approval of the Minister, acting on the advice of the Tertiary Education Commission, establish a private University in Sierra Leone to be run as a company limited by guarantee”.

The Tertiary Education Commission herewith sets the following guidelines as the basis of its standard for the setting up of new Universities.

1. New universities should start in new or independent facilities, the identification of which shall be clearly laid out in its application.
2. Existing institutions that seek to be transformed into universities should indicate clearly the additional facilities to be provided to accommodate this transformation.
3. New universities to be established by direct foreign investment, should already have had plans for erecting new or modifying existing buildings and other facilities fully developed with time lines for completion.
4. The concentration of courses and programs of new universities should relate to the development needs of Sierra Leone. For universities established through direct foreign investment, these should be in areas of science and technology, mining, industrial development, with the relevant facilities to support research and practical work for these programs.
5. There should be a senior staff structure and departments that follow acceptable local and international standards. The levels of categorization of staff must be clearly laid out.
6. The head of the university must be an individual of proven academic attainments with scholarly achievement comparable to those of other heads of national universities.
7. The quality of the senior staff must be verifiable, accompanied by Curriculum Vitae as necessary. Senior staff degree will be further evaluated if they come from institutions not accredited by the TEC. In developing future staff, exceptional in-breeding (the acquisition of higher degree qualifications in the same University by above 30 percent of staff) will be considered grounds for further investigations by the TEC.

8. There shall be a minimum level of qualification to Senior Staff equivalent to a higher degree.
9. Procedure in carry out application for a new University. After the submission of applications, the TEC will carry out a review and evaluation of all details submitted.