

Polytechnics Act 351/2003

(As amended up to 2009)

Chapter 1. General provisions

Section 1. Scope of application

This Act applies to polytechnics in the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education.

Section 2. Status of polytechnics in the education system

Polytechnics form part of the system of higher education. Polytechnics and universities together constitute the system of higher education.

Section 3. Autonomy and members of a polytechnic (Amendment 564/2009)

1. A polytechnic shall have autonomy in its internal affairs.
2. A polytechnic shall encompass full-time teachers, other full-time staff and full-time degree students as its members. Provisions on who is to be regarded as full-time shall be issued by Government Decree.

Section 4. The mission of polytechnics

1. Working on research, artistic and cultural premises, polytechnics shall provide higher education for professional expert jobs based on the requirements of working life and its development; support the professional growth of individuals; and carry out applied research and development that serves polytechnic education, supports the world of work and regional development, and takes the industrial structure of the region into account. In executing these tasks, polytechnics shall promote lifelong learning. (Amendment 564/2009)
2. Polytechnics shall provide and develop adult education in order to maintain and upgrade working life competencies.

3. A polytechnic may provide vocational teacher training in accordance with separate statutes issued thereon.

Section 5. Cooperation with the operating environment

In carrying out its mission, a polytechnic shall cooperate with business and industry and other sectors of the labour market, in particular within its own region, and with Finnish and foreign higher education institutions and other educational establishments.

Chapter 2. Operating a polytechnic

Section 6. Polytechnic operating licence

1. The Government may grant an operating licence for a polytechnic to a local authority or a municipal consortium or to a registered Finnish association or foundation. The licence shall be granted on condition that the polytechnic is needed to satisfy an educational need and fulfils the quality and other requirements imposed on polytechnics.
2. The licensee is entitled to operate a polytechnic which provides polytechnic education in accordance with the educational mission specified in the operating licence. The licence may also impose development and other obligations on the polytechnic pertaining to its mission.
3. The Government may, after hearing the licensee, cancel the operating licence in whole or in part, if so required by fundamental changes in educational needs or for other reasons relating to the running of the polytechnic, or if the polytechnic in its operation fails to fulfil the requirements and obligations referred to in subsections (1) and (2).

Section 7. Educational mission (Amendment 564/2009)

1. The educational mission assigned to the polytechnic shall determine its field of operation, its language of instruction and the location of its units, as provided in a Government Decree.
2. Any changes in the educational mission of a polytechnic which concern the location of its units shall be authorised by the Ministry of Education.

Chapter 3. Steering and evaluation of operations

Section 8. Target setting

1. In accordance with further provisions to be issued by Government Decree, the Government adopts a Development Plan for Education and Research for a specific period at a time, setting out general development targets for polytechnics.
2. The Ministry of Education shall agree with a polytechnic and the organisation operating the polytechnic on objectives of primary relevance to national higher education policy to be set for the operation of the polytechnic and their monitoring and on major national development projects for a specified number of years at a time.
3. Where it is impossible to reconcile polytechnic-specific quantitative targets otherwise at the national or regional levels, the Ministry of Education may determine the number of entrants as an overall number of intakes and, where necessary, in whole or in part by degree programmes.

Section 9. Quality assessment (Amendment 564/2009)

1. A polytechnic shall be responsible for the quality and continuing development of the education and other activities it provides. The polytechnic shall evaluate its education and other activities and their impact. The polytechnic shall also participate in external evaluation of its operation and quality assurance system on a regular basis and publish the findings of its evaluations.
2. Attached to the Ministry of Education is a Higher Education Evaluation Council, further provisions on which are enacted by Government Decree.

Chapter 4. Polytechnic administration

Section 10. Internal administrative bodies

The internal administration of a polytechnic shall be managed by a board and a rector.

Section 11. Board

1. The board shall be presided over by the rector. In addition, the board shall include the representation of the other leadership, full-time teachers, other full-time staff and full-time degree

students of the polytechnic and representatives of business and industry and other sectors of the labour market. (Amendment 564/2009)

2. The number of members from each of the groups referred to in subsection (1) shall constitute less than half of the total number of board members, subject to the provision that the members representing business and industry and other sectors of the labour market may constitute no more than one third of the total number of board members. Board members may have deputies.
3. The total number of board members and the number of members belonging to the groups referred to in subsection (1) shall be determined by the organisation operating the polytechnic. The election of members shall come under the regulations of the polytechnic.
4. The board shall be appointed by the organisation operating the polytechnic.

Section 12. Duties of the board

1. The board shall develop the polytechnic operations.
2. In addition, the board shall:
 - (1) submit proposals towards the action and economic plan and budget of the polytechnic to the organisation operating the polytechnic;
 - (2) determine the grounds for allocating the appropriations granted to the polytechnic;
 - (3) submit a proposal to the organisation operating the polytechnic concerning changes in the educational mission;
 - (4) appoint other multi-member administrative bodies;
 - (5) adopt the degree regulations of the polytechnic;
 - (6) adopt regulations on internal administration; and
 - (7) deliberate and resolve any other matters assigned to it by statutes or regulations, or matters which by virtue of their nature fall within its duties.

Section 13. Rector and vice-rector

1. The rector shall direct the operations of the polytechnic and deliberate and resolve matters relating to its internal administration, unless otherwise provided by an act, a Government or Ministry of Education Decree or the regulations of the polytechnic.

2. The rector shall be appointed or hired by the organisation operating the polytechnic.
3. Provisions on the qualifications required of a rector shall be issued by Government Decree.
4. The polytechnic may have one or more vice-rectors, as decided by the organisation operating the polytechnic. The vice-rector and other senior management shall be appointed or hired by the organisation operating the polytechnic. (Amendment 564/2009)

Section 13a. Regulations of the polytechnic (Amendment 413/2005)

Regulations of the polytechnic shall determine the powers, duties and terms of office of the administrative bodies of the polytechnic, the presentation, deliberation and resolution of matters in the administrative bodies and other administration of the polytechnic.

Section 14. Duties of an organisation operating a polytechnic

1. In addition to the provisions laid down elsewhere in this Act, the duties of the organisation operating a polytechnic shall be:
 - (1) to decide on the strategic development of the polytechnic;
 - (2) to decide on the action and economic plan and budget of the polytechnic;
 - (3) to make a proposal to the Government concerning a change in the educational mission of the polytechnic; and
 - (4) to appoint, where necessary, a delegation for the polytechnic.

Chapter 5. Instruction and degrees

Section 15. Language of instruction

The language of instruction of a polytechnic shall be Finnish or Swedish. The languages of instruction of a bilingual polytechnic shall be Finnish and Swedish. Where necessary, a language other than the language of instruction of the polytechnic may also be used in instruction and in examinations and tests as decided by the polytechnic.

Section 16. Freedom of education and research in a polytechnic

1. In carrying out the mission referred to in Section 4, a polytechnic shall enjoy freedom of education and research. However, instruction shall comply with statutes and regulations issued on the provision of education.
2. Polytechnic education shall be public. Access to instruction may be restricted for a well-founded reason.

Section 17. Polytechnic education (Amendment 564/2009)

1. Within the scope of the educational mission assigned to it, a polytechnic shall provide education leading to higher education degrees, professional specialist training and other adult education and open polytechnic instruction. A part of degree-oriented instruction may be organised at workplaces.
2. A polytechnic may provide education for immigrants free of charge with a view to providing the student with language proficiency and other knowledge and skills needed for studies at the polytechnic. Provisions on the extent this education shall be issued by Government Decree, where needed.

Section 18. Degrees and requirements (Amendment 411/2005)

1. The polytechnics shall confer polytechnic Bachelor's degrees and polytechnic Master's degrees. The polytechnic Bachelor's degrees are first-cycle degrees and the polytechnic Master's degrees are second-cycle degrees. Provisions on the status of the degrees in the system of higher education degrees shall be issued by Government Decree. (Amendment 564/2009)
2. Provisions on the degrees conferred by a polytechnic, the objectives of the degrees and the structure of studies and other study requirements shall be issued by Government Decree and stipulated, by virtue thereof, in the degree regulations of the polytechnic.
3. A degree conferred by a polytechnic shall be affixed with the name of the field of education concerned and the degree title and, where needed, as concerns the first-cycle polytechnic degree the abbreviation *AMK*, and, as concerns the second-cycle polytechnic degree the abbreviation *ylempi AMK*. Further provisions on the degrees shall be issued by Government Decree.

Section 19. Degree programmes and syllabi

1. Studies leading to degrees conferred by polytechnics shall be organised as degree programmes in accordance with provisions issued by Government Decree and stipulations based on it in the degree regulations of the polytechnic. (Amendment 411/2005)
2. The degree programmes leading to first-cycle polytechnic degrees and their syllabi shall have an extent of no less than three and no more than four academic years of full-time study. For special reasons, the degree may also take longer than four years. The degree programmes leading to second cycle polytechnic degrees and their syllabi shall have an extent of no less than one academic year and no more than one and a half years of full-time study. (Amendment 411/2005)
3. The Ministry of Education shall decide on the degree programmes on the proposal of a polytechnic in accordance with further provisions issued by Government Decree. The polytechnic shall decide on the syllabi of the degree programmes as stipulated in the degree regulations of the polytechnic.
4. A polytechnic may set up advisory councils to develop education.

Chapter 6. Students*Section 20. Eligibility for polytechnic education (Amendment 564/2009)*

1. Eligible for studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree shall be a person:
 - (1) who has passed the examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Act (672/2005);
 - (2) who has a vocational qualification or an equivalent prior qualification conforming to further provisions issued by Ministry of Education Decree;
 - (3) who has a vocational qualification, a further vocational qualification or a specialist vocational qualification referred to in the Vocational Adult Education Act (631/1998) or an equivalent prior qualification conforming to further provisions issued by Ministry of Education Decree; or
 - (4) who has a foreign education which in the country in question gives eligibility for higher education.

2. Eligible for studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree may also be a person other than one referred to in subsection (1) whom the polytechnic judges to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.
3. Eligible for studies leading to a second-cycle polytechnic degree shall be a person who has completed an applicable polytechnic degree or another applicable degree and who has a minimum of three years of work experience in the field concerned after graduation. The required work experience must have fully accrued by the beginning of the term when the education starts. In Crafts and Design, Media and Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, and Music the requirement may be artistic activity of corresponding duration instead of work experience. In regard of a holder of an upper secondary or a post-secondary qualification awarded by a vocational college, who has subsequently studied for an applicable university or polytechnic degree, the acceptable requirement may also be work experience acquired before the completion of the higher education degree.

Section 21. Number of students (Amendment 564/2009)

A polytechnic shall decide on the annual number of students admitted to the polytechnic, unless otherwise provided in Section 8(3).

Section 22. Student selection and acceptance of a study place (Amendment 564/2009)

1. The admission criteria and the arrangement of entrance examinations shall be determined by the polytechnic. The applied admission criteria must be consistent with regard to all the applicants. Applicants may be divided into separate groups in the selection owing to different educational backgrounds. In this case, the applied admission criteria must be consistent with regard to applicants belonging to the same group.
2. Polytechnic student admissions shall be organised by means of the joint application procedure using the applicant register referred to in the Applicant and Matriculation Examination Registers Act (1058/1998), unless otherwise provided by Government Decree. Further provisions on student selection procedures and joint application shall be issued by Government Decree.
3. Students shall be admitted by the polytechnic in accordance with provisions issued by Government Decree, where necessary. During any given academic term, a student may accept only

one student place leading to a higher education degree which is included in the joint national university-polytechnic application system. 'Term' refers to the autumn term and the spring term, the autumn term beginning on the first of August and ending on the 31st of December and the spring term beginning on the first of January and ending on the 31st of July. An admitted student shall notify the polytechnic of his or her acceptance of the student place within the time indicated. Should the admitted student not give the notification within the time indicated, he or she shall forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one degree programme in universities and polytechnics shall notify only the degree programme in which he or she accepts the study place.

4. An applicant may apply to the board of the polytechnic in writing for rectification of a decision concerning admission within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision. The admission results may not be changed to the detriment of any other admitted person in consequence of the rectification request. Further provisions on the procedure shall be issued by Government Decree.

Section 23. Student registration (Amendment 564/2009)

An admitted student who has notified the polytechnic of his or her acceptance of the student place shall enrol at the polytechnic in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic, whereupon he or she is registered as a student. The student must register as being present or absent for each academic year in the manner stipulated by the polytechnic. For a well-founded reason, the student may change his or her registration as present or absent during the academic year.

Section 24. Right to study

1. A student has the right to pursue studies leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree or a second-cycle polytechnic degree in accordance with the degree programme concerned and its syllabus and the requirements stipulated in the degree regulations of the polytechnic. (Amendment 411/2005)
2. Full-time students must complete the studies referred to in subsection (1) within a time at most exceeding one year the extent determined for it. A student may be absent for two academic years in total by virtue of a notification of absence. This period of time shall not be counted towards the maximum duration of studies. The grounds for determining the maximum duration of studies referred to in subsection (1) in regard of

other students shall be laid down in the degree regulations of the polytechnic.

Section 25. Forfeiture of right to study

1. A student who has not registered in the manner provided in Section 23 shall forfeit his or her right to study. Should the student later wish to start or resume his or her studies, he or she must reapply to the polytechnic for right to study.
2. A student who fails to complete his or her studies within the period of time laid down in Section 24(2) shall forfeit his or her right to study, unless the polytechnic for a special reason grants him or her an extension to finish the studies.
3. A student may apply to the board of the polytechnic in writing for rectification of a decision concerning forfeiture of right to study within 14 days of receiving notification of the decision.

Section 26. Free education (Amendment 564/2009)

1. Education leading to a first-cycle polytechnic degree and a second-cycle polytechnic degree and entrance examinations relating to student admissions shall be free of charge for students.
2. A person applying to education other than that given in Finnish or Swedish may be required to take a fee-charging international test. For activities other than those referred to in subsection 1, the polytechnic may charge fees. Further provisions concerning fees shall be enacted by Government Decree in conformity with the provisions on the cost price of transactions under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992).
3. If the fee chargeable to a student provided for in this Act has not been paid by the due date, it is possible to collect annual interest for late payment from the due date onwards in accordance with the provisions of the Interest Act (633/1982). The payment may be recovered by an enforcement order without a court decision as provided in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges (706/2007).

Section 26 a. Made- to-order education (Amendment 1505/2007)

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 26 (1), a polytechnic may arrange degree education geared to a group of students which has been commissioned and is paid by the Finnish government, another state, an international organisation, a

Finnish or foreign public corporation, foundation or private corporation (made-to-order education).

2. Made-to-order education may be arranged for persons other than citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or persons who are considered equivalent to European Union citizens under European Community legislation or a treaty concluded by the European Community and its Member States with another contracting party. A person participating in made-to-order education shall be governed by Sections 20, 22(4), 27, 28 and 42.
3. Instruction given as made-to-order education must relate to a field of education determined in the operating licence of the polytechnic and to a degree programme confirmed for the polytechnic. The arrangement of made-to-order education may not undermine the first-cycle and second-cycle education provided by the polytechnic. The polytechnic must charge a fee for made-to-order education covering at least the costs incurring from it.

Section 26 b. Fee-charging degree programmes (Amendment 564/2009)

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 26, a polytechnic may charge fees to a student admitted to a second-cycle degree programme taught in a foreign language. The charging of fees shall be conditional on the polytechnic having a scholarship scheme which can be used to support, where necessary, the studies of students participating in the fee-charging programme.
2. However, fees cannot be charged to a citizen of a state belonging to the European Economic Area or to a person who is considered equivalent to a European Union citizen under European Community legislation or under a treaty concluded by the European Community and its Member States with another contracting party. Nor can a fee be charged to a person who has a right to permanent residence in Finland under the Aliens Act (301/2004).

Section 26b inserted by Amendment 564/2009 shall be in force temporarily from 1 January 2010 until 31 December 2014.

Section 27. Assessment and rectification (Amendment 564/2009)

1. A student has the right to obtain information about the application of assessment criteria to his or her study

attainment. The procedure shall be laid down by Government Decree.

2. A student dissatisfied with the grading of his or her study attainment or with the recognition of studies completed elsewhere or otherwise substantiated may request the teacher who made the grading or the decision on the recognition for rectification either orally or in writing. The request for rectification must be made within 14 days of the date when the student has had an opportunity to access information about the assessment results and application of assessment criteria in regard of him or her.
3. A student dissatisfied with a decision referred to in subsection (2) may apply in writing to the board of examiners of the polytechnic for rectification within 14 days of receiving notification of the decision.
4. Further provisions on the duties and composition of the board of examiners shall be issued by Government Decree.

Section 28. Disciplinary action

1. A student who has been guilty of deception in the polytechnic or otherwise breached the order of the polytechnic may be punished by disciplinary action, depending on the severity of the breach, by a caution or by suspension for a period of no more than one year. Before a decision is taken on the matter, the student must be given an opportunity to be heard on the matter.
2. The decision on a caution to a student shall be made by the rector and the decision on a student's suspension by the board of the polytechnic.

Chapter 7. Teachers and other staff (Amendment 564/2009)

Section 29. Teachers and other staff

1. A polytechnic has tenures and posts for principal lecturers and senior lecturers.
2. A polytechnic may have lecturers and visiting lecturers.
3. The staff of a polytechnic, with the exception of the rector, vice-rector and other senior leadership, shall be appointed or hired by the polytechnic.

Section 30. Teachers' qualification requirements and duties
(Amendment 564/2009)

Provisions on the polytechnic teachers' qualification requirements and duties shall be issued by Government Decree, where needed.

Section 31. Status of staff at municipal and private polytechnics
(Amendment 564/2009)

1. The official tenures and posts and their holders in a municipal polytechnic shall be governed by the provisions of the Local Government Act (365/1995) and the Act on Municipal Post-holders (304/2003), unless otherwise provided in this Act.
2. The employees in a private polytechnic shall be governed by the provisions of the Employment Contracts Act (55/2001), unless otherwise provided in this Act.
3. A decision made by a polytechnic to employ a person to a public service post or to terminate or cancel an employment relation with a holder of a public-service post may be appealed against as provided in the Local Government Act. A decision made by a polytechnic concerning the hiring of a person in an employment relation or termination or cancellation of an employment contract shall come under the provisions of the Employment Contracts Act.

Chapter 8. Financing

Section 32. Core funding

An organisation operating a polytechnic shall be allocated core funding on the basis of the number of polytechnic students and a unit cost determined per student, as provided in the Act on the Financing of Education and Culture (635/1998).

Section 33. Project and performance-based funding and financing of expenditure common to all polytechnics

1. The Ministry of Education may grant to the organisation operating a polytechnic project funding geared to support and develop the operations of the polytechnic within the limits of an appropriation included in the state budget.
2. The Ministry of Education may grant to the organisation operating a polytechnic performance-based funding on the

basis of effective operation within the limits of an appropriation included in the state budget.

3. The Ministry of Education may, within the limits of an appropriation included in the state budget, finance activities and projects common to all polytechnics in support of their operation.

Section 34 has been repealed by Amendment 1074/2005

Section 35. Local government contribution towards cost of polytechnics

Local government shall contribute towards the costs determined as grounds for core funding in Section 32, as provided in the Act on the Financing of Education and Culture.

Section 36. Other sources of funding

An organisation operating a polytechnic may accept contributions and donations for the operations and development of the polytechnic.

Section 37. Application of the provisions of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers

The discretionary government grants provided for in this Act shall come under the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001). The said Act shall not, however, apply to performance-based funding referred to in Section 33(2).

Chapter 9. Miscellaneous provisions

Section 38. Cooperation between polytechnics

Polytechnics may agree on joint education and research units with a view to coordinating operations of polytechnics located in the same region or to promoting joint projects, research and development cooperation or other forms of collaboration.

Section 39. Use of the name and degree title of a polytechnic

1. The name of *ammattikorkeakoulu* may only be used to denote a polytechnic referred to in this Act.
2. The degree titles of *ammattikorkeakoulututkinto* and *ylempi ammattikorkeakoulututkinto* may only be used to denote degrees conferred by a polytechnic. (Amendment 411/2005)

Section 40. Right to obtain information

1. In carrying out its duties, a polytechnic has the right to obtain statistical and other similar data necessary for the planning and provision of education from government and local authorities.
2. Upon request, the polytechnic shall furnish data needed for the evaluation, development, statistics and monitoring of education as specified by the Ministry of Education.

Section 41. Administrative procedures and confidentiality
(Amendment 564/2009)

1. In performing a public administrative function, a polytechnic and the student body of the polytechnic shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act concerning disqualification shall apply to all university activity. However, the provisions of Section 28(1), paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Act shall apply to a corporation belonging to the polytechnic only in a matter where the interests of the polytechnic and the community conflict or where required by fair handling of the matter.
2. The confidentiality of the activities pursued by a polytechnic, the organisation operating the polytechnic and the student body of the polytechnic under this Act shall be governed by the provisions of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) on the confidentiality of the activities of authorities referred to in Section 4(1) of the Act.

Section 42. Appeals

1. An appeal against a decision made by a polytechnic pursuant to this Act and to a Decree issued by virtue of it shall be lodged with the administrative court within whose jurisdiction the head office the polytechnic is located and otherwise as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).
(Amendment 564/2009)
2. A decision for which rectification may be applied under Section 22, 25 or 27 may not be appealed against. An appeal against a decision issued within the rectification procedure shall be lodged with the administrative court referred to in subsection (1). However, a decision issued within the rectification procedure concerning assessment and recognition of studies

completed elsewhere or otherwise substantiated may not be appealed against. (Amendment 564/2009)

3. A decision made by a polytechnic concerning its regulations, degree regulations or regulations governing a degree programme, a syllabus or other educational arrangements may not be appealed against.
4. An administrative court decision concerning admission to the polytechnic referred to in Section 22, forfeiture of right to study referred to in Section 25, or disciplinary action referred to in Section 28, may not be appealed against.
5. A decision concerning suspension of a student may be enforced regardless of any appeal against it, unless otherwise ordered by the polytechnic or the administrative court.

Section 42a. Student body (Amendment 413/2005)

1. A polytechnic shall have a student body to which the full-time students of the polytechnic may belong. The student body may also admit other polytechnic students as members.
2. The duties of the student body shall be to select student representatives for the polytechnic board and other multi-member bodies referred to in Section 12(2.4) and to participate in other polytechnic activities.
3. The student body shall also otherwise contribute to preparing students for an active, cognizant and critical citizenship. The student body shall also liaise between and on behalf of its members and for promoting their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and those relating to studies and the status of students in society.
4. The costs incurring from activities implementing the duties of the student body shall be covered from the assets of the student body and the revenue from its activities and from membership fees, which the student body is entitled to charge to its members.
5. The student body of a polytechnic shall have self-government. For administration, the student body shall have a representative body and a board. Further provisions on the administration of a student body shall be issued in the rules of the student body, which shall be approved by the rector.

6. An appeal against a decision made by a student body by virtue of subsection (2) shall be lodged as provided in Section 42 on appeal against a decision made by a polytechnic.
7. The operation of a student body shall be governed by the provisions of the Associations Act (503/1989), subject to the provisions of this Act.

Section 43. Relationship with other legislation

Matters which fall within the competence of the organisation operating a polytechnic shall come under the provisions of the Local Government Act, the Finnish Companies Act (734/1978) or the Foundations Act (109/1930).

The Finnish Companies Act 734/1978 has been repealed by the Finnish Companies Act 624/2006. See the Act Implementing the Finnish Companies Act 625/2006.

Section 43 a. Contingency plans (Amendment 564/2009)

1. The polytechnics must ensure as undisturbed operation in exceptional circumstances and abnormal and special situations as possible by means of contingency plans, advance preparation of operations for abnormal situations and by other means. The contingency plans and situation picture reports describing special situations must be delivered to the Ministry of Education upon request.
2. The advance preparation shall be supervised by the Ministry of Education. Where the preparation is found to be deficient, the Ministry of Education may order the shortcomings to be put right.

Section 43 b. Coordination of Swedish-language higher education (Amendment 564/2009)

Provisions concerning the coordination and development of Swedish-language higher education are enacted in Section 92 of the Universities Act (558/2009).

Section 44. Further provisions

Further provisions on the implementation of this Act shall be issued by Government Decree.

Chapter 10. Entry into force and transitional provisions

Section 45. Entry into force

1. This Act comes into force on 1 August 2003.
2. This Act shall repeal:
 - (1) the Polytechnics Act of 3 March 1995 (255/1995), as amended; and
 - (2) the Act of 3 March 1995 on Certain Arrangements Required for Implementation of the Polytechnics Act (258/1995), with the exception of Section 6 thereof.
3. A polytechnic board elected in accordance with previous provisions shall serve out its term of office.
4. The selections for the setting up and the first election of the board referred to in Section 11 of this Act and for the election of members representing full-time teachers, other full-time staff and full-time students shall be made at meetings of the different groups convened by the rector of the polytechnic.
5. Measures required for the implementation of the Act may be undertaken before the coming into force of this Act.