

Charter

Of the Non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) Legal Person, the Orthodox Theological Higher Educational Institution – Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary of the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia (Credit Code 404439247)

A New Edition

Preamble

By the prayers of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II, in 1988, Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary was founded on the basis of Saint Andrew the First-Called Theological Seminary of Mtskheta.

Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary was established by the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of All Georgia (Credit Code 204395537; Legal address: Georgia, Tbilisi, Erekle II Square, 1), which is recognized as a historically established legal entity of public law on the basis of the constitutional agreement signed between the State of Georgia and the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia on October 14, 2002.

Activities Conducted by Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary conducts its activities on the basis of the Georgian Legislation, the constitutional agreement signed between the State of Georgia and the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, as well as on the basis of the treaties, Ecclesiastical Canon Law and Orthodox Teaching, Regulations of governing and management of the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia and the decrees of His Holiness and Beatitude, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, decrees of the Holy

Synod, the Charter of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary and the legal acts issued on the basis thereof.

Theological-scientific, pedagogical, ecclesiastical and social activities of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary are based on the immutable Law and Teaching of the Holy Orthodox Church and the historical Traditions of the Georgian Orthodox Church, which this educational institution is committed to uphold.

Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary cooperates with the Educational Center of the Patriarchate of Georgia and is accountable to the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia.

Chapter 1

General Regulations

Article 1. The Sphere of the Regulation of the Charter

The Charter defines the status, goals, objectives, structure, bodies of management, sources of property and financing, other issues connected with functioning, rules for alterations to the Charter, rules for the reorganization and liquidation of the Non-enterpreniural (non-commercial) Legal Person – the Orthodox Higher Educational Institution - Tbilisi Theological Academy and seminary (credit code 404439247), working under the aegis of the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia (hereinafter – Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary).

Issues not covered by the TTAS Charter are governed by Internal Legal Acts.

Article 2. The founder of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary, Its Status and Requisites

1. The abbreviated form of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary of the Autocephalous Apostolic Church of Georgia is TTAS;
2. The founder of TTAS is the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia (the same as – the Patriarchate of Georgia, Legal Address: Tbilisi, Erekle II Square, 1, credit code 204395537), recognized by the State of Georgia as a historically established Legal Person of Public Law (according to the Constitutional Agreement signed by the State of Georgia and the Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia, signed on the 14th of October, 2002), whose representative is the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, Ilia II (the civil name – Irakli Shiolashvili, born on the 4th of December, 1933, resides in Tbilisi: King Erekle II Square, 1; Personal number 01015004723);
3. The legal form of TTAS is a Non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) Legal Person;
4. TTAS is established for an indefinite period of time;
5. Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary bears the name of St. Andrew the First-Called, has an official stamp, bank account, official website – www.tsas.ge and uses the logo of the Patriarchate of Georgia.
6. The language of teaching at TTAS is Georgian. Educational programmes can be provided completely or partially in a different language in case of the existence of the necessary human, programmatic and other indispensable resources;
7. The courses at TTAS are free of charge;
8. The legal address of TTAS is: Sioni Str. 13/14 (credit code N 01.18.03.047.002);
9. TTAS email is: tsas@academia.edu.ge

Article 3. The Goals and Tasks of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary, as the defender and successor of the traditions of Georgia's higher schools of Theology and educational centers, on the basis of the Canonical Law and the Regulations of the management of the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia and on the basis of the Constitutional Agreement signed between the

State of Georgia and the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia, while executing the programmes defined in the “Law on Higher Education” of the Legislation of Georgia, envisages the following major tasks for the three level of the higher education in Orthodox Theology (Baccalaureate, Master’s Degree and Doctorate):

1.1. Preparation of the staff for:

- Ordination as a clergyman;
- Scientific work in the line of Theology;
- Research and pedagogical activity;
- Activities in Theology, Christian Psychology and Philosophy, Ecclesiastical Architecture, Christian Art History and Theory, Iconography, Restoration of Easel and Monumental Iconography.

1.2. Facilitating in the establishment of scientific-research centres in the branches of Theology, Philology, Christian Philosophy, History of the Church, Christian Anthropology, Ecclesiastical Law, Dogmatics, Ecclesiastical Architecture, Iconography, Restoration of Easel and Monumental Iconography, Study of Religions, Christian Psychology and Christian Art History and Theory;

1.3. Other educational and scientific activities, which serve to the establishment and confirmation of the Orthodox Faith and values.

1.4. Executing of educational, scientific and other activities based on the unity of the Orthodox Faith and education, the continuity and heredity of education if these activities do not contradict ecclesiastical ethics and objectives;

1.5. Study of Georgian culture which is developed in the bosom of general Christianity and Orthodox Faith;

1.6. Facilitation of the development of creative skills and habits, personal capacities and their realization.

2. TTAS is entitled to carry out any kind of activity, which is not prohibited by the Legislation of Georgia.

Chapter II. The Structure of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Article 4. The Structure

1. TTAS consists of basic educational units (faculties), educational-scientific and auxiliary structural units;
2. Basic educational units (faculties), educational-scientific and auxiliary structural units, their composition, bodies of management, the rule of personnel recruitment and competence are determined by the Regulations of TTAS.

Chapter III. The Principle of the Management of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Article 5. The Governing Bodies

1. The highest governing body is its founder who is authorized to take decisions (in written form) in connection with any issues related to the academy;
2. The governing bodies of TTAS are: Rector, Academic Council, Quality Assurance Office, Dissertation Committee.

Article 6. The Rector

1. Under the Regulations of governing and management of the Georgian Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church, the Legislation of Georgia and the present Charter, TTAS is governed by its Rector who is the Chairman of the Academic Council as well;
2. The Rector is appointed to the post and released from it by the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
3. The Rector should be a clergy within the jurisdiction of the Autocephalous Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia, who has higher theological education, is a Doctor of Theology or holds its equivalent academic degree and has experience in ecclesiastical activity.

4. Rights and Obligations of the Rector:
- a) On the proposition of the Rector, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia appoints a Vice-Rector/Vice-Rectors and releases them from the post;
 - b) The Rector fulfills instructions related to the governing of TTAS, given by the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
 - c) The Rector submits to the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia for his approval a project of alterations to the Charter of TTAS formulated by the Academic Council;
 - d) The Rector sends members of the staff to foreign countries for the participation on international events (conferences, symposiums, seminaries, etc.) with the consent of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
 - e) On the decision of the Academic Council and with the consent of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, the Rector sends students to the educational institutions of foreign countries;
 - f) The Rector establishes contacts with theological educational institutions in foreign countries;
 - g) At the end of every academic year, the Rector presents (in written form) complete information on the current academic process to the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
 - h) The Rector represents TTAS when communicating with third persons and concludes agreements with them;
 - i) The Rector takes decisions on creating of structural units and defines according to the Regulations its functions, composition, the rule for the personnel recruitment and their competence;
 - j) The Rector approves the Regulation/Regulations, Internal Regulations, staff instructions, academic schedule, educational programmes, adopts other administrative-judicial acts;

- k) The Rector convenes assemblies of the Academic Council and acts as their Chairman, verifies the agendas of the assemblies;
- l) The Rector determines the staff schedule and payroll rates;
- m) The Rector appoints the staff and supporting personnel of TTAS, releases them from the posts, signs agreements with them, and exercises measures of incentives and disciplinary responsibility.
- n) The Rector, according to the determined by the legislation form, confers documents verifying the acquired education;
- o) The Rector considers complaints (suggestions) and takes decisions on the incentives and disciplinary actions for the students and the staff of TTAS;
- p) With the consent of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, manages and assigns the property of TTAS;
- q) The Rector gives permission on the publication of theological, scientific, literary works and newspapers and journals of TTAS;
- r) In case of his absence or/and the impossibility of the performance of his duties, the Rector transfers them onto the Vice-Rector in the Academic and Administrative field of TTAS or onto the heads of the structural units who will be assigned the aforementioned responsibility by the decree of the Rector;
- s) The Rector is authorized to delegate separate duties as stipulated in his decree;
- t) The Rector assigns Proxy in case of necessity.

Article 7. The Academic Council

1. The Academic Council, operating at TTAS is the highest academic (educational-scientific) and administrative board of the representatives of the TTAS staff, authorized to take decisions within the frames of its competence;
2. The composition and regulations of the Academic Council is approved by the Rector;

Article 8. The Dissertation Committee of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

1. The TTAS Dissertation Committee is a body which confers the academic Doctoral Degree;
2. The Dissertation Committee is composed of professors holding PhD who are obligated to consider and discuss a dissertation thesis and on this basis confer the Doctoral Degree.
3. The Chairman of the Dissertation Committee is the Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia.
4. The Catholicos- Patriarch of All Georgia approves of the Regulations of the Dissertation Committee on its presentation to him by the Academic Council.

Article 9. The Quality Assurance Office

1. With the blessing of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, the Rector of TTAS appoints the head of the Quality Assurance Office.
2. The Quality Assurance Office facilitates the following:
 - Carrying out the process of teaching on a high academic level;
 - Introducing the new methods of teaching and assessment;
 - Developing scientific and research activities according to international standards;
 - Cooperating with theological educational institutions of foreign countries with the objective of familiarizing with their working experience.

Chapter IV. The Personnel of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Article 10. The Personnel

1. The following personnel work at TTAS: academic, scientific, administrative and auxiliary;
2. Occupation of the posts takes place according to the rule, determined by the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;

3. Employing candidates for administrative and other jobs and dismissal of employees takes place by the Rector's decree; the aforementioned personnel's activities are regulated by the employment contract and the legal acts of TTAS.

Chapter V. The Student.

Article 11. The Rights and Obligations of the Students

The rights and obligations of the students at TTAS are regulated by the prevailing legislation and the legal acts of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary.

Chapter VI. The Property and Funding of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

Article 12. The Rule for the Acquisition and Disposal of Property

1. For the purpose of carrying out of objectives and tasks, the Patriarchate of Georgia transfers property to TTAS.
2. The entire property of TTAS is used for the accomplishment of the objectives and tasks. The application of the property and funds to other than the aforementioned objectives and tasks is prohibited.

Article 13. Funding of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

The sources of funding TTAS are:

- a) Finances transferred by the Patriarchate of Georgia;
- b) Activities, sanctioned by the Legislation of Georgia, among them the income obtained by economical activities.

Article 14. Economic Activities

The economic activities of TTAS may only be sanctioned if they are performed as an auxiliary trend with the goal of reinforcing the objectives and tasks of TTAS.

Chapter VII. Alterations to the Charter, Reorganization and Liquidation.

Article 15. Alteration to the Charter.

1. Alterations to the Charter are made by the founder, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
2. The authorized person to the initiations of alterations, apart from the founder, is Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary.

Article 16. Reorganization and Liquidation

1. The reorganization and liquidation of TTAS is carried out by its founder, by the decree of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia;
2. On the announcement of liquidation, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia appoints a Liquidation Commission and its secretary who are authorized to carry out the liquidation;
3. The entire authorization of the government of TTAS is vested in the Liquidation Commission. The commission identifies creditors, settles financial accounts with the staff and formulates a liquidation balance;
4. In case of the liquidation of TTAS, the property is returned to the Patriarchate of Georgia.