

# Kyrgyzstan

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for defining national policies in higher education.

### Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- Law on Education
- Education Development Concept (until 2020)
- Education Development Strategy (until 2020)

### Equity in Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- The Education Development Strategy mentions “equal access to quality education” and gender equality (p 3) as part of its vision.

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Gender groups
- Students with disability: persons with health-related disabilities
- Others:
  - Military service persons in reserve
  - Full orphans and children left without parent care
  - Persons with health-related disabilities

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

Kyrgyzstan does not have specific equity targets.

Kyrgyzstan does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

No.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- **No tuition fees or low fees in public institutions:** Tuition fees are not very high in public institutions, except for the most popular programs. Students from remote regions and the rural areas incur high living costs in the capital city, Bishkek, and the second largest city, Osh, where the better universities are located. ([http://www.testing.kg/media/uploads/files/ORT\\_Report\\_2018\\_Russ\\_Text.pdf](http://www.testing.kg/media/uploads/files/ORT_Report_2018_Russ_Text.pdf))
- **Scholarships and grants:** all interested students take the National Scholarship Test, which gives access to public funds to provide equal access to higher education based on test scores, administered by a private nonprofit organization since 2002. Students with top scores get “golden certificates” which grant access to any HEI, including private universities such as the American University in Central Asia. The government education grants allow students from remote and rural schools to have preferred access to public universities. Government grants are allocated proportionately to number of candidates from four categories of schools:
  - Bishkek city schools
  - Schools of towns and oblast centers
  - Rural schools
  - High-mountain area schools

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- **Reformed admission procedures / Affirmative action programs:** Specific categories of students can enroll on a contractual basis, but with full payment of tuition.
  - Military service persons in reserve
  - Full orphans and children left without parent care
  - Persons with health-related disabilities
  - Winners of international and republican Olympiads (who were ranked 1 - 3 in the current year)

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

Not available.

## **Quality Assurance**

Do the quality assurance criteria take equity elements into consideration?

Quality assurance (independent accreditation) is provided by a few organizations (www.accreditation .kg is one of them), equity elements are not part of the assessment process.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures

## **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Kyrgyzstan does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education

## **Sources**

*Overview of the Higher Education System: Kyrgyzstan*, European Commission, February 2017, [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche\\_kyrgyzstan\\_2017.pdf](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche_kyrgyzstan_2017.pdf)

*Education Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2020*

[http://www.testing.kg/media/uploads/files/ORT\\_Report\\_2018\\_Russ\\_Text.pdf](http://www.testing.kg/media/uploads/files/ORT_Report_2018_Russ_Text.pdf)

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