

Pursuant to Article 17 of the ISSBS Statute (No. 11/2026-Statute), the ISSBS Senate, at its 169th session on 1 July 2026, adopted the following

RULES ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC TITLE

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

(subject matter of the Rules)

These Rules govern the grounds and the procedure for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title conferred by the International School for Social and Business Studies (hereinafter: ISSBS) on graduates of first-, second-, or third-cycle study programmes.

Article 2

(meaning of terms)

As used in these Rules, the following terms have the following meanings:

- Graduate means a person who has completed a first-, second-, or third-cycle study programme carried out by ISSBS.
- Professional or academic title means the title acquired by a graduate upon completion of an accredited ISSBS study programme, as determined by that study programme in accordance with the act governing professional and academic titles.
- Authorised person means the person appointed by the ISSBS Senate to conduct the title-withdrawal procedure up to the issuance of the decision.
- The term Final thesis is used to cover a bachelor's thesis, a master's thesis, and a doctoral dissertation alike.

Article 3

(application of regulations and protection of personal data)

The provisions of the General Administrative Procedure Act (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 24/06 – official consolidated text, 105/06 – ZUS-1, 126/07, 65/08, 8/10, 82/13, 175/20 – ZIUOPDVE, 3/22 – ZDeb, and 85/25; hereinafter: GAPA) shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the procedure for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title under these Rules.

The personal data of graduates are collected and processed for the purposes of the procedure for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title in accordance with the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 163/22, 40/25 – ZInfV-1, and 10/26 – ZP-1L) and the ISSBS Rules on the Protection of Personal Data (No. 7/2024-ZVOP).

Article 4

(confidentiality of the procedure)

All materials produced in the course of the procedure for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title are confidential until the Senate's decision is issued.

All persons involved in the procedure must handle the materials and information in accordance with the regulations on the protection of personal data and the regulations governing the protection of confidential ISSBS information.

Article 5

(use of grammatical gender)

Terms used in these Rules in the masculine grammatical form are used as neutral for both men and women.

II. GROUNDS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC TITLE

Article 6

(grounds for withdrawal)

A professional or academic title may be withdrawn if it is established, after its conferral, that it was obtained on the basis of conduct or circumstances as a result of which the conditions for its conferral were not met.

The grounds for withdrawal of a title referred to in the preceding paragraph exist, in particular, where it is established, after the title has been acquired, that:

- the graduate fraudulently demonstrated the required enrolment conditions;
- the graduate fraudulently demonstrated completed study requirements;
- the graduate, in preparing the final thesis, unjustifiably used or appropriated parts of content from other sources;
- the final thesis, in whole or in a substantial part, is not the result of the graduate's own work, creativity, and achievements.

III. PROCEDURE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC TITLE

Article 7

(proposal to initiate the procedure)

A proposal to initiate the procedure for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title is submitted by the Dean to the ISSBS Senate (hereinafter: Senate), where circumstances exist giving rise to a reasonable suspicion that the grounds referred to in Article 6 of these Rules are present.

A third party may also submit an initiative to open the procedure to the Dean, by means of a reasoned written report accompanied by supporting evidence. The initiative alone does not, in itself, constitute the opening of the procedure.

The Dean shall decide on a third party's initiative no later than 30 days after its receipt. If the Dean considers that the initiative does not contain sufficient facts or evidence, they may dismiss it.

Article 8

(decision to open the procedure and appointment of the commission)

The Senate shall decide by decision on the Dean's proposal to open the procedure.

If the Senate finds that circumstances exist justifying the opening of the procedure, it shall adopt a decision opening the procedure for the withdrawal of the professional or academic title, appoint an authorised person to conduct the procedure up to the issuance of the decision, and appoint a three-member commission of higher education teachers.

If the Senate finds that no circumstances exist justifying the opening of the procedure, it shall reject the Dean's proposal by a reasoned written decision.

The commission shall commence work on the date of its appointment.

Each member of the commission shall, within 60 days of appointment, prepare a written report stating whether or not the grounds for withdrawal of the professional or academic title are present, together with a statement of reasons for that finding.

A member of the commission or the authorised person may not be a person who took part in the procedure for acquiring the professional or academic title as supervisor, co-supervisor, or member of the committee for the defence of the final thesis.

A member of the Senate who took part in the procedure for acquiring the professional or academic title as supervisor or as a member of the committee for the defence of the final thesis, or who was otherwise substantively involved in the matter under consideration, may not take part in the consideration and decision-making in the procedure for withdrawal of that title.

Article 9

(authorised person and rights of the graduate)

The authorised person conducts the procedure up to the issuance of the decision, prepares the procedural documentation, and is responsible for the collection, retention, and all communication in the matter.

The authorised person shall, no later than 8 days after the issuance of the decision to open the procedure, serve that decision on the graduate against whom the procedure has been opened (hereinafter: the graduate).

The graduate has the right to inspect all documents in the case, to be informed of the state of the case, to propose evidence in their own favour, and to exercise all other rights available to them as a party to the procedure, applying the GAPA *mutatis mutandis*, unless the procedure is otherwise governed by the ISSBS Statute or these Rules.

The graduate may take part in the procedure personally or through an authorised representative.

Article 10

(obtaining additional opinions)

The commission or the authorised person may, in the course of the procedure, obtain the written opinion of other persons who took part in the graduate's study programme or in the procedures related to the acquisition of their title, where it considers that such an opinion would help to clarify the facts of the matter.

The person invited to give an opinion shall submit their written opinion to the authorised person within 15 days of receiving the request.

The authorised person shall, without delay, forward any opinion obtained to the members of the commission for them to take into account in preparing their reports.

If the invited person fails to submit an opinion within the period referred to in the second paragraph, or if an opinion cannot be obtained, the authorised person shall make an official note to that effect. The procedure shall nevertheless continue.

Article 11

(written statement of the graduate and proposed decision)

Once the commission's reports, any opinions obtained under the preceding Article, and other evidence have been gathered, the authorised person shall forward all relevant material to the graduate and invite them to submit, within 15 days of receiving the invitation, a written statement on all facts, evidence, and findings relevant to the decision.

Upon receipt of the graduate's written statement, or upon expiry of the period referred to in the preceding paragraph, the authorised person shall, on the basis of the commission's reports, any opinions obtained, other evidence, and the graduate's written statement, prepare a reasoned proposed decision

recommending to the Senate either the withdrawal of the professional or academic title or the discontinuation of the procedure.

The authorised person shall forward the proposed decision, together with the commission members' reports, any opinions obtained, and the graduate's written statement, to the Senate.

IV. DECISION OF THE SENATE

Article 12

(decision-making by the Senate)

The Senate shall decide on the withdrawal of the professional or academic title at a session, as a rule at the first ordinary session following receipt of the material referred to in the preceding Article.

The authorised person shall invite the graduate to the Senate session in writing. Before the Senate decides, the graduate has the right to give an oral statement of defence or explanation, either personally or through an authorised representative. If the invited graduate does not attend the Senate session, the Senate shall decide on the proposal on the basis of the material submitted.

If the Senate finds that any of the grounds for withdrawal of the professional or academic title exists, it shall issue a decision withdrawing the title from the graduate; otherwise, it shall discontinue the procedure by decision.

The Senate shall serve the decision or ruling on the graduate.

The Senate's decision or ruling is final. An administrative dispute may be brought against the Senate's decision or ruling.

V. EFFECTS OF WITHDRAWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC TITLE

Article 13

(effects of withdrawal)

The professional or academic title is withdrawn as of the date the decision is served on the graduate; the right to use the title also ceases on that same date.

After the decision has been served on the graduate, ISSBS shall revoke, in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, the validity of the public document evidencing the acquisition of the professional or academic title. The revocation of the document shall, in accordance with the act governing publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, be published on the Faculty's website.

After the decision has been served, the ISSBS Office of Study Affairs shall arrange for the removal of records of the final thesis from the ISSBS library catalogue, from the COBISS system, and from the repository of independent higher education and higher vocational institutions. The printed copy of the final thesis shall be withdrawn from the library's holdings and, together with the electronic version, permanently archived in such a way that it is no longer accessible to users.

The ISSBS Office for Study shall notify the Senate once the removal has been carried out.

VI. REGISTER OF CONFERRED AND WITHDRAWN PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC TITLES

Article 14

(register of conferred and withdrawn titles)

ISSBS shall maintain a register of conferred and withdrawn professional or academic titles. The ISSBS Office of Study Affairs is responsible for maintaining and keeping the register.

VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15

(entry into force of the Rules)

These Rules shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Senate and shall be published on the ISSBS website.

These Rules shall also apply to procedures for the withdrawal of a professional or academic title conferred before their entry into force.

Date, 1 July, 2026

Number: 22/2026-Pr.odvzem

Prof. Dr. Kristijan Breznik
ISSBS Dean