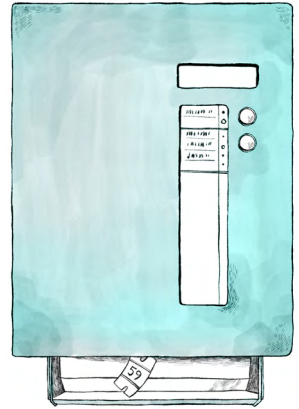




Österreichische
Hochschüler_innenschaft

Admission to Austrian Universities

for foreign
Students



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Admission to Austrian Universities

for foreign Students

February 2025

Contents

Preface4

1. Admission

1.1. Admission to Austrian Universities6
1.2. Deadlines.....7

2. Study Programmes in Austria

2.1. The Institutions.....8
2.2. Study Programmes in Austria.....9
2.3. Further Education Programmes.....10
2.4. Admission11

Impressum / Imprint 16

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Dear Student,

Congratulations for your decision to study in Austria.

Before taking up those studies, you have to cope with requirements regarding university admission, residence permit, (including financing your studies, or access to labour market. To make life easier, the department for foreign students prepared four brochures, covering

- › University admission
- › Residence permit
- › Access to labour market
- › Hints how to handle administrative proceedings

You will find all information necessary to deal with those issues in those booklets. If there are additional questions or specific requests for information, please check the homepage www.oeh.ac.at or contact our department either via e-mail: ar@oeh.ac.at or via phone: +43/1/310 88 80 - 65 (-67 for legal counselling)

The actual counselling hours are published at www.oeh.ac.at/beratung

All the best for your studies
The Team of the department for foreign students



f.l.t.r.: Sarah Rossmann, Nina Mathies, Simon Neuhold

Hello,

everyday student life can be pretty chaotic, and every semester brings new challenges: a new curriculum, the search for support and grants, or an overview of your rights and obligations as a student vis-à-vis your university.

We, the Austrian Students' Union (ÖH), help students with a variety of problems. We advise and support wherever possible and necessary - via e-mail, telephone, video call or in a personal conversation. We inform you about your student rights, at the university and in everyday life. In counselling and in our counselling brochures, but also via our website www.oeh.ac.at, our progress magazine, our regular newsletter and, of course, on our social media channels.

These services are a large and important part of our work as student representatives. It is equally important to address and solve existing problems.

That's why we need to make a political commitment to this. As ÖH, we negotiate with policy makers to improve your study conditions.

Studying. Changes.

In order to promote far-reaching changes, we need a strong ÖH that clearly addresses our demands as students and addresses problems openly. The ÖH has made it its goal to be critical, vocal and, above all, visible. This brochure is intended to help precisely with that.

Enjoy!

Nina Mathies, Sarah Rossmann and Simon Neuhold

1. Admission

1.1. Admission to Austrian Universities

This chapter will deliver basic information how to start studying in Austria. It's important to follow those steps to be successful.

1. Find your study programme and the relevant university

Relevant information is available at the websites of universities of applied science, university colleges of teacher education and universities as well as at: www.studienplattform.at

CAUTION!

For some study programmes, there are selection procedures starting in spring and offered only once a year. Please start early!

2. Pre-registration via internet

The university homepage may offer and require an electronic pre-registration. If you want to study there, you will have to register with some personal data.

3. Apply for admission

That's the application to get enrolled at a specific university for a specific programme. We will give an outline which documents you need later. There is a major difference for EEA and third country nationals.

4. Residence permit

You have to apply for a residence permit "student" (third country nationals) or a registration certificate as an EEA citizen.

1.2. Deadlines

The complete admission application for Bachelor-, teachers' or diploma studies has to reach the university until September 5 for the following winter semester respectively until February 5 for summer semester. But be careful and check the university websites for different deadlines for admission applications of third country nationals: Since 2022, universities are free to set different (individual) dates and they do quite often (recently). The admission may be closed earlier (most cases)!

At universities of applied science, university colleges of teacher education and universities of fine art there's always a selection procedure. Some university studies require such a procedure, too.

CAUTION!

For some study programmes (especially those with a selection procedure) there are different deadlines, even pre-registration deadlines. Get the information as soon as possible.

The platform www.studienplattform.at is good starting point. As long as you do not pass the selection procedure, you are not seen as a student.

In daily life, the selection procedure might be completed with pre-registration as the number of applicants is lower than the number of places. But the pre-registration is required in such a situation, too.

CAUTION!

Documents issued neither in German nor English language need translation and sometimes diplomatic legalisation. Different regulations apply, depending on the issuing country – just the diplomatic apostille might be sufficient or you need full diplomatic legalisation finished at the Austrian embassy. Please contact OeH if you are not sure what's needed.

2. Study Programmes in Austria

2.1. The Institutions

Universities

Universities are the classic type of higher education all over the world. Although some study programmes require an admission proceeding, most are still free to start with showing a general secondary school leaving certificate. University curricula are quite liberal regarding the sequence of courses (some regulations exist, however), offering a lot of flexibility to your planning. The aim is to deliver a broad theoretical qualification, differing from universities of applied science (see below), concentrating on practical training and less academic freedom.

Universities of applied science (UAS)

There are two major distinctions: First, all study programmes require to pass an admission proceeding as the number of students per programme and year is limited. Those admission proceedings may consist of several steps and start in spring, so please collect information early. The admission proceedings vary, there are written tests, oral hearings, motivation letters, assessment centers or any combination of those.

Detailed information is available at www.studienplattform.at, at the UAS directly, or via the local OeH, see oeh.at/219

University colleges of teacher education

Teachers' training

University colleges of teacher education are handling the training of primary school teachers, secondary level vocational education teachers, teachers of special sectors and do the secondary level academic education training in cooperation with universities. If that's what you aim for, this is the best option for you.

Duration of teachers training/Bachelor of education

The basic study programme takes 8 semesters. There will be a change to 6 semesters in fall this year. **It's a tightly organised scheme with less academic freedom.** The core of this type of studies is to gain pedagogical and didactical qualifications. There are internships for three years (combined) and a demanding introduction phase. To be able to teach at the higher secondary level, a 4 semester master programme has to be added.

Private universities

The aim and structure of study programmes of private universities may be similar to public universities, just the admission proceeding is up the institutions (and there are less legal regulations). Requirements e.g. to language levels may differ, there are a lot of English language programmes, deadlines may be different too (e.g. trimesters instead of semesters). If the organisation does not strive for academic research at university level, there might be the type of a "higher education institution" not being a full-scale university.

2.2. Study Programmes in Austria

The standard structure of Austrian studies is based either

- › On the Bologna system (bachelor/master), or
- › Other continuing types (the older "Diploma" programmes), and

2. Study Programmes

› Some other course schemes

The standard system (Bologna scheme)

Bachelor studies

Standard duration is six semesters (180 ECTS credits). The programme will cover all relevant subjects in the specific field of science or art to prepare graduates for further studies or employment in that field generally. There is a curriculum defining obligatory courses/credits, alternative obligatory courses (there is a list in the curriculum a defined number of courses/credits are to be selected) and free courses/credits (selected from faculty courses or from any university without limitations). There are two bachelor theses to be submitted and a final exam to be passed.

Master studies (diploma studies)

These programmes shall lead to a command of advanced or specialised knowledge of the field of study, based on a bachelor degree which is a prerequisite for admission. Standard duration is four semesters (120 ECTS credits). A master thesis is required to complete the programme.

Diploma studies (academic degree: Magister) are mostly closed down with implementation of the Bachelor/Master study system (some programmes remaining) and can be seen as integrated bachelor/master study. There was (is) a diploma thesis and a final exam.

PhD (doctoral) studies

Standard duration is six semesters (180 ECTS credits). Admission requires a Master or equivalent degree, the thesis is a major part of the curriculum, also defining some other subjects.

2.3. Further Education Programmes

University courses

University courses consist of one or several modules defined in a curriculum stating aims, duration and structure of such a non-degree programme including admission requirements. Designation, detailed fields of study (credits), obligatory and free mod-

ules and exams are exclusively defined in the curriculum.

You can attend such a course as degree or non-degree student. There are individual fees set by the university/higher education institution.

Non-degree studies

Students with individual admission to selected courses won't get a university degree. Exams passed during such an admission may get academic recognition within a degree programme later if the student did not have a secondary school diploma at the time passing the exam. It is not possible to participate in defined final exams of a regular study programme during a non-degree study.

A special type of a non-regular study programme which will lead to an academic degree is the nostrification study: If it is necessary to show an Austrian certificate of completing a specific programme to be able to do certain regulated jobs, nostrification means the acquisition of that Austrian degree - the foreign study programme might be "almost identical", but some courses are very likely to be added by the university - students will do those exams in the "nostrification study".

2.4. Admission

Admission for non-degree students

- › Austrian and non-Austrian citizens may apply for admission as non-degree programme students. There is no secondary school degree required, just a minimum age of 15
- › Required documents are passport or birth certificate, an ID document is necessary and you have to provide a passport photo
- › You have to contact the admission office (study service of the university/higher education institution you want to attend).
- › Deadlines are the same as for degree-programme (regular) studies

General admission requirements for direct access to the ordinary study programmes

- › General university entrance qualification (Secondary school leaving qualification)
- › language knowledge: Your proof of knowledge of German or English (for English language programmes) of at least level A2 (save some fine art study programmes)

› passing any specific admission procedure if required

Admission requirements which may apply to third country nationals

General university entrance qualification (Secondary school leaving qualification) has to be considered equivalent to an Austrian secondary school leaving certificate (Matura) by the university. If there is no equivalence, the rector will impose a supplementary examination or some of them to be passed before taking up the degree-programme study. The aim is to establish an equal level of your secondary school qualifications and Austrian ones. To prepare for these exams, there are University Preparation Programmes in Vienna, Graz and Leoben by OeAD. The attendees get the status of non-degree programme students. The fee is € 552 or € 1.385 in Vienna.

Further language knowledge: Your proof of knowledge of German has to be the level C1 at least (not required if you have a secondary school leaving certificate of a German speaking country or an Austrian/International secondary school teaching in German. If the German proficiency is not sufficient, there is a language course system at the University Preparation Programmes, fees see above, depending on the country of origin. The final exam level (Ergänzungsprüfung aus Deutsch) is slightly below C1. Without C1 certificate at the moment of admission application, there is a binding condition to do the Ergänzungsprüfung!

There might be quotas for EEA- and third country nationals for specific study programmes (e.g. for medical school).

CAUTION!

Without passing the selection process, an enrolment of the regular study programme is not allowed. Therefore it will be a useful "safety net" to apply for admission in a similar, but not capacity limited programme in parallel. This will allow to get the residence permit renewed and will allow for an easy "second try" a year later.

CAUTION!

Universities of fine arts and universities of applied science use different admission systems: Some art programmes do not require the secondary school leaving certificate, and some programmes at universities of applied science are open to people with certain professional experience instead of the secondary school diploma. As admission to universities of applied science requires to enter a selection proceeding immediately, language knowledge at least on a B2 (C1?) level will be necessary. If you are not sure, please contact the OeH.

STATUTORY ORDER ON GROUPS WITH “CLOSE LINKS” TO AUSTRIA:

For some groups of persons, the documents submitted for admission are assumed as being issued in Austria. Those people have to show the general university entrance qualification and their affiliation to one of those groups only.

The groups are

- > persons granted diplomatic or other immunity by international treaties or by law; persons living or working abroad at the time of acquiring secondary school leaving qualifications, covered by such treaties or laws on behalf of the Austrian state; their spouses or registered partners and their children*
- > Accredited journalists in Austria (registered with Austrian federal press service), their spouses or registered partners and their children*
- > Anyone living in Austria with the center of vital interests in Austria for a minimum of five consecutive years before applying for initial admission at a specific university and those persons where at least one parent or person liable for support meets this requirement*
- > persons receiving a study grant due to international treaties or from a public body out of dedicated funds for study grants at a similar level*
- > persons graduating from an Austrian foreign school*
- > persons whose residence status is based on asylum law, receiving international protection or during the admitted proceeding (para. 3, 8, 13 or 75 clause 5 and 6 asylum law)*

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Alle Infos und Unterstützung zur Antragsstellung:

www.oeh.ac.at/studienbeihilfe

Impressum

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This brochure is based of regulations as per February 1, 2025. Please be aware even after a thorough check errors might occur and no liability can be accepted by the authors.

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