

United Kingdom, Admission to Studies in Austria on the basis of British Secondary School Leaving Certificates (Zulassungsempfehlung Vereinigtes Königreich)

The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research recommends to recognize secondary school leaving certificates from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the purpose of admission to studies in Austria as follows:

1. Starting-point

1. The requirements for access to higher education in the United Kingdom are laid down by respective university. Generally speaking, however, it can be ascertained that all British universities consider the general minimum requirements for access to higher education („general requirements“) as fulfilled if – in the case of issue in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland –
 - the proof of having passed at least four subjects with grades A to C of the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), or of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), which is considered equivalent to the GCSE and is offered by British and international schools outside the United Kingdom, and
 - the proof of having passed at least three subjects in the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE)

is shown, at that there exists a general minimum catalogue, according to which the review of „general education“ is done (see item 3 below).

2. For the purpose of admission to a given field of studies, British universities demand additional specific requirements with regard to the subjects of the GCE Advanced Level („caused requirements“). They are likewise laid down by the single universities. E.g. for admission to medical studies, most British universities demand three subjects in the fields of Mathematics and Sciences in the Advanced Level.
3. All British universities demand, as a rule, as a specific requirement for admission to a given field of studies three subjects in the GCE Advanced Level which are assessed with grades A*, A, B, or C, at that the combination of the subjects is turning the scale.

4. In case that the general minimum requirements for access to higher education and the additional caused requirements for admission to a given field of studies at British universities are fulfilled, this is, as a rule, considered as a title for access to studies in a field of studies which corresponds to one of the subjects passed in the Advanced Level.
5. In the case of issue in Scotland, the Scottish Qualification Certificate (SQC) is – notwithstanding all the structural differences in detail – considered equal to the GCSE (with regard to the subjects in the Standard – former Ordinary – Grade), and to the GCE Advanced Level (with regard to the subjects in the Higher Grade).
6. Concerning the Secondary School Qualification IAL (International Advanced Level) see [here](#).
7. Concerning the new Edexcel Grading Scale 9 to 1 see [here](#).

2. Admission

Subsequently, reference is made to the admission to studies at Austrian universities. For universities of applied sciences, the information is valid according to the relevant parallel provisions.

3. General university entrance qualification

According to art. 64 para. 1 subpara. 3 of the Universities Act 2002 – UG, BGBl. I No. 120/2002, in combination with art. IV.1 of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (“Lisbon Recognition Convention”), BGBl. III No. 71/1999, British secondary school leaving certificates are equivalent to an Austrian one, taking into account the following principles:

- The applicant shall prove that he or she has passed at least four academic subjects which are independent from each other.
- Among these four subjects there shall be at least
 - one language
 - Mathematics
 - one of the subjects Biology, Physics or Chemistry and
 - one art subject
- At least three of the four subjects shall be passed on the GCE Advanced Level and shall be as subject-relevant as possible to the foreseen field of studies, the other one shall be passed on the GCSE or the IGCSE level, respectively. For applicants with German mother tongue, the subject German can be taken into consideration only for the GCSE or the IGCSE level, no matter on which level it has been passed.

- Those subjects which have been passed shall be assessed at least with grades A*, A, B, or C.
- The Advanced Supplementary Level (AS) shall, with regard to the requirements mentioned above, be considered equal to the GCSE level.
- The International Advanced Level (IAL) shall, with regard to the requirements mentioned above, be considered equal to the GCE Advanced Level.
- A pure language test in English outside the GCSE, IGCSE, GCE, or IAL shall not be included in the assessment of the general university entrance qualification.

4. Knowledge of German

It is important to draw the attention to the requirement of an adequate knowledge of the German language according to art. 63 para. 1 subpara. 3 UG. In case that German is one of the subjects in the secondary school leaving certificate (cf. item 3c above), the adequate knowledge of the German language can be considered evident.

5 Competent authority

For the purpose of admission to studies, it is recommended to all applicants to get into contact with the admission office of the university at which the admission is aimed at, as soon as possible. The guidelines of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research have only the character of a recommendation; the actual decision on the admission has to be taken by the Rectorate of the given university within the legal framework.