

Austria – France: Assessment of Studies and the Academic Recognition of Final Diplomas

QUOTATION

Framework Agreement between Universities Austria (uniko) and the Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences Conference (FHK) on the one hand and the Conférence des présidents d’université (CPU) and the Conférence des directeurs d’écoles et formations d’ingénieurs (CDEFI) on the other on the Assessment of Studies and the Academic Recognition of Final Diplomas

Date of signature: 21. Juni 2010, Paris

Publication: internally

Date of entry into force: 22. Juni 2010

Authentic language version: German, French

TEXT

Universities Austria (uniko) and the Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences Conference (FHK) on behalf of Austria, the Conférence des présidents d’université (CPU) and the Conférence des directeurs d’écoles et formations d’ingénieurs (CDEFI) on behalf of France,

- considering the Austrian-French Cultural Agreement, signed on 15 March 1947 in Vienna;
- considering the Procès-verbal on the 15th meeting of the Mixed Austrian-French Cultural Committee, signed on 18 March 1997 in Vienna;
- considering the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, signed on 11 April 1997 in Lisbon;
- considering the targets which have been defined by the Conference held on 19 June 1999 in Bologna, and by adoption of the common declaration on the establishment of a European Higher Education Area, especially with regard to the establishment of internationally comparable study programmes and the introduction of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS);
- considering the desire to promote the exchange between Austrian and French higher education institutions;

- considering the fact that it is desirable to facilitate the access to or the continuation of studies at a higher education institution of the partner country for Austrian and French students who have been admitted to studies at higher education institutions in Austria and France, including the possibility to acquire there a higher education qualification;
- with regard to the good experiences with the application of the Framework Agreement of 1 March 2002;

have agreed to sign, on the basis of reciprocity and taking care of the autonomy of the higher education institutions, the present Framework Agreement on the assessment of studies and the academic recognition of final diplomas.

Article 1

Subject of the Framework Agreement

1.1. The subject of the present Framework Agreement is the ascertainment of principles and procedures for the assessment of studies and the recognition of acquired final diplomas and academic degrees with regard to the entering or continuation of studies at an educational institution of the partner country.

1.2. The Framework Agreement is based, on the one hand, on the recognition of the respective peculiarities of the educational institutions and the kind of education established in both Contracting Countries, as well as, on the other, on the mutual trust which set the Contracting Parties in the quality of the studies carried out in the partner country.

1.3. The Framework Agreement applies to all degree programmes which are offered by higher education institutions which are members of uniko and FHK, as well as all study programmes at a member higher education institutions of CPU and CDEFI, in which framework a higher education diploma with public effect has been obtained.

1.4. Both Contracting Parties agree upon the fact that there is no basis for assuming a substantial difference in the meaning of article IV.1 of the Lisbon Recognition Convention with regard to principally corresponding study programmes. The registrar's offices are called upon to apply in the assessment of studies the same procedure without regard to the study achievements being fulfilled in France or in Austria.

1.5. In each decision on the admission to the continuation of studies at an educational institution of the partner country, the competent authorities are called upon to rely on the credit points acquired in the framework of ECTS. It lies, however, with the receiving educational institution to assess the contents of the studies carried out and recognized in the partner country with regard to the application for continuation of the studies, and, if need be, to request additional evidence.

Article 2

Degrees and Diplomas

The degrees and diplomas to which the present Framework Agreement applies are the following ones:

- Reifezeugnis, „Baccalauréat“ and the „Diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires“ (DAEU)
The Austrian *Reifezeugnis* and the French *Baccalauréat* and the French *Diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires* (DAEU), which gives access to higher education in both countries,
- Short cycle programmes
In France the *diplôme universitaire de technologie* (DUT) and the *brevet de technicien supérieur* (BTS), which are awarded upon completion of studies with a workload of 120 ECTS credits,
- Bachelor degrees and *Diplôme de licence*
The Bachelor degree according to the Austrian system and the *Diplôme de licence* according to the French system upon completion of studies with a workload of 180 ECTS credits; in Austria in exceptional cases of 240 ECTS credits,
- Diploma programmes
In Austria the diploma degree upon completion of diploma programmes of at least four academic years or, respectively, with a workload of 240 ECTS credits,
- Master diplomas
In France the Master diploma which leads to the Master degree on the basis of a study programme with a workload of 300 ECTS credits. It is awarded upon completion of a study programme with a workload of 120 ECTS credits, which has the acquisition of a *Licence* as an entry requirement.
In Austria the Master diploma which leads to the Master degree on the basis of a study programme with a workload of 240 to 360 ECTS credits. It is awarded upon completion of a study programme with a workload of 60 to 120 ECTS credits, which has the acquisition of a *Bachelor* as an entry requirement.
- Engineer's diplomas
In France the Master *Ingénieur* diploma leads to the Master degree on the basis of a study programme with a workload of 300 ECTS credits.
In Austria the Master diploma which leads to the academic degree of *Diplom-Ingenieur* or, respectively, *Diplom-Ingenieurin*, or Master on the basis of a study programme with a workload of 240 to 360 ECTS credits,

- The Doctorate

Article 3

Access to the licence and diploma programme in Austria and to the *premier cycle d'enseignement supérieur* in France

In consideration of the admission requirements existing in each of both Contracting Parties,

3.1. holders of an Austrian secondary school leaving certificate of, in absence of such, an equivalent admission title shall be entitled to apply for admission to the studies of the first year of the French *premier cycle universitaire*, the first year of study at an *institut universitaire de technologie* (IUT), or the first year of a *section de technicien supérieur* (STS);

3.2. holders of a French *baccalauréat*, of a *diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires* (DAEU), or, in absence of such qualifications, an equivalent admission title shall be entitled to apply for admission to the Bachelor or, respectively, diploma programme at an Austrian higher education institution;

Article 4

Access to the Master programme in Austria and to the *cycle de Master* in France

In consideration of the admission requirements existing in each of both Contracting Parties,

4.1. graduates of an Austrian Bachelor programme, or, respectively, students who have passed with success three years of a corresponding diploma programme or have obtained 180 ECTS credits, shall be entitled to apply for admission to the *cycle de Master* in France (in the case of a Bachelor programme with a workload of 240 ECTS credits, parts of it can be recognized for the *cycle de Master* on a case-by-case basis);

4.2. holders of a French *licence* or of an equivalent diploma shall be entitled to apply for admission to the Master programme or, respectively, to the fourth year of study of a diploma programme in Austria.

Article 5a

Access to the doctoral programme in Austria and in France

In consideration of the admission requirements existing in each of both Contracting Parties,

5.1. graduates of an Master or equivalent diploma programme shall be entitled to apply for admission to the preparation of a French doctoral programme;

5.2. holders of a French Master diploma shall be entitled to apply for admission to the Austrian doctoral programme.

Article 5b

The doctorates according to the Austrian and to the French system are equivalent.

Article 6

Admission to the education in Engineering Sciences in Austria and France

In consideration of the admission requirements existing in each of both Contracting Parties,

6.1. holders of an Austrian secondary school leaving certificate of, in absence of such, an equivalent admission title shall be entitled to apply for admission to the studies of the first year of the preparatory course (*cycle préparatoire*) at French Schools of Engineering (*écoles d'ingénieurs*);

6.2. holders of a French *baccalauréat*, a DAEU, or, in absence of such qualifications, an equivalent admission title shall be entitled to apply for admission to the first year of study of Bachelor or diploma programmes in Engineering Sciences in Austria;

6.3. students who have passed, after two years of study or, respectively, having obtained a workload of 120 ECTS credits, a first diploma examination in Austria, shall be entitled to apply for admission to the first year of the *cycle ingénieur*;

6.4. students who have successfully passed, after two years of study in the framework of preparatory classes at *grandes écoles (classes préparatoires CPGE)*, i.e. having obtained a workload of 120 ECTS credits, the *concours d'entrée dans les grandes écoles d'ingénieurs*, holders of a DEUG or of a *diplôme universitaire de technologie (DUT)*, of a *brevet de technicien supérieur (BTS)*, or an equivalent diploma shall be entitled to apply for admission to the third year of Bachelor or diploma programmes in Engineering Sciences in Austria;

6.5. graduates of an Austrian Bachelor programme, which has been concluded after three years of study, or, respectively, students who have successfully passed three years of study of a corresponding Bachelor or diploma programme or having obtained a workload of 180 ECTS credits, shall be entitled to apply for admission to the first year of the *cycle ingénieur*. In the case of a Bachelor programme with a workload of 240 ECTS credits, they shall be entitled to apply for admission to the second year of the *cycle ingénieur*. However, the competent admission authorities may, with regard to the obtained competencies of the student, propose other modalities of admission, within this framework can be recognized up to one academic year;

6.6. holders of a French *licence* or of an equivalent diploma shall be entitled to apply for admission to the fourth year of study of Bachelor or diploma programmes in Engineering Sciences in Austria.

Article 7

Studies comprising a non completed *Licence/Bachelor or Master Programme*

ECTS credits which have been obtained by students and recognized in the country of origin, which comprise a non completed Licence/Bachelor or Master programme, shall be treated by the receiving institution equally to application for admission of students of the receiving institution.

The receiving institution shall decide on the area/subject and the study programme which the student can start, as well as the number of ECTS credits, which may be allocated under the equal conditions as for students of the receiving institution.

The Austrian first diploma examination which has to be passed after two years of study or, respectively, having obtained a workload of 120 ECTS credits, shall be recognized in France for the continuation of studies.

The education at French *classes préparatoires* at *grandes écoles*, shall be recognized by the Austrian higher education institutions for the continuation of studies. It comprises up to 120 ECTS credits on behalf of the receiving institution.

Article 8

The provisions of the present Framework Agreement do not refer to the professional recognition for regulated professions in the context with the diplomas.

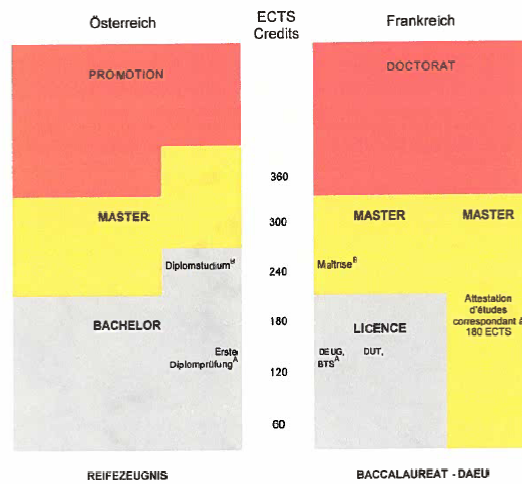
Article 9

The present Framework Agreement shall be concluded for an unlimited time.

It can at any time be amended by mutual consent between the Contracting Parties. For that reason, each Contracting Party shall inform the other one on substantial changes in its system of studies.

The Framework Agreement may be denounced by each of the Contracting Parties in written form under the observation of a period of six months.

ANHANG
Vergleich zwischen den französischen und österreichischen Abschlüssen¹



A. Die in Österreich nach zwei Studienjahren bzw. nach 120 ECTS-Anrechnungspunkten abzulegende „erste Diplomprüfung“ ist ein Zwischenabschluss in den Diplomstudien. Die angeführten französischen Abschlüsse werden nach der Absolvierung von Studien im Ausmaß von 120 ECTS-Anrechnungspunkten vergeben und berechtigen zum Studium des Grads der Licence.

B. In Österreich führen Diplomstudien zum Diplomgrad (z.B. Magister-Grad) nach Abschluss eines mindestens 240 ECTS-Punkte bzw. 4 Studienjahre umfassenden Studiums. Die französische „Maitrise“ ist ein Abschluss zwischen dem Grad der Licence und des Masters.

¹ In besonders geregelten Fällen können in je dem der beiden Staaten Abweichungen hinsichtlich Gliederung oder Dauer vorkommen.