

**AUSTRALIAN - AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMIC LINKS AGREEMENT**

**The**

**Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC)**

**and the**

**Austrian Rectors' Conference  
- Österreichische Rektorenkonferenz (ÖRK) -**

united in the aim of promoting academic links between the two countries, and in the awareness that a furthering of cooperation in the academic sphere is in the interest of the higher education institutions at both countries, make the following framework agreement.

**ARTICLE 1**  
**Purpose and Membership**

(1) The partners to this agreement intend to promote exchange in the spheres of teaching, research and scholarship.

(2) A higher education institution which is represented in the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee or in the Austrian Rectors' Conference and which becomes a signatory to this agreement is entitled to cooperate in accordance with this agreement with any signatory from the other country.

(3) This framework agreement shall be supplemented by details of partnership arrangements negotiated bilaterally between cooperating higher education institutions in each country. While signatories are expected to promote cooperation, no higher education institution is expected to enter into partnership obligations beyond its resources.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Fields of Cooperation**

Cooperation is to be sought especially

1. in the exchange of undergraduate students on both sides
2. in the placement of Australian and Austrian graduates respectively and researchers
3. in the fostering and implementing of research projects
4. in the exchange of senior and junior staff and research assistants for the implementation of research projects and for teaching
5. through participation in symposia and other academic events
6. in establishing contacts in research and teaching, and in exchanging research information via publications, teaching materials, and electronic networks.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Undergraduate and Graduate Students**

(1) Australian undergraduates and Austrian diploma students, and graduate students from both countries, on direct exchange on the basis of pertinent agreements for periods of a semester or more and who remain validly enrolled for a degree or provide evidence of a formal leave of absence or exmatriculation by the home institution as participants of the exchange agreement and have paid any compulsory fees and charges in the home institution will not be required to pay additional tuition fees in the host institutions.

(2) Normally exchanges will be on a basis of parity of numbers but partner institutions may vary the balance as may be mutually agreed.

(3) The host institutions will provide to the home institution a statement/transcript of study undertaken and/or credit point achievements of each exchange student, in an agreed form.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**Admission**

(1) The basis for entry for both undergraduate/Austrian diploma students and graduate students will be agreed between each home and host institution, with each taking into account applicants' records of achievement, goals and the comparability of courses to be undertaken.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**Staff**

(1) Proposals regarding the attachment of academic staff or researchers to a host institution shall be agreed in writing between the departments and institutes concerned well in advance of the period of stay.

(2) The parties to the agreement share the view that due consideration should be given to the wishes of both parties regarding the exchange of personnel and connected matters.

**ARTICLE 6**  
**Arrangements and Support**

(1) The partner institutions agreeing on exchanges and attachments shall attempt to provide every necessary support to participants in the exchange during their stay. They shall allow the participants to use - as far as possible - the host institution's academic resources and amenities on the same terms as members of the host institution in the same category.

(2) The host institution shall endeavour to help participants gain access also to necessary facilities such as archives, libraries, museums and laboratories, and including computer facilities and photo copying which are required for the successful completion of their academic program or research in the host institution.

(3) Participating students will enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same regulations and discipline as students of the host institution.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**Finance**

(1) Parties to the agreement shall endeavour to finance the program envisaged. They shall inform each other in good time about the availability and allocation of funding. The availability of funding shall determine the scope of the program in any period.

(2) Details of the implementation of programs in partner institutions shall be jointly worked out by the appropriate academic institutes and departments and approved by appropriate authorities in those institutions. Specific work programs of this kind do not rule out additional academic contacts.

(3) The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Austrian Rectors' Conference may facilitate broad national academic contact and exchange programs with varying patterns of voluntary involvement of signatory institutions in the two countries, utilising the good offices of allied bodies.

**ARTICLE 8**  
**Consultation**

Representatives of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and of the Austrian Rectors' Conference shall consult at regular intervals to consider the progress of cooperation and to instigate further projects.

**ARTICLE 9**  
**Duration**

This agreement shall be valid for five years. It shall be valid for a further five years unless one of the parties gives written notice of discontinuation at least six months before the date of its termination. Any amendments shall be agreed in writing after joint consultations.

**ARTICLE 10**

- (1) This agreement has been drawn up in English and German. Both texts have full validity.
- (2) This agreement shall come into operation after each party has gone through the appropriate procedure of assent and authorization and after the signed texts of agreements have been exchanged.

**Canberra, 18 February 1997**

**For the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee:**  
**Professor Fay Gale AO**  
**President**

**Vienna, 7 March 1997**

**For the Austrian Rectors' Conference:**  
**Professor Dr Peter Skalicky**  
**President**

# AUSTRALIA-AUSTRIA ACADEMIC LINKS AGREEMENT

## APPENDIX 1:

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

Decisions on admission of students with Austrian qualifications to Australian universities and students with Australian qualifications to Austrian universities will be made by the receiving institution.

To assist member universities in the decision-making process, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) and the Austrian Rectors' Conference (ORK) have agreed to the following recommendations. They are aware that changes of structures and standards in both systems may require, from time to time, a review of these recommendations.

#### (1) Language

Australian and Austrian students wishing to study in the other country should demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the language of tuition. In Austria, exceptions regarding doctoral studies are possible.

#### (2) Admission to Universities

For admission to Austrian universities, Australian students should hold a secondary school leaving certificate awarded after 12 years of primary and secondary education. In addition Australian students will need to meet specific standards, such as grades or other evaluation requirements, as prerequisites for admission to particular programs of study.

For admission to Australian universities, Austrian students should hold the Reifezeugnis/Matura (Maturity Certificate) awarded after 12 years of primary and secondary education. In addition Austrian students will need to meet specific standards, such as grades or other evaluation requirements, as prerequisites for admission to particular programs of study.

#### (3) Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

In principle, periods of study at universities in Australia or Austria should be regarded as comparable on a year-to-year basis, given that the student has passed the relevant examinations according to the curriculum. However, there are programs and awards in each system which do not lend themselves to direct comparisons with awards in the other system and these should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

##### (3.1) Australian Students and Graduates

Holders of an Australian Bachelor's degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible

- for admission to the Austrian *Diplomstudium* with advanced standing in accordance with the profile of their prior studies, or
- for admission to graduate studies (*Magister*/Master programs) in accordance with the profile of their prior studies.

Holders of an Australian Bachelor's degree with Honours, with thesis or research project and the classification, First Class or Second Class, may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in Austria.

Holders of an Australian Master's degree by research should be eligible for candidature for doctoral studies in Austria.

Holders of an Australian Master's degree by coursework should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **(3.2) Austrian Students and Graduates**

The Austrian *Erste Diplomprüfung* (first diploma examination) should be regarded as comparable to two years of study towards a Bachelor's degree in Australia.

Students with an *Erste Diplomprüfung* plus an additional year of study (three years in total) should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs which have as a prerequisite a three-year undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of an Austrian *Bakkalaureus* (Bachelor's) degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs which have as a prerequisite a three-year undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of an Austrian *Magister/Diplom-Ingenieur* (Master's) degree may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in Australia.

Other students should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **(4) Doctorate**

The Australian PhD and the Austrian Doctorate should be regarded as equivalent.

### **(5) National Information Centers**

Member institutions are advised to take advantage of the services of the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) in Australia and of the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) in Austria.

Vienna , 3 June 2002

For the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee:

For the Austrian Rectors' Conference:

Professor Deryck Schreuder  
President

Professor Dr Peter Skalicky  
Vice-President