

Recognition of foreign degrees at Hochschule Campus Wien

1 What is recognition of a foreign degree (coll. "nostrification"/ "Nostrifizierung")?

To be able to work in Austria in a regulated profession, your foreign degree needs to be recognized. Your foreign degree must be compared to the degree that is offered at the Hochschule Campus Wien University of Applied Sciences. The Academic Director, who is responsible for the recognition process at Hochschule Campus Wien, decides if the foreign degree is equivalent.

A successfully completed recognition translates to **full equivalence with an Austrian degree** and the **right to use the corresponding Austrian academic title**.

The Hochschule Campus Wien is not responsible for the recognition process of degrees obtained in the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland. (See Page 2 for more information.)

In principle, recognition is not required for admission to further studies. (Exception: Master's Degree Programs of the Department of Building and Design).

2 Where to apply for recognition?

Recognition can be applied for **at all Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences** where a **comparable degree program** is established. **Simultaneous applications** at several institutions **are not permitted**.

The application can be withdrawn at any time. However, a new application can only be submitted to the institution where the application was previously withdrawn.

At Hochschule Campus Wien you can apply for the recognition of your degree in the following fields:

- Medical-Technical Services (MTD): Biomedical Science, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Logopedics - Phoniatics - Audiology, Orthoptics, Physiotherapy, Radiological Technology;
- Health Care and Nursing;
- Midwifery;
- Social Work;
- Early Childhood Education and Care;

- Architecture: Green Building, Civil Engineering and Construction Management;

At Hochschule Campus Wien, only foreign degrees with a **duration of at least three years** that were obtained at a **recognized higher education institution in a third country** can be recognized.

Degrees obtained in the **European Union**, the European Economic Area or Switzerland **cannot** be recognized at an Austrian university. A separate procedure (including **EU recognition**) is provided for such degrees. Further information is provided by the relevant competent authority:

- [Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection](#);
- [MA11](#) (Social Work);
- [Board of Midwives](#).

The recognition of **foreign secondary school qualifications** (technical secondary school qualifications, higher vocational schools, ...) is also **not possible** at Hochschule Campus Wien. Under certain circumstances, recognition of such qualifications may be possible by the competent authority (e.g.: Nursing Assistant/Nursing Specialist Assistant - [MA40](#) for Vienna).

If a **decision of recognition has already been issued by another authority** (e.g. by the competent office of the provincial government at the time) and the compensatory measures prescribed have not yet been completed, it must first be verified whether the compensatory measures can still be fulfilled. If the requirements can still be met, a new application to Hochschule Campus Wien is not possible. If it is no longer possible to complete the compensatory measures, it may be possible or necessary to file a new application. **In case of doubt**, please contact the authority that issued the decision or forward the decision to Hochschule Campus Wien by e-mail in advance.

3 Which documents are required?

1. **Proof** that the recognition is **mandatory** for practicing the profession or for the continuation of the applicant's training in Austria
*only for the degree programs "Architecture – Green Building" and "Civil Engineering – Construction Management"
2. Curriculum Vitae (short, with special consideration of previous education)
3. Passport or photo ID
4. Certificate of completion of studies and of the award of the academic degree (Diploma)
5. Academic Transcript/Diploma Supplement
6. Curriculum of the foreign degree program
7. *Health Care and Nursing: filled out document "Praktikumsstundenübersicht GuK"
8. *Certificates of any change of name (e.g. birth certificate, marriage certificate) if the proof of study is in a previous name
9. *Proof of citizenship if citizenship is not evident from the passport

10. *Birth certificate if the place of birth is not evident from the passport
11. *further detailed documents about the foreign studies or relevant professional experience, e.g. study book, study guide, certificates of further education and training, internship certificates, references, ...
12. *General qualification for university entrance / A-level examination certificate in connection with the foreign degree program (shortened study period due to crediting of previous study periods, ...)
13. *Proof of sufficient language skills

*...optional documents

All documents must be submitted either in the **original or as a certified copy**; the **degree or diploma certificate must always be in the original**. In case of representation, a corresponding power of attorney has to be submitted in the original as well (especially the signature of the applicant has to be in the original).

All foreign documents **must be duly legalized** if this is required under international agreements (see document "[Authorization of foreign documents in higher education](#)"). Under certain circumstances, translations may also have to be legalized.

Documents in German or English are accepted. **German or English translations** done by a sworn and court-certified translator must be submitted for documents in other languages. The translation must be **firmly attached** to the original document or the certified copy. **Any legalization endorsements (Apostille, diplomatic legalization) must also be translated.**

For the **upload** of the documents, the documents must be scanned **as they are in their actual physical form**. This is the only way to ensure a firm link between the translation and the original document as well as the connection with the legalization. The upload **may only be made in the form of a PDF**. Proper preparation of the documents accelerates the processing of the application.

The higher education institution that awarded the relevant academic degree has to issue and confirm the **curriculum of the foreign degree program**. A curriculum issued by private or non-governmental providers cannot be considered in the further course of the procedure. The validity of the curriculum must correspond to the applicant's period of study. It must be clearly verifiable that the curriculum was issued by the higher education institution that awarded the relevant academic degree. Acceptable forms of verification include, in particular: QR code, a direct download link from the official website of the higher education institution, stamp and/or signature by a higher education institution.

If it is not possible for the applicant to submit the documents in person, the original documents can be submitted by an **authorized person**. This requires the presentation of a corresponding

power of attorney in the original. A [template](#) for issuing a power of attorney can be found in the downloads area on our website. In the case of representation, **a certified copy of the applicant's passport** must also be submitted.

NOTES: Sufficient knowledge of German is **necessary** for the completion of any compensatory measures at the Hochschule Campus Wien. Proof of proficiency in the German language must be submitted before admission as a non-degree student (certificates of the following language institutes shall be accepted: ÖSD, ÖIF, Telc, Goethe, VWU,...). Thus, the completion of the compensatory measures can only be started once proof of sufficient German language skills has been provided.

Required level of German according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:

- **B2 level:** Bachelor's degree programs "Health Care and Nursing"*, "Social Work", „Radiological Technology", "Dietetics", "Early Childhood Education and Care" and "Orthoptics"
- **C1 level:** Bachelor's degree programs "Physiotherapy", "Biomedical Science", "Midwifery", "Occupational Therapy" and degree programs in the "Building and Design" department
- **C2 level:** Bachelor's degree programs "Logopedics - Phoniatrics - Audiology"

***Special regulation for recognition procedures in "Health Care and Nursing" from the winter semester 2023/2024:**

As a contribution to combating the nursing shortage in Austria, the submission of a German language certificate at B1 level together with proof of active attendance of a German language course at B2 level for recognition applicants in the field of health care and nursing is sufficient for them to start completing the compensatory measures. This regulation applies from the winter semester 2023/2024 and initially until the end of the summer semester 2026.

4 How does the procedure work?

The Academic Director decides whether the foreign degree program aligns with the Austrian degree program specified in the application. This involves assessing its structure, including requirements, overall scope, and study content, to determine if it can be considered equivalent.

The procedure at Hochschule Campus Wien involves the following steps:

	Applicant	Hochschule Campus Wien
1)	Upload of documents / application	
2)		Formal assessment of the application
3)	Review appointment	Review appointment
4)		Completion of the formal assessment of the application
5)	Payment of the fee ("Nostrifizierungstaxe")	

6)	If necessary, assessment interview with the evaluator*	Filing of the expert opinion and if necessary, assessment interview with the evaluator
7)		Communication of the outcome of the taking of evidence
8)	Possibility to submit a statement	
9)		If required supplementary expert opinion
10)		Issuing of the decision
11)	Possibility to appeal	
12)	If necessary: completion of compensatory measures	

***Re. Assessment interview:**

If necessary, a competence assessment is conducted as part of the evidence-gathering process. This assessment serves as an addition to the submitted documents. Furthermore, the applicant's profession-specific knowledge will be reviewed. This is not a traditional examination that is graded, which is why Hochschule Campus Wien cannot provide any preparation material. There is no option for retakes or reviews. The applicant will be informed in good time whether an assessment interview is required. The administration office of the respective degree program will also provide further information and arrange an appointment with the applicant (online or on site).

Please note (as of January 2026):

As the assessment interview in the evidence-gathering process of the Hochschule Campus Wien is conducted **in German**, sufficient German language skills are required. In the absence of sufficient German language skills, a **court-appointed and certified interpreter** will be engaged for the assessment interview. Pursuant to Section 76 (1) of the General Administrative Procedure Act 1991, Federal Law Gazette No. 51/1991, as amended, **costs of interpretation are to be borne by the applicant**.

Assessment interviews are conducted **in English** (without interpretation) only in exceptional cases upon approval by the head of the degree program.

If equivalence is generally given and only individual **compensatory measures** are required in order to establish full equivalence, the applicant has the right to complete the prescribed courses and examinations as a **non-degree student**. According to the curriculum, the courses and examinations are offered either in German or in English. Knowledge of the English language is therefore a prerequisite.

If recognition is not possible, the applicant may **apply** for a regular bachelor's degree program at Hochschule Campus Wien. After successful admission, the applicant may submit an application for **credit transfer of individual courses** to the head of the degree program.

5 How are the compensatory measures completed?

As part of the admission as a non-degree student, the applicant concludes an **education and training contract** with Hochschule Campus Wien. Applicants will receive further information on this as soon as they receive the decision.

As soon as the applicants have successfully completed the compensatory measures, they will receive a **confirmation of completion** from the Academic Director of Hochschule Campus Wien. This confirmation, together with the decision, serves as proof of successful recognition of the foreign degree. Before the respective profession may be practiced, **registration** may be necessary (e.g. health professions register).

6 What does recognition cost?

Fee ("Nostrifizierungstaxe")	€ 150.00
Tuition fee/semester	€ 363.36 / semester
ÖH (Austrian National Union of Students) contribution	ca. € 25.00 / semester (determined annually by the ÖH; exemption during application process)

7 Contact at Hochschule Campus Wien

A recognition application can only be submitted to Hochschule Campus Wien via the electronic application form from the 1st of February 2025 onwards. Applications received by e-mail after this date will no longer be processed.

Unfortunately, no personal consultation appointments are currently possible at Hochschule Campus Wien. You are welcome to contact us with **general questions by e-mail** (nostrifizierung@hcw.ac.at) or call us during our telephone business hours.

All personal appointments have to be scheduled in advance!

Availability by telephone:

Tuesday and Thursday between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm

+43 1 606 68 77 2505

For information on data protection, please refer to the privacy policy of Hochschule Campus Wien, available at <https://www.hcw.ac.at/datenschutzerklaerung.html>.