

Austria – City University of New York: Memorandum of Agreement on Teacher Training Study Programmes

QUOTATION

Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Minister of Science and Transport of the Republic of Austria and the City University of New York and the New York State Education Department²

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TEXT

The purpose of this memorandum is to formalize a meaningful recognition of university degrees between two countries where a number of significant exchanges require a formal agreement.

The Austrian Universities, which are under the direct auspices of the Federal Minister of Science and Transport of the Republic of Austria, currently offer two types of first-degrees, a „Magister“ and a „Diplom-Ingenieur“. The attached list indicates the number of semester hours of some sample relevant degree programs of two leading Austrian Universities³: the University of Vienna (the country’s largest university with a student

² This text is not an agreement in the sense of international law, but a memorandum of faith of the respective competent authorities, on the American side only for the State of New York (thus, however, with the prospective effect of precedent). Therefore a publication in the Austrian Federal was not necessary. For the importance of this Memorandum cf. note 4.

¹ Cf. note 2.

³ This and the subsequent wordings are not the exact ones in the meaning of higher education law. The essential thing is that by means of casual examples (Study programmes for secondary school teachers at two Austrian universities) the structure of the Austrian study system can be made transparent to US universities.

population of approximately 80.000), and the Technical University of Vienna (the country's largest Technical University with a student population of approximately 20.000).

The City University of New York offers as its first degree the Bachelor degree, which comprises approximately 120 credits. Its second degree, the Masters degree, carries a minimum of 30 credits. As the second largest University in the State of New York (with approximately 200.000 students on 20 campuses throughout the City of New York), it is truly representative of the higher education profile of New York State.

After a reciprocal review of each other's program of study it is herewith agreed that the Austrian degrees of Magister and Diplom-Ingenieur awarded by its 19 universities (see attached list) will be considered the equivalent of a Master's degree awarded by the City University of New York and will carry with it the appropriate rights and privileges which such a Master's degree has in the State of New York⁴.

Similarly the combination Bachelor's degree and Master's degree awarded by the City University of New York will carry with it the equivalent of a Magister or Diplom-Ingenieur (depending on field of study) while the Master's degree awarded by the City University of New York combined with a Bachelor or equivalent from another institution will first need to be approved on a case by case basis but in any case will allow the candidate to proceed to doctoral studies at an Austrian university without further qualifications.

This agreement will be reviewed by both parties at any time when significant changes, regulation modifications or new educational laws take effect to modify the above mentioned programs.

Appendix 1⁵

Summary of Teacher Preparation Programs at Vienna Universities

Following is an overview of the preparation of teachers of mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology:

With the exception of teachers of biology, a teacher must have studied two subjects. One is considered a major and the other a minor.

⁴ This statement concerning the equivalence between Austrian diploma degrees and US Master degrees forms the core point of this memorandum. By the effect of precedent the problem of evaluating Austrian diploma degrees only as equivalent to US Bachelor degrees by US universities, which had often taken place, should be solved. Vice versa this memorandum is an instrument of recommendation to Austrian universities for evaluation especially in the framework of admission and nostrification procedures due to art. 64 para. 1 subpara. 3 and art. 90 of the Universities Act 2002, BGBl. I No. 120/2002.

⁵ This is a rough exemplary analysis of a few Austrian curricula with the aim of a formal assessment; cf. note 2.

At the University of Vienna:

As an example consider:

a mathematics major	88 semester hours
with a physics minor	85 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	191 semester hours
a physics major	97 semester hours
a mathematics minor	80 semester hours
education course	18 semester hours
TOTAL	195 semester hours
a chemistry major	159 semester hours
a physics minor	85 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	262 semester hours
a mathematics major	88 semester hours
a chemistry minor	149 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	255 semester hours
a chemistry major	159 semester hours
a mathematics minor	80 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	257 semester hours
a physics major	97 semester hours
a chemistry minor	149 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	264 semester hours
a biology major	180 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	198 semester hours

At the Technical University of Vienna:

As an example consider:

a mathematics major	83 semester hours
with a physics minor	109 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	210 semester hours

a physics major	109 semester hours
a mathematics minor	83 semester hours
education course	18 semester hours
TOTAL	210 semester hours
a chemistry major	113 semester hours
a physics minor	109 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	240 semester hours
a mathematics major	83 semester hours
a chemistry minor	113 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	214 semester hours
a chemistry major	159 semester hours
a mathematics minor	80 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	257 semester hours
a physics major	97 semester hours
a chemistry minor	149 semester hours
education courses	18 semester hours
TOTAL	264 semester hours

In each case at both institutions there are various theses requirements for the degrees of *Magister* and *Diplom-Ingenieur*.

Appendix 2

Austrian Universities

- Universität Wien (University of Vienna)
- Universität Graz (University of Graz)
- Universität Innsbruck (University of Innsbruck)
- Universität Salzburg (University of Salzburg)
- Technische Universität Wien (Technical University of Vienna)
- Technische Universität Graz (Technical University of Graz)
- Montanuniversität Leoben (University of Leoben)
- Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna)
- Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna)
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna)

- Universität Linz (University of Linz)
- Universität Klagenfurt (University of Klagenfurt)
- Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien (Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna)
- Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien (University of Applied Arts, Vienna)
- Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien (University of Music and Dramatic Performing Arts, Vienna)
- Universität Mozarteum Salzburg (University of Music and Dramatic Arts „Mozarteum“, Salzburg)
- Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz (University of Music and Drama, Graz)
- Universität für künstlerische und industrielle Gestaltung Linz (University of Art and Industrial Design, Linz)
- Donau-Universität Krems (Danube University of Krems)