

Validation of Medical Diplomas of Refugees (*Nostrifizierungsempfehlung Medizin Flüchtlinge*)

The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Austrian Chamber of Physicians (*Österreichische Ärztekammer*), and the universities concerned have deliberated on the procedure for the recognition of foreign Medical qualifications held by refugees:

1. The first contact point for refugees seeking recognition of their Medical qualifications is always one of the Medical Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck, or, respectively, the Medical Faculty of the University of Linz. The Austrian Chamber of Physicians will refer these persons, in case that they will turn to the Chamber, to the universities. Concerning the legitimation for the application, it has to be stressed that art. 90 para. 1 of the Universities Act - UG, as amended (obligatory necessity of validation (*Nostrifizierung*)), is, with regard to art. 4 para. 3 subpara. 1 lit. a or, respectively, art. 4 para. 4 subpara. 2 lit. a *ÄrzteG* 1998, fulfilled anyhow, provided that the exercise of the profession of physician is aimed.
2. After the university will have taken a legally binding decision on the demand for validation, the applicant has to turn to the Austrian Chamber of Physicians in order to obtain a decision according to art. 4 *ÄrzteG* 1998. The following cases have to be distinguished:
 - In case that the decision has been taken in favour of the demand for validation, the special requirement stated in art. 4 para. 3 subpara. 1 lit. a or, respectively, art. 4 para. 4 subpara. 2 lit. a *ÄrzteG* 1998 will be fulfilled.
 - In case that the demand for validation has been denied (what means that the university, having reviewed all proofs in detail, has come to the conviction that there is no equivalence between the final diploma of the applicant and the final diploma upon completion of the Austrian degree programme in Human Medicine (*Humanmedizin*) or Dentistry (*Zahnmedizin*)), the special requirement stated in art. 4 para. 3 subpara. 1 lit. a or, respectively, art. 4 para. 4 subpara. 2 lit. a *ÄrzteG* 1998 will not be fulfilled.
 - In case that the demand for validation has been rejected, because the documentation presented has not been sufficient for a review of the equivalence of the foreign final diploma, it has to be checked if the provisions of

art. 4 para. 5 or 6 ÄrzteG 1998 apply. As soon as the Austrian Chamber of Physicians has received the legally binding notice on the rejection it will examine this question.

3. In this context it should be mentioned that an adequate knowledge of the German language is an essential criterion in the proceedings according to study law as well as to physicians law.