

Ergebnisbericht zum Verfahren zum Antrag des Bildungsverein für die Freunde der Webster University (St.Louis, USA) auf Änderung des akkreditierten Bachelorstudiengangs „Psychology“, durchgeführt in Wien

Die Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria (AQ Austria) führte ein Akkreditierungsverfahren zu oben genanntem Antrag gemäß § 24 Hochschul-Qualitätssicherungsgesetz (HS-QSG), BGBl I Nr. 74/2011 idgF, iVm § 2 Privathochschulgesetz (PrivHG), BGBl I Nr. 74/2011 idgF sowie § 17 Privathochschul-Akkreditierungsverordnung 2024 (PrivH-AkkVO 2024) durch. Gemäß § 21 HS-QSG veröffentlicht die AQ Austria folgenden Ergebnisbericht:

1 Verfahrensablauf

Das Akkreditierungsverfahren umfasste folgende Verfahrensschritte:

Verfahrensschritt	Zeitpunkt
Antrag	Version vom 13.04.2026, eingelangt am 13.04.2026
Mitteilung an Antragstellerin: Abschluss der Antragsprüfung	11.05.2026
Bestellung der Gutachter*innen und Beschluss über Vorgangsweise und Kosten des Verfahrens	17.06.2026
Information an Antragstellerin über Gutachter*innen	18.06.2026
Vorlage des Gutachtens	08.07.2026
Übermittlung des Gutachtens an Antragstellerin zur Stellungnahme	15.07.2026
Verzicht der Antragstellerin auf eine Stellungnahme	15.07.2026

2 Akkreditierungsentscheidung

Das Board der AQ Austria hat mit Beschluss vom 02.09.2026 entschieden, dem Antrag auf Änderung des akkreditierten Bachelorstudiengangs „Psychology“ stattzugeben, da die von der Änderung betroffenen Akkreditierungsvoraussetzungen gemäß § 24 HS-QSG iVm § 2 PrivHG iVm § 17 PrivH-AkkVO 2024 erfüllt sind.

Die Entscheidung wurde am 04.09.2026 von der zuständigen Bundesministerin genehmigt. Der Bescheid wurde mit Datum vom 09.09.2026 zugestellt.

3 Anlage

- Gutachten vom 08.07.2026

Expert report on the accreditation procedure for the Psychology bachelor programme, conducted in Vienna by the Bildungsverein für die Freunde der Webster University (St. Louis, USA)

pursuant to § 7 of the Accreditation Decree on Private Higher Education 2024 (PrivH-AkkVO 2024)

Vienna, 08.07.2026

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1 Overview of the accreditation procedure

Information on the applicant institution	
Applicant institution	Bildungsverein für die Freunde der Webster University (St. Louis, USA)
Sites of the higher education institution	Vienna
Legal status	Verein
Initial institutional accreditation	09.01.2001
Latest extension of the institutional accreditation	14.12.2022
Number of students	579 (winter term 2024/25)
Accredited study programmes	11

Information on the accreditation application	
Programme title	Psychology
Type of study programme	Bachelor programme
ECTS credit points	240
Standard duration of studies	8 terms
Planned number of students per academic year	35
Academic degree	Old: Bachelor of Arts, short form: BA New: Bachelor of Science, short form: BSc
Organizational form	Full time
Language / s	English
Sites of the study programme	Vienna
Tuition fee	11.915 Euro / term

The applicant institution submitted the accreditation application on 13.04.2026. According to the decision of AQ Austria's board on 17.06.2026, the following expert was nominated for this procedure:

Name	Function and Institution	Area of competence
Prof. apl. Dr. Dr. Uwe Wolfradt	Associate Professor, Psychology Universität Halle- Wittenberg	scientific qualification in the field of Psychology

2 Preliminary remarks

The Webster Vienna Private University (WVPU) is applying to amend its currently accredited Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (BA) programme into a Bachelor of Science (BSc) programme. It guarantees that the existing programme characteristics of the Bachelor of Arts (BA)—such as the programme's NQF level (VI), the mode of study (full-time in English), the total workload (240 ECTS) for students, and the institutional location within the Department of Psychology—will also be maintained for the new Bachelor of Science (BSc) programme. The reason for the WVPU's application is the reorientation of the existing Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology toward a more research-oriented, science-based programme that is designed to be compatible with Master's programmes in Psychology in Austria and Europe. This requires adjustments to the curriculum and formal legal provisions. In particular, the scientific and methodological profile of the new Bachelor's in Psychology (BSc) is to be refined.

The review is based on the application documents containing the information on changes to the study plans.

3 § 17 Abs. 2 PrivH-AkkVO 2024 - Degree programme and degree programme management

Taking into account a heterogeneous student body, the following criteria shall apply. In the case of degree programmes with special profile elements, the descriptions shall address these characteristics defining the profile. Special profile elements are, for example, access to a regulated profession, mandatory vocational practice in the case of master's programmes, study formats alongside professional activity, dual degree programmes, degree programmes with distance learning components and fully online degree programmes, joint study programmes or jointly offered study programmes that are conducted at more than one location

2. The curriculum of the degree programme
a. corresponds to the scientific and / or artistic or scientific-artistic and didactic requirements of the respective subject area and / or the respective subject areas, and is related to the focal areas of research and development and appreciation of the arts at the private university college;
d. comprises modules and / or courses with suitable learning / teaching methods that promote the active participation of students in the learning

process and provide for suitable assessment methods to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

In order to change the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology to a Bachelor of Science (BSc), specific adjustments to the curriculum are required. To this end, the proportion of required coursework in methodology, psychodiagnostics, and the natural sciences in both teaching and research must be significantly increased. The formal and substantive characteristics of the new Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Psychology (overall workload 240 ECTS credits at 25 hours each, full-time programme taught in English, duration of 8 semesters, institutional location within the Department of Psychology) will remain unchanged. In addition, fundamental adjustments will be made to the curriculum for the new Psychology (BSc) programme, such as the introduction of six courses that will be funded at the expense of free electives (reduction from the previous 82 ECTS to 32 ECTS). The two newly created modules are “Foundations of Psychology” (26 ECTS), which will be supplemented by two biology courses—“Human Biology” (BIOL 1010) and “Human Genetics” (1040)—and the “Research Methods” module (50 ECTS) with the four courses “College Algebra” (MATH 1430), “Psychological Research Design and Analysis” (PSYC 3825), “Psychological Tests and Measurements” (PSYC 4700), and “Advanced Statistics” (PSYC 4750). The existing course content from the former BA programme will be retained in the four additional modules: Psychology Content Areas (30 ECTS), “Discipline Enrichment” (36 ECTS), “Common Core” (54 ECTS), and “Free Electives” (32 ECTS). In addition to strengthening professionalization and alignment with the academic job market, the “Professional Development” module (12 ECTS) is being newly introduced. The curriculum for foundational knowledge, methodological training, subject-specific knowledge, and professional development follows a clear structure.

The learning objectives (such as the acquisition of methodological and subject-specific competencies in the field of biological psychology) as well as the teaching methods used in the new courses (such as practical methodological procedures in research contexts, e.g., laboratories and psychophysiological analyses) have been adapted accordingly so that students can conduct their own empirical studies for the B.Sc. degree. It would be desirable for instructors of the courses in biological psychology and research methods to incorporate their own research experience into their teaching. The curriculum meets the requirements of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Psychology in terms of both subject matter and methodology. The guidelines for students regarding the continuation and completion of the old Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme in Psychology, as well as for transferring to the new Bachelor of Science (BSc) programme in Psychology, are clearly outlined.

The expert considers the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

3. The name of the degree programme and the academic degree correspond to the thematic focus of the degree programme.

The proposed Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology (BSc) is based on coursework that provides a scientific foundation for understanding individual experience and behavior. In addition, the programme imparts subject-specific knowledge in psychology through the teaching of empirical research methods and psychodiagnostic procedures.

The expert considers the criterion to **be fulfilled**.

4 Summary and final evaluation

(2) Degree programme and degree programme management

In summary, the academic level of the degree programme and its design and structure meet the requirements for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in psychology. All curricular adjustments and additions strengthen the programme and ensure its compatibility with master's programmes in psychology in Austria and Europe.

The expert recommends to the board of AQ Austria the accreditation of the Psychology bachelor programme, conducted in Vienna by the Bildungsverein für die Freunde der Webster University (St. Louis, USA).

5 Viewed documents

- Application for accreditation of the Bachelor programme "Psychology", conducted in Vienna, by the Bildungsverein für die Freunde der Webster University (St. Louis, USA) received on 13.04.2026.