

DECREE OF THE BOARD OF AQ AUSTRIA ON THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS 2024

§ 27 NOTIFICATION DECREE 2024 -
§ 27-MELDEVO 2024

adopted by the Board of AQ Austria on 20 November 2024

DECREE OF THE BOARD OF AQ AUSTRIA ON THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS 2024

(§ 27 Notification Decree 2024 - § 27-MeldeVO
2024)

On the basis of §§ 27a para. 2 and 27b para. 3 Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Hochschul-Qualitätssicherungsgesetzes, HS-QSG), F. L. G. I no. 74/2011, last amended by the Federal Act published in F. L. G. I no. 50/2024 the following decree is issued:

1. Chapter: Subject and scope

§ 1.

This decree regulates the procedure for the notification of higher post-secondary educational institutions from EU or EEA states (§ 27a HS-QSG) and the procedure and criteria for the notification of higher post-secondary educational institutions from non-EU or non-EEA states (§ 27b HS-QSG).

2. Chapter: Rules for implementing the notification procedure for higher post-secondary educational institutions from EU or EEA states pursuant to § 27a HS-QSG

§ 2. Application

- (1)** The written application for a decision on the notification procedure shall be submitted electronically to the Secretariat of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (hereinafter: Secretariat).
- (2)** The application shall indicate the applying legal entity and name the higher post-secondary educational institution. It shall be signed by its legal representative. Suitable evidence of the legal representation, such as, for example, a statute, a current excerpt from the company register or register of associations, shall be enclosed. An authorised person with an address for service in Austria shall be specified.
- (3)** The application shall include information on the higher post-secondary educational institution as well as on the degree programmes to be notified pursuant to the ISCED classification ISCED-F 2013 (composition of the groups of studies - international, four-digit figure). After completion of the procedure, this information will be listed in the AQ Austria's directory of notification procedures pursuant to § 4 para. 1.

- (4) The application submitted shall be complete and formally correct. It shall contain all information and documents necessary to verify beyond doubt that the requirements pursuant to § 27 para. 1 subparas. 1 and 2 as well as § 27a para. 1 subparas. 1 to 5 HS-QSG are fulfilled.
- (5) Pursuant to § 27a para. 1 subpara. 6 HS-QSG the higher post-secondary educational institution shall present a guaranty that in the case of the discontinuation of the offering of studies in Austria any students can complete their studies. The guaranty shall include proof of a corresponding legally binding communication with the students, for example in the form of a study contract.
- (6) In any case, the application shall include evidence of the comparability of the degree programmes to be notified with Austrian degree programmes in terms of academic degrees, ECTS credits, duration of study and level of qualification. This can be done by means of a comparative example with course offerings at Austrian higher post-secondary educational institutions. Further evidence of comparability may be requested by the Board of AQ Austria.
- (7) The application shall include curricula and diploma supplements with details of academic degrees, study sites and any Austrian cooperation partners.
- (8) The application shall include the submission of results of quality assurance procedures at degree programme level by a quality assurance agency registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) or another internationally recognised and independent quality assurance agency. In the case of collaborations, these results must also include the Austrian contribution.
- (9) If the evidence cannot be provided completely, authentically and correctly, in particular pursuant to § 2 para. 8, the higher post-secondary educational institution may be subject to a notification procedure pursuant to § 27b.
- (10) The Secretariat shall verify the application as to its completeness and formal correctness. If there are any deficiencies that can be remedied, the Secretariat shall grant a period of at least two weeks for their correction. If the deficiencies cannot be remedied or if this is not possible within the period of time provided, the Board shall reject the application.
- (11) A joint application shall be submitted for joint programmes, it shall be signed by the legal representatives of all higher post-secondary educational institutions. A cooperation agreement between all participating higher post-secondary educational institutions and, if applicable, with Austrian cooperation partners shall be submitted.

§ 3. Decision and official notification

- (1) The notification decision of the Board of AQ Austria shall be based on the application documents. The Board may accept or reject the application.
- (2) If shortcomings are identified, that in the opinion of the Board of AQ Austria are remediable within a period of nine months, the Board of AQ Austria may approve the application under conditions and make the decision on the notification conditional.
- (3) If the Board accepts an application under conditions and if the higher post-secondary educational institution can prove that the conditions have been fulfilled, this shall be declared by the Board by official notification.
- (4) If the Board accepts an application, the notification shall be valid up to a maximum of six years. The Board may limit the validity period of the notification, especially if the current accreditation period for a degree programme in accordance with the provisions of the country of origin or country of domicile or the validity of the results of quality assurance procedures pursuant to § 2 para. 8 will expire in less than six years.

(5) In any case, the official notification shall include the following information:

1. term of notification;
 2. name of the higher post-secondary educational institution and its maintaining body as well as any Austrian cooperation partners in the operation of the degree programme or degree programmes in Austria;
 3. title, total workload (in ECTS credits), duration (in semesters), language of the degree programme and/or the degree programmes and exact wording of the academic degree to be awarded (including its abbreviation);
 4. site or sites at which the degree programme is or the degree programmes are offered in Austria;
 5. conditions, if applicable.
- (6)** For joint programmes, official notifications with the same wording shall be sent to all participating higher post-secondary educational institutions at the address for service in Austria specified in the application. The specification of costs will be made to a higher post-secondary educational institution that is liable for payment and shall be specified in the application. Each higher post-secondary educational institution shall be entered into the database.
- (7)** The decision on the notification of degree programmes does not imply a determination of equivalence with Austrian degree programmes and corresponding Austrian academic degrees. The degree programmes and academic degrees shall be deemed to be those of the country of origin or the country in which the higher post-secondary educational institution is based or the higher post-secondary educational institutions in the case of joint programmes.

§ 4. Publishing the findings of the procedure

- (1)** AQ Austria shall publish an easily accessible directory of the notification procedures pursuant to § 27 para. 6 HS-QSG on its website. The directory shall comprise information on the higher post-secondary educational institution, the degree programmes and the outcome of the notification procedure in the form of a report on the outcome. The report on the outcome of the notification procedure shall comprise the decision of the Board as well as grounds for the decision.
- (2)** The higher post-secondary educational institution and any Austrian cooperation partners are obliged to publish the outcome of the notification procedure on their websites within two weeks following the completion of the notification procedure. The publication shall be made for the duration of the validity period of the notification.
- (3)** Within the framework of their market communication and public image in Austria, the higher post-secondary educational institution and any Austrian cooperation partners are obliged, throughout the validity period of the notification, to indicate in written and highlighted form that the decision on the notification of the degree programmes is not connected to the determination of equivalence with Austrian degree programmes and corresponding Austrian academic degrees and that the degree programmes and academic degrees are considered to be those of the higher post-secondary educational institution's country of origin or country of domicile. Immediately after completion of the procedure, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide AQ Austria with evidence that such an announcement has been made.
- (4)** Within the framework of their public image in Austria, the higher post-secondary educational institution is obliged, throughout the validity period of the notification, to indicate in written form that in the case the decision on the notification is revoked by the Board of AQ Austria, the degree programme is or the degree programmes are no longer allowed to be offered in Austria. Immediately after completion of the procedure, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide AQ Austria with evidence that such an announcement has been made.

§ 5. Expiry and revocation of the notification

- (1) Pursuant to § 27 para. 8 HS-QSG, § 26 para. 1 subparas. 1, 2 and 4 HS-QSG shall apply accordingly to the expiry of the notification. Accordingly, the notification ends through expiry if no new application is submitted at least nine months before the expiry of the notification as well as due to the dissolution of the legal entity acting as maintaining body of the higher post-secondary educational institution, at the time of its dissolution, and if the fulfilment of conditions is not verified or not verified in due time. The Board of AQ Austria shall issue an official notification of the expiry of the notification.
- (2) Pursuant to § 27 para. 3 HS-QSG, § 26 para. 1 subparas. 5 and 6 shall apply accordingly. Consequently, the notification shall expire if the higher post-secondary educational institution requests the discontinuation of a notification or if the institution does not commence its studies within 24 months after the notification has become legally effective. The Board of AQ Austria shall issue an official notification of the expiry of the notification.
- (3) Pursuant to § 27 para. 9 HS-QSG, the Board of AQ Austria shall revoke the decision on the notification by official notification in the event of refusal to fulfil the information obligations and to participate in statistical surveys pursuant to § 27 para. 10 HS-QSG or in the event that the legal requirements pursuant to § 27a para. 1 HS-QSG no longer apply.

§ 6. Costs

The applicant higher post-secondary educational institution shall pay a fixed procedure charge to be specified and published by the Board. The obligation to pay shall arise upon submission of the complete and formally correct application according to § 2 and shall fall due upon completion of the procedure. The fixed procedure charges shall be charged by official notification.

§ 7. Complaints

The applicant higher post-secondary educational institution may appeal to the Appeals Committee of AQ Austria against the procedure as such.

§ 8. Evidence of fulfilment of the conditions

- (1) If a decision is made conditional, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall submit evidence that the conditions have been fulfilled to the Board within a period of nine months.
- (2) The evidence that the conditions have been fulfilled shall contain all information and documents necessary to confirm the fulfilment of the conditions.

3. Chapter: Rules for the realisation of the notification procedure for higher post-secondary educational institutions from non-EU or non-EEA countries pursuant to § 27b HS-QSG

For notification procedures pursuant to § 27b HS-QSG, AQ Austria shall conduct an evaluation in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

§ 9. Application

- (1)** The written application for a decision on the notification shall be submitted electronically to the Secretariat of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria for each degree programme.
- (2)** The application shall indicate the applying legal entity and name the higher post-secondary educational institution. It shall be signed by its legal representative. Suitable evidence of the legal representation, such as, for example, a statute, a current excerpt from the company register or register of associations, shall be enclosed. An authorised person with an address for service in Austria shall be specified.
- (3)** The application shall include information on the higher post-secondary educational institution as well as on the degree programmes to be notified according to the ISCED classification ISCED-F 2013 (composition of the groups of studies – international, four-digit figure). After completion of the procedure, this information will be listed in the AQ Austria's directory of notification procedures.
- (4)** The application submitted shall be complete and formally correct. It shall contain all information and documents necessary to verify beyond doubt that the requirements pursuant to § 27 para. 1 subparas. 1 and 2 HS-QSG as well as § 27b para. 1 subparas. 1 to 4 are fulfilled and proof that the criteria pursuant to § 21 are fulfilled.
- (5)** Pursuant to § 27a para. 1 subpara. 4 HS-QSG the higher post-secondary educational institution shall present a guaranty that in the case of the discontinuation of the offering of studies in Austria any students can complete their studies. The guaranty shall include a corresponding legally binding communication with the students, for example in the form of a study contract.
- (6)** In any case, the application shall include evidence of the comparability of the degree programmes to be notified with Austrian degree programmes in terms of academic degrees, ECTS credits, duration of study and level of qualification. This can be done by means of a comparative example with course offerings at Austrian higher post-secondary educational institutions. Further evidence of comparability may be requested by the Board of AQ Austria.
- (7)** The application shall include curricula and diploma supplements with details of academic degrees, study sites and any Austrian cooperation partners.
- (8)** The Secretariat shall verify the application as to its completeness and formal correctness. In the case that any remediable shortcomings are identified, the Secretariat will grant a period of at least two weeks for their rectification. If there are any deficiencies that can be remedied, the Secretariat shall grant a period of at least two weeks for their correction. If the deficiencies cannot be remedied or if this is not possible within the period of time provided, the Board shall reject the application.

§ 10. Decision and official notification

- (1)** The notification decision of the Board of AQ Austria shall be based on the application documents as well as the experts' report and, if applicable, the comments of the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution. The Board shall approve or reject the application.

- (2) If shortcomings are identified, that in the opinion of the Board of AQ Austria are remediable within a period of nine months, the Board of AQ Austria may approve the application under conditions. The Board shall decide if an external assessment is necessary for examining whether the conditions have been fulfilled. If the Board considers it necessary to conduct a site visit or draw up an expert's report in order to examine whether the conditions have been fulfilled, §§ 17 to 21 shall apply.
- (3) If the Board accepts an application under conditions and if the higher post-secondary educational institution can prove that the conditions have been fulfilled, this shall be declared by the Board by official notification.
- (4) If the Board accepts an application, the notification shall be valid up to a maximum of six years. The Board may limit the validity period of the notification, especially if the current accreditation period for a degree programme in accordance with the provisions of the country of origin or country of domicile will expire in less than six years.
- (5) In any case, the official notification shall include the following information:
1. term of notification;
 2. name of the higher post-secondary educational institution and its maintaining body as well as any Austrian cooperation partners in the operation of the degree programme or the degree programmes in Austria;
 3. title, total workload (for higher post-secondary educational institutions from the European Higher Education Area in ECTS credits), duration (in semesters), language of the degree programme or the degree programmes and exact wording of the academic degree to be awarded (including its abbreviation);
 4. site or sites at which the degree programme is or the degree programmes are offered in Austria;
 5. conditions, if applicable.
- (6) The decision on the notification of degree programmes does not imply a determination of equivalence with Austrian degree programmes and corresponding Austrian academic degrees. The degree programmes and academic degrees shall be deemed to be those of the country of origin or the country in which the higher post-secondary educational institution is based or the higher post-secondary educational institutions in the case of joint programmes.

§ 11. Publishing the findings of the procedure

- (1) AQ Austria shall publish an easily accessible directory of the notification procedures pursuant to § 27 para. 6 HS-QSG on its website. The directory shall comprise information on the higher post-secondary educational institution, the degree programmes and the outcome of the notification procedure in the form of a report on the outcome. The report on the outcome of the notification procedure shall comprise the decision of the Board, grounds for the decision as well as the final experts' report (incl. name and institution of the experts) and the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution's comment (the latter upon their approval). Personal data, financing sources, and business or trade secrets shall be exempt from publication.
- (2) The higher post-secondary educational institution and any Austrian cooperation partners are obliged to publish the outcome of the notification procedure on their websites within two weeks following the completion of the notification procedure. The publication shall be made for the duration of the validity period of the notification.
- (3) Within the framework of their market communication and public image in Austria, the higher post-secondary educational institution and any Austrian cooperation partners are obliged, throughout the validity period of the notification, to indicate in written and highlighted form that the decision on the notification of the degree programmes is not connected to the determination of equivalence with Austrian degree programmes and corresponding Austrian academic degrees and that the degree programmes and academic degrees are considered to be those of the higher post-secondary educational institution's country of origin or country of domicile. Immediately after completion of the procedure, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide AQ Austria with evidence that such an announcement has been made.

- (4) Within the framework of their public image in Austria, the higher post-secondary educational institution is obliged, throughout the validity period of the notification, to indicate in written form that in the case the decision on the notification is revoked by the Board of AQ Austria, the degree programme is or the degree programmes are no longer allowed to be offered in Austria. Immediately after completion of the procedure, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide AQ Austria with evidence that such an announcement has been made.

§ 12. Expiry and revocation of the notification

- (1) Pursuant to § 27 para. 8 HS-QSG, § 26 para. 1 subparas. 1, 2 and 4 HS-QSG shall apply accordingly to the expiry of the notification. Accordingly, the notification ends through expiry if no new application is submitted at least nine months before the expiry of the notification as well as due to the dissolution of the legal entity acting as maintaining body of the higher post-secondary educational institution, at the time of its dissolution, and if the fulfilment of conditions is not verified or not verified in due time. The Board of AQ Austria shall issue an official notification of the expiry of the notification.
- (2) Pursuant to § 27 para. 3 HS-QSG, § 26 para. 1 subparas. 5 and 6 shall apply accordingly. Consequently, the notification shall expire if the higher post-secondary educational institution requests the discontinuation of a notification or if the institution does not commence its studies within a period of 24 months after the notification has become legally effective. The Board of AQ Austria shall issue an official notification of the expiry of the notification.
- (3) Pursuant to § 27 para. 9 HS-QSG, the Board of AQ Austria shall revoke the decision on the notification by official notification in the event of refusal to fulfil the information obligations and cooperation in statistical surveys pursuant to § 27 para. 10 HS-QSG or if the legal requirements pursuant to § 27b para. 1 and 2 HS-QSG no longer apply.

§ 13. Costs

The applicant higher post-secondary educational institution shall reimburse AQ Austria for the experts' fees and pay a fixed procedure charge to be specified and published by the Board. 50% of the procedure charge are to be paid upon submission of the assessable application, 50% after the decision on the notification. The fixed procedure charge and any procedural costs (costs of the experts' expense allowance plus any fees, travel and accommodation costs) shall be charged by official notification.

§ 14. Complaints

The applicant higher post-secondary educational institution may appeal to the Appeals Committee of AQ Austria against the procedure as such.

§ 15. Evidence for fulfilment of conditions

- (1) If a decision is made conditional, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall submit evidence that the conditions have been fulfilled to the Board within a period of nine months.
- (2) The evidence that the conditions have been fulfilled shall contain all information and documents necessary to confirm the fulfilment of the conditions.

§ 16. Procedure

- (1) As a rule, the assessment procedure is carried out pursuant to §§ 17 to 21. The Board of AQ Austria may decide on an alternative procedure.
- (2) If several applications are submitted at the same time, the Board can handle them in a joint procedure if this is reasonable, in particular considering the relatedness of the degree programmes.
- (3) If higher post-secondary educational institutions from EU or EEA states and non-EU or non-EEA states are involved in a degree programme planned in Austria (joint programme), the procedure pursuant to § 27b HS-QSG shall apply. A joint application shall be submitted for this, which must be signed by the legal representatives of all higher post-secondary educational institutions. A cooperation agreement shall be submitted by all participating higher post-secondary educational institutions and, if applicable, with Austrian cooperation partners.

Official notifications with the same wording will be sent to all higher post-secondary educational institutions at the address for service in Austria specified in the application. The costs shall be charged to a higher post-secondary educational institution liable for payment to be specified in the application. Each higher post-secondary educational institution shall be entered into the database.

- (4) The Board shall take into account existing results of external quality assurance procedures in the evaluation procedure, provided that the quality assurance agency having conducted them is registered in EQAR or internationally recognised and independent, and that the results of the procedures include information to verify the fulfilment of the assessment criteria pursuant to § 21.

§ 17. Experts

- (1) As a rule, the Board shall appoint four experts for the review procedure. If the Board does not consider an external review necessary for assessing the application, the appointment of experts can be waived.
- (2) When composing the expert panel, the Board shall ensure that all aspects relevant for the procedure will be reviewed, taking into account the specific features in the operation of transnational degree programmes. The Board shall take into account the requirements on a case-by-case basis; it shall aim for diversity in the composition of the expert panel and include experts whose current activities cover the following fields of competence:
 1. verifiable scientific or artistic qualification in the relevant field;
 2. relevant teaching experience, research activities and knowledge of higher post-secondary educational institutions or university research and/or teaching activities;
 3. verifiable knowledge of the professional field relevant for the degree programme obtained through relevant work experience;
 4. experience in quality management and quality assurance in higher education;
 5. current student experience in a relevant degree programme.
- (3) The experts must be unbiased. They shall declare in writing that there are no grounds for bias and that they will keep confidential all facts they become aware of in relation with their work as experts. Bias may exist in particular for the following reasons, the existence of which must be justified in writing and communicated electronically to AQ Austria:
 1. contractually bound activity at the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution or with designated collaboration partners, in particular with Austrian collaboration partners for the operation of the degree programme in Austria, within the last five years;

2. applications to the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution or designated collaboration partners, in particular Austrian collaboration partners for the operation of a degree programme in Austria, within the last five years;
 3. personal research cooperation or cooperation with persons linked to the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution or designated collaboration partners, in particular Austrian collaboration partners for the operation of a degree programme in Austria, within the last five years;
 4. examinations taken and/or degrees awarded at the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution or designated collaboration partners, in particular Austrian collaboration partners for the operation of a degree programme in Austria, within the last five years;
 5. familial or close personal connections with persons linked to the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution or designated collaboration partners, in particular Austrian collaboration partners for the operation of a degree programme in Austria.
- (4) The Secretariat shall inform the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution about the experts and shall grant the applicant institution a period of at least one week to raise objections, for example concerning the unbiasedness of the experts. Objections must be substantiated and submitted electronically to the Secretariat. The applicant higher post-secondary educational institution does not have the right to propose experts.
- (5) The Secretariat shall support the activities of the experts throughout the entire notification procedure. Except for the site visit, communication between the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution, and the experts shall take place exclusively via the Secretariat.
- (6) The Secretariat shall prepare the experts for their work and role and support them in their activities, in particular with regard to the specific requirements of the subject matter of the application.

§ 18. Site visit

- (1) The review of the degree programme includes a one- to two-day site visit of the experts to the planned location at which the degree programme shall be offered. In cases of § 16 para. 2 the duration of the site visit may be extended accordingly. If the Board does not consider a site visit necessary for assessing the application, the site visit can be waived.
- (2) The Board of AQ Austria may decide on a site visit to other sites if the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution offers degree programmes at more than one site.
- (3) AQ Austria determines the organisation and conduct of the site visit, the following principles shall apply:
1. The agenda shall be tailored to the specific requirements of the procedure and shall be coordinated with the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution. AQ Austria names the relevant groups and representatives of the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution who are to be heard. In addition to the experts, representatives of the Secretariat take part in the site visit.
 2. The representatives of the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution shall be appointed by the applicant institution, taking into account the specific requirements. The final decision shall be made after consultation with AQ Austria.
 3. The representatives of the student body shall be selected by the student representation, if applicable.
 4. All relevant groups of the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution shall be heard, and the individual groups shall be able to present their positions autonomously and without influence.

The representatives of the Secretariat shall support the experts in their activities and make sure that the site visit runs according to schedule.

§ 19. Experts' reports

- (1) On the basis of the insights gained from the application documents and the site visit, the experts shall draw up a joint experts' report, consisting of statements and assessments to the assessment criteria pursuant to § 21 and, if applicable, of references to significantly good practice or recommendations for further development, respectively.
- (2) The report shall be drawn up respecting the diversity of the experts' opinions, while at the same time aiming at a broad consensus in order to provide common findings and assessments with regard to the assessment criteria and a final overall evaluation. If diverging experts' opinions on an issue cannot be eliminated, they shall be expressed in the report.

§ 20. Comment of the applicant institution

The Secretariat shall send the experts' report to the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution and grant it a period of at least two weeks to comment on the report. Within the framework of the comment, the applicant institution may point out, in particular, factual errors, but also present any dissenting opinions on the findings and assessments in the experts' report. The written comments shall be submitted electronically to the Secretariat. Upon receiving the comment, the Secretariat shall forward it to the expert panel. The experts shall review the comment and, if required, make changes to the experts' report. If changes are made, the Secretariat shall send the final experts' report to the applicant higher post-secondary educational institution for information.

§ 21. Criteria

(1) Quality Assurance of the Degree Programme

1. The higher post-secondary educational institution shall ensure that the degree programme is offered in at least the same quality and under at least equivalent study conditions as the degree programme offered in the country of origin or country of domicile. If the degree programme is not offered in the country of origin or country of domicile, the higher post-secondary educational institution shall ensure that the degree programme offered corresponds to the accepted standards of the higher post-secondary educational institution and the provisions applicable in the country of origin or country of domicile.
2. The higher post-secondary educational institution shall include the degree programme in its quality management system and ensure that the specific challenges arising when offering a degree programme in Austria are explicitly accounted for in the internal quality management.
3. If the higher post-secondary educational institution cooperates with another institution in the implementation of the degree programme, there shall be a contract that clearly and comprehensibly regulates the cooperation.
4. The higher post-secondary educational institution shall regularly assess the quality of the degree programme.

(2) Degree programme and degree programme management

1. The qualification level of the degree programme shall conform with the requirements as well as the respective level of the national qualifications framework in the country of origin or the country of domicile and be comparable to the respective level according to the National Qualifications Framework in Austria (Act on the National Qualifications Framework, F. L. G. I no. 14/2016, Bundesgesetz über den Nationalen Qualifikationsrahmen).
2. The academic degree shall correspond to the accepted standards of the higher post-secondary educational institution and the provisions applicable in the country of origin or country of domicile and be comparable to Austrian academic degrees.

3. The content, structure and didactic concept of the degree programme shall correspond to the accepted standards of the higher post-secondary educational institution and the provisions applicable in the country of origin or country of domicile.
4. The scheduled student workload shall correspond to the accepted standards of the higher post-secondary educational institution and the provisions applicable in the country of origin or country of domicile and be comparable to the student workload of a comparable Austrian degree programme.
5. Examination regulations shall have been laid down and correspond to the accepted standards of the higher post-secondary educational institution and the provisions applicable in the country of origin or domicile.
6. The admission requirements shall correspond to the qualification level of the degree programme or degree.
7. The admission procedure shall be clearly defined, communicated transparently to all parties involved and ensures a fair selection of applicants.
8. The procedures for the recognition and crediting of formal, non-formal and informal qualifications shall correspond accordingly to the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

(3) Staff

The higher post-secondary educational institution shall have sufficient academic or academic-artistic staff with pedagogical and didactic qualifications as well as sufficient non-academic staff to carry out the degree programme.

(4) Financing

The higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide the financing of the degree programme and make financial provision for the financing of the phasing out of the degree programme.

(5) Counselling and support for students

1. The higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide its students with academic, organisational and psychosocial counselling and support.
2. The higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide a procedure for handling the complaints of students.

(6) Infrastructure

The higher post-secondary educational institution shall provide the premises and equipment in sufficient quality and quantity required for operating the degree programme. If the higher post-secondary educational institution draws on external resources, the authorisation to use them shall have been contractually secured.

(7) Information

The higher post-secondary educational institution shall publish easily accessible and up-to-date information about the degree programme on its website. In addition to details on the admission to the degree programme, the recognition and crediting of formal, non-formal, and informal qualifications, study law as well as qualification levels, the curricula and study regulations as well as examination regulations, model written training agreements and an outline of the quality management system shall be included.

4. Chapter: Entry into force

§ 22. Entry into force

- (1) This decree shall enter into force on 1 December 2024.
- (2) The decree does not apply to proceedings pending on 1 July 2024.

Disclaimer:

This translation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute the legally binding version of the document. In case of discrepancies, the original German text shall prevail.

Imprint:

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