

Austria – University of Vienna

Institution	University of Vienna
Study programs	http://slw.univie.ac.at/en/studying/
Skills in German language	For all bachelor degree programmes and most master/doctorate/PhD programmes at least level B2 is necessary for admission. (see also http://slw.univie.ac.at/en/studying/knowledge-of-german/)
Study fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Students who are citizens of a non-EU/EEA country pay a fee of 726.72 Euro plus the students' union fee of 19.20 Euro per semester unless one of the following exceptions applies.” http://slw.univie.ac.at/en/studying/tuition-fee/amount-non-eueea-citizens/ • “As a citizen of an EU/EEA country you don't have to pay the tuition fee during the minimum duration of your degree programme plus two semesters of tolerance. You only have to pay the students' union fee (19.20 Euro). If your study duration exceeds the two extra semesters, you have to pay the tuition fee (363.36 Euro) additionally to the students' union fee (total sum of 382.56 Euro).” (See also: http://slw.univie.ac.at/en/studying/tuition-fee/amount-eueea-citizens/)
Interviewed Person	University staff, counselling service for persons interested in starting studying at the University of Vienna.
Interviewer	IG - DUK

I – Preparation

The interviewee is a counsellor at the University of Vienna. She is giving advice to students who are interested in studying at the University of Vienna, also refugees and migrants.

She is also involved in events for informing NGOs, working with refugees, about the admission process at the University of Vienna.

The validation of prior learning is limited to prior learning in formal education.

She informs potential students/validation candidates about the process and which documents are required for the admission procedure (a prerequisite for the recognition of prior formal education).

“Nostrifizierung” is the conversion of a foreign university degree into a corresponding (bachelor’s, master’s, diploma or doctor’s) Austrian one. At the University of Vienna, “Nostrifizierung” is currently only possible for the disciplines law, pharmaceuticals and teacher education, as it is connected to higher education qualifications, which are a prerequisite for working in certain regulated academic professions.

In all other cases, students get first enrolled in a study programme and check with the university staff if course they have taken at the foreign higher education institution can be recognized, based on a comparison of the course content.

II - Awareness

Most study programmes at the University of Vienna are rather theoretical and not too closely connected with a certain profession. Many refugees/migrants are rather looking for disciplines, which are closer connected to a profession.

There is much information events for refugees and migrants. Furthermore, there are several websites for providing information about the admission and “Nostrifizierung”. They can also call the Student Point university hotline for more information.

The interviewee explained that most people who are asking for counselling are already informed about the desired study programmes. She guesses that most people are informing themselves through surfing the internet, peers and relatives or educational fairs.

III - Starting up

The interviewee explained that she cannot give more detailed information about testing procedures in “Nostrifizierung” as other university staff is responsible for this. Counselling about general

procedures and required documents is a separately operating unit at the University of Vienna, working together with other units, but with tasks limited to only giving information about general procedures of admission, recognition (“Nostrifizierung”) and study fees.

There is a common misconception among migrants that they believe they first need “Nostrifizierung” of their foreign higher education qualifications for admission e.g. at a master’s programme at the University of Vienna. This is not the case, rather it is checked if the passed courses at the foreign higher education institution are comparable to those in a certain study program at the University of Vienna. This check is rather content-centred, not student-centred or learning outcome-centred.

IV – Documentation and support

A transcript, a list of all passed courses and academic hours spent, the academic certificate and a notarially certified translation into German or English is necessary for admission. Furthermore, also a certificate indicating German skills on level B2 or higher, is recommended, depending on the study program.

Asylum seekers, Convention refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection should provide proof of their status. If the proof is valid, the applicants do not have to submit original academic certificates and a certain certificate, which is usually necessary for non-EU students, indicating that the person has a place at a university in the same country in which the school leaving certificate was acquired.

The interviewee states that migrants/refugees – like other persons interested at the University of Vienna, are advised in collecting the necessary documents for admission or recognition. There is sometimes the case that documents are missing.

V - Assessment

Assessment is not part of the interviewee’s job description.

VI – Impact

The interviewee is in touch with students at the initial phase when applying for admission. She is not in charge of counselling students during or after the study time (including recognition procedures).

SPECIAL SECTION ONLY FOR VALIDATION PROFESSIONALS

In the case your case study concerns a validation professional, please complete also the two sections below.

VIII – Job profile and training needs

The interviewed person is operating on the very first step of a possible validation procedure – counselling.

The interviewee became counsellor by voluntary choice.

The interviewee suggests that a counselling service with a special focus on how to finance the study time, funding schemes and scholarships, would be very helpful, as this kind of detailed service goes beyond the range of capacities they have in the counselling service at University of Vienna.

IX – policy context

The interviewee didn't mention any laws or policy context which is facilitating or undermining her work in counselling/ admission. She doesn't directly connect certain policies with her counselling task.