

**Äquivalenzen und Anerkennung:**

Abkommen der HRK über Hochschulzusammenarbeit mit  
ausländischen Partnerinstitutionen und Dokumente

**Academic Equivalences and Recognition:**

Academic Cooperation Agreements between HRK and  
Foreign Partner Institutions and Documents

**U. S. A.**

**German-U.S. Recommendations  
On Issues Related to the Admission and  
Placement of German Students in the U.S  
1990**

**German-U.S. Meeting  
On Issues Related to the Admission and Placement  
of German Students in the U.S.,  
Berlin (West), 28 February - 1 March, 1990**

[Text published in: NAFSA Newsletter, May 1990 and DAAD, ed., Studienführer Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika, 7th ed. ff., Bonn: Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Sec. XIII]

**REPORT**

In order to facilitate and encourage academic mobility and more exchange of students and scholars between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA), the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), and the West German Rectors Conference (WRK)<sup>1</sup> arranged for a meeting which was held in Berlin (West) from February 28 - March 1, 1990.

Impetus for the meeting arose from concerns about possible misinterpretations of some of the placement recommendations by the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials. These recommendations are contained in the World Education Series (WES) volume *Federal Republic of Germany* published in 1986.

The group discussed various elements of the U.S. and German educational systems, including developments since 1985. The participants agreed that the following interpretations will help German students to understand opportunities for and limitations to study in the United States, and at the same time may assist U.S. admission officers and academic departments, as well as German exchange administrators, in using the placement recommendations.

**1. Undergraduate Admissions**

- a) In order to be considered for undergraduate admissions, German applicants should submit a certificate of "Hochschulreife" (including "Fachhochschulreife") awarded after completion at least 12 years of full-time schooling. U.S. institutions will take into account applicants' records of achievement, goals and the comparability of courses when considering granting transfer credit for courses and examinations taken in grade 13.
- b) U.S. institutions will consider transfer credits for periods of study at a German tertiary institution, i.e., a university, a "Gesamthochschule", or a "Fachhochschule", if the applicants submit a record of results, such as "Scheine" and examination results.

**2. Graduate Admissions**

- a) German applicants are advised that graduate admission practices vary widely in the U.S. Some institutions admit students to graduate studies, but place them at the Master's or Ph.D. level only after they have enrolled and taken courses. Some institutions admit only to the Master's level of study but, upon consideration of the student's work after enrollment and examinations may allow them to enter Ph.D. programs. Others admit directly into Ph.D. programs. In addition, admission to graduate programs is subject to institutional and/or departmental policies and requirements. These may include very specific educational prerequisites, test scores, professional experience and other elements relevant to the competition for admission.
- b) In order to compete for admission to graduate studies, German applicants should present evidence of the "Zwischenprüfung"/"Vordiplom" from a university including three years of university study beyond the "Hochschulreife".\* Applicants who present evidence of a "Diplom (FH)" of a Fachhochschule may likewise compete for admission to graduate studies.\*\* Some institutions may have more stringent requirements for admission to graduate studies. Graduation from a university

---

<sup>1</sup> The „West German Rectors Conference“ (WRK) changed its name, as of 5 November 1990, to “Hochschulrektorenkonferenz“ (HRK) - Association of Universities and Other Higher Education Institutions in Germany”.

("Diplom", "Magister Artium", "Staatsexamen") may yield graduate transfer credit if specific course work or examination and thesis work is related to the program of study.

### 3. Fine Arts and Music Performance

In the disciplines of fine arts and music performance, German students admitted to their home institutions ("Kunsthochschule" or "Hochschule für Musik") on the basis of entrance examinations rather than an certificate of "Hochschulreife", may be considered for admission to U.S. institutions, according to their policies pertaining to fine arts or music.

### 4. Special Agreements

The preceding statements do not preclude special treatment of applicants under exchange agreements.

#### NOTES:

- \* This statement reflects current practices in many U.S. institutions. The "Advice to Admission Officers" in the WES volume on the Federal Republic of Germany explains this point.
- \*\* In 1986 the Council recommended that applicants with the "Diplom (FH)" and the "Abitur" be considered for admission to graduate studies in the same field. However, the "Advice to Admissions Officers" in the WES volume predicted that admission to graduate studies with this credential would become more common place. This statement has proved true. Developments in the articulation between universities and Fachhochschulen in the Federal Republic of Germany since that time have facilitated the transfer of students between the two types of institutions.

#### Participants:

##### **German Participants**

*Dr. Christian Bode*

Secretary-General, West German Rectors Conference (WRK)

*Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Hans Benedikt*

President, Fachhochschule Augsburg

*Dr. Beatrix Brandi-Dohrn*

Head, U.S. Section, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

*Prof. Dr. Hans Bungert*

Former President, University of Regensburg

President, European Association for American Studies

*Ms. Dorothea Fitterling*

Head, Office of International Relations

Technical University Berlin

*Dr. Guido Herz*

Foreign Office, Department of Cultural Relations

*Mr. Rüdiger Jütte*

West German Rectors Conference (WRK), International Department

*Mr. Dieter Ludwig*

Federal Ministry of Education and Science

Officer-in-Charge of Equivalence Matters

*Dr. Günter Reuhl*

Head, Central Office for Foreign Education Systems (ZaB)

*Dr. Christian Thieme*

Officer-in-Charge of Equivalence Matters,  
Higher Education Committee, Standing Conference of Ministers of Culture (KMK)

#### **U.S. Participants**

*Ms. Valerie Woolston*

Chair, National Liaison Committee on Foreign Student Admissions (NLC)

*Ms. Rebecca Dixon*

Chair, PIER/WES Joint Committee of AACRAO and NAFSA

*Mr. Richard Elkins*

Vice President for International Affairs, AACRAO

*Dr. Jules LaPidus*

President, Council of Graduate Schools

*Mr. Gregg Marshall*

Exchange Officer, U.S. Embassy, Bonn

*Dr. William Smart*

Vice Chair, National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials (CEC)

#### **Advisor**

*Dr. Ulrich Littmann*

Executive Director, German Fulbright Commission

Berlin (West), 1 March, 1990

## **APPENDIX**

### **Tertiary (Higher Education) Institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany**

a) "Hochschule" is the generic term used (1) to refer in general to all tertiary institutions ("Hochschulen") or to the higher education system (Hochschul-System") and (2) to designate a particular institution, usually in connection with the place of location and/or disciplinary specialization.

*Note:*

A "Fachschule" belongs to the secondary level of education; a "Berufsakademie" is not covered under the term "Hochschule". The term "Volkshochschule" denotes, for traditional reasons, a non-tertiary adult education center. These institutions are not part of the German tertiary system.

b) „Universität“ denotes a doctorate-granting institution. Upon completion an intermediate examination ("Vordiplom" / "Zwischenprüfung") students work towards the final examination, leading to the "Diplom", or "Magister Artium", or the Staatsexamen".

*Note:*

Some institutions designated as "Hochschulen" have university status. These include in Particular "Technische Hochschulen" (Technical Universities), „Pädagogische Hochschulen“ (Schools of Education“), and „Gesamthochschulen“ ((see d) below). Some institutions listed under e) and f) below operate doctoral programs in specific disciplines.

c) "Fachhochschule" denotes an institution with emphasis on professional orientation. Upon completion of 7 to 8 semesters (which may include 1 or 2 semesters of practical work integrated into the curriculum), the student receives the "Diplom (FH)".

d) "Universität/Gesamthochschule" denotes an institution offering curricula/degree programs of both "Universität" and "Fachhochschule". Credentials of these institutions should indicate the type of degree program.

e) "Kunsthochschule" and "Musikhochschule" offer curricula in fine arts and music, respectively, or related professional areas

f) "Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschulen/Fakultäten" and "Kirchliche Hochschulen" are associated with the Catholic and Protestant Church, respectively, offering curricula in theology and related fields.

*Note:*

An authoritative list of tertiary institutions is maintained by the West German Rectors Conference (WRK)<sup>2</sup>. In particular cases the West German Rectors Conference will provide detailed information on the character of institutions, courses of study, and degrees or examinations.

West German Rectors Conference, Ahrstraße 39, D-5300 Bonn 2, West Germany. Phone (+49)228-376911; Fax: (+49) 228-376220

---

<sup>2</sup> See Fn. 1 for the change of name. - New address: Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK), Ahrstrasse 39, D-53175 Bonn, Germany. Phone: (+49) 228/887-0, Fax: (+49) 887-110; E-Mail: sekr@hrk.de; Homepage: www.hrk.de.. - The list of institutions may be accessed via the HRK Homepage www.hrk.de, Section "Hochschulkompass"/"Higher Education Compass" (German/English). The "Compass" also documents all programs of study offered by German higher education institutions.

