

**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

**Australien/ Australia**

**Australian-German  
Academic Links Agreement  
(HRK-AVCC)  
1993/ 2000**

**Australian-German Academic Links Agreement (HRK-AVCC),  
22 March 1993, revised 6 May 1998  
and amended 8 September 2000**

The

**Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC)**

and the

**Association of Universities and other Higher Education Institutions  
in the Federal Republic of Germany  
- Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) -**

united in the aim of promoting academic links between the two countries, and in the awareness that a furthering of cooperation in the academic sphere is in the interest of the higher education institutions in both countries,

make the following framework agreement.

**ARTICLE 1**

**Purpose and Membership**

- (1) The partners to this agreement intend to promote exchange in the spheres of teaching, research and scholarship.
- (2) A higher education institution which is represented in the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee or the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* and which becomes a signatory to this agreement is entitled to cooperate in accordance with this agreement with any signatory from the other country.
- (3) This framework agreement shall be supplemented by details of partnership arrangements negotiated bilaterally between cooperating institutions in each country. While signatories are expected to promote cooperation, no higher education institution is expected to enter into partnership obligations beyond its resources.

**ARTICLE 2**

**Fields of Cooperation**

Cooperation is to be sought especially

- in the exchange of undergraduate students on both sides
- in the placement of Australian and German graduates respectively and researchers
- in the fostering and implementing of research projects
- in the exchange of senior and junior staff and research assistants for the implementation of research projects and for teaching
- through participation in symposia and other academic events
- in establishing contacts in research and teaching, and in exchanging research information via publications, teaching materials, and electronic networks.

**ARTICLE 3**

**Students**

- (1) Australian and German students on direct exchange on the basis of pertinent agreements for periods of a semester or more and who remain validly enrolled for a degree or provide evidence of a formal leave of absence or exmatriculation by the home institution as participants of the exchange agreement and have paid any compulsory fees and charges in the home institution will not be required to pay additional tuition fees in the host institutions.
- (2) Normally exchanges will be on a basis of parity of numbers but partner institutions may vary the balance.

(3) The host institutions will provide to the home institution a statement/transcript of study undertaken and/or credit point achievements of each exchange student, in an agreed form.

#### **ARTICLE 4 Admissions**

(1) The basis for entry for students will be agreed between each home and host institution, with each taking into account applicants' records of achievement, goals and the comparability of courses to be undertaken. To guide admission decisions, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* will engage in further consultations to set up recommendations for admission for Australian and German students and graduates at the higher education institutions in both countries, including the admission to doctoral studies. These recommendations shall become part of this agreement as Appendix 1.

#### **ARTICLE 5 Staff**

(1) Proposals regarding the attachment of academic staff or researchers to a host institution shall be agreed in writing between the departments and institutes concerned well in advance of the period of stay.

(2) The parties to the agreement share the view that due consideration should be given to the wishes of both parties regarding the exchange of personnel and connected matters.

#### **ARTICLE 6 Arrangements and Support**

(1) The partner institutions agreeing on exchanges and attachments shall attempt to provide every necessary support to participants in the exchange during their stay. They shall allow the participants to use - as far as possible - the host institution's academic resources and amenities on the same terms as members of the host institution in the same category.

(2) The host institution shall endeavour to help participants gain access also to necessary facilities such as archives, libraries, museums, and laboratories, and including computer facilities and photocopying which are required for the successful completion of their academic program or research in the host institution.

(3) Participating students will enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same regulations and discipline as students of the host institution.

#### **ARTICLE 7 Finance**

(1) Parties to the agreement shall endeavour to finance the program envisaged. They shall inform each other in good time about the availability and allocation of funding. The availability of funding shall determine the scope of the program in any period.

(2) Details of the implementation of programs in partner institutions shall be jointly worked out by the appropriate academic institutes and departments and approved by appropriate authorities in those institutions. Specific work programs of this kind do not rule out additional academic contacts.

(3) The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* may facilitate broad national academic contact and exchange programs with varying patterns of voluntary involvement of signatory institutions in the two countries, utilising the good offices of allied bodies.

#### **ARTICLE 8 Consultation**

Representatives of the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee and the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* shall consult at regular intervals to consider the progress of cooperation and to instigate further projects.

#### **ARTICLE 9 Duration**

This agreement shall be valid for five years. It shall be valid for a further five years unless one of the parties gives written notice of discontinuation at least six months before the date of its termination. Any amendments shall be agreed in writing after joint consultations.

**ARTICLE 10**

(1) This agreement has been drawn up in English and German. Both texts have full validity.

(2) This agreement shall come into operation and replace the Australian - German Academic Links Agreement of 1993 after each party has gone through the appropriate procedure of assent and authorisation and after the signed texts of agreements have been exchanged.

Bonn, 6 May 1998

For the  
Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

*Prof. Ian Chubb*  
President

For the  
Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

*Prof. Dr. Klaus Landfried*  
President

**APPENDIX 1****AUSTRALIAN–GERMAN ACADEMIC LINKS AGREEMENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES  
of 8 September 2000**

Decisions on admission of students with German qualifications to Australian universities and students with Australian qualifications to German higher education institutions will be made by the receiving institution.

To assist universities in the decision-making process, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) and the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* (HRK) have agreed to the following recommendations. They are aware that changes of structures and standards in both systems may require, from time to time, a review of these recommendations.

**(1) Language**

German and Australian students wishing to study in the other country should demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the language of tuition.

**(2) Recognition of Secondary School Qualifications for Admission to Higher Education Institutions**

For recognition of secondary school qualifications, institutions are referred to the recommendations laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) in the Australian Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs and the *Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen* (Central Office for Foreign Education) in the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) of 11 September 1998.

**(3) Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications**

In principle, periods of study at higher education institutions in Australia or Germany should be regarded as comparable on a year-to-year basis. However, there are programs and awards in each system that does not lend them to direct comparisons with awards in the other system and these should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Also, individual institutions may have specific standards, such as grades or other evaluation requirements, to be satisfied as prerequisites for admission to particular programs of study.

**(3.1) Admission of German Students and Graduates**

The German *Vordiplom/Zwischenprüfung* should be regarded as comparable to two years of study towards a Bachelors degree in Australia.

Students with a *Vordiplom/Zwischenprüfung* plus an additional year of study (three years in total) should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs which have as a prerequisite a three-year undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of a German *Bakkalaureus*/Bachelors degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs (including relevant Masters programs) which have as a prerequisite a three-year undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of a German *Bakkalaureus*/Bachelors degree awarded after four years of study should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs. They may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for candidature for doctoral studies in Australia if the degree includes a substantial thesis or research project and has been awarded with an overall grade of "good" or "very good".

Holders of a *Diplom* (FH) from a *Fachhochschule* (University of Applied Sciences) should be eligible for admission to Australian graduate programs that have as a prerequisite an undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of a German *Diplom*, *Magister*/Masters degree or a *Staatsprüfung* awarded with an overall grade of "good" or "very good" may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in Australia.

Other students should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**(3.2) Admission of Australian Students and Graduates**

Holders of an Australian Bachelors degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible for admission to the German *Hauptstudium* with advanced standing in accordance with the profile of their prior studies, or

for admission to graduate studies (*Magister*/Master programs) in accordance with the profile of their prior studies.

Holders of an Australian Bachelors degree with Honours, with thesis or research project and the classification "First Class" or "Second Class, Upper Division" may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in Germany.

Holders of an Australian Masters degree by research should be eligible for candidature for doctoral studies in Germany (*Doktorand*).

Holders of an Australian Masters degree by coursework should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**(4) Doctorate**

The Australian PhD and the German Doctorate should be regarded as equivalent.

Melbourne, 8 September 2000

For the  
Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

*Professor Ian Chubb*  
President

For the  
Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

*Professor Dr. Werner Schaal*  
Vice-President