

Norms for the Interpretation of the Common Structural Guidelines of the Länder

Resolution of the Accreditation Council of 12.02.2010¹

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¹ This resolution of the Accreditation Council replaces the following resolutions: "Descriptors for the Assignment of the Profiles "research oriented" und "application oriented" for Master's Study Programmes" of 01.04.2004 (AR 02/2004), "ECTS-capability of Practical components in Studies" in the version of 20.06.2005, "Criteria for the Distinction of Names of Degrees" of 20.06.2005, "Use of Bachelor's Modules in Master's Study Programmes" of 08.10.2007, "Accreditation of Master's Study Programmes, with which the prerequisites for a teaching profession are imparted" of 08.10.2007, "Accreditation of Master's Study Programmes with an Artistic Profile" of 31.10.2008, "Final Theses in BA/MA Study Programmes in Music, Dance, Fine Arts and Applied Design" of 31.10.2008.

1. Inner Curricular Practical Components

Practical components in the studies are ECTS-enabled, if they represent a training section in the professional practice, which is integrated in the studies and regulated by the Higher Education Institution, content-specific and (ideally, however not mandatorily) accompanied, that is, supported by courses.

2. Criteria for Distinguishing Names of Degrees

The Higher Education Institution has the right to specify the desired name of a degree. The agency has, however, to examine the details given by the Higher Education Institution regarding this in every case, whereby names, which are obviously misleading, i.e. not covered by the programme, have to be objected in the accreditation procedure.

3. Use of Bachelor's Modules in Master's Study Programmes

The use of modules from Bachelor's study programmes in Master's study programmes is permitted in exceptional cases, if the partial qualification objective, which is accomplished with the successful completion of the respective module, adequately serves accomplishing the overall qualification objective of the Master's study programme. This applies to consecutive and to non-consecutive and advanced Master's study programmes. However, the double usage of modules in the sections of the study programme, which are based on each other in content, has to be excluded.

Otherwise, the qualification standard defined in the national qualification framework for the respective final degree must be maintained.

Moreover, the Higher Education Institutions must ensure that the individual student cannot take a module, which is the same or which is identical to a great extent in content, in the Bachelor's course and again in the Master's course.

4. Final Theses in BA/MA Study Programmes in Music, Dance, Fine Arts and Applied Design

The final thesis, specified in item 1.4 of the resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) "Common Structural Guidelines of the Länder as per § 9 para. 2 HRG for the Accreditation of Bachelor's and Master's Study Programmes" in the version of 15.06.2007, is obligatory also in the Bachelor's and Master's study programmes in the areas of music, fine arts and applied

design. Since item 2.5 of the resolution “Rules of the Accreditation Council for the Accreditation of Study Programmes and for System Accreditation” in the current version requires the assessment in a system of examinations whether the defined education goals have been accomplished, the concept “final thesis” can be defined also in the sense of a “final project”, particularly in the study programmes mentioned above. The final project should contain a written documentation, in order to take into account the principle of putting down the final achievements in writing as a characteristic of studies at Higher Education Institutions, as contained in the KMK structural guidelines.

5. Master's Study Programmes with Teacher Training Profile

In the accreditation of Master's study programmes, with which prerequisites for a teaching profession are imparted, the existence of a teacher training profile has to be certified.

For this, the technical requirements for the teacher training education common to the Länder (standards in the education sciences as well as common requirements of the Länder with regard to content of the subjects and their didactics) as well as possibly state-specific structural guidelines and those regarding content have to be applied as evaluation criteria.

Apart from that, common structural guidelines of the Länder as per § 9 para. 2 HRG have to be applied for the accreditation of Bachelor's and Master's study programmes in the current valid version.

6. Master's Study Programmes with an Artistic Profile

Master's study programmes in colleges of arts and music should have a particularly artistic profile, which has to be shown in the accreditation according to the guidelines of the Accreditation Council and should be shown in the Diploma Supplement.

The Higher Education Institution has the discretion to decide, whether a Master's study programme has an artistic profile as per A 3.2 of the common structural guidelines of the Länder. Only a profile assignment, which is obviously misleading, i.e. not covered by the study programme, has to be objected in the accreditation procedure.