

## Designations of Academic Staff

According to § 3 of the University Accreditation Act, a private university may use various university-related designations and titles, but only in conjunction with the qualifying phrase, “of the private university”. Nevertheless, these designations cannot be used arbitrarily, but must be in accordance with the international standards outlined in § 2 of the University Accreditation Act as they are expressed in the University Act of 2002.

The Accreditation Council assumes that these designations will only be used for persons who demonstrably meet the qualification requirements of their respective academic positions and that this has been documented through a transparent staff selection procedure.

As designations for academic staff at private universities are “official titles”, they are linked to an existing employment relationship with the private university within a given employee category.

In the same way, titles which are based on an activity at another domestic or foreign university may only be held if there is an ongoing legal relationship with the university which authorises use of the title.

The same does not hold true for job titles which are awarded by the Austrian President and which are independent of any “official” position.

A further exception occurs in the case of the designation “assistant lecturer” as described in § 102 of the University Act of 2002 for persons to whom a university awards authorization to teach a subject (*venia docendi*) on the basis of their academic or artistic credentials, but who are not employed by the university. Private universities also have the option of awarding the designation “assistant lecturer”, provided they have in place an appointment procedure for professors.

As opposed to academic degrees, titles may never be registered in public certifications.