

Basic Criteria

Several of the criteria named in § 2 UniAccAct have been interpreted and explained by the Accreditation Council as follows:

1. Academic freedom

The private university must be autonomous and guarantee academic freedom. In its constitution and organizational structure it must ensure freedom in a given area of research (regarding the issues addressed, theories and methods as well as the dissemination of research findings and their evaluation) and freedom of teaching (regarding the diversity of the thematic and methodological structure of courses as well as the right to express opinions in science and art) (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 5 UniAccAct)

2. Scope and diversity

The institution (according to § 2 sec. 1 UniAccAct) should have a broad and diverse range of study offerings oriented after the European concept of the university (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 5 UniAccAct). Traditional areas such as medicine, music, law or theology or newer combinations of fields with a comparable breadth may be considered as disciplines.

3. Research at the institution

Research must take place at the institution. This requires the presence of a critical mass (see item 4) with production of knowledge at the institution and adequate feedback from teaching. (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 5 UniAccAct)

4. Academic staff

The institution must have a permanent academic or artistic staff employed for a period of at least two years with at least a part-time contract. This permanent staff must cover at least 50% of the entire teaching load of a course of study and be qualified (Ph.D. or artistic achievements). To ensure the connection of research and teaching this permanent staff must have at least three members per study course with at least one being a full-time position and fulfilling the requirements required for a professorship. This means that this member of the faculty must have adequately high academic or artistic qualifications. (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 3 UniAccAct)

5. Staff selection procedure

The procedure for selecting the entire academic staff must be transparent, competitive and quality-oriented (§ 1 sec. 1 Z 3 and 4 of the UniAccAct))

6. Study plan

Study plans (detailed curricula) and examination plans must meet material, formal and discipline-related standards. Admission to study must correspond at minimum to the Austrian regulations governing general admission requirements (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 2)

7. Facilities and equipment

Facilities and equipment are understood as being the provision of adequate study means/material in compliance with international standards. (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 4 UniAccAct)

8. Financing

A detailed business plan must be submitted as evidence for mid-term financing of the institution. (§ 2 sec. 1 Z 3 and 4 UniAccAct).

9. Development plan

The institution in question must describe the fulfillment of the requirements named in Z 1 to 8 in a development plan made for a period of three years.