

China, Admission to Studies in Austria on the Basis of Chinese Secondary School Leaving Certificates (*Zulassungsempfehlung China*)

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research recommends to assess Chinese secondary school leaving certificates for the purpose of admission to studies in Austria as follows:

1. Starting-point:

Officially, the Chinese side does not make any differences in terms of quality between the single secondary schools and hence not between the Chinese secondary school leaving certificates which have been delivered by these schools.

Quite another situation can be found in the area of higher education. Here officially exist three categories of institutions of higher education:

a. “**élite universities**”

These are the universities which belong to the so called “211 project” (former designation: Key Universities). Admission to one of these “élite universities” requires an appropriately high number of points in the nationwide subject-oriented Higher Education Admission Examination. In May 1998, another project has been started, the so called “985 project”, to which the best Chinese higher education institutions should belong. These élite institutions will receive a substantial amount of the overall public research funding.

b. “**normal**” universities

Study applicants who have gained at least a certain minimum number of points in the Higher Education Admission Examination are assigned to study at one of the other universities. Chinese Radio and Broadcast Universities, however, are not recognized as universities, because they differ basically from the other Chinese universities and have a character of general education.

c. “**Junior Colleges**” (*zhuanke*)

They offer courses/programmes of a two to three years’ duration. Junior College courses – as the adults’ courses and network studies (*gaozhi*) do – are in many cases offered by “normal” universities in addition regular university studies, and therefore are often subject

of confusion with the latter. Study applicants who have not gained the minimum number of points which is required for admission to “normal” universities are accepted to study at one of the Junior colleges.

In order to be admitted to one of the universities mentioned above it is necessary to take part in the National Higher Education Admission Examination (*Gaokao*):

The *Gaokao* overall grade is composed of the weighted sum of the single grades in the *Gaokao* subjects. The maximal number of points to be acquired varies from year to year and from province to province.

The sole consideration of the *Gaokao* overall grade does not contain sufficient information on the question if the applicant fulfills the requirements of the general university entrance qualification or not. Only upon the admission to a Bachelor’s program at a state- recognized university it can be ascertained whether the requirements of the general university entrance qualification are fulfilled.

2. Verification and assessment of preceding Chinese education:

a. Chinese students

It is recommended that Chinese students who have studied in China at least one semester at a 211- University or at least three semester at a state-recognized “normal” university and intend to continue their studies in Austria have verified their documents by the Academic Examination Office in Beijing (*Akademische Prüfstelle*, APS, www.aps.org.cn), before they apply to an Austrian university or other or institution of post-secondary education.

Since February 2005 there exists the possibility to ascertain the genuineness of certificates which have been delivered in China, by the APS. The Academic Examination Office of the Cultural Department of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Beijing since 1st February 2005 is in charge of the verification of the genuineness and in case of need of interviews of plausibility, on the basis of which the admission to an Austrian institution of post-secondary education (public university, private university, university of applied sciences, school of theology, university college of teacher education or academy) will be sought. For more details on the Austrian method at the Academic Examination Office in Beijing see its [website](#).

b. Chinese freshmen

It is recommended that

- Chinese applicants who have passed the National Higher Education Admission Examination (*Gaokao*) in China and have been admitted to a bachelor study at a state-recognized university, but not yet started their study,

- and Chinese students (freshmen) who have not yet studied one semester at a 211-University or at least 3 semesters at a state-recognized “normal” university and intend to continue their studies in Austria

have verified their National Higher Education Admission Examination (*Gaokao*) result by the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC).

3. General university entrance qualification:

a. The equivalence of Chinese Secondary School Leaving Certificates with Austrian ones has to be reviewed by the rectorate of a university (art. 64 para. 1 lit. 3 third case of the Universities Act 2002 – UG, BGBl. I No. 120/2002) or, respectively, the management of the university of applied sciences (art. 4 para. 5 lit. 3 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act – FHG, BGBl. No. 340/1993) on a case-by-case basis. There does not exist any agreement on equivalence.

b. Applicants who have been admitted to a Bachelor’s program at a publicly recognized university, who, however, already have not started any higher education programme should be demanded appropriate supplementary examinations (art. 64 para. 2 UG or, respectively, art. 4 para. 6 FHG).

c. Applicants who have completed a Bachelor’s programme of at least three years duration at a recognized Chinese university fulfil the requirements of the general university entrance qualification art. 64 para. 3 lit. 4 UG or, respectively, art. 4 para. 5 lit. 4 FHG).

4. Special university entrance qualification:

According to art. 65 UG it must be ascertained if the Chinese programme of studies to which the allocation has been done corresponds to the Austrian field of studies to which admission is sought or is subject-related to it.

5. Prove of knowledge of German language:

It is important to draw the attention to the requirement of an adequate knowledge of the German language according to art. 63 para. 1 lit. 3 UG or, respectively, art. 4 para. 7 FHG. In case that German is included in the secondary school leaving certificate of the applicant, the adequate knowledge of the German language can be considered evident.