

Turkey, Admission to Studies in Austria on the Basis of Turkish Secondary School Leaving Certificates (Zulassungsempfehlung Türkei)

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

1. Starting-point:

- a. Leaving certificates (*Lise Diploması*) of Turkish secondary schools (*Lise*) and of equivalent secondary (*Kolej*) as such do not qualify for access to university studies. The latter is the case only in combination with a successful pass of the Turkish inter-university admission examination. While this examination up to 1998 consisted of two parts, namely *ÖSS* (proof of aptitude) und *ÖSYS* (allocation), it has been uniform since 1999 and corresponds more or less to the former *ÖSS*. The examination is organised by *ÖSYM* (Centre for the Selection and Allocation of Students of the Turkish Higher Education Council *YÖK*) and takes place at the same time at different places in and outside of Turkey. The result is put on a code card.
- b. The new *ÖSS* system aims at motivating the applicants to chose fields of study which correspond to the subject-orientation in their secondary school leaving certificate (e.g. Science, Languages, professional secondary school, and religious secondary school). After having passed the admission examination the applicants obtain provisional certifications showing the points which have been achieved in the admission examination in the areas *SÖZ*, *SAY*, *EA*, and *DİL*. After that they have to declare their preferences for studies, and the grade in the secondary school leaving certificate will be added to the points which have been achieved in the admission examination in a certain weight. In case that a field of studies which corresponds to the subject-orientation in their secondary school leaving certificate has been chosen, the grade in the latter will be weighted by a higher coefficient (0.5) than in case of decision for another field of studies (0.2). For admission to a two-year short-cycle programme at a “Professional Institute” (*Meslek Yüksek Okulu*), which is attached to a university, a minimum of 160.000 points is required, for classification for a regular four-year (*Lisans-*) programme a minimum of 185.000 points. The maximum is about 300.000 points.

- c. As the distinction between the first and the second part of the admission examination, which had been made up to now, does not any more exist, admission or, respectively, refusal can happen only with reference to the number of points which have been achieved in the new, uniform admission examination. On this basis the allocation to a study programme is done, which has to be made evident by showing the code card and the corresponding allocation. Since the applicants – differently from the procedure which has been valid up to 1998 – when declaring their preferences already know how many points they have achieved, the choice will consciously be done on the basis of the achievements, and the arithmetic consequences for the final number of points is well-known. Therefore the number of points which has in fact be achieved has at present to be taken into account as the only relevant criterion for admission. The subject-orientation, on the contrary, is determined by the allocation to a given field of studies.
- d. The following entries in the code card are of relevance for admission:
- code number (*Kodu*)
 - kind of points (*Puan Türü*)
 - points conferred (*Yerlesme Puanı*)
 - Higher education institution of allocation
 - Faculty of allocation
 - field of studies of allocation

2. Admission to studies in Austria:

The assessment with regard to the admission to studies in Austria should therefore be done in the following way:

- a. General university entrance qualification:

According to Sect. 64, sub-sect. 1, para. 3, of the Universities Act 2002, BGBl. I No. 120/2002 (Federal Law Gazette), as amended and, Sect. 4, sub-sect. 3, para. 3, of the Fachhochschule Studies Act – FHStG, BGBl. No. 340/1993, as amended, and Sect. 51, sub-sect. 2, para. 3, of the Teacher Education Act, in combination with Art. IV.5 of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region („Lisbon Recognition Convention“), BGBl. III No. 71/1999, Turkish secondary school leaving certificates should be considered as *„Reifezeugnis“* only if the admission examination has been passed successfully, too. Austria has notified this fact on the occasion of its ratification of the Convention (Communiqué BGBl. III No. 155/1999). In the code card under *„Yerlesme Puanı“* there must be visible an overall number of at least 185.000 points As the general university entrance qualification is in

question, this requirement shall be demanded also from persons holding equalized certificates according to the Decree on Groups of Persons, BGBl. II No. 211/1997, as amended.

b. Special university entrance qualification:

According to Sect. 65 of the Universities Act 2002 it must be verified if the allocation of the field of studies in the code card corresponds to the field of studies which the applicant intends to study in Austria.

3. Knowledge of German language:

It is important to draw the attention to the requirement of an adequate knowledge of the German language according to Sect. 63, sub-sect. 1, para. 3, of the Universities Act 2002, and, possibly, Sect. 4, sub-sect. 7, of the FHStG. In case that German is one of the subjects in the secondary school leaving certificate, the adequate knowledge of the German language can be considered evident.

4. St. Georgs-Kolleg:

Secondary school leaving certificates of the *St. Georgs-Kolleg Istanbul* are, on the contrary, certificates according to Art. IV.9 of the „Lisbon Recognition Convention“. They are considered as delivered in Austria, according to Sect. 1, sub-sect. 5, of the Decree on Groups of Persons. The pass of the Turkish admission examination shall not be demanded.

5. Competent authority:

For the purpose of admission to studies, it is recommended to all applicants to get into contact with the university or the management of the university of applied sciences at which admission is sought, as soon as possible. The guidelines of the Federal Ministry for Science and Research have only the character of a recommendation; the actual decision on the admission has to be taken by the rectorate of the respective university, the management of the respective university of applied sciences, or the rectorate of the respective university of education within the legal framework.

6. Detailed information:

For detailed information, the homepage of ÖSYM is recommended:

<http://www.osym.gov.tr/>