

Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education – How to validate?

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APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES

BUILDING AND DESIGN

HEALTH SCIENCES

APPLIED NURSING SCIENCE

SOCIAL WORK

ENGINEERING

ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMICS, SECURITY, POLITICS



Bewerbungen für unsere Studienangebote
Total applications

10.503



Durchschnittliche Bewerbungen pro
Bachelorstudienplatz
Average applications per study place

4,92



Erstsemestrierte (Stand 1.9.2020)
First semester students (as of Sept. 1st, 2020)

2.756



Studierende (Stand 1.9.2020)
Total students (as of Sept. 1st, 2020)

7.097



Hauptberuflich Lehrende und Forschende
Full-time teachers and researchers

251



Nebenberuflich Lehrende und Forschende
Part-time teachers and researchers

2.159



Studien- und Lehrgänge
Programs and courses

62



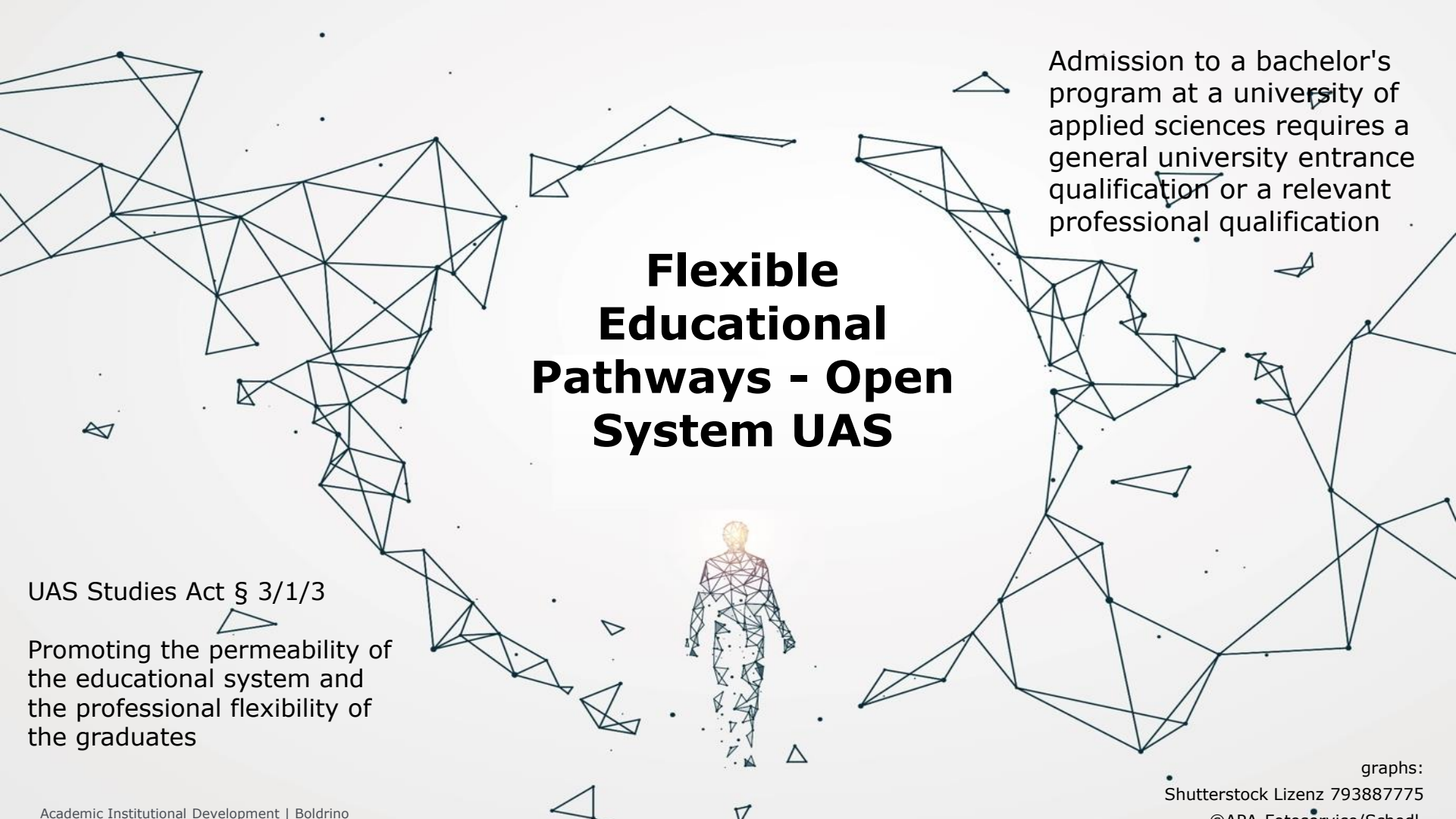
Standorte insgesamt
Campuses

10



davon Kooperationsstandorte
Partner locations

5



Admission to a bachelor's program at a university of applied sciences requires a general university entrance qualification or a relevant professional qualification

Flexible Educational Pathways - Open System UAS

UAS Studies Act § 3/1/3

Promoting the permeability of the educational system and the professional flexibility of the graduates

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) in Austria

1993 legal basis UAS Studies Act

2020: 21 Universities of Applied Sciences

- Bachelor, Master, NO PhD degrees
- basically teaching-focused
- **professionally oriented** degree programs with a sound theoretical/academic basis
- internships in the vocational field

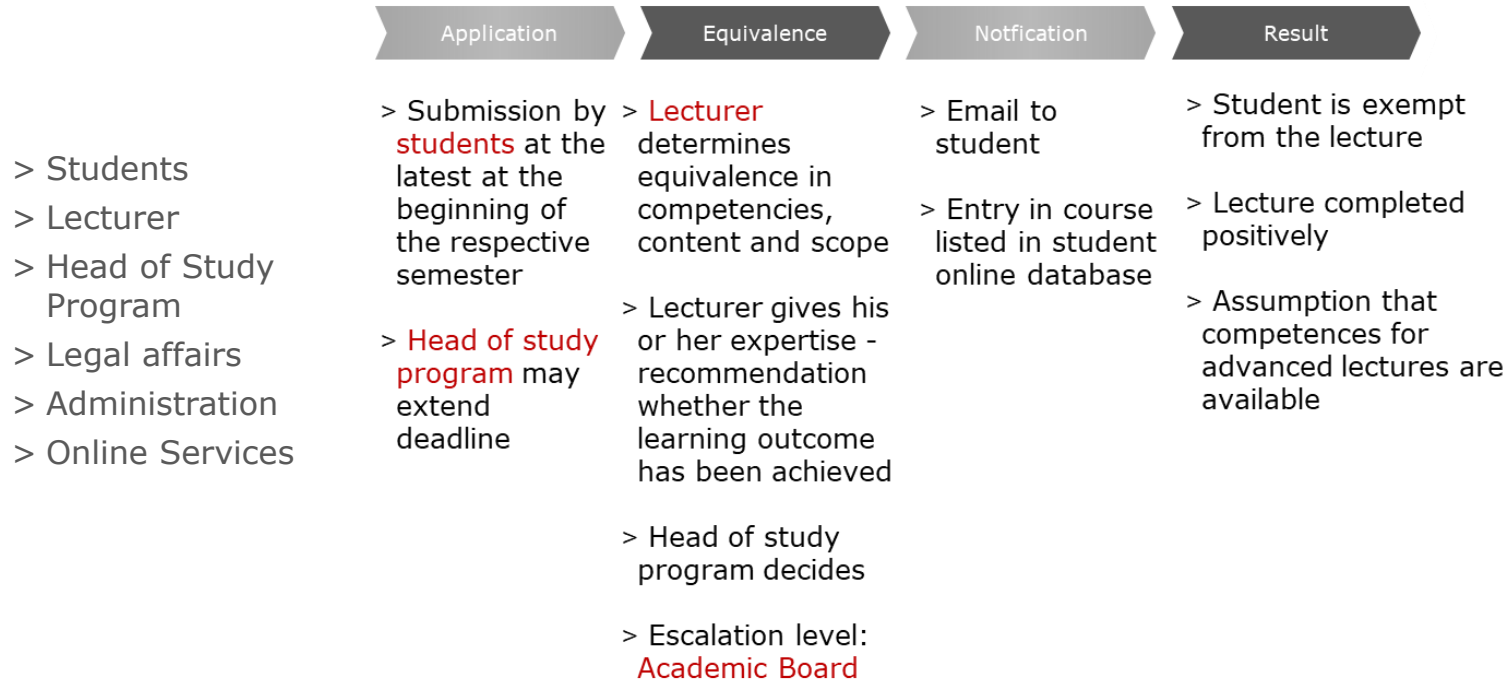
RPL: RPL at Universities of Applied Sciences / Fachhochschulen since 1994
RPL as criterion within the accreditation procedure

Funding: per capita, mostly public, competitive

QM: institutional accreditation, ex ante program accreditation

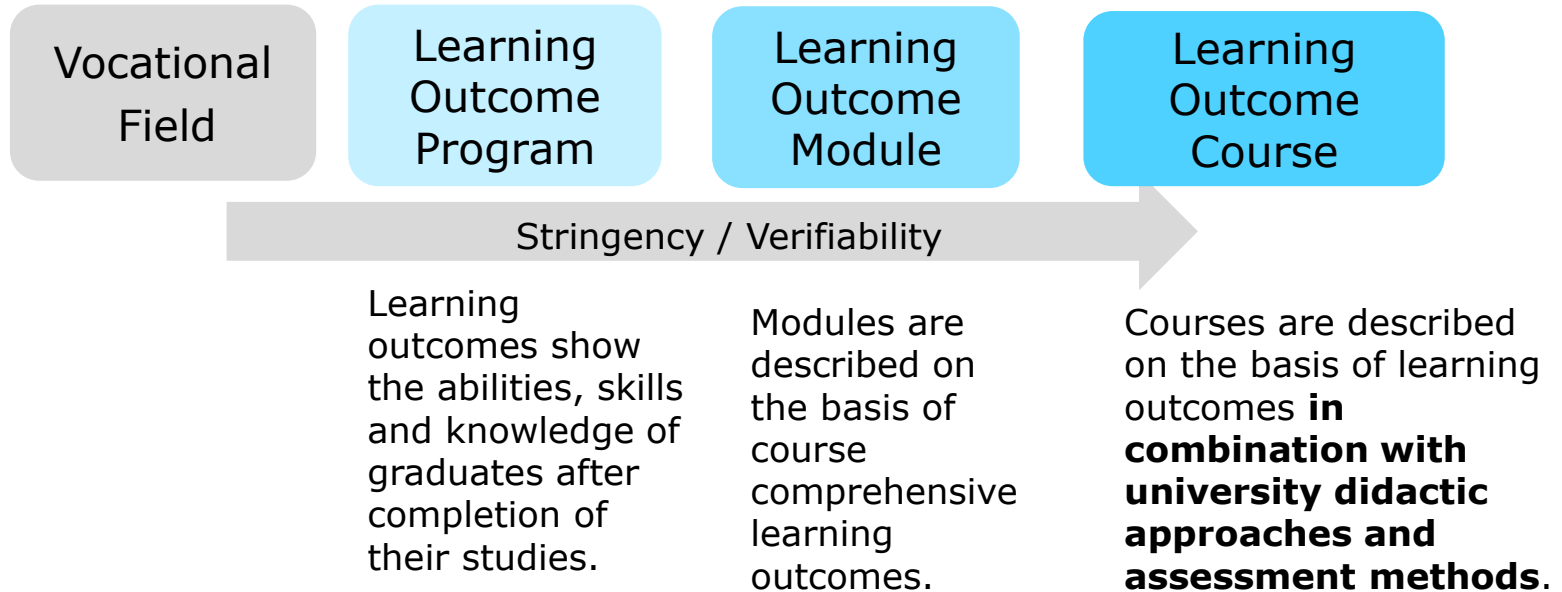
Research: applied/application-oriented

First Step - One policy for all Types of Recognition



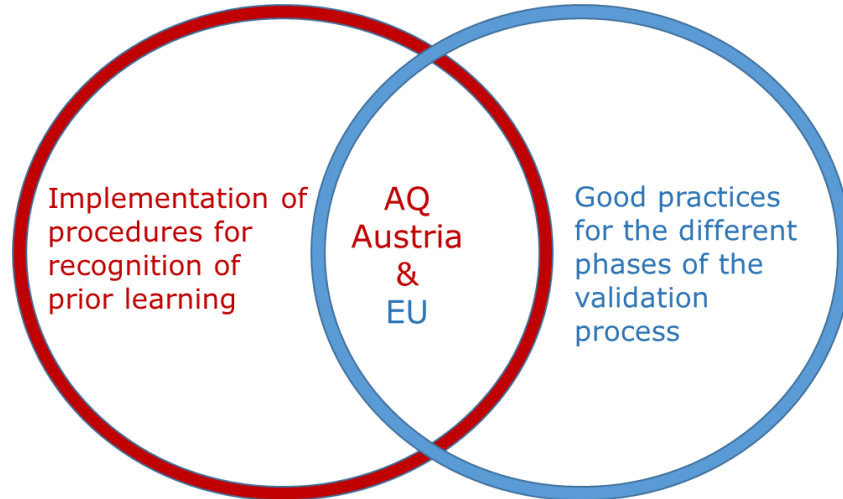
Second Step - Learning outcomes on three levels

Learning outcomes are formulated at program level, at module level and at course level.



Third Step - Participation in two RPL projects

Procedures & Good Practices



- Sharing and consulting
- Study visit in Cork
- **Survey on RPL**

- **Use of template**
- Webinars
- Final conference

Positive learnings

Shared understanding, policies and standards of RPL

Quality and challenges of current processes

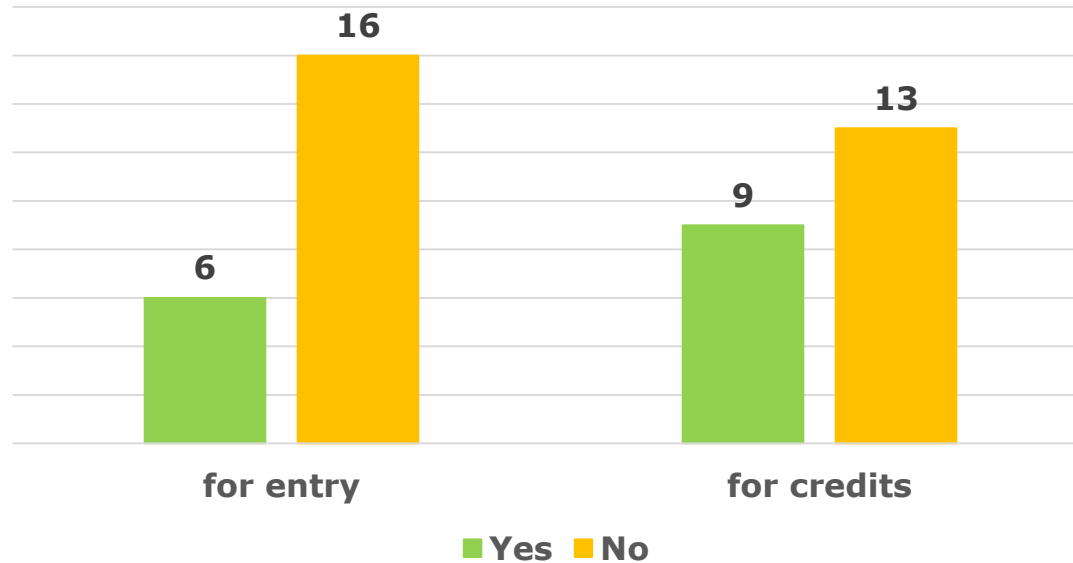
Learn from each other

Listen to RPL decision-makers

Curricular design can minimize the risks of RPL

Does RPL Exist at the FH Campus Wien?

"Are there recognitions/credits of non-formal and informal competences in your study program?"



Example of the Linkage between Work Experience and the Duration of a Bachelor



Elementary teachers with
leadership experience

Social Management in Early Education and Care (180 ECTS)

Bachelor, part-time

Target group-specific

Duration: 5 semester - **one semester is credited**

The skills and courses from the credited first semester are acquired informally during the relevant work experience in a child day care facility.

Graduation: Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (BA)

[LINK](#)

Entry requirements

Higher education entrance qualification or 3 additional exams: German (essay), History, English at the level of a university entrance examination



Qualification examination for kindergarten teachers



Three years of relevant work experience in a child day care facility.

Example of RPL for Meeting the Entrance Criteria



A student, with a Bachelor in Legal Studies, applied for a study place in a technical Master degree program in Software Design and Engineering.

The student has worked since graduation as a **software-developer**.

Bachelor in Legal
Studies

The entrance criteria sum up to 50 credits (ECTS), of which 30 credits have been lacking (mainly in the area of software engineering).

- > 20 credits have been recognized based on the bachelor's degree (knowledge of law, business administration, mathematics etc.) – hence formal RPL.
- > Approximately **half of the 30 credits** (lacking mainly in the area of software engineering) **have been recognized as recognition of prior learning** from non-formal and informal learning (e.g. professional experience)
- > The other credits had to be earned through attending courses in a respective bachelor program on software engineering.

The recognized credits (ECTS) were validated through an oral exam.

Lessons Learned so far

The focus is on **joint learning processes**.

Learning takes place in communication processes.

Consideration in the design of curricula.


RPL is about individual learning and organizational learning.

As a result RPL enables flexible learning paths.

Next Steps at the FH Campus Wien

The objective is: decrease bureaucracy, increase joint learning

- Mission Statement and handbooks
- Train curriculum development teams and teachers in RPL
- Provide information already at first contact of prospective students



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