

Info: Studying at American, Canadian and Australian universities

Courses, codes, and credits

As the course systems at US, CAN and AUS universities are structured similarly, we ask you to read the entire info "Courses, Codes, and Credits"! That means: even if you want to apply for Australia or Canada, please still read the information about USA!

American universities

American universities use course codes that make it easy to see how difficult the courses are. Usually 1000 numbers are used, but sometimes 100 or 10,000 numbers are used.

Overview:

Bachelor courses:

1000s - 1st academic year

2000s - 2nd academic year

3000s - 3rd academic year

4000s - 4th academic year

Mixed - Courses (for Bachelor and Master students)

4000/6000 courses or 5000 courses

Master courses

6000s

7000s (also for PhD)

PhD courses

8000 courses

E.g .: FOR 4308 = Forestry - Bachelor 4th year

AN SC 6100 = Animal Science - Master course

SUSAG 4485/6485 = Sustainable Agriculture - Mixed Course

BOKU students have to meet the following requirements when choosing a course (BOKU internal requirement):

- **At least 1 master course or mixed course**
- **Otherwise 4000 and 3000 courses**
- **1000 and 2000 courses must be expressly approved!**

Processes:

→When applying for a joint study: choose the courses according to the requirements. You also use the same courses when filling out the registration forms at the partner university.

→After arrival, clarify your choice of course with the coordinator on site. Some universities have academic advisers who help international exchange students choose a course. Please make it clear that you have to take at least one master course!

→In case of difficulties, please report back to the BOKU-International Relations.

For contractual reasons, international exchange students may only take Bachelor or Mixed Courses at some partner universities. Then at least a mixed course.

Most of our partner universities allow you to take master courses, some also PhD courses.

Experience so far:

→ Some students have taken 4 master courses and all 4 have completed + A

→ At another partner university, our students were even able to take PhD courses.

→There have been difficulties at two universities because BOKU students were not admitted to master courses. However, these problems have now been solved.

→ At other universities, all questions regarding the choice of course could be resolved through direct discussions by the students with the coordinator on site or with the professors.

Ad Credits:

12 credits (c) is the minimum requirement to meet US visa requirements. US students get up to 16/17 credits per semester on undergraduate courses, an average of about 14 credits.

Graduate courses usually have 12 credits.

Most universities have course units of 3 credits. If a course has 4 credits, this is usually 3 credits lecture and 1 credit laboratory / excursion. A few universities have smaller course units of 1 or 2 credits. Then more lectures have to be chosen.

That means: BOKU students have to choose 4 courses.

→ Take at least 4 courses (12 credits) and try to finish them. If there is too much work and stress and you are not getting along, there is a drop-line approx. 2-4 weeks after the start of the lecture, where you can deregister from courses. You will then not receive a grade for the courses that have been canceled. If you do not cancel a course but cancel it, you will get an F (= fail).

Ad course choice - content:

→The aim is to expand your professional competence optimally. So choose courses that suit your interests and where you will become highly competent

→See how Americans work in your field, what kind of approach they have, etc.

→Take courses where the Americans are particularly good, where you can take knowledge advantage from the USA to Austria.

It is not advisable:

→Courses where we are further ahead in Austria than the USA.

→language courses such as Spanish or French; You can learn Spanish anywhere in the world (and especially in the countries where it is spoken). Please see your stay in the US as an opportunity to learn something that you can only learn there - especially in your area of expertise.

(If you want to take an alternative course to your field of study at BOKU, then take something like: "Introduction into Environmental Assessment in the US" or "Marine Biology" - something that is hardly offered in Austria.)

In addition:

→ If you want to perfect your English: please take ONLY ONE course with the appropriate level, such as: "English Text and Composition for Science".

Conversion credits - ECTS:

12 credits = maximum 30 ECTS

1 credit = maximum 2.5 ECTS (for 3000s / 4000s / mixed courses / master courses)

If you take 1000s or 2000s courses, which must be approved in advance, there is a maximum of 1.5 ECTS per BOKU per US credit.

There is also the possibility at American universities to take courses only as an "audit". You can then take part in the course, but you do not have to do any homework or exams, and you do not get an assessment. Of course, audit courses cannot be taken into account for BOKU.

For more information on applying to a university in the United States:**Toefl**

Almost all of them require the Toefl (Test of English as a Foreign Language) when registering - 3 of our partners make exceptions (Purdue, Cornell, WVU) if you can prove that you have very good knowledge of English at BOKU (English III with "very good" or English IV with "good").

Health Fees / Health Insurance

Almost all of them charge a health center fee of a few hundred dollars. Some make an exception, provided there is insurance covering ALL areas, such as university insurance. Appropriate evidence in English must be brought to the USA.

Other fees

You have to pay different fees such as sports facility fee, campus transport fee, student activity fee or similar.

Internships

Internships are possible on campus at all US partner universities (visas are also allowed).

Some partner universities offer the opportunity to do an internship after the semester abroad, especially in the field of agriculture. The visa extension is then organized by the university.

Incredibly exciting is that for example study a semester at Iowa State University or in Purdue and then do a 4-month internship on a farm in the Corn Belt or Swine Belt!

Visa

Student visa fees have increased significantly in recent years.

Clubs

All universities have hundreds of student clubs. It is advisable to take an active part there, because you can often meet particularly interesting students there.

Note:

We strive with all of our partners to keep the fees for BOKU students as low as possible. Unfortunately, however, it is often federal laws that do not allow any leeway in negotiations.

Canadian universities

University of Guelph

Course Codes:

Bachelor courses:

1000s - 1st academic year

2000s - 2nd academic year

3000s - 3rd academic year

4000s - 4th academic year

Master courses:

6000s

There are no mixed courses.

International exchange students can choose from the full range of Bachelor and Master courses. 1000s and 2000s courses are mandatory!

Full semester study load:

A full semester study load has 2.5 credit points (cp). There are courses with 0.5, 1.0 or 1.5 cps.

The same applies for American universities: First choose 2.5 credit points for courses - depending on the cps do 3-5 courses. If the workload is too high, then deregister from a course.

Converting credits points / ECTS:

2.5 credit points = maximum 30 ECTS

0.5 credit points = maximum 6 ECTS (for 3000/4000 / Master courses)

If you take 1000 or 2000 courses, which must be approved in advance, there will be a maximum of 4 ECTS at BOKU per 0.5 credit point.

TransforM Universities:

The University of British Columbia

Conversion Credits Points /ECTS:

1 credit point = 2,5 ECTS

University of New Brunswick

Conversion Credits Points /ECTS:

1 credit point = 2,5 ECTS

University of Alberta

Conversion Credits Points /ECTS:

1 credit point = 3 ECTS

Further information on applications to a university in Canada:

Toefl

At the University of Guelph

Health Fees / Health Insurance

A health center fee of a few hundred dollars have to be payed.

Other fees

Various fees such as sports facility fee, campus transport fee, student activity fee or similar have to be paid.

Internships

Internships on campus are possible (visa-approved).

Visa

Students receive the student visa upon entering Canada.

Australian universities

Australian universities do not have a uniform system for measuring a "full semester study load" and there are also different names for lectures: subjects, lectures, units or courses.

Full semester study load (corresponds to 30 ECTS at BOKU):

- Griffith University - Brisbane → 40 credit points

Usually there are 4 courses. To meet the requirements for the Australian visa, at least 30 credit points are required.

- Queensland University of Technology - Brisbane → 48 credit points

Most lectures have 12 credit points. So there are 4 courses to complete a full semester study load. The minimum requirement for the student visa is 36 credit points.

- University of Newcastle → 40 units

1 course usually has 10 units, so for 40 units you need 4 courses. The minimum requirements for the visa are 30 units.

- Macquarie University - Sydney → 12 credit points

To get 12 credit points, you have to take 4 courses with 3 credit points each. (Attention: Courses / lectures at the Macquarie are called "units"!)
Visa requirements: 9 credit points

- La Trobe University - Melbourne → 60 credit points

Originally: "A full time load is 60 credit points per semester made up of 3 units, each of 20 credit points".

- Flinders University - Adelaide → 18 units

"A full time load is 18 units per semester. You may choose topics that are 3, 4.5 or 6 units in value. Minimum enrollment per semester: 13.5 units "

- Murdoch University - Perth □ 12 credit points

3 courses with 4 credit points are the minimum requirements for enrollment.

All universities have smaller course units in addition to the ones mentioned here, e.g. for excursions or laboratory exercises.

Course codes

Australian universities usually have 1000s of codes, but some universities also use 100s.

Bachelor courses:

Most bachelor programs last 3 years, but there are also 4-year bachelor programs, especially in the natural sciences and engineering studies.

1000s - 1st academic year

2000s - 2nd academic year

3000s - 3rd academic year

4000s - 4th academic year

Honors Courses:

These are courses that prepare for a PhD degree and are accordingly of an excellent level.

Honor courses can have 6000s, 7000s or 8000s depending on the university. Please get informed depending on the university. International exchange students can take Honor courses.

Attention - Master / PhD courses:

At some universities there are 6000s and 7000s courses, which can be taken after consultation with the foreign offices!

At other universities, 7000s and 8000s are PhD courses and the exchange students are normally not allowed to take them!

The following applies to exchange students at BOKU:

Bachelor and honors courses can be taken, master courses can be taken after consultation with the international offices.

Course selection requirements (BOKU internal requirement):

- **At least 1 master or honors course**
- **Otherwise 4000s, 3000s and 2000s courses**
- **1000s courses must be explicitly approved (since most Bachelor programs are 3 years!)**

Further information on applications to a university in Australia:

Toefl

Almost all Australian partner universities require the Toefl test (Test of English as a Foreign Language) when registering

Health Fees / Health Insurance

Almost all of them charge a health center fee of a few hundred Australian dollars.

Other fees

You have to pay different fees such as sports facility fee, campus transport fee, student activity fee or similar.

Visa

Student visa fees have increased significantly in recent years.