

**ECTS appraisal report**  
**University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna**  
**27<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

**Counsellors**

Prof. Alain Sadourny, University of Rouen, France

Mr. Christian Tauch, Head International Department, German Rectors' Conference, Germany

**I. Persons seen**

**a. at institutional level**

Wolf Dietrich Freiherr von Fircks, Rector

Prof. Gerd Niebauer, Vice rector of International and Study Affairs

Dr. Ursula Schober, International relations office, ECTS Institutional coordinator

Prof. Maximilian Schuh, Dean of Studies

Mag. Michaela Pirker, Office of the Dean of Studies

Prof. Wolfgang Künzel, designated Vice rector of study affairs

Franz Tonninger, ZID

Hildegard Vaclavik, Erasmus contact person.

**b. at departmental level**

Prof. Christine Iben, Head of study commission, ECTS departmental coordinator, veterinary medicine.

Prof. Jörg Aurich, ECTS departmental coordinator, equine science.

Prof. Dieter Klein, ECTS departmental coordinator, biomedicine and biotechnology

**c. Students**

3 incoming students: 2 from Budapest, 1 from Hannover, all three at UVM for one semester

**II. Introduction. Institutional commitment to ECTS.**

The first veterinary school was founded in 1765 by empress Maria Theresia. In 1812 the veterinary institute became part of the University of Vienna. In 1975 the University of

Veterinary Medicine (UVM) was created. In 1995, it moved to a new campus of 15 hectares in Vienna's 21st district.

The university consists of 20 institutes, 7 clinics and 1 central laboratory and employs 635 staff (including 210 academics). In the summer semester 2003 1906 students were registered.

The UVM offers the following programmes:

- A new degree programme in veterinary medicine
- A new doctoral programme in veterinary medicine
- A traditional degree programme in veterinary medicine which is being phased out (5<sup>th</sup> semester and up only)
- An individual study programme in biomedicine and biotechnology (so far only 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> semester)
- An individual study programme in equine science (so far only 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

ECTS was introduced in October 2000 and is being applied to all degree programmes, including intensive programmes. **Academic staff and members of the international office have shown a strong commitment to ECTS and profound knowledge of its principles** (both for transfer and accumulation purposes).

The Diploma Supplement will be introduced in the coming academic year.

Each year the UVM sends out some 70 students. Around 30 of these are Socrates students and ECTS is applied to these exchanges.

### III. Course catalogue

**The course catalogue** has been updated very recently (June 2003) and is available on the internet ([www.vu-wien.ac.at/ects](http://www.vu-wien.ac.at/ects)). The ECTS counsellors examined and discussed this document during their visit and agreed that it **is a very good example of its kind indeed**. They only suggested to call it *Course Catalogue* rather than *Information Package*, in line with the recommendations adopted by the ECTS Counsellors and the EU Commission.

This change has already been carried out.

The CC is divided into 3 parts: information on ECTS, welcome guide and course descriptions.

**The welcome guide gives very useful and complete information** on general admission criteria, language requirements (with a list of language courses offered in Vienna), insurance matters, modalities of arrival in Vienna, accommodation, cost of living, various services (libraries, sports facilities, student restaurants...), the city of Vienna and its surroundings.

**The course descriptions list and explain the different study programmes. The structure of the curricula is explained very clearly and the course descriptions correspond fully to the criteria elaborated by the ECTS Counsellors and the EU Commission.**

**The counsellors considered the CC to be of exemplary quality.**

#### **IV. Credit allocation.**

**Credits are allocated in accordance with the official ECTS regulations, i.e. based on student workload.**

The annual workload corresponds to 1500 hours (i.e. 15 weeks for a semester), according to the official regulations (Austrian University Act of 2002).

#### **V. Learning agreement**

LAs are used for incoming and outgoing students. The three students whom the counsellors met complained that they had known only after their arrival in Vienna of the different courses on offer. Therefore their LA had not been signed before their departure. However, **the new course catalogue, available on internet, means that this should not be a problem for future incoming students any longer.** Besides, the students underlined that the warm welcome at the UVM and the good tutoring they had received had more than made up for this initial shortcoming.

#### **VI. Transcripts of records. Academic recognition**

As from the next academic year, transcripts of records will include ECTS grades; conversion will be based on grade distribution statistics for the different modules.

Departmental coordinators and the study commission are responsible for academic recognition which seems to pose no problems.

## **Conclusion**

**ECTS both as a transfer and an accumulation system seem to be working very well in the UVM. The colleagues whom the counsellors met were very enthusiastic.**

**Therefore our only recommendation is to continue in the same way and in the same spirit.**

**The Counsellors express their sincere thanks to the members of the university for their kind cooperation and warm hospitality during our visit and would like to remind the UVM that they remain at the university's disposition, should they need any further help.**

A. Sadourny

Ch. Tauch