



Agentur für
Qualitätssicherung
und Akkreditierung
Austria

Review report

pursuant to section 7 of the Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities 2013 of the Board of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria

Accreditation procedure for changing the curriculum Bakkalaureat "Psychotherapiewissenschaft" in Bachelor "Psychology" and Magister "Psychotherapiewissenschaft" in Master "Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: Psychoanalysis, Psychopathology and Studies in Intercultural Psychotherapy" at the branch of the Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität in Paris

Review report: Version of 31.08.2015

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1 Explanatory notes of AQ Austria

1.1 Information on the procedure

Accreditation is a formal and transparent procedure for quality control on the basis of defined criteria and standards resulting in state recognition of a degree programme. If the statutory prerequisites for accreditation are met and the qualitative requirements are satisfied, the submitted degree programme may, by administrative decision, be accredited. The accreditation of degree programmes at private universities may not be granted with conditions.

The legal bases for the accreditation of degree programmes at private universities are the Private Universities Act (Privatuniversitätengesetz, PUG as amended) as well as the Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Hochschul-Qualitätssicherungsgesetz, HS-QSG as amended).

The Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education designates assessment areas for the accreditation of degree programmes at private universities. Pursuant to section 24 para. 6 HS-QSG, the Board of AQ Austria has adopted a decree designating the assessment areas as well as the methodical principles of a procedure (Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities 2013). The following assessment areas apply for programme accreditation:

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- (1) Degree programme and degree programme management
- (2) Staff
- (3) Quality assurance
- (4) Funding and infrastructure
- (5) Research and development
- (6) National and international cooperation

The assessment criteria for the assessment areas are governed by section 17 Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities (Privatuniversitäten-Akkreditierungsverordnung, PU-AkkVO). If the Board considers a site visit for the assessment of the application as not necessary, the site visit can be waived. In this procedure this regulation is applied. The assessment is carried out on the basis of the written application and has to focus on the formulated question of the notification.

The curricula of the academic programmes and the branch are already accredited. Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität submitted an application to change the name, the academic degree and some parts of the curriculum. Therefore, the assessment of the curricula should be limited to two main topics:

- Are the contents of the revised curricula appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes?
- Are the planned name and the academic degree of the study programmes in line with the content of the revised curriculum?

The expert shall draw up a review report on the basis of the application. It shall consist of statements on and assessments of the criteria. The rationale for the assessment shall be made transparent. The review report shall conclude with a summary assessment.

The applicant institution is given the opportunity to comment on the review report within a reasonable time frame.

The review report as well as the comment will be discussed by the Board of AQ Austria. The Board decides by way of administrative decision. The Board's decision has to be approved by the Federal Minister for Science, Research and Economy prior to its entry into force. After the procedure has been completed, a report on the outcome of the procedure as well as the review report shall be published on the websites of AQ Austria and the applicant institution.

1.2 Short information on the applicant institution

Information on the applicant institution	
Applicant institution	Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität
Legal status	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
Initial accreditation	31. August 2005
Last re-accreditation	31. August 2010
Site	Wien
branches	Paris, Mailand, Ljubljana, Linz, Berlin
Number of degree programmes	12
Number of students	2.013 (winter semester 2014/2015)
Information on the degree programme to be changed	
Denomination of the degree programme	<p>"Psychotherapiewissenschaft" (Bakkalaureatsstudium) in "Psychology", <i>in French: "Psychologie"</i></p> <p>"Psychotherapiewissenschaft" (Magisterstudium) in "Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: Psychoanalysis, Psychopathology and Studies in Intercultural Psychotherapy", <i>in French: "Psychologie clinique et psychothérapie: Psychanalyse, psychopathologie, études psychothérapie interculturelle"</i></p>
Type of study	Bachelor, Master
Organisational structure	full time

Academic degree	Bachelor of Science (BSc) Master of Science (MSc) mention: Psychologie clinique et psychothérapie: Psychanalyse, psychopathologie et psychothérapie interculturelle
Site	Paris

1.3 External expert

Name	Institution	Role
Dr. Abdel-Halim Boudoukha	Université de Nantes – UFR de Psychologie	expert with academic qualification

2 Review report

2.1 Explanatory notes

The French psychologist title is protected by a specific decree since 1990 (see Décret n° 90-255 du 22 mars 1990 fixant la liste des diplômes permettant de faire usage professionnel du titre de psychologue). Contrary to what is written in the application, the Syndicat National des Psychologues does not award the psychologist title. This is a French government decision released by Regional Health Agency (ARS – Agence Régionale de Santé). The French psychologist title decree has been revised to fit the new organisation of studies following the Bologna process (Licence, Master and Doctorat – LMD). To acquire the psychologist title, French students must complete a three-year Bachelor's degree programme in psychology (Licence de Psychologie) and a two-year Master's degree programme in psychology including 500 internship hours (Master 2 de Psychologie). Most of the French psychology programmes are offered by public universities. Currently, there are only three private schools accredited to deliver the psychologist title. Contrary to what is written in the application, France does have a psychotherapist title decree. Since 2012, it determines more specifically the psychotherapist title (Décret n° 2012-695 du 7 mai 2012 modifiant le décret n° 2010-534 du 20 mai 2010 relatif à l'usage du titre de psychotérapeute). Indeed, French psychologists can acquire the psychotherapist title if they have achieved a three-year Licence in psychology and a two-year Master's degree in psychology with 500 internship hours in a clinical setting.

In that context, Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität (SFU), which is a private university, intends to propose a full educational programme in psychology (a Bachelor's and a Master's degree) in Paris. An equivalence of the SFU clinical psychology programme with those offered by the public universities would make the recognition of the French psychologist title possible for SFU students. The curricula of the academic programmes and the branch are already accredited. The SFU academic programmes on clinical psychological training focus on psychoanalysis and transcultural psychotherapy.

However, the SFU has to rename its study programmes (the Bakkalaureat degree programme and the Magister degree programme) to provide students an equivalent education and ensure access to the French labour market. The SFU has submitted an application to change the name, the academic degree and some parts of the curriculum. Therefore, the current

assessment of the curricula will answer two main topics: (a) whether the contents of the revised curricula are appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes and (b) whether the planned name and the academic degree of the study programmes are in line with the content of the revised curriculum.

2.2 Statements on and assessment of the criteria

2.2.1 Are the contents of the revised curricula appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes?

Concerning the Bachelor's curriculum

The Bachelor's degree programme proposed by Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität contains 6 semesters with 180 ECTS. It is divided into 7 modules (Module A: Clinical Psychology, Module B: Psychological Basics, Module C: Medical basics, Module D: Praxeology, Module E: Research methods, Module F: Fundamental principles of psychotherapy practice, Module G: Thesis and examination). It fits to the French administrative and pedagogical Licence criteria: the content of the SFU curriculum, the number of ECTS and of semesters are equivalent to the French Licence.

However, the first semester entitled L1 can cause confusion with the first year of Licence (Licence 1), the name should be changed in S1 for semester 1. The same change should be carried out for the semesters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Bachelor's modules:

- **Module A** is entitled "Clinical Psychology"; however, there are no French clinical psychology definitions or presentations of major French clinicians (such as Daniel Lagache). Moreover, the module focuses on history and theoretical development of the psychoanalytic, systemic and person-centred psychotherapy schools. No real content appears on psychotherapy such as cognitive and behavioural therapy (CBT), although it is currently a major psychotherapy school. To fit the name of the module and to achieve the intended learning outcomes, it is important (1) to devote part of the module to the definition of clinical psychology in France and (2) to open the field of history and theoretical development of psychotherapy schools to CBT.
- **Module B** devoted to psychological basics (general psychology, differential psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology and psychological diagnostics) and **Module C** to medical basics (neuroscience, psychiatry, psychosomatics, child and adolescent psychiatry and psychopharmacology) contain an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Bachelor of Psychology (Licence de Psychologie) by French public universities.
- **Module D** is devoted to Praxeology and focuses on practical experience. That type of module is not common in Licence de Psychologie because it is closely related to internship which is not compulsory in the French Licence of Psychology.
- **Module E** entitled "Research methods" gives knowledge on the fundamentals of science and research methodology, statistical data analysis, quantitative methodology and qualitative interpretation. It contains an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Bachelor of Psychology (Licence de Psychologie) by French public universities.
- **Module F** entitled "Fundamental principles of psychotherapy practice" is devoted to a

presentation of general principles of the health and social security system. However, the course "Sexuality" does not have any obvious connection with the title. That part should be better integrated into another module (e.g. Module C).

- **Module G** entitled "Thesis and examination" concerns the thesis required to achieve the Bachelor's degree. It contains an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Bachelor of Psychology (Licence de Psychologie) by French public universities.

The contents of Modules B, C, D, E and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes. These modules have an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Bachelor of Psychology (Licence de Psychologie) by French public universities. Module F is appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes but should be reorganized as part of the content does not really fit in. The content of Module A is not appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes and should be changed in the revised programme.

Concerning the Master's curriculum

The Master's degree programme is entitled "Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: Psychoanalysis, Psychopathology and Studies in Intercultural Psychotherapy" (Master de Psychologie clinique et de psychothérapie: Psychanalyse, psychopathologie et études psychothérapie interculturelle). It is divided into 7 modules (Module A: Clinical & Theoretical Principles of Transcultural Psychotherapy, Module B: Research Methods, Module C: Practice-Oriented Workshops, Module D: Personal Development, Module E: Practicum and Praxis, Module F: Electives, Module G: Thesis Project and Final Examination). It contains 4 semesters with 120 ECTS. It fits to the French administrative and pedagogical Master's criteria: the content of the SFU curriculum, the number of ECTS and of semesters are equivalent to the French Master.

The first semester entitled M1 can cause confusion with the first year of Master that is entitled M1 in France (Master 1). The name should be changed in S1-M1 for semester 1, S2-M1 for semester 2, S1-M2 for semester 3 and S2-M2 for semester 4.

Master's modules:

- **Module A** concerns clinical and theoretical principles of transcultural psychotherapy. It is devoted to the presentation of clinical, cultural and historical aspects of psychopathology, sexual disorders, diagnostic coding and classification, psychosomatics, group psychoanalysis and child and youth psychoanalysis with a transcultural psychotherapy and ethno-psychoanalysis approach.
- In **Module B** "Research Methods", research paradigms in the psychotherapeutic and psychoanalytic field with a specific focus on research methods in the ethnographic area are presented.
- **Module C** "Practice-Oriented Workshops" is devoted to apply specific diagnostic and treatment techniques for specific groups of patients and settings.
- **Module D** concerns personal development; it contains three self-awareness classes that are intended to be offered in groups as well as in a one-to-one setting with an experienced psychoanalyst. That type of module is not common in psychology study programmes because there is a clear demarcation between education and personal development. Concerning this demarcation, the French deontology code for psychologists is not in favour of personal development provided by higher education settings (see <http://www.sfpsy.org/Code-de-deontologie-des.html>).

- **Module E** "Practicum and Praxis" is devoted to the practical exercise used to acquire practical psychotherapeutic knowledge and experience in dealing with patients under professional supervision. That type of module is common in psychology Master's degree programmes.
- **Module F** entitled "Electives" is designed for students who choose advanced classes in the clinical as well as philosophical or sociological fields.
- **Module G** entitled "Thesis Project and Final Examination" concerns the thesis required to achieve the Master's degree.

The contents of Modules A, B, C, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes. They have an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Master of Psychology (Master de Psychologie) by French public universities. Module D that focuses on personal development is not appropriate because (a) there is a clear demarcation between education and personal development in French public universities and (b) the French deontology code for psychologists is not in favour of personal development provided by higher education settings.

2.2.2 Are the planned name and the academic degree of the study programmes in line with the content of the revised curriculum?

Concerning the Bachelor's curriculum

The planned name ("Psychology" – in French "Psychologie") and academic degree (Bachelor of Science (BSc)) of the study programme are in line with the content of the revised curriculum.

Concerning the Master's curriculum

The planned academic degree (Master of Science (MSc)) of the study programme is in line with the content of the revised curriculum, but the 'mention' ("Psychologie clinique et psychothérapie: Psychoanalyse, psychopathologie et psychothérapie interculturelle") should be changed. The planned name ("Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: Psychoanalysis, Psychopathology and Studies in Intercultural Psychotherapy" – in French "Psychologie clinique et psychothérapie: Psychoanalyse, psychopathologie, études psychothérapie interculturelle") is not in line with the content of the revised curriculum. In fact, the content of the Master's degree programme focuses on psychoanalysis and intercultural psychotherapy. Clinical psychology and psychopathology do not have the same importance in the planned curriculum as psychoanalysis and intercultural psychotherapy, thus clinical psychology and psychopathology should not have the same importance in the planned name and in the 'mention' as psychoanalysis and intercultural psychotherapy.

3 Summary of outcomes

Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität (SFU) requests an accreditation of its full educational programme in psychology (a Bachelor's and a Master's degree) in Paris. The contents of the curricula, the planned name and the academic degree have been revised and reviewed. The planned name and academic degree of the Bachelor's degree programme are in line with the content of the revised curriculum. The contents of Modules B, C, D, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes of the Bachelor's degree programme. The content of Module A is not appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes.

Concerning the Master's degree programme, the planned academic degree (Master of Science (MSc)) is in line with the content of the revised curriculum, but the name (Psychologie clinique et psychothérapie: Psychanalyse, psychopathologie, études psychothérapie interculturelle) and the 'mention' should be changed because the content of the Master's degree programme focuses almost exclusively on psychoanalysis and intercultural psychotherapy. The contents of Modules A, B, C, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes. Module D, which focuses on personal development, is not appropriate in a French Master's degree programme.

If the two modules (Module A in the Bachelor's degree programme and Module D in the Master's degree programme) and the name of the Master's degree programme are changed according to my points of criticism, I can recommend the accreditation of the curricula.



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Supplement to the review report

pursuant to section 7 of the Decree on Accreditation of Private Universities 2013 of the Board of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria

Accreditation procedure for changing the curriculum Bakkalaureat "Psychotherapiewissenschaft" in Bachelor "Psychology" and Magister "Psychotherapiewissenschaft" in Master "Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: Psychoanalysis, Psychopathology and Studies in Intercultural Psychotherapy" at the branch of the Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität in Paris

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1 Explanatory notes of AQ Austria

Information on the procedure

The first expert report on the basis of the application contains three critical points.

“If the two modules (Module A in the Bachelor’s degree programme and Module D in the Master’s degree programme) and the name of the Master’s degree programme are changed according to my points of criticism, I can recommend the accreditation of the curricula.”
(Review report)

Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität changed the mentioned points in the curriculum in their statement to the review report. The amendments require an assessment by an expert. Are the changes and the new contents appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes? Is the name of the revised Master programme in line with the new contents of the revised curriculum?

2 Review report

Statements to the revised curriculum

Concerning the Bachelor’s degree, the changes and the new contents of A, B, C, D, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes. The changes in Module A are responding to the criticism of the first report. The new content includes definitions of clinical psychology in France and the field of history and theoretical development of psychotherapy schools has been opened to CBT. All modules have an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Bachelor of Psychology (Licence de Psychologie) by French public universities.

Concerning the Master’s degree, the changes and the new contents of Modules A, B, C, D, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes. The content of Module D was not common in psychology study programmes in France and has been renewed. The new content is focusing on clinical psychology and psychopathology (10 ECTS). All modules have an equivalent learning programme to those usually provided in the Master of Psychology (Master de Psychologie) by French public universities.

Moreover, the name of the revised Master’s degree programme is in line with the new contents of the revised curriculum

3 Summary of outcomes

Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität (SFU) requests an accreditation of its full educational programme in psychology (a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree) in Paris. The contents of the curricula, the planned name and the academic degree have been revised and reviewed. The planned name and academic degree of the Bachelor’s degree programme are in line with the

content of the revised curriculum. The contents of Modules A, B, C, D, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes of the Bachelor's degree programme. Concerning the Master's degree programme, the planned academic degree and the name are in line with the content of the revised curriculum. The contents of Modules A, B, C, D, E, F and G are appropriate to achieve the learning outcomes.

Due to the renewed content, I can recommend the accreditation of the curricula.