

**Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG)**

**Habilitation**

§ 103. (1) The rectorate shall, on application, be entitled to award an habilitation degree (venia docendi) for an entire academic or artistic subject. The venia docendi applied for must be within the sphere of action of the university. The habilitation degree shall confer the right to the free exercise thereof at the university in question, using its facilities, and to the supervision and assessment of academic theses or art submissions (§§ 81 to 83 and 124).

(2) The award of a habilitation degree shall be conditional on evidence of outstanding scientific or artistic qualification as well as repeated teaching at recognized post-secondary educational institutions as evidence of the didactic abilities of the applicant.

(3) The habilitation thesis submitted must:

1. be of impeccable methodological quality;
2. contain new scientific insights;
3. demonstrate the candidate's command of his/her habilitation subject and ability for its advancement.

Art submissions must demonstrate the candidate's ability to exercise his/her artistic discipline within the full scope of the venia docendi applied for.

(4) An application for a habilitation degree shall be directed to the rectorate. The latter shall forward the application to the senate, unless it must be rejected due to the university's incompetence to process it.

(5) The representatives of university professors in the senate shall appoint, nominated by the university professors in the department concerned, at least two experts in the habilitation subject, including at least one external, to act as assessors of the academic papers or works of art submitted. However, they may also delegate this task to the university professors of the department or of a department in a related field.

(6) The university professors in the department concerned and departments in related fields shall be entitled to give opinions on the assessors' reports.

(7) The senate shall appoint a habilitation committee with decision-making power. More than half of the members shall be university professors, and at least one shall be a student.

(8) The habilitation committee shall make its decision on the basis of the reports and opinions received.

(9) The rectorate shall issue an official notification on the application for a habilitation degree, which shall be based on the decision of the habilitation committee. Appeals to the Federal Administrative Court against such an official notification shall be permissible.

(10) The rectorate shall reject a decision by the habilitation committee in case of serious procedural defects.

(11) The award of a habilitation degree (venia docendi) shall neither confer the right to employment nor modify an existing employment contract (non-tenured associate professor).