

Regulation on payment and refund from the cost contribution for students from third countries who started their studies before the winter semester 2026

1 Cost contribution obligation

The cost contribution of 727 euros per semester has been payable since the academic year 2014/15. Students are also required to pay the mandatory membership fee for the Austrian Student Union (ÖH).

Payment of the full cost contribution is a prerequisite for re-registration (enrolment) for the respective semester or for initial enrolment.

As tuition fees will be charged from the winter semester 2026 onwards, payment of the cost contribution is a prerequisite for re-registration for all students from third countries who began their studies before this date. For new students, the tuition fee regulations will apply from the winter semester 2026 onwards.

The payment of the cost contribution is exclusively possible via the FH|shop. The payment link will be sent to students who are required to pay by email. If the contribution is not paid in full, it shall be considered as not paid. Cost contributions must always be paid in one instalment and not in instalments, otherwise they shall be considered as not paid.

Pursuant to Sec. 2 para 2 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHG) as amended, a cost contribution is payable by all regular students at FH JOANNEUM who are third country citizens and

- who are not members of the group of people specified in the Regulations on Eligible Groups of Persons ([Personengruppenverordnung](#)) as amended by Federal Law Gazette BGBl II 63/2019 and
- whose last attended foreign university has not signed a partnership agreement with FH JOANNEUM providing for a mutual exemption from tuition fees or cost contributions in such cases,
- who has a residence permit as students (Aufenthaltsbewilligung Student) and
- started their studies before the winter semester 2026.

Third countries include all states other than EU or EEA member states and Switzerland.

The verification of nationality and contribution obligations was carried out for the first time as part of the review of the application and admission requirements.

The following applies to students from third countries who are required to pay the cost contribution:

All regular students from third countries who have an active student status in a higher semester are required to pay the cost contribution. In the event of completing an internship or a semester abroad, the full amount for the respective semester must be paid. If an academic year is repeated, the amount must also be paid again for this semester.

The deadline for payment of the cost contribution of 727 euros is the first day of the semester for the respective degree programme. However, payment must be made no later than 14 calendar days after the start of the semester.

If payment is not made, the contribution payable will increase by 20% to 872 euros. Failure to pay the cost contribution by 15 November in the respective winter semester or 15 April in the respective summer semester will result in exclusion from the programme and termination of the study contract by the FH JOANNEUM. Exception: Students who complete their studies by the above dates are not required to pay for the respective semester. If the programme is completed after these dates, the cost contribution must be paid within 14 calendar days.

2 Exemption from the cost contribution obligation and waiver of the cost contribution

The students listed below are exempt from paying the cost contribution or the cost contribution is automatically waived (without application):

- Students with an Austrian residence permit other than 'Student'.
The exemption from the obligation to pay applies here until the residence permit expires and can be extended by providing proof of a valid residence permit card. If the title is changed to 'Student', the obligation to pay applies.
- Students who can provide evidence of reasons in accordance with the Personengruppenverordnung (Regulation on Eligible Groups of Persons), in particular holders of secondary school leaving certificates of Austrian schools abroad pursuant to Sec. 1 (5) of the Regulation on Eligible Groups of Persons as amended by Federal Law Gazette BGBl II 63/2019.
- Students who are citizens of one of the LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES according to the [DAC List of ODA Recipients](#).
- Students who are not required to pay tuition fees in accordance with §4a of the Tuition Fee Regulations ([StubeIV](#)), provided that the management of FH JOANNEUM agrees to this.
- Students who interrupt their studies in accordance with Sec. 14 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHG) shall not be liable to pay the cost contribution for the semester(s) for which the interruption has been granted.

3 Refund of the cost contribution

The refund of the contribution paid may be granted in full or in part upon request under the conditions set out below. There is no legal entitlement to a refund. The decision on the refund is at the discretion of the management of FH JOANNEUM:

- Existence of one of the circumstances listed in Section 1 of the Personengruppenverordnung (Regulation on Groups of Persons) as amended by Federal Law Gazette II 63/2019.
- Cessation of other conditions for the collection of the cost contributions in accordance with Section 2, in particular in the event of a change in residence status.
- Withdrawal during the first semester for first-year students: in this case, a refund of the amount for the second semester is possible.
- Evidence that the Republic of Austria grants students the same rights of access to employment as Austrian citizens under an international treaty.

Requests for refund and evidence proving the refund of the cost contribution should be sent to payments@fh-joanneum.at.

Applications for a (partial) refund can be made directly in the FH|shop (for the purchased item).

Applications for refunds of cost contributions must be submitted by the end of the semester following the contribution semester at the latest.

If students have culpably caused or obtained a waiver of the cost contribution, exemption from the obligation to pay or a refund by providing incomplete or false information, they shall be required to pay double the cost contribution for the respective semester, without prejudice to any criminal liability. In serious cases, this may result in expulsion from the programme.

The FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft reserves the right at any time to modify or amend the present Regulation.

Responsible for document and process:

<https://www.fh-joanneum.at/hochschule/organisation/service-abteilungen/weiterbildung-und-studierendenadministration/>

Contact for questions: payments@fh-joanneum.at

<https://www.fh-joanneum.at/hochschule/services/study-center/>

Further information at: <https://wissen.fh-joanneum.at/itservices/fhshop/wie-koennen-personen-mit-einem-fh-account-zahlungsablaeufer-ueber-den-fhshop-abwickeln/>

[Kostenbeitrag für Studierende aus Drittstaaten – Student-Life-Cycle @ WISSEN | FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft mbH](#)