

Regulation on payment and refund or exemption from the cost contribution for students from third countries

1.) **Mandatory cost contribution:**

Pursuant to Sec. 2 para 2 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHStG) 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 (PersGV) as amended by Federal Law Gazette BGBl II 15/1998 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, and
- who hold a residence permit as students.

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

The cost contribution of EUR 727 per semester will be payable from the academic year 2014/15. Students are also required to pay a membership fee of about EUR 18 for the Austrian Student Union (ÖH).

Regular students who are citizens of one of the least developed countries according to the DAC list are exempt from payment of the cost contribution.

These currently include: Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Yemen, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Kiribati, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Laos (People's Democratic Republic), Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Salomon Islands, Zambia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic), East Timor, Togo, Chad, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Central African Republic.

Citizenship and liability to pay the cost contribution will be examined in the course of the application and admission process.

Full payment of the cost contribution shall be a prerequisite for enrolment and semester registration. Payment must be made by the 7th calendar day following the start of the semester at the respective degree programme. The date of payment shall be the date on which the amount is credited to the account of FH JOANNEUM.

If payment is made after that date the cost contribution payable shall increase by 20% to EUR 872. If the student fails to pay the cost contribution by 31 October for the winter semester or 31 March for the summer semester, he/she will be expelled from the programme.

First-year students from third countries are required to pay the cost contribution for the first two semesters (2 x EUR 727 = EUR 1,454) in full in advance. A relevant payment request will be sent to the student following the admission process and the awarding of a place on the respective degree programme. Students from third countries will not be sent a letter of acceptance until full payment has been received.

The full cost contribution shall also be payable for any internships or semesters abroad.

If the cost contribution is not paid in full it shall be considered as not having been paid. Cost contributions shall be payable in one payment and not in instalments; otherwise they shall be considered as not having been paid.

2.) Refund of the cost contribution:

The contribution can be refunded in whole or in part upon request under the conditions listed below. There shall be no legal entitlement to a refund. The decision whether a refund is granted shall be at the discretion of the management:

- The student belongs to a group of people specified in Sec. 1 of the Regulation on Eligible Groups of Persons as amended by Federal Law Gazette BGBl II 15/1998 (exception: holders of secondary school leaving certificates of Austrian schools abroad need not pay the cost contribution in advance, there is no refund in this case)
- The student does not meet other criteria for payment of a cost contribution as specified in Item 1.), unless an automatic exemption applies.
- The student does not take up his/her studies.
- The student drops out in the first semester of the programme; in this case the cost contribution will only be refunded for the second semester.
- The student provides evidence that the Republic of Austria grants him/her the same rights of access to employment as Austrian citizens under an international treaty.

The application form for refunding of the cost contribution can be found here http://www.fh-joanneum.at/global/show_document.asp?id=aaaaaaaaaiynbn&download=1

All necessary documentary evidence must be enclosed with the application. Applications for refunds must be submitted at the latest by the end of the semester following the semester for which the cost contribution was payable. The date of payment shall be the date on which the amount is credited to the account of FH JOANNEUM.

The submission of an application for the refunding of the cost contribution shall not be considered a ground for exemption from due payment of the cost contribution as specified in this Regulation.

3.) Exemption from payment of the cost contribution:

The following persons shall be automatically exempt from payment of the cost contribution and need not submit an application for refund or exemption:

- 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 15/1998.
- Citizens of the least developed countries according to the DAC list (see Item 1.).
- Students who interrupt their studies in accordance with Sec. 14 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHStG) shall not be liable to pay the cost contribution for the semester(s) for which the interruption has been granted.

Students who have obtained an exemption or refund of the cost contribution based on incomplete or incorrect information on their part shall, without prejudice to any liability under criminal law, pay double the cost contribution for the semester in question and in severe cases may be expelled from the programme.

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