



ACADEMIC WORKLOAD and GRADING INFORMATION

The following information about the University of Graz grading system may assist advisers with the transfer of credit for exchange students.

General information about ECTS

The European System for the Recognition, Transfer and Accumulation of study results (ECTS) is a student-centered system, which enables all local and international students to comprehend and compare study programs without considerable effort. The system facilitates mobility and academic recognition, and it helps the universities to make their study programs more transparent. The aim is to make European Higher Education more attractive for students.

Credits

Credits are allocated to all educational components of a study program and reflect the quantity of work each component requires to achieve its specific objectives or learning outcomes. Credits can only be obtained after successful completion of the work required and appropriate assessment of the learning outcomes achieved. Learning outcomes are sets of competences, expressing what the student will know, understand or be able to do after completion of a learning process.

Workload

The basis of the ECTS system is the workload which students have to master in order to complete a study program successfully. The student workload consists of the time required to complete all planned learning activities, i.e. **contact hours** (lectures, seminars etc) **and private study** (preparation for exams, writing of paper, reading etc.)

Normal full-time load 30 ECTS credits per semester

ECTS at the University of Graz

For exchange students at the University of Graz it is not always possible to reach the recommended 30 ECTS due to several reasons:

- As there are not yet sufficient evaluation results with regard to the workload of the students, ECTS credits were allocated to the single courses in relation to the entire study program. Therefore, it is possible that in some semesters students do not complete the recommended 30 credits but in other semesters they receive more than 30.
- The proportion of elective courses ('Wahlfächer') lies at about 40% of the whole study program in most fields of study. Elective courses are generally assigned a low number of ECTS credits. Austrian students usually take these courses together with compulsory courses, which are rated higher and have more points. International exchange students, however, very often choose courses from the group of elective subjects only. This means that for a relatively high number of semester hours (weekly contact hours), the students only receive a comparatively low number of ECTS credits.



General Academic Information:

The academic year is divided into 2 semesters; each winter and summer semester is comprised of 15 teaching weeks. All subjects at the University of Graz run over one semester only.

Students begin their major study in the first year of their degree. Undergraduate degrees are three years in length. All three-year graduates have to produce a thesis and they are eligible to enroll in Master Programs. All degree seeking students complete a certain number of credit points to graduate (180 ECTS for a three-year degree), and a prescribed set of subjects. All students receive an individual mark and grade for each subject completed.

Grade		ECTS grade	US Grade recommendation
1 = Sehr Gut	Excellent/Very Good	A	A
2 = Gut	Good	B	A-/B+
3 = Befriedigend	Satisfactory	C	B-
4 = Genuegend	Sufficient/Pass	D/E	C
5 = Nicht Genügend	Fail	FX/F	F

Assessment

The method of assessment varies between subjects and details can be found in the online course guides (<http://www.uni-graz.at> → Studium & Weiterbildung → Lehrveranstaltungen). If you type in the course number and select the appropriate academic year, you'll find the course online. By clicking on the course title you get to the description of the course and assessment method)

Students are permitted to resit exams if they have failed except for courses with obligatory attendance. Students who do not withdraw from a subject by the appropriate date are awarded a Fail grade, unless the withdrawal was on medical or other compassionate grounds.