

Employment of Foreign Nationals in Austria: Work Permits for Researchers?

Workers engaged in **scientific occupations as researchers and teachers** - including the arts sector – at official or private institutions and companies as well as their family members (spouse, minor children) are generally exempt from the regulations of the Act Governing Employment of Foreign Nationals (*Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz*)¹. Consequently, they do not require authorisation from regional offices of the Public Employment Service (AMS) and are not subject to immigration quotas (during the above mentioned employment). However a residence title in accordance with the Austrian Act governing the residence of foreigners in Austria (*Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz*) is required for all non-EU-citizens (please refer to the chapter titled “Entry & Residence”).

Educational and administrative occupations at these institutions are not regarded as scientific work.

In regard to **internationally recognised researchers**, this exception also extends to their spouses and children as well as support- and household-personnel directly employed by him/her for at least one year prior to entry. Researchers are considered to be internationally recognised when their work or publications are known beyond Austria or are of outstanding importance for experts. A further requirement is that the researcher's occupation in Austria is of particular economic importance and earns an appropriate monthly gross income (in the year 2008 a minimum of EUR 4,716.00) plus the special bonus payments.

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¹ Also known as: Employment of Foreigners Act; Foreign Labor Act.