



Position of the German Architects Chambers of the Länder for registration ability of university graduates within the Bologna process

The implementation of Bachelor and Master study courses is going on increasingly. Most of the universities have implemented the model of the 6 semester Bachelor and the 4 semester Master studies. Additionally, political power aims at the 6 semester Bachelor degree as a regular degree and thus promotes short time studies which cannot lead to registration and granting the title 'Architect'. Thus, these students do not have professional chances at the market.

In several Länder in Germany, the local ministries request the Architects Chambers of the Länder to lay down their position under which conditions Bachelor and Master degrees are going to be recognised.

The danger of short time studies as regular studies leads to destabilisation of the prerequisites of the EU Directive 85/384/EEC and makes the European and international recognition of those graduates impossible. That is why the Architects Chambers of the Länder have to work together in order to secure the educational quality of architects.

Consequently the Architects Chambers agree upon the following principles as a basis for coordinated acting:

1. The increasing complexity of creative, technical, functional, organisational, economic and judicial demands for Architects/Town Planners/Landscape Architects/Interior Architects requires a minimum standard of education. It is the Architects Chambers responsibility to guarantee prerequisites in quality for the consumer and building culture with the registration as Architects/Town Planners/Landscape Architects/Interior Architects.

All Architects Chambers therefore are in favour of a five year study according to the UNESCO/UIA Charter for Architectural Education or at least a four year full time study minimum as laid down in the EU directive 85/384/EEC. Additionally, at least two years of professional practice have to be proved for being registered in one of the Architects Chambers in Germany.

2. Bachelor study courses with less than 8 semesters do not lead to a professional qualification justifying the title 'Architect' / 'Interior architect' / 'Landscape architect' and 'Urban planner'. With regard to the working situation and the demographical development with steadily decreasing demand for project planning in Germany this does not offer professional chances for graduates of these studies.

All Architects Chambers evaluate Bachelor study courses with less than 8 semesters as follows:

- It is a first degree below the demands for architects' education according the EU directive 85/384/EEC.
- The graduates do not fulfil the prerequisites for registration at the Architects Chambers in Germany.

- While considering the prerequisites for registration, the Bachelor degree with less than 8 semesters would have to apply for registration at the Architects Chambers like any other educational degree which does not meet the prerequisites for registration as Architect/Town Planner/ Landscape Architects/Interior Architects. Consequently, the Architects Chambers declare themselves against special regulations for graduates with a Bachelor degree with less than 8 semesters of studies.

3. The diversification of staged study courses with too early specialisation and deepening – as well in consecutive study courses – contradicts the considerably increased demands on a solid education and profession of an architect. It has to be guaranteed that the topics of the study courses cover the main essentials according article 3 of EU Directive 85/384/EEC (article 46 of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications)

“Article 3

Education and training leading to diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications referred to in Article 2 shall be provided through courses of studies at university level concerned principally with architecture. Such studies shall be balanced between the theoretical and practical aspects of architectural training and shall ensure the acquisition of

- *an ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements,*
 - *an adequate knowledge of the history and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences,*
 - *a knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design,*
 - *an adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process,*
- 85/384/EEC
85/384/EEC --- 12*
- *an understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and of the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale,*
 - *an understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors,*
 - *an understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project,*
 - *an understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design,*
 - *an adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and of the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate,*
 - *the necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations,*
 - *an adequate knowledge of the industries, organizations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning.“*

Decision by the Executive Board of the Bundesarchitektenkammer, representing all 16 Architects Chambers of the Länder, 8 June 2005.