



Regulation of Bern University of Applied Sciences on the Certificate of Global Competence (RCGC)

The University Board of the Bern University of Applied Sciences,

On the basis of article 3(2)(b) of the statute (FaSt) of Bern University of Applied Sciences of 14 February 2019,

rules that:

1. General conditions

Scope

Art. 1 These regulations govern the requirements and the procedure for obtaining the Certificate of Global Competence (CGC) at Bern University of Applied Sciences.

Terms

Art. 2 According to the OECD, Global Competence comprises the ability to tackle local, global and intercultural issues, to understand and acknowledge different perspectives and world views, to interact with others successfully and respectfully and to act responsibly with a view to the sustainability of collective welfare.

Learning outcomes

Art. 3 Holders of a CGC are qualified to work in an international environment or in an intra- or transcultural context in Switzerland and can provide evidence for these competences.

2. Admission

Requirements

Art. 4 ¹ Students who intend to obtain a CGC have to be enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme at Bern University of Applied Sciences, or they are required to be completing a mobility semester or year in a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme and to be enrolled at a partner university.

² Students in continuing education programmes (CAS, DAS, MAS) cannot obtain the CGC.

Registration

Art. 5 The head of the concerned department defines the procedures to be followed for registration for the CGC as well as for the submission and review of the portfolio.



3. Contents and Structure of the CGC

Competences

Art. 6 Students completing the CGC will acquire a range of competences. They can:

- a* analyse theoretical conceptual outlines for inter- & transcultural situations and interactions,
- b* justify the relevance of inter- or transcultural competence in their professional and social environment,
- c* recognise the potential for cooperation in an international context as well as initiating and supporting cooperative initiatives themselves,
- d* make an active contribution to relations and communication even across national and cultural boundaries,
- e* place their cultural identity and its influence on their own actions and thinking under close scrutiny, and take a unbiased view of irritations and conflicts in the international context,
- f* deal with a wide range of international as well as inter- & transcultural situations and influence them actively.

Portfolio

Art. 7 ¹The students will document their acquired competences in a portfolio. This is divided into the four areas : knowledge, activities and engagement, language, and reflexion.

² To obtain a CGC a minimum of 100 portfolio points¹ is required. Their distribution, described hereinafter, provides a minimal standard for implementation by the departments.

³ For details see the departmental implementation rules.

1. Knowledge

Art. 8 A minimum of 30 portfolio points has to be achieved through curricular modules with a total of at least 4 ECTS in which knowledge and competences in the inter- or transcultural area are acquired. 2 ECTS can be compensated by a written assignment with an explicit inter-cultural focus in the course of regular studies and with the scope of a term paper.

2. Activities and engagement

Art. 9 A minimum of 30 portfolio points through intra- or extra-curricular can only be obtained with the following requirements:

- a* A stay abroad of at least 3 months (study semester, work placement, study or research trip) as a part of the curriculum or
- b* A stay abroad of at least 6 weeks (intra-curricular: placement, study or research trip, summer school, specific module with international contacts) in combination with an engagement in Switzerland.²

¹ In competence assessments 2 ECTS correspond to 15 portfolio points.

² Placement or voluntary work in Switzerland, summer school, attending congresses, office activities: activities for International Office.



3. Language

Art. 10 The following evidence must be provided through an intra- or extra-curricular activity:

a "First language+3": at least level C1 in a foreign language with certification plus self-declared language skills in two further foreign languages (level to be determined by the respective department) or

b "First language+2": at least level B2 in two foreign languages with certification.

4. Reflexion report

Art. 11 Students write an intra- or extra-curricular reflection report for 20 portfolio points about a challenging intercultural event that they have experienced during their studies.³

Assessment of written proof of competence

Art. 12 The written proof of competence is assessed by a lecturer and given a rating of "pass" or "fail". A failed extra-curricular written competency assessment can be repeated or improved upon once.

4. Crediting academic performance

Principle

Art. 13 ¹The 100 portfolio points⁴ required for the CGC have to be obtained during the period of study at Bern University of Applied Sciences. Any exceptions to this rule will be decided on by the International Relations Office Specialist Department upon request by the International Office or the person in charge of CGC at the department in question.

² Modules and written work are only credited to the CGC if they have been successfully completed.

³ Master students who have completed portfolio elements during their Bachelor studies at Bern University of Applied Sciences can have them credited to the certificate provided the relevant competency assessment is not older than 5 years at the time of submission. Any exceptions to this ruling will be decided on by the International Relations Office Specialist Department upon request by the International Office or the person in charge of CGC at the department in question.

Crediting of extra-curricular activities

Art. 14 Extra-curricular activities will be credited if they meet the requirements defined in the portfolio catalogue.

Crediting of activities and engagements

Art. 15 Stays abroad for studying or in a work placement will be credited if they are of the required length as described in the portfolio catalogue and meet the requirements set out in the exchange agreements⁵ of the two institutions involved.

³ Scope: 16'000 – 24'000 characters including spaces.

⁴ Definition of portfolio points: see [CGC concept](#)

⁵ Learning/Training Agreement.



Recognition of language certificates

Art. 16 ¹ Language certificates or other proof of language competency will be credited if the evidence is not older than 5 years at the time of submission.

² Successful completion of modules with a total of at least 15 ECTS in the respective language or a stay abroad of at least one year in a specific language region with an attestation of activities or a job reference will count as proof of language skills at level C1 in the respective language.

³ A grade of 5 or higher in a Baccalaureate certificate⁶ will be credited as language level B2 provided the certificate is not older than 5 years.

Verifiability

Art. 17 The evidence submitted has to be verifiable. Evidence that was not been provided during the course of regular studies (prior to commencement of extra- or curricular studies) will have to contain contact details to allow the verification of authenticity.

5. Certification

Art. 18 ¹ The submission date for the completed portfolio with supporting documents for at least 100 portfolio points is determined by the person(s) responsible for the CGC in the respective department.

² Within thirty days after submitting the completed portfolio the student will be informed in writing by the person(s) responsible for the CGC in the respective department whether the 100 portfolio points have been achieved or not, or which elements are still missing.

³ If the number of portfolio points is insufficient, students can request a decree from the head of the department. The complaints procedure is governed by cantonal law.

⁴ As a rule the CGC is handed out at the regular diploma ceremony where the Bachelor or Master diploma is awarded. Exceptionally, and upon request by the student, the portfolio can be completed up to one year after graduation.

6. Further provisions

Implementation provisions

Art. 19 ¹ More details are regulated in a concept by the Internationalisation Commission.

² If necessary the departments determine further implementation provisions in their portfolio catalogues or in additional regulations.

Other regulations

Art. 20 The framework regulation of 7 July 2005 for competency assessment at Bern University of Applied Sciences (KNR) applies to the CGC by analogy.

⁶ Baccalaureate or vocational baccalaureate.



7. Final provision

Art. 21 This regulation will become effective as of 1 August 2019. It applies to all students who obtain the CGC after that date.

Bern, 20 June 2019

On behalf of the University Board of the Bern University of Applied Sciences

The President:

Markus Ruprecht