



Dr. Greg Warden  
President of Franklin College  
Switzerland  
Via Ponte Tresa 29  
6924 Sorengo

Bern, April 22, 2013

**Accreditation of Your Institution**

Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to inform you of the positive decision of the Swiss University Conference (SUC), dated April 18, 2013, concerning the accreditation of Franklin College Switzerland as a university institution.

Please note that the accreditation of an institution in conformity with the University Act (UFG) does not constitute an entitlement to financial support from the federal or cantonal government.

We congratulate you on your success and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

SWISS UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Dr. Martina Weiss  
General Secretary

Enclosed document.

Copy: Dr. Christoph Grolimund, Director, OAQ



**DECREE OF THE SWISS UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE  
concerning the accreditation of Franklin College Switzerland as a university institution**

**In conformity with:**

- the Federal University Act governing collaboration in higher education of October 8, 1999 (UFG; SR 414.20), Art. 6, Para. 1d and Art. 7;
- the Inter-Cantonal Agreement on university coordination of December 9, 1999, Art. 5, Para. 1d and Art. 7;
- the Agreement between the Federal Government and the cantons with universities governing collaboration in higher education of December 14, 2000 (SR414.205), Art. 7, Para. 1;
- the Guidelines for Accreditation of Institutions of Higher Education of June 28, 2007 (Accreditation Guidelines);

**Under advisement of:**

the Expert Report of February 5, 2013, the Final Report and the Preliminary Report of the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ) of February 15, 2013, and May 31, 2012, respectively, and the Position Paper submitted by Franklin College dated February 4, 2013

**In consideration of the fact that:**

Franklin College Switzerland (FCS), in Sorengo near Lugano, was founded in 1969 as a non-profit organization. The institution is an American liberal arts college offering bachelor's programs in Art History, Communications and Media Studies, History, Italian and French Studies, Economics, International Relations and Environmental Studies. The Taylor Institute for Global Enterprise Management, founded in 2010, offers a master's program in International Management since 2012. The student body is very international; in the spring of 2012 there were 436 students enrolled at FCS.

FCS has been accredited in the USA since 1975 by the U.S. accreditation body known as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). In 2005 the SUC also accredited 12 of FCS bachelor's programs. Such accreditation was conditional upon the improvement of research activities in the program areas and the development of related research projects. Following a check-up in late 2009, the OAQ found in the fall of 2010 that FCS had shown continuous development and fulfilled the criterion.

With the expiry of accreditation of its programs in September of 2012, FCS applied for institutional accreditation as a university institution in conformity with Art. 2, Para. 2b of the Accreditation Guidelines.

In conformity with Art. 16 of the Accreditation Guidelines, private institutions are subject to preliminary study by the OAQ. In the course of this study, the OAQ found that while FCS offers its programs, in keeping with the provisions of the MSCHE, according to the U.S. semester credit model, this model is compatible with the Bologna Guidelines by simple conversion (1 U.S. semester credit equals 0.5 of an ECTS point). For students from the American system, therefore, the bachelor comprises 250 ECTS points. Since European students do not enter the program until the second year, their bachelor comprises 187.5 ECTS points. The new master's program comprises 90 ECTS points, which means that the FCS programs are in conformity with Bologna.

Following the positive result of preliminary study, the OAQ duly continued its process in conformity with formal requirements and in respect of deadlines. In consideration of the improvement of research stipulated in 2005, the Group of Experts is today convinced that FCS has taken the appropriate steps, is dealing adequately with international developments and rapidly changing requirements, and has managed to develop its own research profile (remarks on Standard 3.01 on pp. 13ff. of the Expert Report).

FCS meets the provisions laid out in Art. 3, Para. 2a-e (Preliminary Study) as well as Art. 3, Para. 2f in conjunction with Art. 9 of the Accreditation Guidelines. The recommendations of the Group of Experts are made in the interest of further improvement of quality and pose absolutely no impediment to FCS's accreditation as a university institution.

**It is hereby decreed that:**

1. FCS be accredited as a university institution for seven years in conformity with Art. 2, para. 2 b of the Accreditation Guidelines;
2. Accreditation be published on the websites of the Swiss University Conference and the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ)
3. This decree be made known in writing to the President of FCS, with a copy to the Director of the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ);
4. See enclosure for instructions on legal recourse.

Bern, April 18, 2013

SWISS UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

  
Dr. Martina Weiss  
General Secretary