

TAK[®]: Talent Academy in Applied Research for Sustainable Development

Establishment of a private academy in Austria in cooperation with a university

+ Introduction

The principal challenges of the 21st century – population growth, scarcity of resources, climate change, poverty, unemployment and disease, etc. – require innovative new solutions for the future in order to overcome the major problems of our times. This is the declared goal of the Talent Academy in Applied Research for Sustainable Development (TAK[®]), making it the first academy in the world to systematically include both basic research and sustainable development in its overall mission.

+ Vision

The Talent Academy contributes to basic research into the individual enhancement of people's strengths, which directly leads to sustainable development in all areas of life within society.

New dimensions of thought and action open up when dormant talents are awakened in people.

+ Concept

The TAK[®] is based on a revised concept of teaching in cooperation with a university. In this concept **teaching, research and practice** form a single entity. Basic research is carried out directly in the specific field of application such as the school, family or place of work... Changes are verified under laboratory conditions using new measurement techniques.

- + Interactive learning methods and study programmes based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) which encourages the mobility of students and scientists.
- + Involvement of scientists and students in interdisciplinary research at national and international level.
- + Integration of the "practical" field of learning in order to discover its inherent potential for the future.

This concept implies two fundamental opening processes on the part of the academy/university: externally, in the sense of being open to social realities, and internally, in the sense of opening up creative sources of knowledge and processes of volition (wisdom, talents).

+ Goals

- + The combination of specialist knowledge with wisdom and creativity qualifies graduates for new and sustainable vocational fields
- + Graduates develop a spirit of social entrepreneurship
- + Graduates and scientists attain interdisciplinary research competence
- + Graduates exceed prescribed limits

+ Market opportunities for graduates

The market for socially competent, innovative people is growing across the world in the industrial and developing countries. Employment opportunities and the demand for service staff and specialists with a high degree of social competence are already enormous and set to grow in the future. In addition to current employment provision there is also a need for entrepreneurs who can help to implement new ideas.

+ Faculties and departments

The TAK[®] reflects the desired balance of disciplines which is required to exert a new and extensive influence on the future development of society.

Applied brain research and quantum physics for the microcosm and macrocosm – interaction between cell structures and global influences

- basic research in all fields of specialisation

Sustainable Business and Economics

- sustainable management and economics
- services
- management

Social sciences and humanity (humanities)

- educational science, languages, political sciences, sociology

Salutogenesis: the scientific origins of good health

- medicine, pharmacy, psychotherapy, care

Sustainable farming and “food science”

- organic farming and “food processing”

Media and communications

- journalism, TV, public relations, advertising

Sport

- talent grooming, combination of feelings and technique

Applied art

- music, theatre, dance, graphics, design

The TAK[®] programme forms an interdisciplinary part of each bachelor's programme with subjects that specifically train the cognitive and perceptual abilities which are required to promote talent, self-competence and social competence.

Bachelor and postgraduate programmes (leading to master's degrees, PhDs & MBAs)

The TAK[®] is a place which offers cross-generational, interdisciplinary and cross-cultural opportunities for teaching, learning, research and cooperation starting from kindergarten right through to top managers.

+ Professors and teaching staff

A few professors and teachers have already been appointed to fixed positions. Most of them are experts in their respective fields – the “learning from the best” model. Their strategies are analysed and can be taught and learned in a structured way.

+ Languages

The TAK[®] strives to enable students to enjoy an intercultural educational experience. English is the official language of instruction and will be used for all official communications. Translators may be made available.

+ Partnerships with universities

International partnerships and joint projects play an important role in the exchange of ideas between students and faculty members, as well as in the joint development of study programmes and research projects.

Over many years the Kutschera Institute has evaluated the results of its own work in the form of diploma, master and PhD theses and dissertations at the universities of Vienna, Linz, Mannheim, Bielefeld as well as Romania.

+ Partnerships with non-profit and for-profit organisations

Acquired knowledge is immediately put into practice. The main criteria are sustainable solutions with new dimensions in thought and action:

- Students immediately implement what they have learned in the surrounding facilities
 - Part-time students apply their acquired knowledge directly in their field of work – at home or abroad
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+ Grants

TAK is dependent on donations, grants and sponsorings.

Students will be able to apply for grants and student loans through agreements with the banks so that everyone has access to the study programmes.

+ Campus

Students and professors live and work in a community that encourages new ways of thinking which in turn are integrated into daily life. New forms of human relations in families and at work will be practised as a model.

In addition to buildings for teaching and research the campus will also host a library and residential area for the teaching staff and students. Art and sports facilities will also be made available.

+ Form of establishment

The TAK[®] is an educational institution which operates completely independently of the state while complying with legal regulations.
