

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (90) 15

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES WITH A VIEW TO FOSTERING THE MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 1990
at the 442nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to the European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications (European Treaty Series, No. 32 of 1959);

Having regard to the political declaration and the Resolution on mobility of researchers in Europe adopted by the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Research (Paris, 17 September 1984);

Having regard to Recommendation No. R (85) 21 on mobility of academic staff, adopted on 25 October 1985;

Considering that the Council of Europe has always encouraged academic mobility without any form of racial, religious, political or sexual discrimination;

Considering that the political, economic, social, cultural, educational and scientific interdependence between the states parties to the European Cultural Convention, and between those states and others, is getting closer and more intensive;

Considering that mobility of academic staff should contribute to the quality of scientific research, the renewal of its teaching and its contribution to European integration, first in higher education, then in the educational systems as a whole, and lastly in all regional and national cultural activities;

Considering that for the purpose of this recommendation the term "institutions of higher education and research" shall denote:

- a. universities; and
- b. other institutions of higher education and research recognised for the purpose of this recommendation by the competent authorities of the state in whose territory they are situated,

Recommends that the governments of member states:

- be guided in their policy on teaching and research in higher education by the principles set out in the appendix to this recommendation;
- bring these guiding principles to the attention of institutions of higher education and research.

Guiding principles

1. Language courses should be provided for postgraduates in their institutions of higher education and research of origin.
2. Some postgraduate courses might be conducted in non-national languages.
3. Additional language courses should be provided in postgraduate students' host institutions of higher education and research in the framework of co-operation between the institutions and national information centres on academic mobility and equivalences.
4. Sabbatical leave arrangements should be placed on an official basis. For example, a teacher in higher education might be required to take on an additional load for two years after being granted a sabbatical year.
5. A flexible approach should be taken to the grant of temporary work permits for part-time work in institutions of higher education and research to postgraduate students, teachers and researchers. Alternatively, their access to other sources of income (grants, study allowances, etc.) should be fostered wherever necessary.
6. Postgraduate students from other European countries should not be charged higher course fees than nationals, and such fees should be waived altogether in the case of short courses. Alignment on the Community-law principle of non-discrimination might be proposed for all European countries.
7. Information on the mobility of postgraduate students, teachers and researchers should be improved, especially via the European network of national information centres on academic mobility and equivalences.
8. To help solve the problems connected with unequal treatment for foreigners, the appropriate authorities of the states party to the European Cultural Convention should be asked to apply in full the Council of Europe's resolutions, recommendations and conventions on mobility with the help of the European network of national information centres on academic mobility and equivalences.