

Memorandum of Understanding

Establishment of a Center of Austrian Studies at the Hebrew
University of Jerusalem

Jerusalem, December 9, 1998

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Israeli-Austrian Centre at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

1. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Austrian Ambassador to Israel, on behalf of the Austrian Federal Government, herewith agree to a programme of co-operation designed to establish and operate a centre devoted to Austrian studies and Austrian culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The centre will also serve as a meeting point for scientists of other disciplines.
2. For the purpose of this agreement, "Austrian Studies" shall be understood in the broad historical sense of the word, rather than being narrowly defined as a concentration on the geographic area covered by the present Republic of Austria. The subject of the programme envisioned is a focus on broad Central European area studies with a central Austrian core.
3. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will establish and maintain an academic centre, to be called the Israeli-Austrian Centre at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (herein referred to as the Centre) at an appropriate location on the campus of the Hebrew University.
4. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will appoint a Director to head the Centre. The Director shall be a senior Hebrew University scholar with an academic specialisation in an Austrian subject, and have a full-time tenured appointment within the department appropriate to his or her specialisation. This full-time position shall be wholly financed by the Hebrew University. The Director of the Centre reports to the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University.
5. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport designates the "Centre for International and Interdisciplinary Studies" (herein referred to as CIIS) at the University of Vienna as the institution responsible for all administrative and organisational matters within Austria relating to the Centre.
6. An Austrian Liaison Group of five representatives from Austrian universities appointed by the Austrian Conference of University Presidents, and of one representative each of the Austrian Federal Chancellery/Department of the Art, of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport, of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, of the Director of the Centre for CIIS will be set up and co-ordinated by the CIIS. The Centre will endeavour to be represented at the annual meetings of the Liaison Group. The group will elect its chair from among its specialists in Austrian Studies. It will review and co-ordinate the Austrian contribution to the joint activities carried out with the Centre. In these endeavours it will receive administrative and organisational support from the CIIS.

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7. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem shall invite representatives of the Liaison Group and of the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv to the Centre for consultations on its programme development. Travel expenses of these Austrian representatives will be borne by the respective Austrian institutions.

8. The Centre will promote co-operation with other universities and cultural institutions in Israel. To this end, an Advisory Committee will be set up, whose members will be: The Director of the Centre - and/or whoever he appoints to represent the Centre - and representatives of other universities in Israel who are experts in Austrian Studies. The Advisory Committee will meet on an annual basis to discuss matters relating to the various projects of the Centre.

9. The Centre will invite representatives of the Austrian Liaison Group and of the Austrian Embassy in Israel to its annual meetings. Travel expenses of these Austrian representatives will be borne by the respective Austrian institutions.

10. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will establish two undergraduate courses in the fields of Austrian culture, Austrian History, or Austrian Jewry, which, in accordance with student enrolment, shall be taught annually, effective with the year in which these can be introduced into the university calendar.

11. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will work to increase its capacity for graduate work with an Austrian orientation in the various disciplines of the arts, humanities and social sciences, and in its initial phase will publicise its programme capacity for Austrian Studies in each of four broad areas or interdisciplinary blocks:

- Fine arts (art, especially contemporary art, music, drama, etc.)
- Political and Social Studies (political science, economics, sociology, etc.)
- Humanities (literature, philosophy, etc.)
- History.

12. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Vienna, as well as the appropriate Austrian institutions in Israel and abroad shall advertise the existence of the Centre widely in order to give it a national and international profile. In this regard the Hebrew University will assist the Centre in setting up an appropriate web-site.

13. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with the support and co-sponsorship by the appropriate Austrian institutions in Israel and in Austria, will assist and co-sponsor such conferences, symposia, scholarly and cultural events with an Austrian theme, which may be organised by the Centre on a regular basis, provided additional means will be available and accordingly shall integrate the activities of the Cardinal Franz König Chair into the academic program of the Centre.

14. The Austrian Government will contribute a sum of ATS 8,000.000,-- for the establishment of the Centre paid in four annual instalments beginning in 1998. The Austrian Government acknowledges that the Hebrew University of Jerusalem needs, in addition to the ATS 8,000.000,--, a further ATS 4,000.000,-- to operate the Centre. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will seek to raise these funds from Austrian financial institutions. The obligations of the Hebrew University undertaken in this contract are

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subject to obtaining these additional funds. The annual interest accumulated on the capital shall be used for financing the activities and the maintenance of the Centre.

15. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will provide, according to its available budget, the appropriate infrastructure for the Centre (a room for the Director of the Centre, reception area, telephone- telefax- e-mail-connections). The reception area may be shared with other units, institutes or centres. The equipment for the Centre (secretarial assistance, office furniture, file cabinets, book cases, stationary, etc.) will be acquired according to the available budget. Secretarial, telefax and photocopy services may also be shared with other units.

16. According to the available budget of the Centre the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will assure an adequate annual budget for this Centre to permit it to carry on its activities. This provision includes

- a secretarial staff
- an infrastructure maintenance and office supply budget,
- a long-distance telephone budget,
- a photocopy budget,
- a travel budget and
- an entertainment budget.

The budget of the Centre is under the authority of the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

17. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will help to establish fruitful links between the Centre and the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University to facilitate publication of Austrian related materials.

18. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport will provide and fully subsidise (in addition to the contribution mentioned under 14.) a so-called "Institutslektorat" at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This will be a visiting lectureship on the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. The term of the appointment may vary with each appointee and will always make up the equivalent of one full-time appointment. This "Institutslektor" shall serve as a senior advisor to the Director of the Centre.

19. The CIIS on behalf of the Ministry of Science and Transport will advertise widely within Austria for the position of the "Institutslektor" according to the necessary formal criteria among the full range of disciplines in the fine arts, social sciences and humanities and shall prepare a list of applicants for consideration by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The final selection of the "Institutslektor" shall rest with the Hebrew University on the advice of the Director of the Centre and with the agreement of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport.

20. Efforts shall be taken by the Israeli and Austrian side to instrumentalise existing partnership arrangements and to establish new ones with all universities and institutions of higher learning in Austria allowing for programs of co-operation usually associated with such agreements such as students and faculty exchanges, fellowships and other programs of co-operation. The benefits associated with the partnership arrangements between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Austrian Universities will accrue to all

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academic disciplines of the universities concerned, including the technical and natural sciences. The Israeli-Austrian Centre at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem shall facilitate, wherever possible, arrangements for co-operation among the academic institutions concerned.

21. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport seeks to provide and fully subsidise, in addition to the amount mentioned under 14.), guest professorships by Austrian professors at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on the basis of the Austrian salary system for university teachers. These Austrian faculty members shall be selected in consultation with the Austrian Liaison Group, by the Faculty of Arts in conjunction with specific departments at the Hebrew University, and shall be guests of those departments.

22. Through its bilateral programme of scholarly, scientific and cultural co-operation, the Austrian Federal Government will support, in addition to the amount mentioned under 14.), research and other related activities carried out by or in co-operation with the Centre.

23. The Austrian Government and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem agree that the Centre shall:

- a) Co-ordinate Austrian and Central European studies at the Hebrew University.
- b) Work with the Hebrew University libraries and the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv to establish a resource library at the Centre for the use of scholars throughout Israel.
- c) Co-ordinate and, where appropriate, provide instruction of the courses in Austrian Studies stipulated by this Memorandum of Understanding.
- d) Will integrate the activities of the Cardinal Franz König Chair into the academic program of the Centre.
- e) Focus and support research work and cultural activities on Austrian themes in Israel and organise suitable activities such as conferences, symposia and colloquia.
- f) Facilitate interdisciplinary graduate degrees (MA, PhD) in the area of Austrian Studies, and recruit graduate students in this area from Israel and Central Europe.
- g) Collaborate with other Austrian Studies Centres in the world for the purpose of co-operative scholarly and cultural enterprises.
- h) Co-ordinate visiting faculty members from Austria to the Hebrew University and other universities in Israel.

24. The provisions of this agreement shall be evaluated by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Austrian Liaison Group in four years intervals. The Liaison Group will inform the Austrian Federal Chancellery/Department of the Art, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Transport, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Conference of Austrian University Presidents about outcome and eventual new suggestions.

Jerusalem, 9 December 1998



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem:

The Austrian Ambassador:

