The Many Faces of the German Berufsakademie
What it is (and isn't), and how it will adapt to the Bologna Process

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Preface: Things to Note

• Education in Germany is governed at the state level within a federal framework. The states grant “recognition” to postsecondary institutions. Recognition is comparable to regional accreditation in the U.S.

• Universität is a legally protected term in Germany. Only institutions that are universities may use this term. Other higher-education institutions (Berufsakademien, Fachhochschulen), may not.

• The Berufsakademien have settled on an official English version of their name: “University of Cooperative Education.” However, this does not make them Universitäten. The Berufsakademien are a distinct type of higher education institution, different than Universitäten and Fachhochschulen, and this distinction is clearly (and legally) defined in the German educational system.
Preface: Things to Note

• The *Fachhochschulreife* represents completion of 12 years of elementary and secondary education, including a vocational component. It is the admission requirement for programs of postsecondary study at a *Fachhochschule*.

• The *Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife* – commonly known as the *Abitur* – represents 12 or 13 years of elementary and secondary education. It is the admission requirement for programs of postsecondary study at a *Universität*.
The Berufsakademie is a tertiary sector institution in some Länder (states) offering academic training at a Studienakademie (study institution) combined with practical in-company professional training in keeping with the principle of the dual system.
Berufsakademie: The Baden-Württemberg Model

The first ones

- Were founded in 1974 in Mannheim and Stuttgart

Other states’ BAs modeled on B-W

- Berlin, Sachsen, and Thüringen

Special characteristics of B-W modeled BAs

- All full-time faculty members hold the doctorate; an even larger number are professionals working in their field of expertise

Level

- *Berufsakademien* based on the B-W model are postsecondary institutions on a legal par with *Universitäten* and *Fachhochschulen*. Their degrees are legally equivalent to the *Diplom (FH)*.

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Berufsakademie: The Baden-Württemberg Model (cont’d)

Admission
• Admission generally requires the Abitur (or in some cases the Fachhochschulreife) + a contract with a business.

Structure of academic programs
• Berufsakademie programs of study/training are built on the “dual-system” model, meaning that equal blocks of time are spent in theoretical instruction, followed by industry experience, alternating in 10-14 week blocks, year-round. Degrees are 3 years in duration.

Degrees until about 2006
• Diplom: Diplom-Ingenieur (BA), Diplom-Betriebswirt (BA)

Degrees since about 2006
• Bachelor of Arts, Science, and Engineering
Berufsakademie: The Baden-Württemberg Model (cont’d)

Fields of study

• Engineering, business administration, computer science, and social work-related fields

Accreditation

• In October of 2004, legislation was passed that mandated that bachelor courses of study at BAs must be accredited. This makes the bachelor’s degrees from BAs legally equivalent to those offered at other types of institutions of higher education.
Berufsakademie: Other Types

Berufsakademien in other states

- Hamburg, Hessen, Niedersachsen, Saarland, and Schleswig-Holstein

How they are similar to Baden-Württemberg BAs

- They are considered to be part of the tertiary sphere

How they are different than B-W BAs

- private vs. public
- percentage of faculty members holding the doctorate
- duration of study
- scope of practical training
- admission requirements

States in which BAs are not part of the tertiary sphere

- Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz
Diploma from a Baden-Württemberg Berufsakademie

Diplom-Betriebswirt (Berufsakademie)
(2) Diploma from a Baden-Württemberg Berufsakademie
Diplom-Betriebswirt (Berufsakademie)
(3)

Diploma from a Baden-Württemberg Berufsakademie

**Diplom-Betriebswirt (Berufsakademie)**

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<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Zusatzfächer*</td>
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**Title of the Thesis**

Thema der Diplomarbeit:

Die Entwicklung einer allgemeinen Checkliste zur Kontrolle von Marketingaktivitäten in einem mittelständischen Unternehmen

*Zusätzlicher hinhin bezüglich der Schriftlichen Prüfung zu beachten.
Intermediate Diploma from a Baden-Württemberg Berufsakademie

Wirtschaftsassistent (Berufsakademie)
(2) Intermediate Diploma from a Baden-Württemberg Berufsakademie

Wirtschaftsassistent (Berufsakademie)
Diploma from a Sachsen Berufsakademie

Diplom-Betriebswirt (BA)
Diploma from a
Sachsen
Berufsakademie

Diplom-
Betriebswirt (BA)
Diploma from a Berlin Berufsakademie

Diplom-Betriebswirtin (Berufsakademie)
Diploma from a Berlin Berufsakademie

Diplom-Betriebswirtin (Berufsakademie)
(3)
Diploma from a Berlin Berufsakademie

Diplom-Betriebswirtin (Berufsakademie)
Sample Diploma from a Saarland Berufsakademie

Bachelor of Engineering
(2)
Sample Diploma from a Saarland Berufsakademie Bachelor of Engineering