

# Changes in European Education

Association of Registrars of the Universities  
and Colleges of Canada

June 27-30, 2004

Ottawa

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# History

- Pre-Bologna
- Bologna Declaration 1999
- Prague 2001
- Berlin 2003
- Bergen 2005

# Bologna Goals

- Adoption of system of easily readable & comparable degrees
- Adoption of two-cycle system
- Establishment of credit system
- Promotion of quality

# Implementation Issues

- Bachelor's and Master's degrees
- Quality assurance & accreditation systems
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Diploma Supplement (DS)
- Joint degrees

# Italy

Characteristics	Old	New
<b>Degrees</b>	Laurea/Dottore (4-5 years)	Laurea – 3 years Laurea specialistica – 2 years Doctorate
<b>Credits</b>	None	180/300 ECTS credits 1 credit = 25 hours of work 60 credits per year
<b>Diploma Supplement</b>	-	Compulsory (Ministerial Decree, 2001)
<b>Lisbon Convention</b>	-	Ratified
<b>Courses</b>	Annual courses	Modular system

V.O. - Vecchio Ordinamento = Old system

N.O. - Nuovo Ordinamento = New system

- By law (Reform of 1999) all universities have first and second cycle “Bologna” degrees
- First cycle introduced 2001-02
- Second cycle introduced 2002-03
- 38 broad classes of laurea degrees representing 3,200 programs; 102 laurea specialistica degrees representing 2,100 programs
- “Banca dati dell’offerta formativa” data base on Ministry of Education website listing all programs offered by Italian universities

# Netherlands

Characteristics	Old	New
<b>Degrees</b>	Doctorandus, meester, ingenieur, baccalaureus - 4-5 years	Bachelor – 3 years Master – 1-3 years
<b>Credits</b>	40-42 per year	180 ECTS credits for bachelors in academic areas 240 ECTS credits in higher professional education 60 ECTS credits for masters in academic areas 120 ECTS credits in agriculture, dentistry, engineering, life & natural sciences 180 ECTS credits in medicine 60 credits per year = 1680 hours
<b>Diploma Supplement</b>	-	Voluntary use of European Diploma Supplement
<b>Lisbon Convention</b>	-	Ratified
<b>Accreditation</b>	None	Introduced in 2002

- Bachelor-Master structure introduced in 2002
- One-cycle programs remain in dentistry & medicine and some other areas
- Graduates may opt for old or new names on degrees

# United Kingdom

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Old</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Degrees</b>	Bachelor – 3 years Master – 1-2 years	Bachelor – 3 years Master – 1-2 years
<b>Credits</b>	Some credit systems in use, including Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) 120 credits per year	Some credit systems in use, including Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) 120 credits per year
<b>Diploma Supplement</b>	-	None
<b>Lisbon Convention</b>	-	Ratified
<b>Courses</b>	Annual courses & modules	Annual courses & modules

# Admission of European Students Questionnaire

## Summary of Results

### **Respondents:**

- Over 60 U.S. & Canadian admissions professionals
- Public & private institutions
- International enrollments from 20-5000
- European enrollments representing less than 10-40% of foreign student population

### **Domestic and foreign admission requirements:**

- No significant difference, except in English language requirements
- Bachelor's degree required of both domestic and foreign students for graduate admissions

### **Definition of bachelor's degree:**

- Awarded by a degree-granting institution
- Other characteristics varied
- Length of domestic bachelor's degree: four years (86%)  
three years (14%)
- Length of foreign bachelor's degree: four years (71%)  
three years (29%)

# More Questionnaire Results

## **Knowledge of Bologna Declaration:**

- Familiar with Bologna Declaration and understand its general goals (39%)
- Have heard of Bologna Declaration but don't know much about it (37%)
- Not familiar with Bologna Declaration (24%)

## **European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and Diploma Supplement:**

- Majority of respondents are familiar with ECTS
- Fewer respondents are familiar with the Diploma Supplement

# Survey Themes

- Hope that changes brought about by the Bologna Declaration, especially the ECTS and Diploma Supplement, will make credential evaluation easier
- Higher level of consistency expected
- Greater ease in obtaining information expected
- Concern about evaluation of three-year degrees for graduate admission

# Recommendations & Approaches

- Analyze & understand your own admission & transfer policies and requirements
- Update your knowledge on changes in Europe
- Consider creative & experimental solutions
- Consider best practices of colleagues

# Resources

<http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no>

- This is the official site for the third Bologna follow-up conference scheduled for Bergen in 2005. The site includes updates on initiatives related to the Bologna Declaration.

<http://www.aic.lv/ace/>

- Link to the website of the Admissions Officers and Credential Evaluators (ACE) section of the European Association for International Education. Includes a useful section on the Bologna Declaration.

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/rec\\_qual/recognition/diploma\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/rec_qual/recognition/diploma_en.html)

- Detailed description of the Diploma Supplement.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html)

- Detailed description of ECTS credits and grades.

# Resources

- NAFSA: Association of International Educators

- <http://www.adsec.nafsa.org/ADSECNewsletter.asp>

March issue includes an introductory article on the Bologna Declaration. May issue includes an article on a survey of admissions practices for European students.

- <http://www.nafsa.org/practiceres/bologna/bologna-Background.htm>

Resources on the Bologna Declaration.