

Subject: COPS meeting: Bologna
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Conversation: COPS meeting: Bologna

Dear all,

Jane Hutton has kindly produced the following notes on the current state of the Bologna Process (meeting agenda 9).

Jon

Bologna process.

A useful website for understanding the Bologna Process is that of the Europe Unit:
<http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/home/>
DFES also has a website:
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/>

In particular, there is a section on the Bologna Process:
http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/bologna_process/index.cfm

Although this guide has 44 pages, it is large print, and a quick summary of the issues for the UK:
Guide to the Bologna Process, edition 2
http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/news/news_page_1.cfm

A current UK HE position statement (7 pages) is given at:
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/uploads/documents/UKHESectorPositionStatementonBPLondonMinSum1.doc>.

First, on PhDs, as I can be brief.

For doctoral level qualifications, the UK strongly supports the need to recognise the diversity of programmes. The UK HE sector might have much to offer on graduate schools and transferrable skills training.

Portability of grants and loans is being considered, and this could be very useful in simplifying visiting arrangements for PhD students.

Undergraduates, especially MMaths degrees.

Three universities have introduced 'BSc.MMaths' degrees. For this dual designation, students have to do a minimum of 60 European Credits (ECTS) at masters level.

Important issues on credits:

1. The equation was 1 ECTS = 2 CATS. This has been challenged by the UK, as Europe also claims that no student can do more than 75 ECTS a year, hence the Masters degrees with 180 CATS = 90 ECTS are deemed impossible. The main problem is that ECTS are measured in hours.
2. There are two different statements on requirements for second cycle (Masters). This has been clarified: 60 ECTS at second cycle level is by itself enough for second cycle qualifications. The alternative interpretation was that 90 ECTS was the minimum.
3. The UK is insisting that credits should be assessed by learning outcomes, not by hours in the lecture rooms.

4. At present, the government is ignoring the financial implications for students and universities of increasing the content of integrated masters.

Science in general:

Chemistry is, as far as we know, the only science and engineering subject which is keen to move to a two year masters.

All undergraduate degrees:

Most universities are moving to issue a 'Diploma supplement', which is a more detailed version of a mark transcript.
http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/sites/europeunit/qualifications/diploma_supplement.cfm

Colleagues might also be interested in the pontifications of business:
Business Europe: Position on Employability of Graduates
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/uploads/documents/BUSEUROPEPositiononEmpofGrads.pdf>

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