

# **EVALUATING INTERNATIONAL BACHELORS DEGREES: BOLOGNA AND BEYOND**

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# CGS INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ADMISSIONS SURVEY

• <b>Bologna as an issue</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Major issue	18%	12%
Minor issue	41%	32%
Not an issue	41%	56%
• <b>Single policy or varies</b>		
Single policy	62%	62%
Different	16%	18%
Combination	22%	20%
• <b>Approach to evaluating</b>		
Do not accept	29%	18%
Provisional acceptance	9%	4%
Evaluation for equivalency	40%	49%
Competency to succeed	22%	29%

# WHAT MINNESOTA DOES

- Minnesota tradition-the graduate faculty is The Graduate School
- Faculty recommended in 1992 that applicants to German and French programs be considered after the German four-semester exam and French three-year licence
- Admissions office advice to the program faculty on a case by case basis
- Unclear whether degree is comparable to U.S. bachelors degree
- Check for grades in prerequisites
- Strong and appropriate background in the discipline--core competencies
- Diploma supplement if available
- Goal-admit students who can successfully complete their graduate program and contribute to their field

# WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS DO

- UCLA-tells faculty equivalency is unclear, so look for strong and appropriate background
- Michigan-requires four-year bachelor's or equivalent but admissions office entertains faculty requests for exceptions
- Michigan State-asks faculty to review the credentials and make brief case for admission, but only as reminder
- Georgia-admissions office evaluation of years and credit equivalencies with some flexibility (eg. internship credit)
- Washington-rare occasions where department petitions to admit with three-year degree
- Buffalo-institutional policy that accepts the three-year Bologna degree
- Harvard-no published policy, all on a case by case basis
- Purdue-policy that accepts three-year Bologna degree posted at <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/admissions/requirements.cfm>

# WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

- In the end you will all accept the Bologna degree.  
Les Sims, former CGS/NSF Dean-in-Residence, former graduate dean, University of Iowa, May, 2005
- “Globalization is, and will continue to be, one of the salient features of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Informed mutual recognition of higher education degrees is a corollary of globalization.”  
Myron Thompson, Associate Provost and Executive Director, graduate school, University at Buffalo, SUNY, April, 2006
- “Within the US system a Bachelor is not a Bachelor, not even from the same institution, let alone from different types of institutions. Also within your system the answer to the problem lies in individual assessment....US institutions have always accepted British Bachelor graduates and can therefore not in principle deny continental Europeans the same treatment.”  
Christian Bode, Secretary General of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), November, 2006

## ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Does requiring 16 years of pre-graduate education guarantee quality across countries?
- Are exceptions based on academic quality and preparation, and holistic review?
- Will closer evaluation of credentials continue excellence?
- Are you assessing your outcomes?
- Will a conservative policy exclude outstanding students, send a negative message about graduate study in the U.S., and diminish the quality of U.S. education?

# BEYOND BOLOGNA

- Three-year degrees from Australia, India, Canada, and Israel
- Three-year conservatory degrees
- Professional degrees without the bachelor's
- AACRAO placement books
- National policy
- “We tend to value what we measure rather than measure what we value.”

Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Vice Chancellor and Dean,  
UCLA

# RESOURCES

- Special Focus Network: Bologna Process  
[www.nafsa.org/bologna](http://www.nafsa.org/bologna)
- *Strategies in Dealing With the Bologna Process*, International Educator, Sept/Oct 06  
[http://www.nafsa.org/File/bolognaprocessept\\_oct.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/File/bolognaprocessept_oct.pdf)
- *The DAAD Perspective: The State of the Bologna Process*  
[www.daad.de/presse/de/bode\\_speech-aacrao\\_nov06.pdf](http://www.daad.de/presse/de/bode_speech-aacrao_nov06.pdf)
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