



Council of Graduate Schools

Advocacy, Research, and Innovation

Bologna and the World Beyond:

The Impact of International Practices on
U.S. Graduate Education

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Why is the Bologna Process Important?

- Encompasses 46 countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
 - Western, Central and Eastern Europe (except Belarus)
 - Also Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia
- Currently more than 36,000 EHEA graduate students in the U.S.
 - Third largest group outside of India (56,000) and China (48,000) [Open Doors 2006]



Why is the Bologna Process Important?

- Presents challenges and opportunities for U.S. graduate schools
 - Joint and dual degrees
 - Recruitment opportunities
 - J Scholars for labs
 - New models for interdisciplinary programs
 - Ways to address workforce needs



Competitive Positioning

- Bologna impact on U.S. competitiveness
 - Bologna promotes educational and employment mobility within Europe
 - Bologna enhances Europe as a study and work destination worldwide
- The Bologna model vs. the U.S. model
 - Australia ministry white paper
 - China a keen observer
 - South America moving toward Bologna model
- *resource: Bologna Supplement, pg. 16*



Joint/Dual Degrees: Opportunities

- Joint/dual degrees: more common in Europe and growing
 - Increased funds for mobility will further degrees
 - Atlantis/FIPSE and PIRE grants
- U.S. master's degrees provide opportunities for U.S.-European collaborations
 - Master's degrees are better developed in the U.S.
 - Often easier to study abroad at the master's level with 3-year first degrees
- Increased international research collaborations in STEM disciplines provide opportunities
 - More efficient use of resources; exposure to world class faculty

Joint/Dual Degrees: Challenges

- Will U.S. universities accept 3-year degrees for undergraduate joint/dual degrees?
 - Trends point to increasing numbers will accept
 - Consider preparation and overall experience
- What will U.S. graduate schools require?
 - Hours of study
 - Exams
 - Thesis/dissertation requirements
- What financial issues must be considered?
 - Different approaches to tuition
 - Teaching/research assistantships



Recruitment

- 3-year degree will limit undergraduate exchanges
- Europe is still trying to define master's degrees
- This opens possibilities for US graduate schools to recruit in Europe for master's degrees



J Scholars

- Opportunities
 - Expand collaborative research projects
 - Provide US faculty with international experiences
 - Provide “free” researchers for projects
- Challenges
 - Institutional policies



Interdisciplinary Models

- European programs are reinventing doctoral education
- Countries such as Germany are stressing development of interdisciplinary “graduate schools”
- U.S. graduate deans are searching for good interdisciplinary models



Workforce Issues

- Competitiveness discussions in the U.S. and Europe center on the role of graduate education
- Bologna was developed largely to address workforce issues
- The diploma supplement can serve as a model for a paradigm shift from inputs to outcomes

