

ECTS, ERASMUS MUNDUS and a possible multi-institution MSc course in radiation biology

Andrzej Wojcik

**Centre for Radiation
Protection Research
Stockholm University**

andrzej.wojcik@gmt.su.se

Some definitions

We are thinking of a European Master Program in radiation biology.

- A Master Program lasts 2 years, which is equivalent to 4 terms.
- A Master Program is composed of courses and research project (s).
- During each term a student must collect 30 ECTS points.
- ECTS points can be given for courses and for research projects.
- Courses **MUST** be followed during 2 terms (60 ECTS points).
- A project can be performed during 1 or 2 terms (30, 45 or 60 ECTS points).

A joint MSc program must be approved by the faculty of each partner university.

It is important to keep in mind that we are only talking about university education at the MSc level. The picture is different for the PhD level.

What are ECTS points

ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) a credit system for higher education used in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), involving all countries engaged in the Bologna Process.

A student must collect 30 ECTS points per term but these may be collected at different universities.

A university that organises courses can state certificates with the appropriate number of ECTS points. Whether these points are accepted by other universities is a different question.

A university is not allowed to outsource teaching. This means that it is not possible to send students to courses outside of the university or alliance of universities if such exists.


ECTS accreditation

Universities are free to adapt their education system to the Bologna Process. It is also possible to obtain ECTS accreditation, but this step is not required for implementing the ECTS system and joining the European Higher Education Area.

The Stockholm University is not ECTS accredited and there are no plans to obtain accreditation.


What is Erasmus Mundus

Erasmus Mundus is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education for:

- 
- Our aim**
- the enhancement of quality in European higher education;
 - the promotion of the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world;
 - the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries as well as for the development of third countries in the field of higher education.

Erasmus Mundus actions

The Erasmus Mundus programme comprises three actions:

- 
- Our aim**
- **Action 1:** Implementation of Joint Programmes at **Masters (Action 1A)** and Doctorate (Action 1B) levels and award of individual scholarships/fellowships to participate in these programmes;
 - **Action 2:** Erasmus Mundus Partnerships;
 - **Action 3:** Promotion of European Higher Education.

Action 1

Action 1 provides:

- Support for high-quality joint **masters courses (Action 1 A)** and doctoral programmes (Action 1 B) offered by a **consortium of European and possibly third-country higher education institutions**. Other types of organisations concerned by the content and outcomes of the joint programme can participate in the consortium.
- **Scholarships/fellowships for the third-country and European students**/doctoral candidates.
- **Short-term scholarships for third-country and European academics to carry out research or teaching** assignments as part of the joint masters programmes.

Joint programmes **must involve mobility** between the institutions of the consortium and **lead to the award of recognised joint, double or multiple degrees** to successful students / doctoral candidates.

Erasmus Mundus - funding

Financial contribution to the EMMC's running costs

Each project may give rise to the award of only one EU grant to any end-beneficiary (i.e. consortium, student or scholar) for the same joint course over the length of the course concerned.

The financial contribution to the internal management costs of the EMMC consortium will correspond to a lump-sum of **€ 30 000** per course edition (i.e. € 10 000 per participating HEI limited to € 30 000 maximum).

In addition, each students **scholarship** will include a maximum amount attached to the grant and intended to contribute to the student's participation costs in the EMMC.

The beneficiary will not be asked to report on the use of the lump-sum nor the scholarship contribution to the EMMC costs.

Erasmus Mudus time line

- November 2012 – call
- April 2013 – deadline
- September 2013 – confirmation of projects
- November 2013 – communication of number of scholarships
- February 2014 - EMMC consortia submit their lists of candidates for the Category A and Category B student scholarships
- May 2014 - Grant agreements
- August 2014 - kick off

A University Joint Degree

A University Multiple Degree

- A joint degree means that a common degree is issued at all allied universities. Joint degrees must be agreed upon by the chancellors (highest level of decision making – takes time). The Stockholm University has a joint degree only with the Karolinska Institute.
- Multiple degrees means that the degree of each university is automatically recognised by the other allied universities.
- In a European MSc program the degree is given by the university where the student performs his/her MSc thesis and takes the final exam.

Possible MSc course in radiobiology



Universities that expressed interest to join a European MSc in radiation biology

Stockholm University
Belfast University
Pavia University
Rotterdam University
Gent University
Oslo University

There are two types of teaching modes:

Block teaching mode

Stockholm University
Oslo University

Daily class teaching mode

Belfast University
Pavia University
Rotterdam University
Gent University

Consequences of having different teaching modes

Block teaching mode

Courses that add up to 30 ECTS points can be organised at different universities during one term

Daily class teaching mode

A student must stay at one university for a whole term in order to collect 30 ECTS points

Example of a MSc programme

Period		Program
Year	Semester	
1	Summer school	Introduction
1	Autumn	courses
1	Summer	courses
1	Summer school	Active participation - research projects
2	Autumn	courses and research
2	Summer	research
2	Summer school	awarding degrees

Max 4 partners with:
daily class teaching mode

Max 5 partners of whom:
2 have block teaching mode
3 have daily teaching mode

Consequences of having different teaching modes

Alternatively, it is possible to create a MSc program with several parallel curricula. The faculty of the Stockholm University will approve this. Other Universities... ???

Partner 1
Partner 2
Partner 3

Partner 4
Partner 5
Partner 6

Partner 1
Partner 4
Partner 6

Period		Program	Program	Program
Year	Semester			
1	Summer school	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
1	Autumn	courses	courses	courses
1	Summer	courses	courses	courses
1	Summer school	Active participation - research projects	Active participation - research projects	Active participation - research projects
2	Autumn	courses and research	courses	research
2	Summer	research	research	research
2	Summer school	awarding degrees	awarding degrees	awarding degrees

Courses offered by the partners

SU

DNA damage: signaling and repair, 10 weeks, 15 credits

Cancer Biology, 10 weeks, 15 credits

Radiation Biology, 10 weeks, 15 credits

OSLO

Project Management and research Methods, 10 credits

Radioactivity and Radioanalytical Techniques, 10 credits

Radioecology, 10 credits

Assessing Risk to Man and the Environment, 10 credits

Gent

Medical Radiation Physics and Nuclear Chemistry, 4 credits

Radiation Dosimetry and Radiation Protection, 6 credits

Radiobiology and Radiopathology, 7 credits

Radiotherapy: Technology and Patient Dosimetry, 7 credits

Medical Imaging, 6 credits

Courses offered by the partners

Pavia (programs in English)

- MASTERS' DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (MIBE)
- MASTERS' DEGREE IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS (MBG)
- MASTERS' DEGREE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY
- MASTERS' DEGREE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
- MASTERS' DEGREE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING
- MASTERS' DEGREE IN WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Belfast (no clear ECTS system)

- the SSC module is given in block mode. Basically everyday activities for 3 weeks straight after Xmas. I would guess worth of 4.5-5 ECTS points
- The Physics module runs in the first semester with activities 3-4 days/week for 10 weeks. Worth ~ 10 ECTS points
- The Lab skills module runs in the first semester with activities once a week (1-2 hrs/week) for 13 weeks. Worth 3-4 ECTS points
- The Cancer Biology module runs in the second semester with 2 hrs/week for 17 weeks. Worth 5 ECTS points.

Courses offered by the partners

Rotterdam

Master courses:

Health Sciences

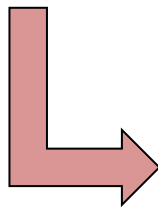
Clinical Research

Molecular Medicine

Infection & Immunity

Neuroscience

European Master of Science



A year of advanced studies for students with an MSc degree in medicine or biomedical science

MADE partner universities:

Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Universität Bern, Switzerland



Thank you for your attention