

Transnational Mobility in Master Programmes

Bonn, 5-6 December 2005

Does the *Bologna Process* create obstacles to mobility within Master Programmes?

The obstacles are not based on the *Bologna Process* itself, but on the implementation of the programmes and the general political framework.

Forms of *Mobility*

- mobility within Joint Degree Programmes
- mobility within Double Degree Programmes (with a prolonged study time)
- obligatory mobility
- free mobility window in master programmes
- vertical mobility

„Free Mobility“: transnational mobility is not fixed in the programme

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Discipline / subject based influence on mobility?

- obstacles are not genuine created at the university level.
- obstacles are created by accreditation & professional bodies (law, architecture, civil engineering, medicine...) country specific / institutional issue
- dense study programmes may give not enough time

Institutional & financial influences

- Tuition fees
- preferences for overseas students from specific countries
- maximum study times

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Influence of mobility organization

- Modules focussing on project or laboratory work are more suited than „mandatory“ lecture modules
- Optional modules are more suited for mobility
- Short duration of modules (not longer than 1 semester)
- Credit points

Goals of mobility

- teacher goals
 - input of new skills by students coming back
 - outgoing students have ambassador function
- Student goals
 - labour market oriented
 - learning „new“ things, discover other culture & different environment

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Influence of Bachelor Programmes on mobility in Master Programmes

- Dense BSc programmes (with reduced mobility) enforce „vertical mobility“, but could also enforce more flexibility in master programmes (not to lose students)
- mobility in master programmes is more „focussed“ than in bachelor programmes (requirement of a different quality of modules)

Influence of general Programme goals

- learning outcomes have to be defined
- learning agreements
- quality assurance
- accreditation problems
- two/three cycle system (BSc MSc PhD) limits possibilities / freedom based on the general layout and duration of programmes