

How do I find a
Master or Doctorate Degree
Programme at a
European University to meet my
expectations?



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Outline

This presentation raises the issues which you need to consider in selecting a degree programme

The presentation:

- Innovation in European Higher Education
- Where to study? – question of availability and quality
- Availability – search the ICA Portal to find possible degree programmes
- Quality – what criteria will you use to assess the alternative degree programmes?

Europe of many countries

- **European Union** comprises 27 countries
- 45 European countries signed up to the Bologna Process
 - Albania, Andorra, Armenia, **Austria**, Azerbaijan, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Bulgaria**, Croatia, **Cyprus**, the **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **Estonia**, **Finland**, **France**, Georgia, **Germany**, **Greece**, the Holy See, **Hungary**, Iceland, **Ireland**, **Italy**, **Latvia**, Liechtenstein, **Lithuania**, **Luxembourg**, **Malta**, Moldova, **the Netherlands**, Norway, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Romania**, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, **the Slovak Republic**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, **Sweden**, Switzerland, Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and **United Kingdom**

Diversity in Europe

- Diversity of cultural heritage
- Traditional and innovative
- Many universities with varying missions
- Several languages

Bologna process

Establishment of the European Higher Education Area

- Introduction of the Bachelor – Master system of education **throughout** Europe
- Introduction of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

The Bologna process delivers a single European wide transparent higher education system

Studying in Europe

- Easy now to register for a Master degree programme
- Programmes taught in English, French, Italian and Spanish
- Increasing number of programmes being offered in English in countries with a minority language
- Internationally recognised degrees
- Safe and accessible
- Innovative degree programmes

**But where should I study
for a
Master or Doctorate
degree ??**

**Key Questions
Availability? and Quality?**

What's available?

Search the ICA Portal for Master and Doctorate degree programmes at European Universities relating to:

**Agriculture, Animal science and management,
Business management, Biotechnology,
Crop science and management, Economics,
Education and training,
Environmental science and technology, Engineering, Ethics,
Food science and technology, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Forestry,
Horticulture, Human nutrition, Landscape architecture, Law,
Mathematics and statistics, Nutrition, Policy , Plant science,
Renewable resources,
Risk analysis, Rural development, Sociology, Soil science,
Tropical / Subtropical agriculture, Veterinary science,
Viticulture and Wine production, Wood technology**

Search Criteria

Institutional Criteria select

- single or multi country programme
- single or multi university
- country

Programme criteria select from

- study time – 1, 2 or >2 years
- subject area – up to 3 keywords
- language of delivery



Master Programme Search

Doctorate Programme Search

National Education Systems

MEU Project

ICA

Considering Europe as a place to study
Looking for degree programme details ?
Want to contact the host university of your choice ?
Then this website is for you !
Conduct your search



Choose you search criteria from
[Subject area](#) [Country](#) [University](#) [Language](#)

The result will be a list of possible degree programmes - the Portal provides brief details for each of these and a link to the Web page of the host institution for further information.

You can also access a description of the higher education system of each European country included in the portal.

Conduct a search ?
Click on either the Master or Doctorate Programme Search menu button.
Enter your search criteria.
Review the results and make your selection.

On the Portal : 23 institutions, 179 Master degree programmes, 50 Doctorate degree programmes

The accuracy of the information about the individual degree programmes entered in this Portal is the responsibility of the individual higher education institution and not the responsibility of ICA or the European Community.



Outcomes of the search

- List of degree programmes that meet your search criteria
- Brief details of each of the degree programmes listed
- Web link to the relevant page of university's web page for each of the listed degree programmes'
- Description of the education system in each country

OK

You have a list of degree programmes how do you choose?

How do you assess
QUALITY?

you need to define your
criteria

Defining your criteria

The following slides will suggest issues that you should address when defining the quality criteria you will use to select the degree programme of your choice

Selecting my degree programme – key quality criteria

- Do the programme aims and learning outcomes relate to my expectations ?
- Is there an international perspective evident in the learning outcomes ?
- Does the teaching and learning strategy take account of the cultural background of international students ?
- What is the international experience of the faculty/lecturers ?
- How many years has it been running ?
- Are the views of international students taken account of in the development of the degree programme and in the development of the university ?
- do the job destinations of recent graduates relate to my own expectations for my career path ?

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements that specify what you as a learner will know or be able to do as a result of a specified period of study

Learning outcomes for a Master degree

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with Bachelor's level
- apply your knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments
- integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, that includes reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of your knowledge and judgements
- communicate your conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously, and
- continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

Learning outcomes

are important to YOU in selecting your university –
so draw up a list of what you want

- The learning outcomes should be relevant to your expectations
- Learning outcomes are not only scientific
- Generic skills are also key outcomes for you
- International programmes should take advantage of the experience of the international students
- International programmes should demonstrate how they acknowledge the cultural diversity of the students

Pastoral care

Issues:

- On first enquiry what kind of reception did I get? Was I given a contact person?
- Is there an orientation programme at the start of the degree programme? Is it likely to be informative?
- Is there a buddy (mentor) system?
 - whereby you, as an incoming international student, are paired up with a local student who introduces you to living and studying in your new country
- Does the institution provide help with housing, finance, accompanying persons, visa procedures?

In summary - choosing your university

- High standard – reputation for the academic and pastoral care of students. However, be careful of rankings and word of mouth recommendations
- My assessment of my selected degree programme and the pastoral support that I can expect to receive
- Location – academic study is not everything !!

Where to find more information

- University home page
 - Strategic plans, both university and internationalisation
 - Programme descriptions
 - Course descriptions
- Printed material from the university