

Student mobility in the European Higher Education Area

Transnational student mobility in Bachelor programmes

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Situation in Flanders

- **Implementation of BA/MA structure**
 - **April 2003: governmental decree**
 - **BA1 started in October 2004**
 - **MA1 will start in October 2007**

Situation at Ghent University

- **Autumn 2003: programming the curricula**
- **Spring 2004: information campaign for new students**
- **October 2004: start of new programmes**

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Situation at the Faculty of Sciences

- BA-programmes take 3 years of study
- Uncertainty about duration of MA-programme:

$3 + 1$ or $3 + 2$?

- Programming of the master curricula in progress

Mobility at the Faculty of Sciences

Current situation:

- outgoing mobility in 3rd or 4th year
 ➡ not very successful ...
- incoming mobility: successful !

New programmes ?

Mobility at Bachelor level

Do we want mobility in the Bachelor programme?

Some people think: 'no time left for study abroad period'



However: bachelor diploma can lead directly to the jobmarket. We owe it to these students to offer them the possibility of an international experience!

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Mobility at Bachelor level



Other remark

Bachelor mobility can lead to international orientation when students choose their master programme.

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How to increase quantity and quality of student mobility in Bachelor programmes?

- Create a curricular framework
- Create a network of partners
- Shorter study abroad periods
- Integrated programmes with double or joint degrees
- Compulsory study abroad periods
- Correct use of ECTS

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Internationalisation at Home (IaH)?

- English/international options in the bachelor programme
 - Teaching by international invited professors for (short term) courses as part of the standard curriculum
 - Integration of international students and local students
- ➡ Can lead to Ba at home – (part of) MA abroad

Case study: chemistry

- **General European framework: Eurobachelor**
- **2nd semester 3rd BA-year: option “European experience”**
- **Small number of partners**
- **Students get a structured programme abroad that is well known at the home institution**
- **Quality assurance**



higher number of outgoing students

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Conclusion

Mobility in bachelor programmes is necessary

- **Important experience for the student (scientific and personal)**
- **Important as a taste of international experience for further study abroad periods during master, PhD or job**
- **Important element in the accreditation of the curricula**
- **Important for competition on international (education) market**

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Conclusion

**We have to convince
the curriculum managers of
the importance of an
international oriented BA-programme !!!**

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