

Dual Transatlantic Degree  
Program  
within the EU/US Atlantis Program

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# Program Goals

- Establishing a Dual Transatlantic Bachelor Degree in Chemistry
- Degree must be recognized (in academia as well as industry) on both sides of the Atlantic
- Added value of the program for the students and for the institutions involved
- No prolongation of total study time



*Funding by the European Union and US Department of Education (FIPSE)*

*Fellowship for 48 students [12000 EUR/US\$ per year]  
exchange of teaching staff [12 weeks/year @1000  
EUR/US\$ per week]*

*No funding for a coordinator*

- Two European and one US partner
  - ✓ University of Regensburg (UR; coordinating)
    - ✓ DFG-Graduiertenkolleg Medicinal Chemistry
  - ✓ Dublin City University (DCU)
  - ✓ Kansas University (KU, coordinating)
    - ✓ Ranked as one of the top departments in Medicinal Chemistry in the US
  - ✓ University of Arkansas (UARK)

*All partners have full graduate programs and are strongly oriented towards research – today's major evaluation criteria*

*Preexisting links:* Successful graduate and undergraduate student exchange between all partners;

International Quality Network Medicinal Chemistry 2001-2004 (DAAD);

ISAP 2004-2007 (DAAD); Joint Undergraduate Program (KU, UARK, DCU)

## European students:

✓ One year of study at one of the US partner schools

↓ One semester (20 ECTS credits) of study abroad in Europe (not necessarily the EU-partner in the Atlantis program)

### *Severe and not sensible limitation*

- number eligible candidates
- 3-year Bachelor curriculum / Erasmus exchange in year 3
- requirements of the US partners for non science classes
- financial issues

## US students:

- ✓ One year of study in Europe
  - Students must study at both European partner institutions
  - At least 20 ECTS points at one partner, total of 60 ECTS points must be acquired

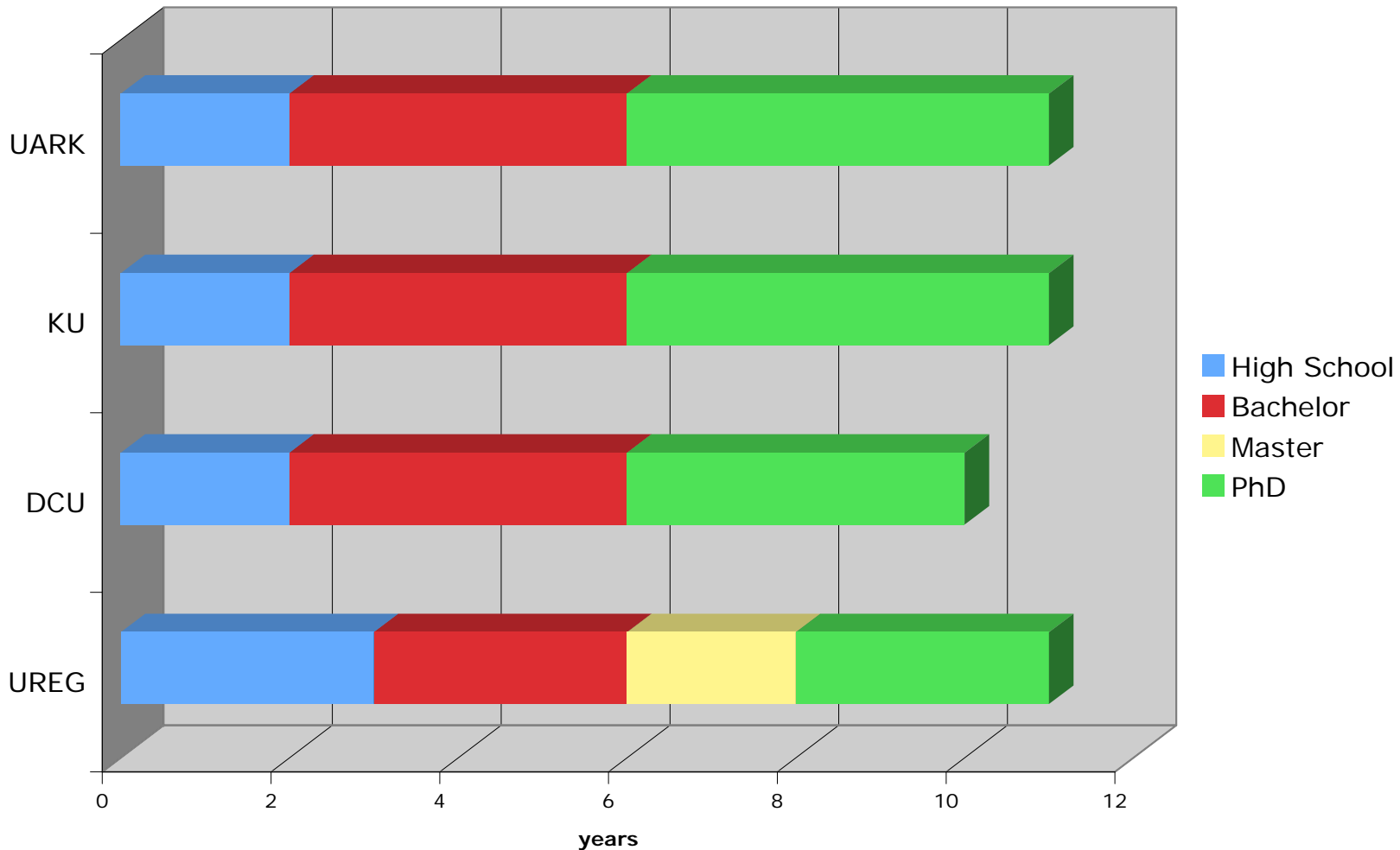
### *Managable but*

- limits the European partners to either the same (teaching) language background or to choose one partner from an English spoken country
- Chemistry curriculum geared early towards research projects; Bachelor thesis in the US typically consists of one year of research: more difficult to coordinate between two places
- twice the administrative work
- additional cost for the students (1000 USD = 690 EUR)



*Partners have agreed that students pay tuition at their home institution, regardless if home or abroad*

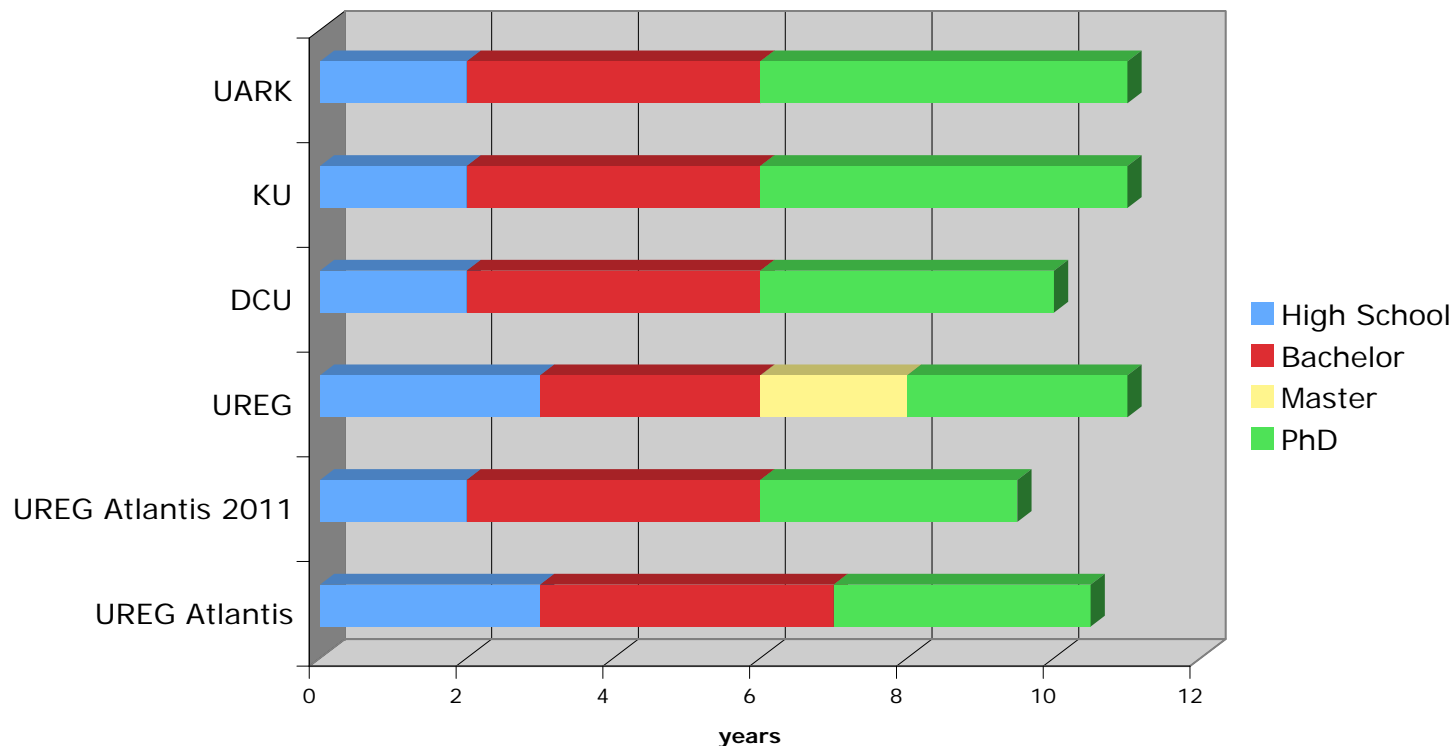
# Chemistry Curricula from grade 11 High-School



Bachelor Curriculum Europe: Only Science Courses

Bachelor Curriculum US: Science and Social Science Courses

# Implementation of the Dual Bachelor Degree



- Extension of the Bachelor curriculum to 4 years
- Direct admittance to the PhD program with Dual Degree BS
- Recognition of Social Science Credits (Leistungskurse, certified language skills, etc.) as much as possible on the US side
- fulfillment of “State Upper Class Rule”
- Jointly Supervised Bachelor Thesis

## *US degree / UREG degree*

- fulfillment of all requirements for the US-Bachelor degree
- successful completion of 20 credits from chemistry classes at UREG
- successful evaluation of jointly supervised Bachelor Thesis



Readily implemented as an amendment to the exam statutes (Prüfungsordnung) of UREG

- Considerable freedom through the so called “Experimentierklausel” in Bavaria.
- Government is only concerned about the correct legal framework; recognition of credits for awarding the degree lies in the responsibility of the department

## *DCU / US and US / DCU degree*

- US students cannot meet the science credits in the DCU degree
- DCU students cannot meet the social science credits in the US degree

*without extension of time of study (+ 1 semester)*



No workable solution could be reached for awarding the US degree to DCU students and vice versa



DCU is in the process of establishing a 4 year Science / Social Science degree that would be compatible with the US degree

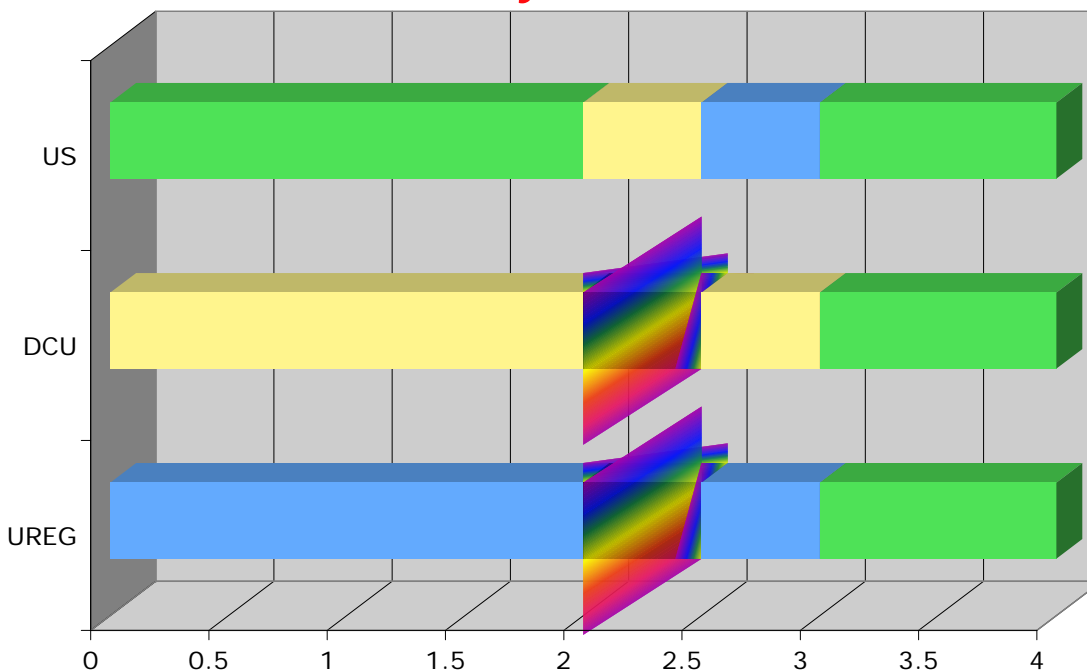
*Expected to be in place by summer 2008*

# Implementation of the Dual Bachelor Degree

## Time of exchange

- US-students study in Europe in their 3rd year
- European students study in the US in their 4th year  
(keep in mind the requirement of a stay for one semester in Europe prior to the US stay)

*Advantage: Atlantis students study together in their 3rd and 4th year*



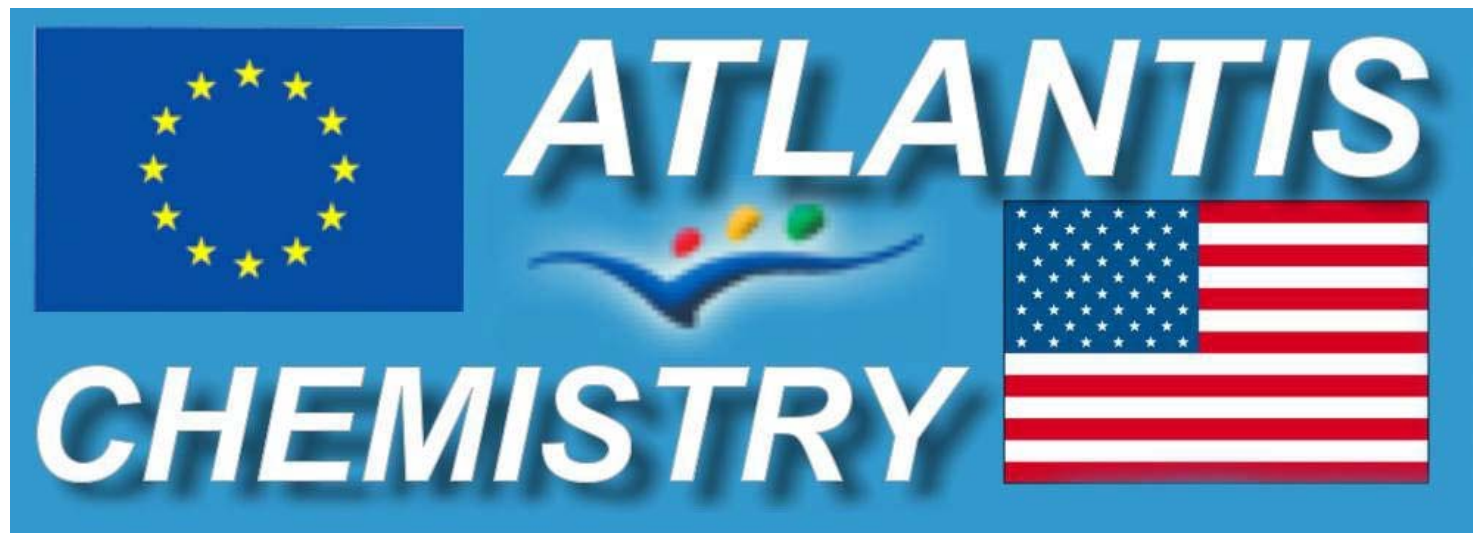
- Program was granted by 12/06 by the EU/FIPSE
- Dual Degree provisions at UREG are (5/07) in place and can be easily met by the US students
- Dual Degree provisions at the US schools are in place (12/07).
  - Requirements can be met by UREG students (not as easily as the other way around but doable)
  - Requirements cannot be met by DCU students without extending the study time by at least one semester
- Dual Degree provisions at DCU are in place but cannot be met by US students without extending the study time by at least one semester; new DCU degree expected for summer 2008

# *Current Status of the Dual Degree Program - 2*

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## Recruiting commenced at UREG and US schools by 2/07

- Excellent response by UREG students (80% of eligible students applied; 4 students were chosen for exchange to commence in fall 2007; since degree provisions were not in place by 9/2007 by the US schools these students were not sent (exchange took place with KU via ISAP)
- 5 students were selected from UREG to go to the US fall 2008; these students take currently additional classes outside of science to meet the US requirements
- Recruitment of UREG students now targets already students in their 1st year to prepare early for the requirements of the Dual degree program
- Good response rate by the US schools; 2 students (3rd year students) were chosen (1 from each US school) who fulfilled the necessary qualifications to succeed in the program. These students started their study at DCU in fall 2007 and will transfer to UREG in 3/08



*A great challenge to keep it afloat  
but worthwhile the effort!*

<http://www-oc.chemie.uni-regensburg.de/atlantis>

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