



# **Evaluating Three-year European University Degrees: Pre- and Post-Bologna**

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# Presenters



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# Goals

**Test** your knowledge

**Learn** about current practices and tools

**Engage** in spirited discussion of  
treatment of Bologna degrees

**Leave** with a better understanding of  
varying practices and treatment



WHO  
ARE  
YOU?



# Overview of Bologna

# What is (was) the Bologna Process?

A process leading to the . . .

European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

A comparable, compatible and coherent system of higher education in Europe.



# Test Your Knowledge!

1. **Where was the Bologna Declaration signed?**
2. **What year was the Bologna Declaration signed?**
3. **How many original signatory countries were there?**
4. **How many signatory countries are there now?**
5. **Which country was the most recent signatory? When?**
6. **In what year was the European Higher Education Area launched?**

# The Bologna Process: The European Answer to Globalization

**June 19, 1999:** **29** European Ministers in charge of higher education gathered at the **University of Bologna** to sign the Bologna Declaration, establishing the European Area of Higher Education **by 2010** and promoting the European System of higher education world-wide, affirming their intention to:

- Promote mobility within and to Europe
- Promote European dimensions in higher education
- Promote European cooperation in quality assurance

Resource: [www.bologna-bergen2005.no](http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no)

# Bologna Process Timeline

## 1999 – 2010

the Bologna Process members were to work towards the creation of the European Higher Education Area

## March 2010

the EHEA is officially launched

## 2010-2020

all countries are to strive to consolidate the EHEA

# The Bologna Process 2000 –to Present

## 1999 (Bologna: 29)

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria,  
Czech Republic, Denmark,  
Estonia, Finland, France,  
Germany, Greece, Hungary,  
Iceland, Ireland, Italy,  
Latvia, Lithuania,  
Luxembourg, Malta,  
Netherlands, Norway,  
Poland, Portugal,  
Romania, Slovak Republic,  
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,  
Switzerland, United Kingdom

## 2001 (Prague: 33)

Croatia, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Turkey

## 2003 (Berlin: 40)

Albania, Andorra,  
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Holy See,  
FYR of Macedonia, Russia,  
Serbia

## 2005 (Bergen: 45)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia,  
Moldova, Ukraine

## 2007 (London: 46)

Montenegro

## 2010-16 (Budapest/Vienna, Bucharest & Yervan: 48)

Belarus, Kazakhstan



# Bologna H.E. Area

Resource: DAAD



# Test Your Knowledge!

1. Can the U.S. be a signatory country?
2. Can Canada?
3. Which countries can sign?



# **Key Features and Tools**

# Test Your Knowledge!



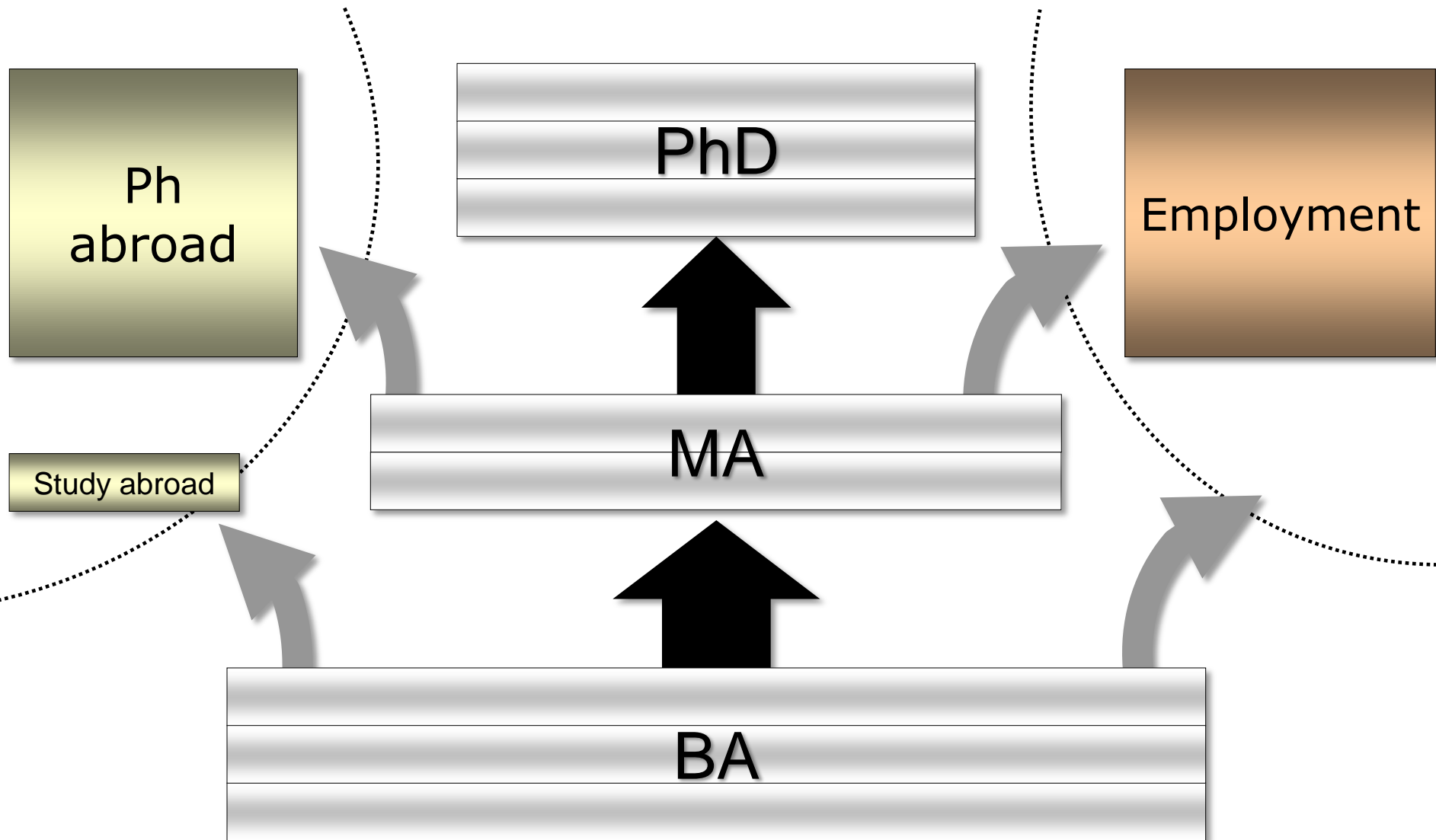
# Key Features of the Bologna Process

- The Three-cycle System  
Bachelor, Master, Doctorate
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Common Grading Scale
- Diploma Supplement
- Quality Assurance



**BEFORE**

# The European Bologna Degree Structure



# Key Features of the Bologna Process

- The Three-cycle system: Bachelor, Master, Doctorate
- **European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)**



**BEFORE**

# Bologna Degree Cycles and the ECTS-European Credit and Transfer System

- 60 ECTS credits for each year of study

**Each ECTS credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of all study activities (class, labs, homework, excursions)**

- 3-Year Bachelor's Degree -- 180 ECTS credits
- 4-Year Bachelor's Degree - 240 ECTS credits
- 1-Year Master's Degree -- 60 ECTS credits
- 2-Year Master's Degree --120 ECTS credits
- Both the 3+2 and the 4+1 bachelor's / master's sequence require a minimum of 300 ECTS credits

# ECTS Credits Conversion



**WES converts  
by**

$$\frac{2}{3}$$



# U.S. Quarter Credit and the ECTS Credit

- One lecture (taught) or seminar (discussion) credit hour represents 1 hour per week of scheduled class/seminar time and 2 hours of student preparation time. In a 10-week quarter session this represents 10 hours of class time and 20 hours of student preparation, for a total of 30 hours of all study activities for the quarter credit.
- Since the overall time commitment (**notional hours**) is the same for the ECTS credit and the U.S. quarter credit, WES considers them equivalent.

# Bologna Process Implementation Status

Country	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Cycle	Length	ECTS Credits	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Cycle	Length of Program	ECTS Credits	Year Bologna (3-tiered) Degree Cycle was Adopted/Implemented	HEI Students in 3-tiered Degree Cycle Programs 2008-2009
Albania	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	2 years	120	2005	96%+ (2007-2008)
Andorra	<i>Diplomatura</i>	3 years	180	<i>Llicenciatura</i>	2 years	120	2008	29.7%
Armenia	<i>Bakalavri</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magistrosi</i>	2 years	120	2004	24%
Austria	<i>Bakkalaureus</i>	3 years	180	<i>Magister</i>	2 years	120	1999	56%
Azerbaijan	<i>Bakalavr</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magistr</i>	1.5-2 years	90-120	1993	97.4%(B),78% (M)
Belgium (Flemish)	<i>Baccalauréat/ Bachelier/Bachelor</i>	3 years	180	Master	1-2 years	60-120	2004	99%
Belgium (French)	<i>Baccalauréat/ Bachelier/Bachelor</i>	3 years	180	Master	1-2 years	60-120	2004	100%
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<i>Diplomirani</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistar</i>	1-2 years	60-120	Being implemented	70%
Bulgaria	<i>Bakalavar</i>	4-5 years	240-300	<i>Magistar</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2003	100%
Croatia	<i>Baccalaureus/ Prvostupnik</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magister</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2005	75.8% (2007-2008)
Cyprus	<i>Ptychio</i>	4-6 years	240-360	<i>Metaptychiako /Master</i>	1.5--3 years	90-180	Precedes Bologna Process	100%
Czech Republic	<i>Bakalár</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistr/Inzenyr</i>	1-3 years	60-180	2005	80% (2007-2008)
Denmark	Bachelor	3-3.5 years	180-210	<i>Candidatus</i>	2 years	60	1992	96%
Estonia	<i>Bakalaureus.</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistr</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2002	91.4% (2007-2008)
Finland	Bachelor	3 years,	180	Master	2 years	120	2005	98%
France	<i>Licence</i>	3 years,	180	Master (M-2)	2 years	120	2002	84.5%
Georgia	<i>Bakalavriati</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magistratura</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2005	27%
Germany	<i>Bakkalaureus/ Bachelor</i>	3 years,	180	<i>Magister/Master</i>	2 years	120	1998	30.9% (2007-2008)
Greece	<i>Ptychio</i>	4-5 years	240-300	<i>Metaptychiako</i>	1-2 years	60-120	Precedes Bologna Process	90.1% (2007-2008)
Hungary	<i>Alapképzés</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Mesterképzés</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2006	58.3%
Iceland	<i>Baccalaureatus</i>	3-4 years	180	<i>Meistaragráða</i>	2 years	120	Precedes Bologna Process	21%
Ireland	Bachelor	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1-3 years	60-180	Precedes Bologna Process	100%

# Bologna Process Implementation Status

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Italy	<i>Laurea di 1. Livello</i>	3 years	180	<i>Laurea Specialistica</i>	2 years	120	2001	98.5%
Latvia	Bakalaura Diploms	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistra Grads</i>	1-2 years	60-120	Precedes Bologna Process	90.2%
Liechtenstein	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	1.5 - 2 years	90-120	1999	100%
Lithuania	<i>Bakalauro diplomas</i>	3.5-4 years	210-240	<i>Magistro Diplomas</i>	1-3 years	60-180	2000	96.1%
Luxembourg	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	2 years <sup>1</sup>	120	2003	No Data
Macedonia	Bachelor	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1-2 years	60-120	2003	No Data
Malta	Bachelor	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1-2 years	60-120	Precedes Bologna Process	100%
Moldova	<i>Licenta</i>	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1-2 years	60-120	2005	No Data
Montenegro	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	2 years	120	2004	100%
Netherlands	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	1-2 years	60-120	2002	96.80%
Norway	Bachelor	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1.5-2 years	90-120	Precedes Bologna Process	No Data
Poland	<i>Licencjat</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magister</i>	1.5 - 2 years	90-120	1990 (law 1995 obligatory)	83%
Portugal	<i>Licenciado (new)</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Mestre</i>	1.5 - 2 years	90-120	2006	No Data
Romania	<i>Licenta</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Diploma de Studii Aprofundate, Master</i>	1.5 - 2 years	90-120	2005 (B), 2008 (M)	100%
Russian Federation	<i>Bakalavr</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magistr</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2007	9.40%
Serbia	<i>Diploma Visokog Obrazovanja (Baccalaureus)</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistar</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2006	89%
Slovakia	<i>Bakalár</i>	3-4 years	180-240	<i>Magistr/Inzenyr</i>	1-3 years	60-180	2005	87.80%
Slovenia	<i>Univerzitetni Diplomirani</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magister</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2004	26% (2007-2008)
Spain	<i>Graduado</i>	4 years	240	<i>Máster Universitario</i>	1-2 years	60-120	2005 (M), 2008 (B)	100%
Sweden	<i>Kandidatexamen</i>	3 years	180	<i>Magisterexamen</i>	2 years	120	2007	100%
Switzerland	Bachelor	3 years	180	Master	1.5-2 years	90-120	2007	85%
Turkey	<i>Lisans Dipomasi</i>	4 years	240	<i>Yüksek Lisans</i>	1.5-2 years	90-120	Precedes Bologna Process	97%
Ukraine	<i>Bakalavr</i>	4 years	240	<i>Magistr</i>	2 years	120	Precedes Bologna Process	100%
United Kingdom	Bachelor	3-4 years	180-240	Master	1-2 years	60-120	Precedes Bologna Process	97%

# Key Features of the Bologna Process

- The Three-cycle system: Bachelor, Master, Doctorate
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- **Common Grading Scale**



**BEFORE**

# ECTS Grading Scale

## Norm-Based (on the curve)

ECTS Grade	Verbal Description	Percentage
A	outstanding performance with only minor errors	10
B	above the average standard but with some errors	25
C	generally sound work with a number of notable errors	30
D	fair but with significant shortcomings	25
E	performance meets the minimum criteria	10
Fx	Fail – some more work required before the credit can be awarded	N.A.
F	Fail – considerable further work is required	N.A.

# ECTS Grade Conversion – “Letter for Letter”

ECTS Grades	Percentage	“Letter for Letter”	Quality Points	“Credit”	Sum QP	Avg. GPA
A	10	A	4	1	4	
B	25	B	3	2.5	7.5	
C	30	C	2	3	6	
D	25	D	1	2.5	2.5	
E	10	D	1	1	1	
Fx	N.A.	F				
F	N.A.	F				
					21.00	2.10

# WES ECTS Grade Conversion

ECTS Grades	Percentage	"Letter for Letter"	Quality Points	"Credit"	Sum QP	Avg. GPA
A	10	A	4	1	4	
B	25	B+	3.33	2.5	8.325	
C	30	B	3	3	9	
D	25	C+	2.33	2.5	5.825	
E	10	C	2	1	2	
Fx	N.A.	F				
F	N.A.	F				
					29.15	2.92

# Key Features of the Bologna Process

- The Three-cycle system: Bachelor, Master, Doctorate
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Common Grading Scale
- **Diploma Supplement**



# Test Your Knowledge!

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1. **When were the first Diploma Supplements produced?**



**BEFORE**

# What is a Diploma Supplement?

- A document that summarizes the skills and knowledge obtained by the holder of a degree.
- A standardized document that describes the program of study and gives information on the system of education
- It is issued by higher education institutions under the guidelines of standards agreed upon by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO.
- Since **approximately 2003**, diploma supplements have gradually been implemented at universities throughout Europe as part of the Bologna Process.

# What information does a diploma supplement contain?

While every diploma supplement is slightly different, they will typically contain these sections:

- ✓ Information identifying the holder of the qualification
- ✓ Information identifying the qualification
- ✓ Information on the level of the qualification
- ✓ Information on the contents and results gained
- ✓ Information on the function of the qualification
- ✓ Additional information
- ✓ Certification of the official issuing the supplement
- ✓ Information on the national higher education system

Taken from: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/doc/ds\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/doc/ds_en.pdf)

# Benefits of Diploma Supplements



## For universities

- ✓ More transparent qualifications
- ✓ Greater visibility of their institution abroad
- ✓ Time savings (by answering many frequently asked questions)



## For students

- ✓ An easily readable and comparable qualification
- ✓ Precise description of their studies and competencies acquired
- ✓ Easier access to opportunities for work

Resource: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/diploma-supplement\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/diploma-supplement_en.htm)

# Countries using diploma supplements most of the time

WES specifically asks for diploma supplements from the following countries:

Austria	Albania	Belgium	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark
Estonia	Finland	Georgia	Germany
Greenland	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland
Latvia	Lichtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Moldova	Montenegro	Netherlands	Norway
Poland	Portugal	Romania	Serbia
Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland			

Note: We also ask for diploma supplements from **Guadeloupe and Martinique** given the countries' relationship with the French Ministry of Education.

# Countries using diploma supplements

WES recommends that applicants send diploma supplements from the following countries:

Andorra

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Belarus

Croatia

France

Greece

Holy See

Italy

Kazakhstan

Macedonia

Malta

Russia

Turkey

Ukraine

# Key Features of the Bologna Process

- The Three-cycle system: Bachelor, Master, Doctorate
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Common Grading Scale
- Diploma Supplement
- **Quality Assurance**

# Accreditation/Quality Assurance

- The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ENQA and the ....
- European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education EQAR
- Designation of a Set of Standards, Procedures and Steps for Quality Assurance
- Comparable to the Role of CHEA-Council on Higher Education Accreditation in the USA

# POLL



# Pre-Bologna—Accept 3 year?



# Post-Bologna—Change Policy?



# Unconditionally Accept



# Most Common Reasons for not Recognizing 3-Year Degrees

- **Length** 3-year vs. 4 years
  - Less than 16 years total education (US undergrad degree is 12 + 4)
- **Scope:** Absence of general education

# Evaluating the Bologna 3-Year Bachelor's Degree

- Admission requirements
- Structure of the program
- Comparison of curriculum
- Purpose of the program

# WES Compared Two Degrees

## New Italian Degree (Laurea I)

- Requires maturity certificate for admission
- Three years
- 100% of the program devoted to the major and supporting subjects
- 180 ECTS credits
- Grants access to employment or graduate study

## US Bachelor's Degree

- Requires high school diploma for admission
- Four years
- 50% of program in general education and distribution requirements
- 120+ semester credits
- Grants access to employment or graduate study

**Università Bocconi**  
**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**Indiana University**  
**Kelley School of Business/BBA**

**University of Western Sydney**  
**Bachelor of Business (Management)**

<b>First Year First Semester</b>	<b>CP*</b>	<b>First Year First Semester</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>First Year First Semester</b>	<b>CP</b>
Theory and principles of management	8	ENG W131	3	Management Foundations	10
Principles of private law	8	MATH M118	3	Introduction to Information Systems	10
Principles of public law	6	American History	3	Marketing Principles	10
Mathematics (Part I)	4	Social Science	3	<b>one of the following</b>	
Economic history	6	BUS X100	3	Accounting Information for Managers	10
		BUS X103	1	Accounting Reports and Decisions	10
<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>	
Accounting and financial statements	8	BUS A100	1	Management and Decision Making	10
Corporate Management	6	BUS X204	3	Managing People at Work	10
Mathematics (Part II)	4	MATH M119	3	2 ELECTIVES	20
Microeconomics	8	COMM R110	3		
Computer skills	4	Social Science	3		
		Science	3-5		
<b>Second Year First Semester</b>		<b>Second Year First Semester</b>		<b>Second Year First Semester</b>	
Accounting and financial statements 2	4	BUS A201	3	Organisational Behaviour	10
Public management	6	BUS K201	3	Entrepreneurial Management and Innovation	10
Macroeconomics	6	BUS L203	3	2 ELECTIVES	20
Organization theory	6	ECON E201	3		
Statistics	8	Humanities	3		
		Electives or Science	1-3		
<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>	
Corporate finance	6	BUS A202	3	Business, Society and Policy	10
Marketing	6	ECON E202	3	Organisational Learning and Development	10
Financial mathematics	6	ECON E270	3	2 ELECTIVES	20
Managerial accounting	6	Humanities	3		
First foreign language	6	Electives	3-5		
<b>Third Year First Semester</b>		<b>Third Year First Semester</b>		<b>Third Year First Semester</b>	
Financial markets and institutions	6	BUS F301	3	Organisation Analysis and Design	10
Innovation and technology management	6	BUS M301	3	International Management	10
Public economics	6	BUS P301	3	Power, Politics and Knowledge	10
Management information systems	4	Humanities	3	ELECTIVE	10
First elective course	6	Z302	3		
<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>	
Company and business law	6	BUS X420	2	Management of Change	10
Business strategy	6	International Dimension	3	Strategic Management	10
Second elective course	6	Concentration requirements or electives	12	Contemporary Management Issues	10
Second foreign language	6	<b>Fourth Year First Semester</b>		ELECTIVE	10
Final report	6	International Dimension	3		
		Concentration requirements or electives	9		
		Electives	3		
		<b>Second Semester</b>			
		BUS J401	3		
		Concentration requirements or electives	12		

(CP\*)-Credit Points

# WES Conclusions

- Similar, yet distinct in relation to U.S. degree
- Studies more concentrated in the major
- Electives generally taken in the same department
- The ECTS credit based on learning outcomes as defined by the faculty or university
- Overall, similar in level, scope and intent
- WES considers them to be equivalent
- <http://www.chicagobooth.edu/programs/full-time/admissions/international>

# The 3-year Degree Experience



The Bologna Process has reopened the debate!

Three-year degrees from Israel, Singapore,  
Hong Kong, Australia, India .....

