The Bologna Process from the International Student Perspective

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Background

Erasmus Mundus Masters in Research & Innovation in Higher Education (MaRIHE) 2013-2015

Locations:

• Austria: Danube University Krems (Sem. 1 & 4)
• Finland: University of Tampere (Sem. 2)
• China: Beijing Normal University (Sem. 3)
Before MaRIHE

- No prior awareness of Erasmus Mundus Masters
- Overheard someone talking about the programme in a meeting
- Looked online, found MaRIHE…. Deadline: 2 weeks!

Think about:
- How do you promote a joint masters? Especially to British students?
Prior to MaRIHE

- Communication with Coordinator
- Publication of students online
- Facebook
- Accommodation
- Living in a different country
- Visa issues
- Study information

Top tip: Build up community before students arrive
Semester 1: Austria

- Student Agreement
- Appointed class rep
- Cultural visits
- German classes
- Visiting professors/industry experts
- Focus of subjects: European & Management
- Moodle – available for all semesters

Top tip:
Use one consistent moodle for duration of programme
Semester 2: Finland

- More ‘local’ teachers
- Cultural visits
- Finnish classes
- Focus of subjects: The Americas & Theory
- Beginning to discuss thesis
- Preparing for China
Internship

• All MaRIHE students required to do 6+ week internship during Summer
• Pool of employers or students found their own
• Feedback questionnaire to employers and students,
• No formalized individual feedback
• Pass or fail
• Case study developed by students on internship company for a module in China.

Think about:
• Are there opportunities for short internships within your programme?
• Career advice opportunities
Semester 3: China

- Bureaucracy
- Induction/Welcome
- Focus of subjects: Asia & Social Justice
- Cultural visits
- Chinese language classes
- Only one quality meeting

Top tips:
- Communicate with partners constantly, particularly with non-EU partners
- If a student has an issue in one country, can they contact you?
- Ensure curriculum is talked about during consortium meetings
Quality Coffee Meetings

• Only in Austria & Finland
• Occurred monthly
• 1-2 hour meeting with all students and all staff
• Similar to student-staff liaison committees
• Informal minutes taken
• Follow up

• Consortium meetings

Think about:
• What QA processes will be put in place?
• How will students be involved in QA processes?
Assessment & Feedback

- Different grading system per institution
- Lack of policy
- Various marking methods
- Various types of feedback
- Range of time it took to receive grade: 3 days – 9 months!

Top tip:
- Develop an assessment & feedback policy
Semester 4: Austria

• Cohort split into 3 (Austria, Finland & Germany)
• Worked from Scotland, travelled to Austria once per month
• External supervisor

Top tips:
• Opportunity for flexibility
• Research methods material should be made available to all students
• Opportunity for short term classes students can participate in
• External supervisor contingency scheme
• Graduation
Misc.

- Term dates
- Workload varied depending on class and country
- Consortium members taught us at partner institutions
- Registration issues at every university
- Duplication of learning

Top tips:
- Develop online calendar with all important dates well in advance
- Important to talk about curriculum (it will change and develop, but keep an eye on it)
- Teaching abroad opportunity for academics and admin at partner institution – helps keep up-to-date with students
- Can registration be done all at once, at beginning of Masters?
- Handover pack?
Summary of Top Tips

- Communication
- Promotion of programme
- Build up community before students arrive
- Feasibility of cultural/language modules
- Students involved in QA processes
- Internship?
- Careers advice
- Curriculum development
- Develop an Assessment & Feedback policy
- Flexibility in final semester
- Research methods
- External supervisors
- Contingency plans
- Short term classes for all students
- Graduation
- Online calendar
- Teaching at partner institutions
- Registration
- Handover pack
Thank You