





The Bologna Process from the International Student Perspective

Rebecca Maxwell Stuart







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

MARIHE-2

The following list shows the 20 students of MARIHE-2 (2013-2015).

- » Mr BALYASIN, Mikhail (Russian Federation)
- » Mrs CALUGAREANU, Simona (Romania)
- » Mrs CELIK, Elif (Turkey)
- » Mrs CESAR, Layla (Brazil)
- » Mr GEBREMESKEL, Haftu Hindeya (Ethiopia)
- » Mr GREEN, Paul (United Kingdom)
- » Mrs HOLUBEK, Vesna (Serbia)
- » Mr KADERY, Raihan Mahmood (Bangladesh)
- » Mrs LU, Meijia (China)
- » Mrs MAXWELL STUART, Rebecca (United Kingdom, student representative)
- » Mrs MIKALAYEVA, Katsiaryna (Belarus)
- » Mr MILUTINOVIC, Milos (Serbia)
- » Mrs NESTOROWICZ, Natalia (Austria)
- » Mr NGUYEN, Thanh Tung (Viet Nam)
- » Mrs PASHAYEVA, Aytaj (Azerbaijan)
- » Mrs PEI, Min (China)
- » Mr PUNCO, Patrik (Slovakia)
- » Mrs SUN, Qi (China)
- » Mr TRAN, Long Dinh Thanh (Viet Nam)
- » Mrs ZALYEVSKA, Inga (Ukraine)

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-todate 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

