

‘Mobility and International Degrees – a case study, Swansea University’

**HEURO Seminar - “Promoting the Learning Mobility of
young people”**

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Why Swansea as a case study?

- Swansea University has been an active participant in the Bologna Process and, since the 1980s, with Erasmus. It has attempted to implement changes, converting theory into a tangible reality for students and staff, examples:
 - Bologna Promoter/Expert
 - Hosted a Bologna Follow-up Group seminar on “*Enhancing European Employability*”
 - Contributed an article in the Bologna *Handbook* on “Bologna – a springboard to a university’s student employability and Internationalisation agendas”
 - Introduced joint degrees
 - Awarded Diploma Supplement Label in 2009
 - Swansea University “probably the best located university in Europe” !!

Swansea University



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Swansea University - a case study

Aims of presentation

- To reflect upon the opportunities presented to UK universities within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) : & latest news
- To reflect upon the importance of mobility opportunities for students
- Using Swansea University as a case study, to invite participants to reflect upon ways in which the UK can meet the targets for mobility set by the Ministers in 2009 – informed by reflections, observations and examples of good practice from colleagues from other European countries

Swansea University – context

Background information

- Established in 1920 – the 2nd largest university in Wales
- Research-led university
- 13050 Students - 10800 undergraduate 1400 Masters & 850 Research
- A wide range of disciplines
- 132 Exchange links with European universities
- 43 Global exchange agreements
 - e.g. 23 America 4 Australia 14 Canada 1 New Zealand 1 Hong Kong
- 2 Erasmus Mundus Masters' programmes
- Joint and collaborative doctoral degrees
- Following an ambitious Internationalisation Strategy
- Bi-lingual university, offering Welsh-medium teaching

Swansea University – context

Mobility information

| | Europe | | America | | Other | |
|---------|--------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-----|
| | In | Out | In | Out | In | Out |
| 2006-07 | 168 | 94 | ?? | ?? | ?? | ?? |
| 2007-08 | 156 | 129 | ?? | ?? | ?? | ?? |
| 2008-09 | 172 | 134 | 21 | 28 | 30 | 07 |
| 2009-10 | 170 | 129 | 36 | 12 | 18 | 10 |

Staff mobility European mobility 16 (06/07) 16 (07/08) 25 (08/09)
Not available for non European

- The University acknowledges support of the European Universities' Association and welcomes the latest joint EUA/ESU&/Ei initiative to improve mobility

Nothing spectacular - "Nid da lle gellir gwell"

Leuven Communiqué April 2009

“We believe that mobility of students, early stage researchers and staff enhances the quality of programmes and excellence in research; it strengthens the academic and cultural internationalisation of European higher education. Mobility is important for personal development and employability, it fosters respect for diversity and a capacity to deal with other cultures. ...”

“Within each of the three cycles, opportunities for mobility shall be created in the structure of degree programmes. Joint degrees and programmes as well as mobility windows shall become more common practice...”

“In 2020, at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad”

Mobility has been central to the Bologna process throughout

The European Higher Education Area

There is already a recognition that

- the mobility numbers are not satisfactory and that
- there is a need to define the indicators used for measuring mobility

Recent developments include:

- 1) EUA ESU (European Students' Union) Ei (Education International) have been tasked with working on mobility issues to ensure that the ministerial targets are met:
 - ⑩ **Defining student mobility**
 - **Defining staff mobility**
 - ⑩ **How do you measure mobility – students and staff**

The European Higher Education Area

- 2) The development of European Quality Systems - Copenhagen November '09

Swedish Presidency paper on Quality – Copenhagen 2009

'In short, if we want mobility, we need cross-border recognition, and to have recognition we need systems for cross-border quality assurance'

- 3) European Commission Green Paper on Mobility of young people [Issued in the Summer 2009 – responses by December 2009]

“Learning mobility....is one of the fundamental ways in which individuals, particularly young people, can strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development....Furthermore, employers recognise and value these benefits...Thence the mobility of learners should form a part of a renewed drive to build Europe’s skills and ability to innovate and compete at international level.”

Target – to improve student and staff mobility

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Achievements - building on existing foundations and excellent partners

Understanding Bologna

- Actively participating (Saltzburg seminar on doctoral degrees)
- Becoming a member of the EUA and recently the EUA-CDE
- Bologna Expert

Generating interest within the university

- Internal EUA seminar at the University
- Bologna Seminar on Employability → London Ministerial Meeting 2007

Achieving tangible Results

- Diploma Supplement → 1st in UK to issue to all students & Label in 2009
- Erasmus Mundus (x2)

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Achievements - Promoting Mobility opportunities

- Student engagement - mobility fairs; promotion campaigns
- Established a network of staff within schools to promote mobility
- Instigated an internal debate on mobility at all 3 cycles
- Erasmus Staff open week – March '09 - 30 staff attended
- Appointed an Associate Dean (Bologna) for the Research Faculty
- Joint degree seminars and ensured legal platform
- Engagement with the French Embassy and through this, with the Welsh Assembly

[Using Erasmus Mundus as the basis of developments – high quality & standards and in preparation for the E M 11 call for proposals]

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Current position and activities

- Working on expanding mobility opportunities at Bachelor level – more subjects; Europe; USA (Texas attracted by the Atlantis Programme); USA; Canada; Australia.
- Erasmus Mundus degrees - intentions to apply for a further 3 joint PhD this year
- Implementation of International Masters Degrees
 - 2 year programmes with integral mobility/international placement period
 - Flexible in terms of structure
 - Trans-national and cross boundary
 - Award - leading to Joint or double degree or potentially “ .. In collaboration with ..” degrees
 - Multi-entry points
 - 3 pilot programmes being run based on positive student feedback

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Future Challenges - Develop an institutional Mobility Strategy

- Joint PhDs (*Co-tutelle*) arrangements
- Developing a Diploma Supplement for doctoral candidates
- Mobility at the 3 cycles - the models are already in place but
 - Funding issues
 - Regulatory issues
- Recognition of study periods
 - Transcripts & Diploma Supplements ✓
 - Degree certificates (depending on partners)
- Linguistic barriers
 - Welcome comments in Green paper – massive issue in UK
 - Interaction with schools & pupils & Assembly Government Wales
- Credit issues

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Future Challenges (continued)

- FEES – each joint degree needs to be attractive to UK, European & overseas students as well as Director of Finance and legal
- Quality assurance
 - Instigated a review of the QAA Code of Practice on Collaborative Provision taking into account joint degree
- Global mobility and joint degrees, based on knowledge and experience from Bologna
- Innovative mobility experiences
 - multi disciplinary mobility projects, eg Gambia (Geography, Medicine, Nursing students)
- Review the structure of the academic year
 - adjusting semester dates?

Swansea University – facing the challenges

Future challenges (continued)

- Curriculum Reform
 - releasing space for mobility, recognition of study abroad, language modules, 2 year masters' programmes
- Involvement of Welsh Assembly Government
- Working with Embassies
- further mobility seminars/workshops in Swansea, involving EUA/ESU

UK challenges - observations from European colleagues

- ❖ FEES
- ❖ Masters' Programmes

Programme structures to encourage mobility

Exchange Agreements - 4 years

2 + year out + 1

Exchange Agreements – 3 years

One year spent abroad in lieu of study

Joint degrees/Double degrees

Mostly at postgraduate level – but why restrict

Co-tutelle arrangements

- A formal joint supervision arrangement

Combined degrees

One degree (Bachelor) at one university followed by the Master at the other (upward mobility)

Question – does the UK's 1 year Master programme restrict mobility?