



UNIWERSYTET TECHNOLOGICZNO-PRZYRODNICZY
im. Jana i Jędrzeja Śniadeckich
w Bydgoszczy

ECTS, academic grades, learning outcomes

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European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a standard for comparing the study attainment and performance of students of higher education across the European Union and other collaborating European countries. For successfully completed studies, ECTS credits are awarded. One academic year corresponds to 60 **ECTS credits** that are normally equivalent to 1500–1800 hours of total workload, irrespective of standard or qualification type. ECTS credits are used to facilitate transfer and progression throughout the Union. ECTS also includes a standard grading scale, intended to be shown in addition to local (i.e. national) standard grades.

WHAT DOES ECTS OFFER TO THE STUDENT ?

#ECTS guarantees academic recognition of studies abroad.

#ECTS enables access to regular courses alongside local students, with the benefit of full participation in the academic life of the host institution. This characteristic of ECTS distinguishes it from many other student mobility programmes.

#ECTS enables further studies abroad. A student may prefer not to go back to the home institution after the study period abroad, but rather to stay at the host institution -- possibly to gain a degree -- or to move to a third institution. The institutions themselves decide whether or not this is acceptable and what conditions the student must fulfil in order to get a diploma or transfer registration.

WHAT DOES ECTS OFFER TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ?

#ECTS creates curriculum transparency by providing detailed information on the curricula and their relevance towards a degree.

#ECTS helps academics to make academic recognition decisions thanks to prior agreement on the content of study programmes abroad between students and their home and host institutions.

#The use of ECTS can also be a catalyst for reflection on course curriculum structures, student workload and learning outcomes.

#With ECTS, higher education institutions preserve their autonomy and responsibility for all decisions concerning students' achievements, without amending existing course structures and assessment methods: all courses and assessments are those which are normally taken by regular students at the host institution.

List of credits given in one year in some EU countries "[ECTS User's guide](#)" (PDF). [Publications Office of the European Union](#). 2015.

Country	Credit points/hours per year	Hours per credit point	Credit point name/ Legislation
Austria	60/ 1500	25	ECTS/ Legal Act
Denmark	60/ 1650	~28	ECTS/ Ministerial Act
Finland	60/ 1600	27	opintopiste (op)/ National Board Act
France	60/ 1650	29	crédits ECTS/ Rectors' Assembly
Germany/Poland / Spain	60/ 1800/ 1500-1800	25-30	KMK/Ministerial Act/ Royal Act
Scotland	120/ 1200-1800	10	SCQF ECTS (?)
Sweden	60/1600	26.667	Högskolepoäng/ Government Act

List of credits given in one year in some European countries "[ECTS User's guide](#)" (PDF). [Publications Office of the European Union](#). 2015.

Country	Credit points/hours per year	Hours per credit point	Credit point name/ Legislation
Iceland	60/ 1500-2000	25-30	No act, agreement among universities
Norway	60/ no fixed limits, university decision	25-30	Legal Act
Switzerland	60/ 1500-1800	30	SUC (Swiss Universities Conference)
Turkey	60/ 1500-1800	25-30	Legal Act

The ECTS information package

Institutions which want to use ECTS produce an information package, updated annually, in which they describe the courses available at the institution. It provides general information about the institution, its location, student accommodation, administrative procedures necessary to register and academic calendar.

Good course information is essential to prepare serious study abroad and descriptions covering the content, prerequisites, mode of assessment, time unit, type of course, teaching and learning methods employed and ECTS credits allocated are all included in the information package, along with a description of the department offering the course. Details of examination and assessment procedures, the institution's grading scale and the structure of the curriculum of the degree are also included.

The information package is produced in both the national language and in a second Community language. They are circulated to partner institutions for students and professors to consult and use in planning study abroad programmes.

The learning agreement

describes the programme of study abroad and is drawn up by the individual student and institutions involved before the student goes abroad.

The transcript of records

shows the learning achievements of the student prior to and after the period of study abroad. The transcript of records show for every course taken by the student not only the ECTS credits but also the grade awarded according to the local grading scale and the ECTS grading scale. The combination of the local grades and the ECTS credits and grades represents qualitatively and quantitatively the performance of the student on the courses at the host institution.

Planning to study at another HEI (abroad and/or other domestic HEI)

Students who wish to study at another HEI contact their home departmental coordinator and study the information packages of other institutions to choose their destination and plan their programme of study. This helps the student to select courses which are appropriate in their content and academic level, for recognition by the home institution as part of the student's final degree. Using the ECTS credits helps students to organise a study programme which is realistic in terms of overall workload. The ECTS credit rating demonstrates the relative weight of each course in the proposed programme of study.

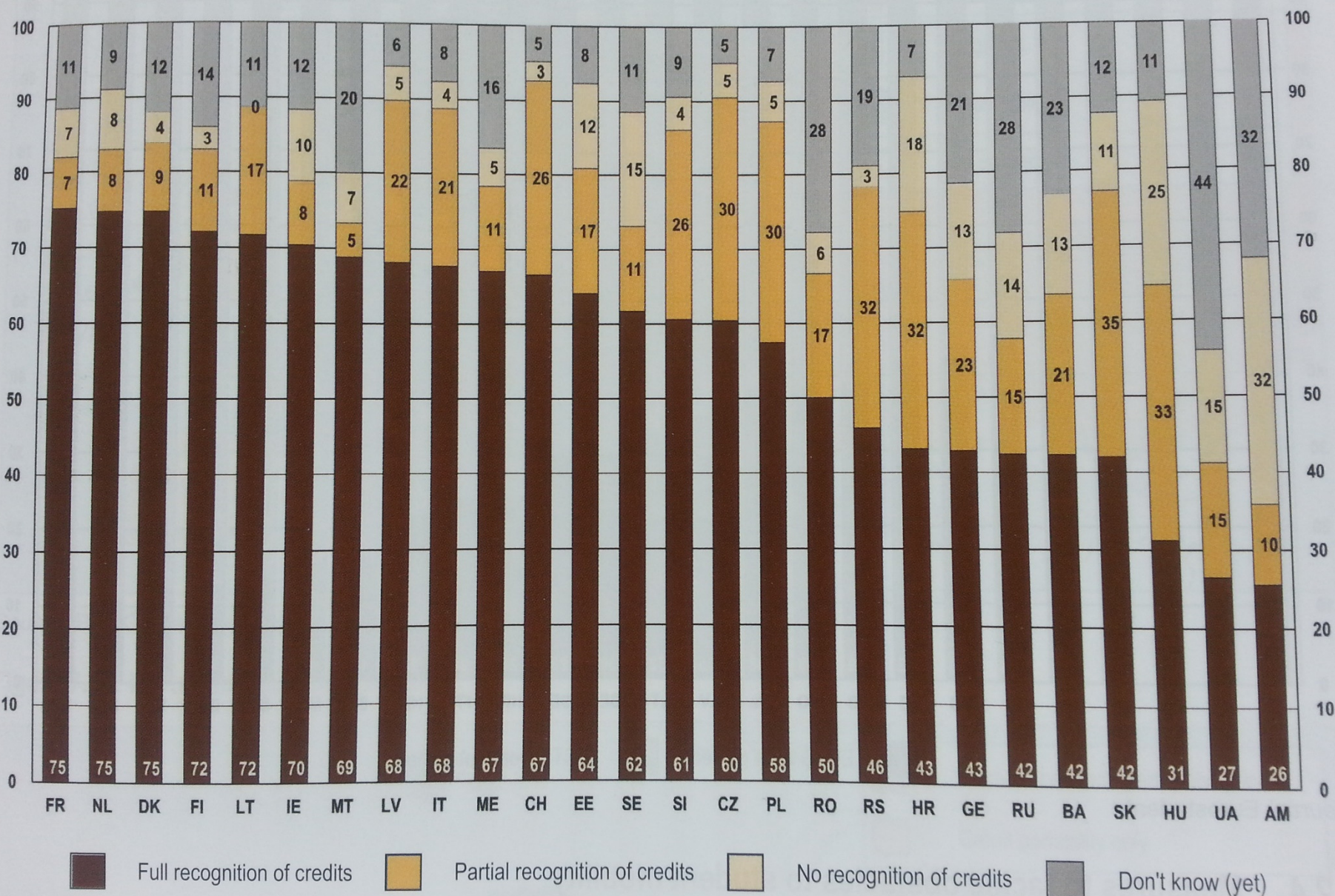
Full academic recognition vs. ECTS credits transferred

An ECTS study programme must be approved by both the home and the host institutions before the student leaves for the study period abroad. If the programme of study described in the learning agreement is completed satisfactorily by the student, it is fully recognised by the home institution.

This means that the volume of study abroad, measured in terms of numbers of ECTS credits achieved, will replace an equivalent volume of study and assessment which would otherwise have been undertaken at the home institution.

Institutions prepare and exchange transcripts of records for each student participating in ECTS. A copy of the transcript is given to the student and exchanged between the home and the host institutions before and after the period of study abroad.

Figure 7.31: Recognition of credits gained during (most recent) enrolment abroad – Share of students who have been enrolled abroad (in %), 2013/14



Source: Eurostudent.

The basic framework is three cycles of

higher-education qualifications.

The framework adopted by the ministers at their meeting in Bergen in 2005 defines the qualifications in terms of learning outcomes: statements of what students know and can do on completing their degrees. In describing the cycles, the framework uses the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS):

First cycle: typically 180–240 ECTS credits (a minimum of 60 credits per academic year), usually awarding a bachelor's degree. The European Higher Education Area did not introduce the bachelor-with-honours programme, which allows graduates to receive a "BA hon." degree (for example, in the UK, Australia and Canada) which (in the UK and Australia) may enable graduates to begin doctoral studies without first obtaining a master's degree.

Second cycle: typically 90–120 ECTS credits (a minimum of 60 ECTS per academic year), usually awarding a master's degree

Third cycle (doctoral degree): There is no concrete ECTS range, since the disciplines vary in length and comprehensiveness.

Examples of LEARNING OUTCOMES STATEMENTS that are SPECIFIC and relatively EASY to measure...

...will be able to read and demonstrate good comprehension of text in areas of the student's interest or professional field.

...will demonstrate the ability to apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.

...will be able to identify environmental problems, evaluate problem-solving strategies, and develop science-based solutions.

...will demonstrate the ability to evaluate, integrate, and apply appropriate information from various sources to create cohesive, persuasive arguments, and to propose design concepts.

DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

The **Diploma Supplement** is a document accompanying a higher education diploma, providing a standardised description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies completed by its holder.

The Diploma Supplement is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which the supplement is appended. It should be free from any value-judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. The Diploma Supplement provides a common structure to translate qualifications across the EU. It is a flexible, non-prescriptive tool which has been shown to save time, money and workload by an EU working party.

DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT has the following eight sections of information:

the holder of the qualification

the qualification

its level and function

the contents and results gained

certification of the supplement

details of the national higher education system concerned
(provided by the National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARICs))

any additional relevant information.

Sources

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Credit_Transfer_and_Accumulation_System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grading_systems_by_country

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Thank you for your attention!

