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**UK Higher Education
Europe Unit**

UK HE Europe Unit Funders



QAA



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



- Universities UK
- HE Funding Councils for England, Scotland and Wales
- GuildHE
- Quality Assurance Agency

Three objectives

- To raise awareness / central observatory
- To coordinate UK involvement in European debate
- To produce collective UK statements for lobbying

Europe Unit guidance on integrated Masters degrees, Nov 05

- Europe Unit contact with individual HEIs, QAA, ECUK, Royal Society of Chemistry, Institute of Physics, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Incompatibility of integrated Masters with Bologna – no exit point after Bachelor and shorter duration
- NB: Scotland 5yr integrated Masters

Europe Unit guidance on integrated Masters (cont.)

Recommended actions for HEIs:

- 60 ECTS at M' level (in line with Bologna Framework)
- Award both B' and M' certificates
- Terminology: 'integrated' not 'undergraduate'
- Diploma Supplement
- Extend the duration - summer teaching, industrial placements

Europe Unit guidance on integrated Masters (cont.)

Promoting integrated Masters:

- Exacting output standards
- Benchmark statements
- Popularity with employers
- Highly selective
- In line with EU directive on recognition of professional qualifications

Discussions within the professions

- Engineering Council UK
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Council of Mathematical Sciences
- Institute of Physics

Education and Skills Select Committee Report, April 07

- Concern about future of integrated Masters degrees
- European Credit Transfer System, maximum 75 ECTS credits for one calendar year

Bologna discussions on doctoral level qualifications

- 2003 – doctoral level qualifications incorporated as ‘the 3rd cycle’
- Basic principles for doctoral quals in Europe
- European University Association activity

Key issues

- Access to doctoral study
- Role of the supervisor in assessment
- Use of credit
- 'Employee' or 'student' status
- Innovative programmes
- Graduate schools
- Quality assurance

The UK HE Europe Unit

**Europe Unit conference, 19 June,
'Are we nearly there yet:
Towards a European Higher
Education Area'**

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