

Kingston University: Commitment to the Bologna Process

The University is committed to supporting the Bologna Process.

In 1999 the Bologna Declaration was agreed by 29 European Ministers of Education which committed members to establish the European Higher Education Area by 2010.

The process involved the commitment to 10 Action Lines:

- Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
- Adoption of a system essentially based on two cycles (undergraduate and postgraduate) (a third was subsequently added)
- Establishment of a system of credits
- Promotion of mobility
- Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance
- Promotion of the European dimension in higher education
- Focus on lifelong learning (following Prague Ministerial summit 2001)
- Inclusion of higher education institutions and students (following Prague Ministerial summit 2001)
- Promotion of the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (following Prague Ministerial summit 2001)
- Doctoral studies and the synergy between the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area (following Berlin Ministerial summit 2003)

In 2005 the Bergen meeting of the European Ministers of Education adopted the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area drafted by ENQA.

In 2007 the European Ministers for Education agreed to set up a European Register for Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAR).

In 2010 the Ministers officially launched the European Higher Education Area.

Progress to date:

- Work on cooperation in quality assurance of higher education, with a view to development of processes in each country to verify that its national framework is compatible with an overarching Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA), has continued. The FQ-EHEA consists of three main cycles which each have a generic descriptor of the typical abilities and achievement associate with completion of that cycle. The the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and the Higher Education Credit Framework has been verified against these requirements.
- The University ensures that it meets the requirements of the FHEQ in its Academic Regulations and Academic Quality and Standards Handbook and this has been verified in the QAA Audits of Kingston University to date. In this way the University evidences its commitment to the Bologna Process.
- Common European system of credits and mobility for students and staff. The University meets the requirement of the Diploma Supplement (subsequently the HEAR incorporating the DS) and includes information on the European Credit Transfers System (ECTS) therefor meeting the Bologna commitment to a common system of credits. The University also make use of National Academic Recognition Initiative Centre for verification of qualifications.
- The University promotes students and staff mobility at all levels this includes:
 - within Erasmus and with rest of the world through bilateral agreements with institutions in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Chile, South Korea, China, Australia and New Zealand
 - all degree students are offered the opportunity of a period of study or work abroad

- the University is part of two Joint Degrees in Contemporary European Philosophy and Human Rights and Genocide Studies at Master level
- the University participates in an Erasmus Mundus (Action 1) project in Economics
- the University is involved in several European initiatives from programmes and actions such as Leonardo, Grundtvig, Erasmus Intensive Programmes or initiatives from the DG Employment and Justice
- the University has applied for the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the period 2014-2020 to continue developing European activities