



Bologna 3rd Cycle in the European Higher Education Area: From Student Perspective.

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What is ESU?

- ESU is the European Students' Union
- Founded in 1982
- Aims at promoting the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level, and towards all relevant organizations and institutions.
- 49 member organizations from 38 countries.
- ESU represents doctoral students in around half of its members



Status of doctoral candidates - Students or early stage researchers?

- Why not both?

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What does it entail?

- As doctoral students they should have the same rights to participation as students in all other cycles (participation to the Governance, accommodation, public transport...)
- As early stage researchers they should get the social protections that employed people usually benefit from (social and health assurance, maternity leave,..)
- No differentiation of status among doctoral students, especially on the basis of the different funding arrangements.



Purpose of Doctoral Studies

- Various purposes
- Dublin descriptors
- Original research



Structured or unstructured doctorates?

- Structured doctorates have many advantages (interdisciplinarity, transferability of skills, better mobility opportunities, equal access, guidance,...)
- For some geographic or research areas unstructured doctorates are sometimes better solutions
- Quality of the programme and respect of the student rights



Supervision

- Right to a double supervision
- Right to guidelines for supervision, clearly defining the rights and duties of both the doctoral student and the supervisor
- Competent supervision (training)
- Non excessive workload for the supervisor



Career development

- Proper guidance
- Acquisition of competences useful for both the academic career and the labor market
- Interdisciplinarity
- Transferability of skills
- Diploma supplement



Admission

- Second cycle degree should be enough for accessing the third cycle
- Openness to students coming from different disciplines
- Whenever selection is in place there have to be collegial, transparent and as much homogenous as possible selection procedures
- Recognition of prior learning
- Access for students from polytechnics



Workload and length

- ECTS
- Length proportional to the workload
- Grant



Assessment and appeal

- Clearly defined assessment procedures
- Possibility to be awarded the degree before the publication of the research results
- Right to appeal in case of exam failure, to obtain an extension of the doctorate and to receive feedbacks in order to modify the research



Funding and equal access

- Stable and unconditional funding
- Equal access for both genders
- Access for minorities and low socio-economic background students



Internationalisation and mobility

- Joint doctorates and co-tutelle
- Visa and working permits for students and their families
- Financial help for mobility plus portability of grants or salary
- Mobility as an integrated part of the degree
- Recognition
- Lecturers mobility
- Flexible mobility agreements



concluding

- Supervision, guidance and career opportunities
- Internationalization strategy
- Equal treatment, equal access, equal opportunities

