

THE BOLOGNA PROCESS & DOCTORAL STUDIES IN FRANCE

A new structure : LMD

Three levels :

- Licence (bachelor)
- Master
- Doctorate

Main characteristics :

- it is more flexible, more comparable and more compatible with other international standards.
- it allows students to be exposed to research at each and every level of their development

Bachelor level

- ✓ It is based on pluridisciplinarity,
- ✓ It aims at giving students a disciplinary and professional proficiency;
- ✓ It is intended to equip students with a scientific and technical culture.
- ✓ It is open to all.

Its ambition is to allow each student to succeed according to his / her ability by giving them a scientific background and the option to work toward the master level or prepare for a professional diploma

Master level

- ✓ First indication of a close link between higher education and research.
- ✓ Introduction to contemporary scientific research, its methods, its contents, as well as its terms and conditions of production.
- ✓ Preparation either for entering active life and getting a job, or keeping on with studies at the upper level of the Doctorate.
- ✓ Acquaintance with a process of education and training **to** and **by research** activities.
- ✓ Common to both Universities and *grandes écoles*
- ✓ A major direct result of the Bologna process.

Doctorate level

- ✓ Deep involvement in research activities,
- ✓ Fulfillment of the goals set by the Dublin descriptors in 2004.
- ✓ Up-to-date knowledge of modern scientific methods of research not matter their disciplinary field : fundamental sciences, applied sciences, exact sciences as well as humanities and social sciences.
- ✓ Course work but no ECTS.

Doctoral Studies 1

- ✓ Close relationships between laboratories and research centers
- ✓ Four year evaluation.
- ✓ Increasing number of labs belonging jointly to universities and research organizations.

Doctoral Studies 2

Their main purpose is to:

- bring together different disciplines
- promote a multi-disciplinary approach to scientific questions, and to provide students with a scientific culture enabling them to restate the facts in their proper epistemological environment,
- offer the students a place to share their experiences and their knowledge,
- prepare doctoral students to enter the market place follow up on the professional integration of each student,
- partake in international partnerships,
- foster international mobility during and after the completion of the doctorate,

Joint supervision of doctoral thesis

Two major innovations :

- Possibility to depart from the French ordinary legislation when the legal norms in both or more countries are incompatible thus showing that France fully trusts other European doctoral systems.
- Possibility of delivering a joint diploma at the doctoral level (either a joint diploma or a double diploma).

What is quality assurance ?

- ✓ Evaluation of programs ? of institutions ? of the process ?.
- ✓ France in favor of a three level evaluation : (institutions, programs and people).
- ✓ A debate to be continued. As such France could not support the recommendation on quality assurance recently proposed by the European Commission.
- ✓ A subject at the core of our French debate presiding over the making of the future law on research.

Bergen

The creation of a single united space of higher education and research is the essential component of a knowledge society called for by the Lisbon declaration. In this perspective, doctoral studies and dynamic European post-doctoral models must be central to our strategy for the future