Bologna Process at Cihan University-Erbil

Planning and Implementation

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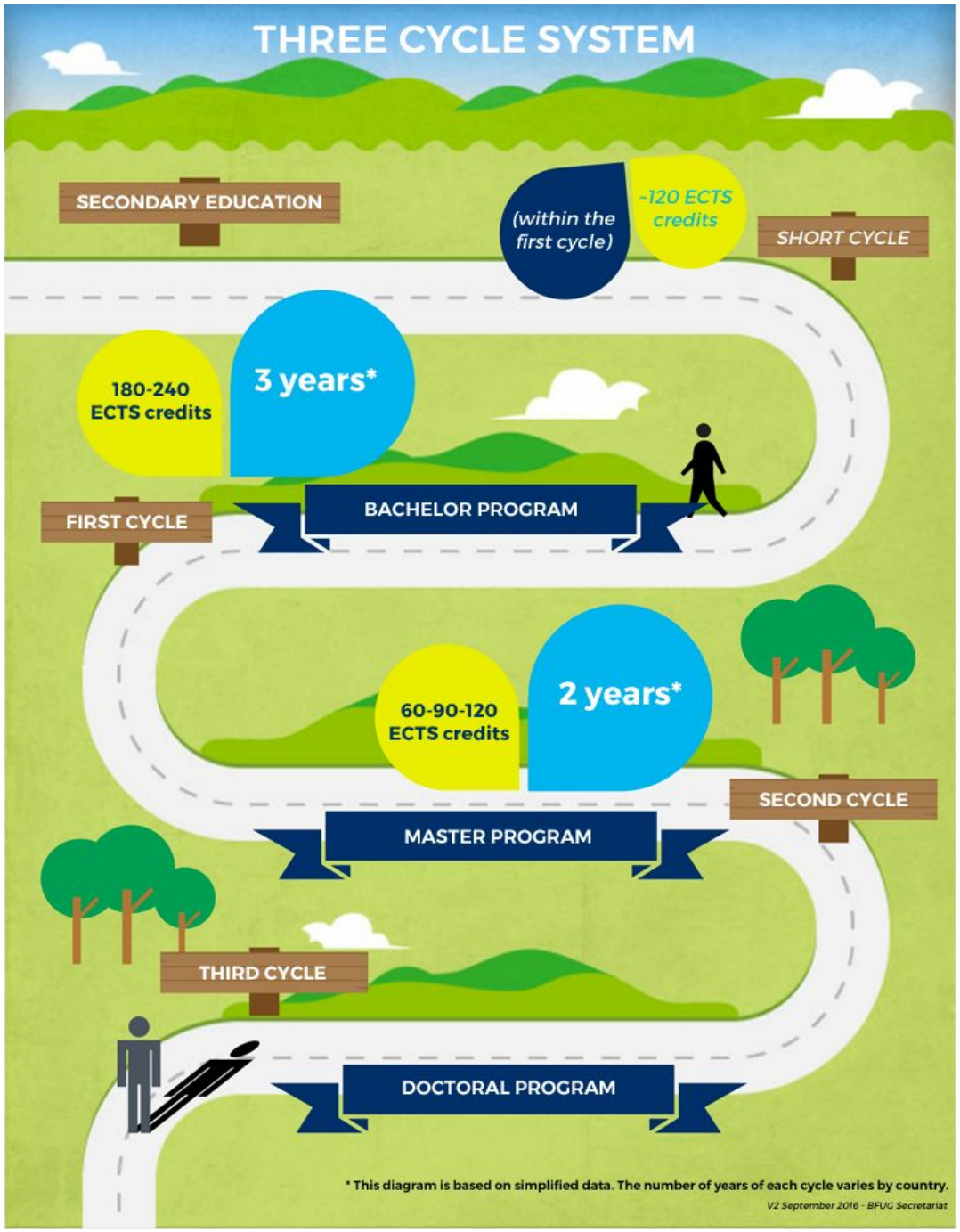
Why Bologna Process

Cihan University-Erbil is trying to be on the track of the Accreditation Process.

To be accredited, each University/Faculty/Department is typically assessed using the following criteria:

1. Overall Mission of the College
2. Objectives and Goals
3. **Student Requirements for Admissions**
4. **Services Available to Students**
5. **Quality of Education**
6. Reputation of Faculty

Bologna Process will take CUE to **Quality of Education**



European Higher Education Area is structured around three cycles, where each level has the function of preparing the student for the labour market, for further competence building and for active citizenship.

(The Bergen Communiqué, 2005)

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1. What is Bologna Process
2. European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
    - A- Introduction to ECTS
    - B- How do ECTS-credits work?
    - C- ECTS Grading Scale
    - D- ECTS Grading Scale (Example)
    - E- ECTS Grading Scale (some notes)
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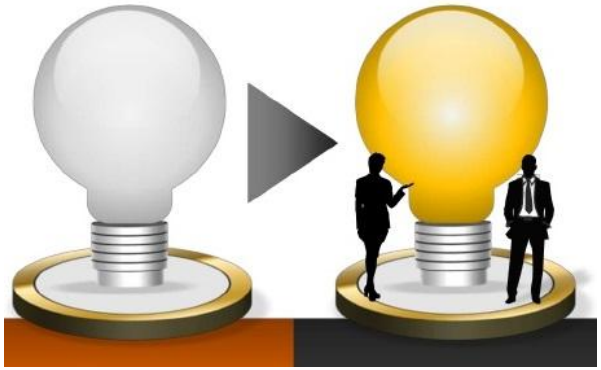
5. Executive Summary
6. Some Advices



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1- What is Bologna Process

The Bologna Process is an intergovernmental cooperation of 48 European countries in the field of higher education. It guides the collective effort of public authorities, universities, teachers, and students, together with stakeholder associations, employers, quality assurance agencies, international organisations, and institutions, including the European Commission, on how to **improve the internationalisation of higher education.**

The main focus is:

1. the introduction of the three cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate)
2. strengthened quality assurance and
3. easier recognition of qualifications and periods of study

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2-A European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is an important element of the Bologna process, meant to help international students make the most of their study abroad experience. Initially, the ECTS was directed towards Erasmus students, as a tool for acknowledging courses and programmes they studied while abroad.

The ECTS credit system makes degree programmes and student performance more transparent and comparable all across European Union countries. ECTS replaced or complemented the different local (national) standards within Europe.

The top benefits of ECTS for students include:

1. You can study a Bachelor in an EU-country and a Master in another EU-country, as if you studied both in the same country;
2. Find work in any EU country you want, as your studies will be easily recognised;

2-A European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

3. If taking a joint-degree, studying a semester abroad, or an Erasmus study experience, it will be easy for your home university to keep track of the study hours, with the help of ‘credit transfers’;
4. Simplified academic paperwork;
5. Easier to estimate the complexity of a study class, seminar, internship, thesis, etc., based on the number of credits it offers upon completion;
6. Less differentiation between local and international students in universities.
7. Even if you drop out of a programme, ECTS credits help you prove your academic achievements, so you don't have to take the same courses all over again.
8. Your degree will have the same number of credits, no matter what academic discipline you pursue.

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2-B How do ECTS-credits work?

By completing a course, seminar, module etc., you get awarded ECTS-credit points. Every ECTS credit point represents the amount of workload you accomplished in that period of time.

Some examples of ECTS credits assigned per degree type are:

1. 1 year of studies - **60** ECTS-credits;
2. 3-year Bachelor's programme - **180** ECTS-credits;
3. 4-year Bachelor's programme - **240** ECTS-credits;
4. 2-year Master's programme - **120** ECTS-credits.

Depending on the country, one ECTS credit point can equal on average between 25 and 30 workload hours.

ECTS: European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

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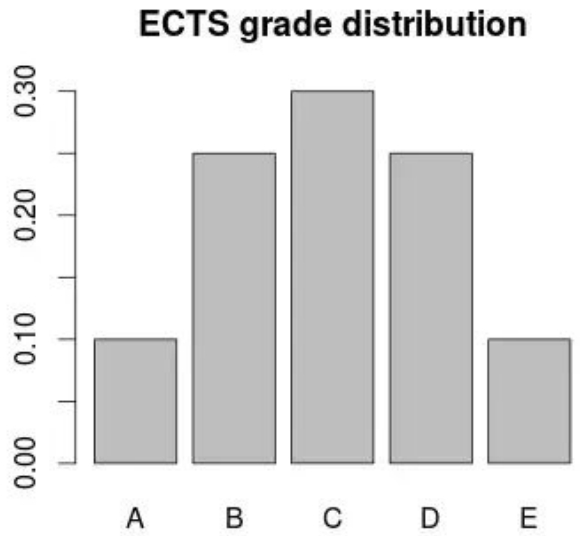
2-C ECTS Grading Scale

Besides the ECTS-credits, the European Commission defined an ECTS grading system, as well. Since there are nearly as many different grading systems as countries, its aim is to make grades more comparable to each other. The ECTS grading system **is not replacing the local grading systems**, but it's meant to be a supplement to local grades, for example, on a transcript of records. Similar to the American grading scale, the ECTS is based on the class percentile. That means that the grade shows how a student performed compared to the other students in the same class.

Before the evaluation, the results are divided into **two subgroups**: pass and fail. Therefore, the results are independent of the students who failed a course. The grading system is defined as follows:

2-C ECTS Grading Scale

- **A**: Best **10%**
- **B**: Next **25%**
- **C**: Next **30%**
- **D**: Next **25%**
- **E**: Next **10%**
- **FX**: Fail (almost passing)
- **F**: Fail



Note: the grades A, B, C, D and E are for the success group

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2-D ECTS grading scale (Example)

Names	Marks descending	Group	Grade	%
Student 1	76	Pass Group	A	10%
Student 2	75		B	25%
Student 3	73		B	
Student 4	73		B	
Student 5	71		C	30%
Student 6	65		C	
Student 7	60		C	
Student 8	55		D	25%
Student 9	54		D	
Student 10	51		E	10%
Student 11	46	Fail Group	FX	
Student 12	30		F	

FX - some more work required before the credit can be awarded, eligible for Reset Exam
F - considerable further work is required, should repeat the study course

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2-E ECTS grading scale (some notes)

Due to its relative nature, the ECTS grading scale can just give an orientation about a student's performance, since the grading depends on the group performance, which can vary, especially in smaller groups. The same student can, therefore, achieve different grades within the same performance indicator, depending also on the class, in terms of how competitive it is. However, the ECTS grading system is way more transparent than many national grading systems and it helps compare your academic performance towards other students in Europe.

نظرًا لطبيعته النسبية ، يمكن لمقياس الدرجات ECTS فقط إعطاء اتجاه حول أداء الطالب ، حيث يعتمد التقدير على أداء المجموعة ، والذي يمكن أن يختلف ، خاصة في المجموعات الصغيرة. وبالتالي ، يمكن أن يحقق الطالب نفسه درجات مختلفة ضمن نفس مؤشر الأداء ، اعتمادًا على الفئة أيضًا ، من حيث مدى التنافسية. ومع ذلك ، فإن نظام تصنيف ECTS أكثر شفافية من العديد من أنظمة التصنيف الوطنية ويساعد في مقارنة أدائك الأكاديمي مع الطلاب الآخرين في أوروبا.

2-E ECTS grading scale (some notes)

This distribution is a discrete distribution on **5 categories**, so it can hardly be called a gaussian distribution. However, the shape is gaussian-like and it is easy to see that the European Union got the idea from the Gaussian distribution. In a very perfect world, the transformation is the same in all countries and for all tests. For example:

50–60%=E,

60–70%=D,

70–80%=C,

80–90%=B, and

90–100%=A - and then

the grades will approximately have a normal distribution with mean **75%** and standard deviation **11.4%**.

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3- Implementation of Bologna Process

The possibility

Possible

Advantages

1. The University Study Programme will be **independent** of any frequent central enforced systems and guidelines.
2. Facilitating the University students mobility to European Countries.
3. Facilitating the University Programs accreditation.
4. Making the University Academic Calendar stable.
5. Increasing the quality of learning outcomes.

3- Implementation of Bologna Process

Important Notes

1. The study system should be based on a semester study with **16** weeks per semester, including the semester Exams but excluding the Reset Exams.
2. Student Workload hours that can be included in the calculation of ECTS credits are all specifically defined course activities such as lectures, practical exercises, group work, obligatory homework and exams.
3. Each semester is weighted by **30** ECTS.
4. **25** study hours results in **1** ECTS, Austria, Italy, and Spain
5. The number of ECTS credits allocated is always one decimal.
6. The number of total ECTS per a program during the **4** years should be 220-**240** ECTS. Each semester has an average **30** ECTS

3- Implementation of Bologna Process

Important Notes

7. The syllabus of each taught subject (module) should be set for **14** weeks, strictly.
8. Number of modules per semester is **4-6** subjects.
9. The course grade is divided as **60%** for the whole course
   (Av1=[(Quiz*0.1)+(HW*0.1)+(ME*0.6)+(P*0.2)]*0.6)
   and 40% for the final exam
10. The students can pass to next semester even if they failed in some modules (Uboor).
11. The student should not study a module with failed pre-request module.
12. The students can pass to Semester Five with maximum -30 ECTS (Minus ECTS), it can be assigned by the University.
13. The University can adopt a **five point/letter** grade evaluation system:

3- Implementation of Bologna Process

five point/letter grade evaluation system

ECTS Grade	Definition	% of Students	US Grade*	US %	IRQ %	Grade Point Average
A - Excellent	Outstanding performance	10%	A	90-100%	90-100%	5.0
B - Very Good	Above average with some errors	25%	B	80-89%	80-89%	4.0
C - Good	Sound work with notable errors	30%	C+	75-79%	70-79%	3.0
D - Satisfactory	Fair but with major shortcomings	25%	C	70-74%	60-69%	2.0
E - Sufficient	Work meets minimum criteria	10%	D	60-69%	50-59%	1.0
FX - Fail	More work required but credit awarded				0-49%	0.0
F - Fail	Considerable amount of more work required					

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3-A Student Workload (SWL)

Workload is measured in ECTS credits and 60 ECTS as a fulltime year of studies . The full time student is expected to complete **60 ECTS** credits in an academic year of app. 1500hr, which gives 47hr of student learning per week (1 ECTS = 25hr workload). Thus a 5 ECTS credit course equals 125hr, a 6 ECTS credit course 150hr and a 10 ECTS credit course 250hr.

Per semester, The full time student is expected to complete **30 ECTS** credits in an academic year of app. 750hr, which gives 47hr of student learning per week (1 ECTS = 25hr workload). Thus a 5 ECTS credit course equals 125hr

3-A Student Workload (SWL)

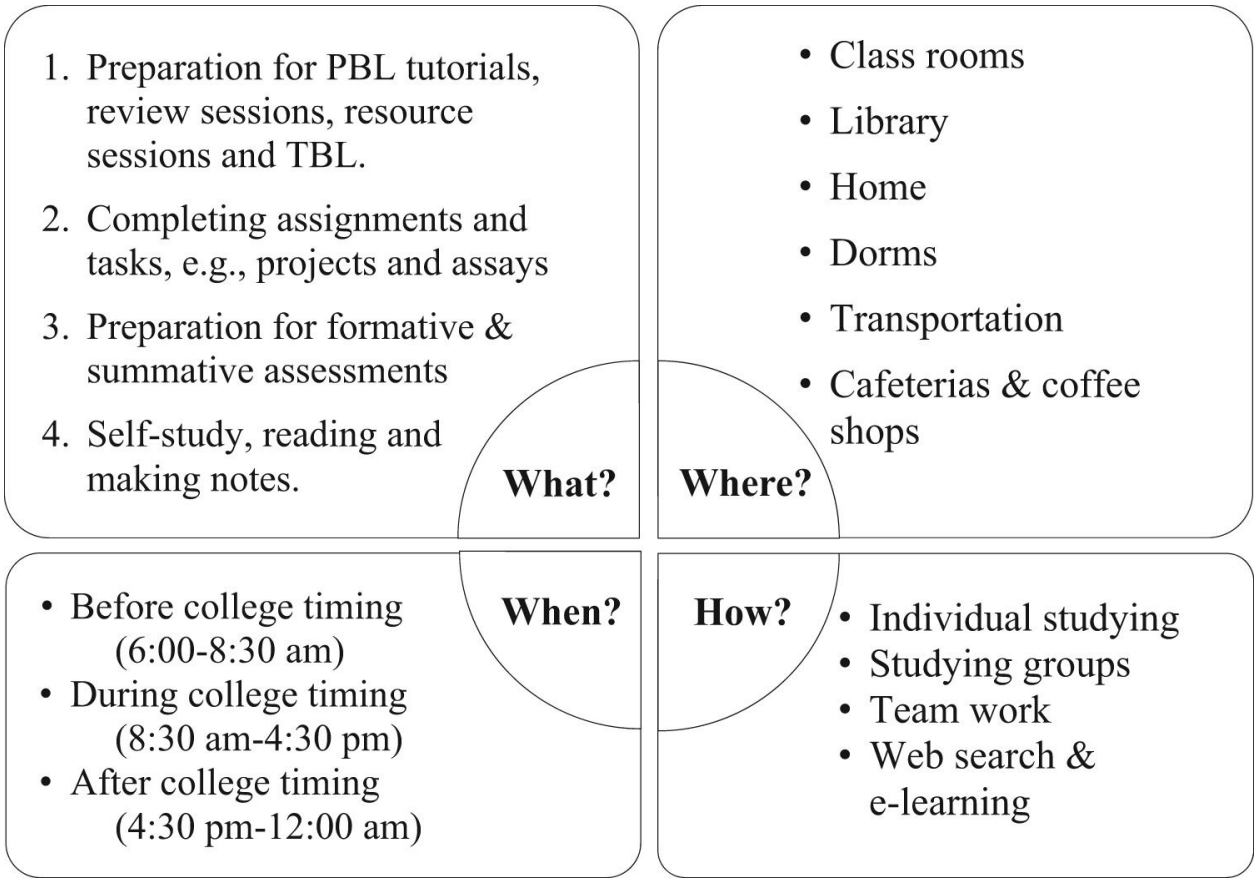
Student Workload (SWL)

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a numerical descriptive value of qualification expressed in terms of Student Workload (SWL). It is defined as “the number of working hours typically required to complete the learning activities of course units in order to achieve their expected learning outcomes”. In this system, the total SWL comprises two components;

1. **Structured SWL** which is the scheduled teacher-contact hours interventions; and,
2. **Unstructured SWL** (USWL) which is the time spent by students in their own self-study, completing course assignments, and preparing for all types of exams, e.g. assessment workload

3-A Student Workload (SWL)

Student Workload (SWL)



The variable nature of independent students learning activities

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3-B Calculation of Unstructured SWL

	Time	Venue	No. of hours
Weekdays	Before the college timing (6:30–8:30 am)	In the dorms or transportation	1 h
	During the college timing (8:30–4:30 pm)	In the classrooms or the library	1–2 h
	After the college timing (4:30–12:00 midnight)	In the classrooms, library, dorms, home, or in coffee shops	3–4 h
Weekend days	NA	At home or dorm	5–6 h/day
Sum of unstructured SWL (h)			30–35 h/wk

Source: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hpe.2017.01.002

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3-C How to calculate the Total SWL

	SWL (Lectures+Labs)	USWL
Sunday	4 h	4-6 h
Monday	4 h	4-6 h
Tuesday	4 h	4-6 h
Wednesday	4 h	4-6 h
Thursday	4 h	4-6 h
Friday	Weekend	5-6 h
Saturday		
	20 h	25-36 h
1 week (Total SWL)[1]	45 - 56 h (50 h)	
15 weeks - Full semester[2]	675 - 840 h (750 h)	
	27 - 33.6 ECTS (30 ECTS)	

SWL: Structured Workload
USWL: Unstructured Workload
[1]EHEA recommends 50 – 60 h per week.
[2]Necessary ECTS per Semester = 27.5 – 30 ECTS
[2]Necessary ECTS per B.Sc. Program = 220 – 240 ECTS

EHEA = European Higher Education Area

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3-D Example of Total SWL calculation

Example:

The table below shows the workload calculation for Course A which is a 6 ECTS credit course (2 theoretical hrs + 2 Lab. hrs per week). The calculation method used in this table is partly based on Karjalainen et al., 2006. The workload is divided into a series of learning activities, each involving an estimated number of hours of work (time factor). The total workload should match the learning hours indicated by the credit value of the course.

3-D Example of Total SWL calculation

Structured SWL	Unstructured SWL	#	Time factor	Workload (h)
Lectures		14	2	28
Lab work		14	2	28
Seminars		0	0	0
	Curriculum, articles (3.3 pages per hour)	120	0.3	36
Quizzes		2	6	12
Project work		1	14(13)	14(13)
	Preparation for exam (One fifth of the time frame given in the curriculum)	1	30	30
Written exam		1	3	3
Total SWL (h)				151 (150)
Conversion to ECTS credits (h/25)				6.04 (6.0)

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III-4 Implementation of Bologna Process (GPA)

Calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA)

1. Each alphabetical grade is substituted by numerical equivalent: A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0 and E=1
2. The numerical equivalent is multiplied by the number of credits for the course
3. The products of the course and credits are totalled
4. The sum is divided by the total number of credits
5. The quotient is calculated to three decimal points
6. GPAs are not rounded up

4- Grade Point Average (GPA)

Example:

You have finished a bachelor's degree consisting of **40** courses (modules) (5 per semester) each valued at **6** ECTS credits. You have received **13** As, **11** Bs, **14** Cs and **2** Ds.

Remember: A=5, B=4, C=3 and D=2.

To calculate the GPA:

Multiply the grade (A=5, B=4...) by the number of ECTS credits

Multiple the number of courses with the same grade and add them together-> in this example (5x**6**x**13**)+(4x**6**x**11**)+(3x**6**x**14**)+(2x**6**x**2**)=930.

Divide the total by the total ECTS credits to find the grade per ECTS, the **G**rade **P**oint **A**verage -> 930/240=**3,875**.

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5- Executive Summary

B.Sc. Program = 4 years = 8 Semester

B.Sc. program = 220 - **240** ECTS

Number of Modules per semester = 4-6 modules

1 Semester = 16 weeks

1 Semester = 14 study weeks + 1 rest week + 1 Exam week

Total SWL = SSWL + USWL (1 semester = h/w x 15 w)

1 ECTS = **25** - 30 h of total SWL

1 Semester = 30 ECTS

1 Semester = 750 h of total SWL

1 Week = 50 h of total SWL

5- Executive Summary

Modules are classified as:

A: Basic learning activities.

B: Core learning activity.

C: Related or supplementary learning activity.

D: Elective learning activity.

5- Executive Summary

Coding System of Bologna Process-based Courses		
Course Code	**CUE20234**	
	BUS20234	Business Module
	2	Faculty numeric
	02	Department numeric
	34	Course numeric
	CUE2xxxx	Faculty of Engineering
	CUE3xxxx	Faculty of Science and Health
	CUE4xxxx	Faculty of Education
	CUE5xxxx	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
	CUE6xxxx	School of Medicine

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6- Some Advices

1. Keep your number of modules around 5 per semester.
2. Don't make the study schedule too busy, make some spaces to students from other classes. Facilitate other departments to be engaged with your classes.
3. Make the number of courses (modules) with pre-request as less as possible.
4. It is not compulsory that the students cannot study a modules with failed pre-requested modules.
5. Make the maximum -ECTS before the student shift to Semester 5, -30 ECTS.
6. The Module registrations can be optional or compulsory.


TIME FOR QUESTIONS