



Europe – your new place of study

The 2007 Higher Education Reform



GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY

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A new university structure

On July 1, 2007, the educational structure of the universities will be changed. An adaptation to the so-called Bologna process is the basis for this change. The process has been joined by 45 countries in Europe. One of the goals is to create a common educational structure, for example by dividing the higher education into three cycles. With a structure that can be recognized almost all over Europe, it will be easier to compare degrees between countries, and easier for you as a student to move between different places of study. You will find it simpler to begin your education at one university and finish at another. For instance, it will be quite possible to study in the First Cycle in Italy and in the Second Cycle in Sweden. With the greater ability to make comparisons, a further aim is that it should be simpler to get a job in a Bologna-connected country.

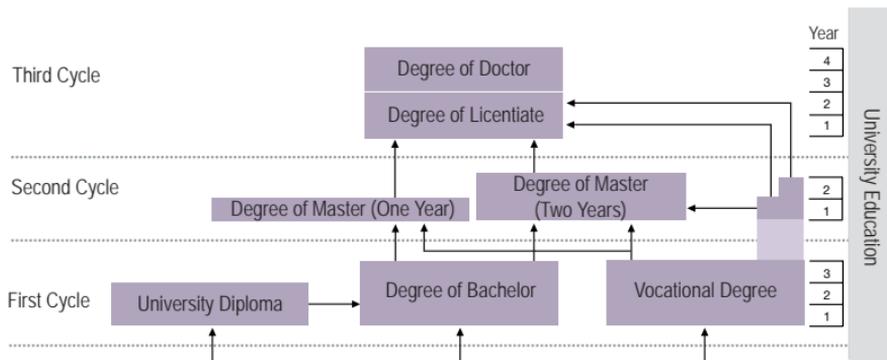
What's happening in brief

- The university education is divided into three cycles:
 - First Cycle
 - Second Cycle
 - Third Cycle
- Each degree is coupled to one of the educational cycles and receives a certain total of credits.
- A new system of credits is introduced:
 - Credit points are replaced by higher education credits (1 credit point = 1.5 higher education credits)
 - Full-time studies during an academic year thus include 60 higher education credits (HEC)
- The courses' goals are described more clearly with emphasis on which knowledge and skills you should have acquired by the end of the course.
- If you want to study for a degree, you must find out, at an early stage, which courses are needed to fulfil the requirements for your intended degree. Preferably consult a student counsellor.

Three educational cycles

The university education is divided into three cycles: First Cycle, Second Cycle, and Third Cycle. Moreover, a new system of credits is introduced with higher education credits (here abbreviated HEC). An academic year will correspond to 60 HEC instead of the present 40 credit points (p). This does not mean that you must study more during a term, it is a new way of calculating. Unlike earlier rules, new degree certificates will show the exact number of credits given for each degree.

All degrees are specified by cycle in the new structure. Vocational degrees will still exist to about the same extent as before. The aim is that those who study in a programme leading to a vocational degree, for example in social work or nursing, should also be able to take a general degree, such as the Degree of Bachelor or Master, in their area of study. You can obtain more information from your student counsellor or from the Office of Degrees at Göteborg University. Please note that the terms used for the degrees in this brochure are translations of the official Swedish degrees.



First Cycle

The university studies begin with the First Cycle. Courses in this cycle assume that you have basic qualifications for university studies. Some courses also require specific qualifications (eligibility), for example from high school, through special tests, or from university courses in the First Cycle.

First Cycle Degrees:

University diploma/College of Fine Arts diploma 120 HEC (4 terms)

Degree of Bachelor/Degree of Bachelor of Arts in..180 HEC (6 terms)

Vocational degree (varying total of credits)

Second Cycle

The studies for a degree in the Second Cycle normally take one year - the Degree of Master (One Year) - or two years - the Degree of Master (Two Years). Courses in this cycle assume that you have studied in the First Cycle. To be qualified for a programme that begins in the Second Cycle, you must fulfil the degree requirements in the First Cycle of 180 HEC, or have corresponding previous knowledge. In addition, you must satisfy the specific eligibility requirements that are stated for the respective education. For basic eligibility to take single subject courses in the Second Cycle, you do not need to fulfil the requirements for a First Cycle degree, but you must satisfy the specific eligibility requirements for the course you seek.

Second Cycle Degrees:

Degree of Master (One Year)/

Degree of Master of Arts (One Year) in.. 60 HEC (2 terms)

Degree of Master (Two Years)/

Degree of Master of Arts (Two Years) in.. 120 HEC (4 terms)

Vocational degree (varying total of credits)

Third Cycle

Research studies assume that you have previous knowledge corresponding to at least four years of university studies, one of them in the Second Cycle, and fulfil the specific eligibility requirements for your main area. The studies in the Third Cycle normally take four years. If you fulfil the basic eligibility requirements for research training before July 1, 2007, you will have basic eligibility for education in the Third Cycle until June 30, 2015.

Third Cycle Degrees:

Licentiate degree 120 HEC (4 terms)

Doctoral degree 240 HEC (8 terms)

Learning Outcomes

In the new educational structure, the focus has been shifted from the education's content to the student's learning. This means that both the degree requirements and the courses' goals are expressed by so-called learning outcomes. These say what you can expect to know, understand, relate to, and be capable of, after the education. When you choose courses, you must make sure that they, as a whole, fulfil the goals that are stated for the degree you want. If you wish to obtain a degree, you must therefore, at an early stage, be familiar with its degree description. Preferably consult with your student counsellor.

Learning Outcomes may be, for example:

- “to know how cultivation plans are formulated”
(biology, introductory course, First Cycle)
- “to independently produce bases for cultivation plans”
(biology, final course, First Cycle)
- “to analyse bases and lead the work for design of cultivation plans” (biology, Second Cycle)

How the student is affected

Following an educational programme

If you follow an educational programme which today leads to a general degree or a vocational degree, you normally do not need to do anything yourself in order to get the degree according to the new rules. The curricula in the programme are adapted to the new educational structure. You can complete the education you are pursuing until June 30, 2015. Contact your student counsellor for more information.

Taking single subject courses

From July 1, 2007, all the courses you take will be adapted to the new educational structure. If you have taken courses before then, you have the opportunity to obtain a degree according to the old structure until June 30, 2015. Possible advantages or disadvantages of obtaining a degree according to the new or the old structure may be worth discussing with your student counsellor.

As a student you do not need to inform anyone that you plan to study within the new or the old degree structure. But it is important that you yourself know which requirements apply for the degree that you may want. If you begin your studies after June 30, 2007, you can only get a degree according to the new structure.

Choosing the new structure

If the goal of your studies is to get a degree according to the new rules, you need to find out which courses, and in which educational cycle, you must study so that your old and new courses together will fulfil the new degree requirements. You will still have great freedom of choice to combine the subject areas and the courses that you want, but you should find out how your choice affects a possible degree. With the new rules, you can only include exactly as many credits as the degree you want comprises. If you have more credits than are required, you can obtain a separate official transcript of records for them. Contact your student counsellor to learn more about which goals the courses have and which degree can include them.

Choosing the old structure

You can still obtain a degree which includes all your results, even if they are more than what is needed to fulfil the degree requirements. If you will have credits from both the new and the old structure, you can nevertheless combine them in a degree according to the rules that apply before July 1, 2007.

Continued freedom of choice

Just as previously, you can take single subject courses also without aiming for a degree. Even if you have only studied a single subject in the First Cycle, and therefore are not eligible to obtain any degree, you are still eligible after a certain number of credits to continue studying certain single subject courses in the Second Cycle.

Interim rules coming in spring term 2007

If you have begun your education before July 1, 2007, it is possible for you to obtain a degree according to the old structure until June 30, 2015. Detailed interim rules for how your previous and coming studies are to be combined will be established during the spring of 2007. Talk with your student counsellor for further information about how you are affected.

If you want to know more

Much information can be found on Internet regarding the Bologna process. At the Göteborg University website you'll find links to different documents regarding the Bologna Process:

<http://www.bologna.org.gu.se/lankar/>

Students are affected in different ways by the changes in the educational structure. It is recommended that you contact your student counsellor in order to learn how your own studies are influenced.



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