



Admission in the Bologna system

The Bologna Declaration (1999), signed by the Ministers of Education of several European countries (including Romania) stipulates the establishment of a European Higher Education Area through the harmonization of the higher education systems of the signatory countries. Within the Bologna Process the higher education system in Romania will undergo major transformations. The premises for this change are given by Law no. 288/24 June 2004 on the organization of university studies and Government Decision no. 88 of 10 February 2005. Being aware of the changes required for integration into the European higher education system, Babes-Bolyai University switched to the Bologna system beginning with the 2005/2006 academic year. Among changes there is the modification of the structure of specializations, the reduction in the duration of the bachelor studies, increasing the duration and importance of the masters level studies, transformation of the short-term education (college level) in bachelor studies.

Objectives formulated in The Bologna Declaration:

- Adopting a system of transparent and comparable degrees, including the introduction of the Diploma Supplement, in order to promote the integration of the European citizens on the labour market and to improve the competitiveness of the European higher education worldwide.
- Adoption of a system essentially based on two main cycles, undergraduate and graduate. Access to the second cycle will be conditional on the successful completion of the first cycle, the latter with a minimum duration of three years. The degrees granted after the successful completion of the first cycle are recognized on the European labour market and reflect an appropriate qualification level. The second cycle should lead to masters and/or doctorate, as it happens in many European countries.
- Adopting a system of credits - such as ECTS - as an adequate means to promote student mobility to the fullest extent . Credits could also be acquired outside the higher education system, including the continuing education system, subject to their recognition by the higher education institutions involved.
- Promoting mobility by overcoming obstacles to the effective practice of the right to free movement, through paying particular attention to students' access to study and training opportunities and to related services; recognition of cooperation and giving full value to the mobility of teachers, researchers, and administrative staff in the other European countries, without this affecting in any way their statutory rights.
- Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance with a view to developing comparable criteria and methodologies.
- Promotion of the European dimension in the higher education, particularly in the development of the curricula, cooperation among institutions, mobility programs and integrated study, training and research programs.



Extract from Law no. 288 of 24.06.2004 (Bologna) on the organization of university studies:

ART. 1 1) This law regulates the organization of the university studies in three cycles, i.e. Bachelor's degree, Master's studies, and doctoral studies.

2) Each cycle of study is delimited by the other cycles through distinct procedures for admission and graduation.

3) Duration of the cycles of study and specialization areas is established by the Ministry of Education and Research, at the proposal of the National Council of Rectors, and approved through Government Decision.

ART. 2 The organization of each cycle of study is the competence of the higher education institutions, with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Research.

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ART. 41) The undergraduate studies correspond to a number ranging between a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 240 transferable credits, according to the European system of transferable credits (ECTS).

3) For full time studies, the normal duration of the undergraduate studies is of 3-4 years and corresponds to 60 transferable credits for one year of study. The duration of the technical education studies is four years.

ART. 51) The undergraduate studies provide broad knowledge and skills in specialized fields of study.

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ART. 71) The undergraduate studies can be continued through Master's studies.

ART. 81) The Master's studies correspond to a number of transferable study credits usually ranging between 90 and 120. As an exception, depending on the duration of the undergraduate studies, the lower limit may be of 60 transferable credits.

2) For full time studies, the normal duration of master's studies is of 1-2 years and corresponds to 60 transferable credits for one year of study.

3) The total combined duration of the first cycle - Bachelor's degree and of the second cycle - Master's Degree must meet the requirement to obtain at least 300 transferable credits.

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ART. 12) The doctoral studies usually have a duration of 3 years. In special cases when the subject approached requires a longer period of study and experimentation, the duration may be extended by 1-2 years, with the approval of the university Senate, at the suggestion of the doctoral advisor. The defense of the PhD thesis is possible within 3 years from the completion of the doctoral studies.

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ART. 161) The current short-term higher education from colleges existing at the date of publication of this law goes into liquidation or reorganization into undergraduate studies for the existing or related fields.

2) The graduates with short-term higher education degree can continue their studies in order to obtain the Bachelor's degree in the first cycle of undergraduate studies.

19) The provisions of this law shall apply to public and private higher education, both accredited and provisionally approved, which function under the law, beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year for students admitted in the first year of study.