

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

What is it?

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool that helps to design, describe, and deliver study programmes and award higher education qualifications. The use of ECTS, in conjunction with outcomes-based qualifications frameworks, makes study programmes and qualifications more transparent and facilitates the recognition of qualifications.

Why is it needed?

By making higher education comparable across Europe, ECTS makes teaching and learning in higher education more transparent and facilitates the recognition of all studies. It aids curriculum design and quality assurance and allows for the transfer of learning experiences between different institutions, greater student mobility and more flexible routes to gain degrees.

ECTS is closely related to the modernisation of higher education in Europe. In particular, it is a central tool in the [Bologna Process](#) which aims to make national systems more compatible.

How does it work?

Participating institutions publish their course catalogues on the web, including detailed descriptions of study programmes, modules, university regulations and student services.

For more information, see: http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/docs/ects-guide_en.pdf