

**16 Years of an Interdisciplinary
Master's Program:
A Journey through challenges and
success for fostering international
cooperations and enhancing quality
assurance**

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1. Quality assurance in an interdisciplinary and international study program

Admission

Different academic backgrounds

Interdisciplinary commission
(e.g. evaluation of the research proposal)

Studies

Interdisciplinary introductory module

Interdisciplinary counseling

Interdisciplinary academic examination board

Feedback and discussion in class

Peer to peer mentoring

Thesis Research

Thesis forum

Thesis co-supervision
(University abroad, institutions)

Interdisciplinary, international conferences/guest lectures/summer schools and events

Semester Abroad

Studies abroad module

Recognition process with several academic experts

Compatibility check for finding cooperations

2. Challenges for fostering international cooperations (quality assurance)



Changing focus and
developments at
partner institutions



Finding new
partnerships with
matching courses



University restrictions

Solutions for fostering cooperations – transferable strategies

- **Constant discourse and evaluation**
- Organizing interdisciplinary international conferences
(QA: discourse with partners and students)
- Feedback rounds with incoming and outgoing students– peer-to-peer mentoring
(QA: Students)
- Making interdisciplinary study options visible for incoming students
(QA: Recognition)

3. Specific challenges to QA in interdisciplinary programs – Standardized Digitalization of recognition processes

Digitalization improves processes and creates transparency

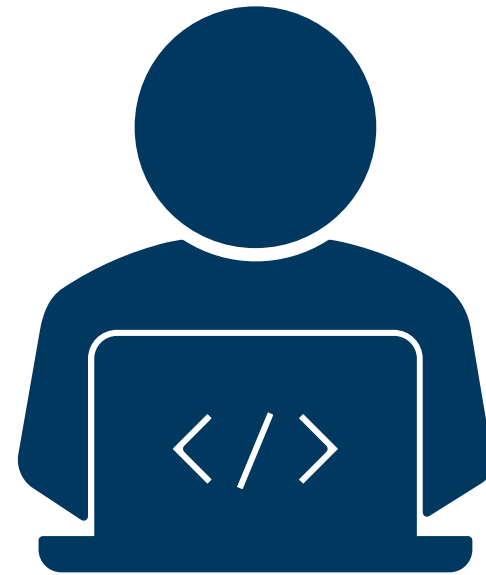
OLA/ISCED do not “know” interdisciplinarity– only history or social sciences. Tool only operates along ISCED codes

Online Learning Agreement „two persons- access“, but several persons are involved in the recognition process in interdisciplinary programs

The consequence for handling this challenge was to establish parallel systems/ interdisciplinary codes for assuring the involvement of several academic experts

- **Quality Assurance**
- **several academic experts (resources)**
- **Fostering Cooperations**
exchange and discourse
- **Digitalization**
- **digital tools need to consider**
interdisciplinarity

4. Lessons Learned





Thank you very much
for your attention!



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5. Discussion questions for the audience

- What was the impact of digitalization measures (e.g Erasmus Online Learning Agreement) on your interdisciplinary programs in regard to quality assurance in recognition procedures? What solutions did you find?
- What is the future of recognition processes in interdisciplinary study programs in cooperation with international partner universities?