GRADUATE COLLEGE ANNUAL WORKSHOP:
INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS
FACULTY WORKSHOP SERIES

Graduate and Professional Admissions
Graduate College
Admissions Announcements

- **Graduate College Admission Deadline**
  - Deadline approved for 10\textsuperscript{th} day of classes
  - Effective Spring 2010

- **Third-Party Inquiries**
  - Official Policy and Procedure Document to Follow Soon
Current Trends in International Admissions

- 53% of Graduate Applications are International
  - Asia: 84%
  - EU (Bologna-Compliant Countries): 6%
  - Middle East: 4%
  - Latin and South America: 3%

- Illinois ranked #4 for International Enrollment
  - #1 for public institutions
  - 70% of our international enrollment are graduate students

Admissions Data is for 2008/2009
Enrollment Data from IIE Open Doors 2008 Report
International Admissions: Hot Topics

- **SEVIS Process**
  - Proof of Funding
  - SEVIS II
  - Fees
  - FBI/Visa Clearance Delays

- **Bologna Declaration**
  - 46 Countries: Full Compliance Expected in 2010
  - Bologna-Compliant Degrees impact on Admissions Decisions
  - European Union working to create agreements worldwide
SEVIS Process

- Proof of Funding
  - New Base Rate Amount: $45,758
  - Dept Stipend > $20,880: No additional documentation needed
  - Renewable Funds
  - Tuition Waiver Coverage

- SEVIS II: Launch set for September 2010
  - Electronic I-20s / No printed copies
  - Student enters in information directly into SEVIS II

- SEVIS Fees Increased
  - F-1: $200
  - J-1: $180

- FBI/Visa Clearance Delays
  - Late Arrivals
  - Importance of Clear Documentation
29 EU Ministers of Education met in Bologna, Italy to sign Bologna Declaration in 1999 with the following goals:

- Create a competitive European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010
- Increase employability of students from EHEA
- Increase EU’s market share of international students
- Increase academic mobility among EU different higher education systems
- Increase EU’s educational efficiency – Provide more resources with less resources
  - Making three-year degrees possible with more focus
- Increase social equity among EU students
  - Higher education available to elite students more common in EU in 1999

46 Countries now involved with full compliance expected in 2010
Bologna: Action Plans

- **3-degree cycle**
  - 1st degree at least 3 years
  - 2nd degree (with 1st degree) at least five years total

- **New credit system (ECTS)** to be implemented to develop a way to weight coursework across countries and ease transferability
  - 1st degree = 180 credits
  - 2nd degree + 1st degree = 300 credits (at least)

- Create a diploma supplement to detail the degree requirements and provide a brief summary of the educational system in the country (to be delivered in English and the native language)

- Establish quality assurance system at the institutional, country, and European Union levels

- Create “transparency” of new education systems – increase mobility within EU and increase EU market share

- All system reforms must be complete by 2010
Bologna: Other Countries Interested

- **Australia** interested in adopting ECTS and diploma supplement to help with study abroad (study abroad seen as key initiative in AU)
- EU working hard to increase **Asian** students flowing through EU universities
- **China** has attended multiple Bologna Declaration Bi-Annual Meetings
- **Latin America** looking at aligning course credit weighting system across countries – similar to ECTS; working with EU Education Ministers to develop a common space of higher education between EU and Latin American and Caribbean nations
Bologna: Decisions

- **UIUC**
  - Currently review each degree individually to determine academic eligibility; make full and limited status decisions in conjunction with department
  - 47 Admissions decisions (2007-2009)
  - 36 Enrolled (4 non-standard admission decisions): Average GPA 3.78/4.0
  - Plan to track students through degree completion

- **Other Institutions**
  - Those that outright don’t take them are usually larger research institutions who don’t feel like they need to take them.
  - Those smaller and sometimes private institutions with little numbers of int’l students feel that they have to take them to stay competitive.
  - Institutions with similar policy to UIUC: Rutgers, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Northwestern, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Washington, Wisconsin
Survey sent to Directors of Graduate Study to survey knowledge level of Bologna Declaration and interest level in learning more.

90% are not familiar at all with the Bologna Declaration or know very little

- However, 60% believe understanding the Bologna Declaration to be important when reviewing European applicants.

27% think we should take the 3-year degree for full status admission, 18% think it should only be accepted for limited status admission

- Only 4% think we shouldn’t take it at all, and 50% are unsure.

85% ranked being academically prepared for the program as the most important when determining admission and 74% ranked general education coursework requirements as the least important.

- The most common argument against taking 3-year Bologna degrees is that they do not include the general education course requirements. Please note that when these degrees were 4 and 5 years, they did not include general education course requirements either.

50% stated they would be interested in receiving more training, 45% said maybe, and only 5% said they were not interested.
Discussion Items

- 3-year Bologna-Compliant Degrees: Should we accept them? What about 3+2?
- Academically Prepared vs. Comparable Degree Requirement? Which do we value more?
- Are general education requirements important?
- Should we only accept students into majors that match their undergraduate programs?
- Faculty Workshop Series, are you interested?
  - SEVIS Workshops?
  - Bologna Workshops?
- Department Contact Workshop Series, are you interested in specific Bologna Workshops?