

GRADUATE COLLEGE ANNUAL WORKSHOP: INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS FACULTY WORKSHOP SERIES

Graduate and Professional Admissions

Graduate College



Admissions Announcements



- Graduate College Admission Deadline
 - Deadline approved for 10th 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

Bologna: Goals and Overview

- 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

Bologna: DGS Survey Results

- 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?