

Changing Patterns of Transatlantic Mobility: The role of transatlantic degree programs TDP Workshop Law, Berlin, April 18, 2008

International experience for students now much more common on both sides of the Atlantic

- Global economy
- International careers
- Post September 11

Show slides with figures

US and Canada now where Germany was a decade ago

ERASMUS

Joint degree programs since late 80s, originally mainly Franco-German, account for less than 5 per cent of total German outbound mobility

Ambitious Goals for the future:

- Lincoln Commission / Paul Simon Foundation:
1 million by 2016 / two thirds of an undergraduate cohort
- DAAD Action Program: 50% including internships and language courses

Different patterns of transatlantic student mobility

Westbound:

- More students enroll in regular courses for a semester or year,

- some internships and language courses;
- Significant part of degree seeking graduate students (Master's and PhD)

Eastbound:

- Many faculty-led programs, mostly taught in English
- Some German universities now offering similar programs geared to an American clientele.
- Few NA students seek German degree, although new Masters programs increasingly attractive.

Changing Patterns due to Bologna Process:

Degree structures more compatible although still far from uniform:

- little general ed in European programs that take mostly three years to complete
- Much higher proportion of students seek advanced degrees: More European students will seek advanced degrees outside of their undergraduate institutions; huge market for North American institutions

Time is becoming more of a factor for undergrads: shorter stays

More need for reliable arrangements for credit

► More opportunity and more need for curricular arrangements between institutions that ensure credit

Joint degree programs are the most ambitious form of such arrangements:

Run counter to the general trend to shorter stays abroad

A model for commitment of institutions and students to international experience

Study abroad not a nice-to-have addition to regular program, but integral part of the program.

More demanding, but also more rewarding for institutions and students

Give students an edge of international experience when study abroad becomes even more common

Set examples for comparable modules that are applicable to other forms of student exchange

May be a niche, but an interesting and perhaps even a sizeable niche

The special case of Law

Different national legal systems, *but*: increasing role of international and European law; one of the oldest and most successful Franco-German programs is in law

Different systems of legal education: In North America taught as professional postgraduate programs, in Germany lawyers educated in specialized undergraduate programs leading to a state examination;

Introduction of two-tier Bologna degree system controversial

Challenges for student exchange in general, and for Joint Programs in particular

Possible leads to new opportunities:

- Growing number of German-American exchange programs with full credit, supported under our ISAP program ¹
- Increasing interest in LL.M. programs for foreign-trained lawyers both in the US and in Germany
- Postgraduate programs for special fields of law supported under the ERASMUS Mundus scheme²

Looking forward to innovative and constructive solutions for a field that is vital on both sides of the Atlantic

¹ (Augsburg with UNC, Pepperdine and GWU, Hamburg with George Mason U)

² Transnational Trade Law and Finance, European Legal Practice (LL.M.), Law and Economics