

From Curricular Cooperation To Joint And Double Degree Programs – The Example Of The Franco-German University

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Overview

- A) Frame and specificity of the FGU as a co-operative structure
- **B)** Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula
- **C)** Position of the human sciences in the integrated courses of study
- **D)** The greatest added value provided by these curricula for the human sciences



A) Frame and specificity of the FGU as a co-operative structure (1)

- Binational institution, international statute
- Established 1997 (intergovernmental agreement), starting 1999
- Network of Higher Education Institutions (HEI)
- 150 member and partner universities
- Nearly all types of HEI
- Nearly all types of disciplines
- 142 Double / Joint Degrees and 30 Double / Joint PhD schools
- 4,500 students and 500 PhD students
- Present budget around 9.6 M€/ year

A) Frame and specificity of the FGU as a co-operative structure (2)

Main tasks:

- Initiate, coordinate, promote and support of integrated Franco-German degree programs
 - at BA level
 - at MA level
 - at PhD level
- Mobility increase of students, young scientists and teaching staff
- Cooperation with third country partners

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B) Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula (1)

Some Quality Standards for a FGU-Label:

- Disciplinary excellence
- Integrated curriculum, jointly developed
- Joint study regulations
- Full recognition of credits
- Two equivalent national degrees
- Significant study period at partner university (at present 3-5 semesters)
- Often practical training
- Language and intercultural preparation

B) Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula (2)

FGU stimulates the creation of joint programs by

- Consulting
- Funding
- Marketing

Three phases recognized by FGU:

Preparatory phase: Establish course of study (1-2 years)
Probationary phase: Observation of functioning (3-6 years)

- 2. Probationary phase. Observation of functioning (3-6 year 2. Quality control phase. Overeas practices (not limited)
- 3. Quality control phase: Oversee practices (not limited)



B) Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula (3)

Quality Assurance: extension of QA-procedures, respecting the national structures, required

- → 1. Call for proposals \rightarrow FGU / Administration Board
 - 2. Formal and administrative evaluation \rightarrow FGU
 - 3. Scientific peer-evaluation and ranking \rightarrow Scientific Board
 - 4. Decision \rightarrow Administration Board
 - 5. experience

B) Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula (4)

A Joint Degree may be issued as

- 1. A single joint diploma without being accompanied by any national diploma
- 2. One or more national diplomas issued as the only attestation of the joint qualification
- 3. A joint diploma (certificate) in addition to one or more national diplomas



B) Principles, rules and quality assurance of the FGU's curricula (5) An example of a joint diploma

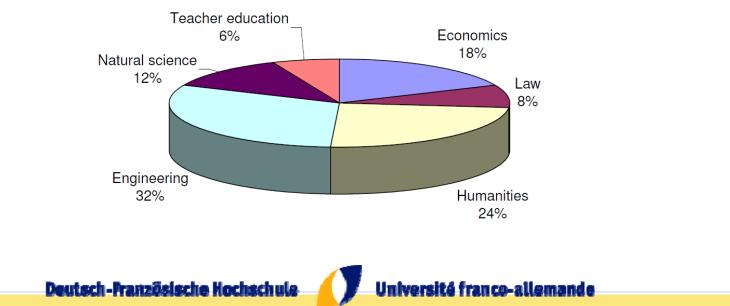


C) Position of the human sciences in the integrated courses of study (1)

145 bi- or trinational courses with 4,500 students

- 1/2 of double degrees in Germany
- 1/3 of French-German student exchange
- Covering all disciplines

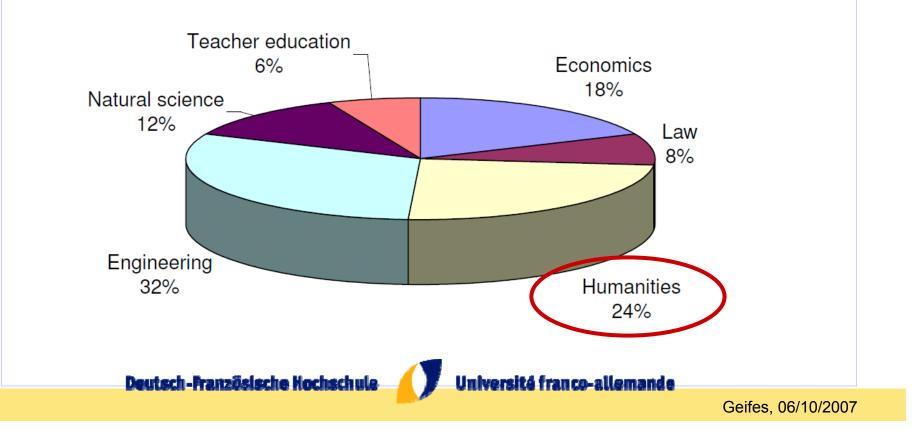
Repartition of programs per disciplines:



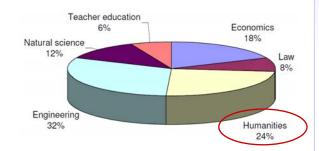
C) Position of the human sciences in the integrated courses of study (2)

Human sciences:

- 20 % of FGU students (17 % French, 23 % Germans)
- 24 % of FGU programs



C) Position of the human sciences in the integrated courses of study (3)



Examples for the 34 FGU human science programs:

- Political Science (U Eichstätt IEP Rennes)
- Media Culture Analysis (U Düsseldorf U Nantes)
- Franco-German Journalism (U Freiburg U Strasbourg III)
- European Studies (U Passau U Provence U Strasbourg)
- History (U Tübingen U Provence)
- Philosophy And History Of Medicine And Basics of Bioethics (U Mainz – ENS Paris)
- Art History And Museology (U Heidelberg Ecole du Louvre)

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D) The greatest added value provided by these curricula for the human sciences

1. To universities:

By offering structured programs, demand is created

2. To students:

- Specialised intercultural competence
- Linguistic competence
- Mobility
- Diploma supplement
- Employability
- Annual Franco-German Forum

Conclusion

- Joint programs can be a chance for human sciences: Offers create demand
- But: Double degrees = mobility solution for relatively small "student elite"
- Joint programs are necessary for mobility with Bologna Process because of reduced free mover mobility
- MA/PhD level: More appropriate for joint programs in human sciences?

