

## Suggested distribution

Heads of Institutions;  
International Officers;  
European Officers;  
Senior staff with  
responsibility for  
European issues

## Action

For information

## Executive Summary

The amended text and diagram of the national description of the Eng, Wales and Northern Ireland system and the national description of the Scottish system

## Attachment(s)

E/05/04(a)  
E/05/04(b)  
E/05/04(c)  
E/05/04(d)

## Enquiries

Richard Ellis

## Tel

020 7419 5421

## Fax

020 7383 5766

**Email** richard.ellis

@UniversitiesUK.ac.uk

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## Diploma Supplement: Amended National Description of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and National Description of Scotland

1. This Europe note provides both the amended description of the England, Wales and Northern Ireland education system and the newly finalised description of the Scottish national education system required in section eight of the Diploma Supplement.

2. Working closely with UUK, UK NARIC and the QAA, the Europe Unit has produced an amended description of the England, Wales and Northern Ireland education system. This version replaces the initial version circulated in August 2004, which was originally produced by UK NARIC and redrafted by the Europe Unit. The description includes an amended and simplified diagram of the UK education system. Both these documents are included as attachments. The High Level Policy Forum approved this description in January<sup>1</sup>.

3. The final draft of the description of the higher education system in Scotland and its accompanying diagram have also been produced and are attached.

4. Both descriptions and diagrams for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Scotland will shortly be available on the website of the UK NARIC:  
<http://www.naric.org.uk/ds.asp>

## Background information

5. The Berlin ministerial Communiqué on the Bologna Process calls for 'every student graduating as from 2005 to receive the Diploma Supplement automatically and free of charge'. The Supplement is a document to be issued to students by their HE institutions on graduation. It aims to describe the qualification they have received in an easily understandable way and describes the content and structure of the higher education system within which it was issued.

<sup>1</sup> The High Level Policy Forum comprises representatives from key HE sector organisations and informs the policy positioning of the UK HE Europe Unit.

Chief Executive  
**Baroness Warwick**

**Europe Unit**  
Universities UK  
Woburn House  
20 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9HQ

**Tel** +44 (0)20 7419 4111

**Fax** +44 (0)20 7388 8649

**Email** [info@UniversitiesUK.ac.uk](mailto:info@UniversitiesUK.ac.uk)

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6. Further details on the implementation of the Diploma Supplement in the UK can be obtained from the UK Socrates Erasmus Council on: (01227) 762712

7. The sector-wide working group following up on the recommendations of the Professor Burgess report on 'Measuring and Recording Student Achievement', along with the Progress Files Implementation Group, is looking at providing information on the Diploma Supplement.

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