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Executive Summary

This E-Note summarises the main results for Scotland of the UK HE Europe Unit survey on European HE developments.

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Results of the 2007 UK HE Europe Unit survey on European HE developments – HEIs in Scotland

Introduction

1. This paper reports on the outcomes for Scotland of the UK HE Europe Unit's¹ 2007 survey on UK higher education institutions' (HEIs) engagement in European HE initiatives.
2. Separate Europe Notes report on the results for the UK, England and Northern Ireland, Wales and GuildHE members. Visit: http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/news/europe_note_archive/2007.cfm

Welsh respondents

3. 153 UK HEIs received the survey and 92 responded, giving a response rate of 60% - 53% in 2005.
4. All 21 Scottish HEIs received the survey and 13 responded giving a 62% response rate for Scotland. This is higher than the overall UK response rate and the Scottish response rate in 2005 (57%).
5. 38% of Scottish respondents were from HEI Registry departments. The remaining responses came from representatives across other categories/departments.

Diploma Supplement

6. As in 2005, all Scottish respondents are aware of the Bologna Process requirement to issue the Diploma Supplement "automatically and free of charge to students graduating in 2005".
7. The majority of Scottish respondents (62%) currently issue the Diploma Supplement to students graduating from their institutions. This is a higher rate

¹ The Europe Unit is a sector-wide body working in the interests of UK higher education. It has three objectives: to raise awareness of the European issues affecting UK higher education; to coordinate the UK's involvement in European initiatives and debates; to strengthen the position of the UK higher education sector in debates over the Bologna Process and EU policies and initiatives. For more information visit: www.europeunit.ac.uk

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compared to 2005 when 42% of respondents issued the Diploma Supplement. The implementation rate of the Diploma Supplement in Scotland (62%) is similar to the UK (60%), England and Northern Ireland (57%), and Wales (58%).

8. Most Scottish respondents automatically issue the Diploma Supplement to students graduating with an undergraduate and postgraduate level qualification and three Scottish HEIs issues the Diploma Supplement automatically to doctoral graduates. A paper-based format appears to be standard. No institutions appear to issue the document electronically.
9. Four out of five respondent HEIs in Scotland that do not yet issue the Diploma Supplement intend to do so in the coming years, most by 2009.
10. Of those issuing the Diploma Supplement, 63% use the standard format developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES² - 58 do so in the UK, 43% in Wales, and 59% in England and Northern Ireland.
11. The majority of respondents in Scotland have encountered difficulties with implementing the Diploma Supplement. 83% cited IT systems and data quality, availability and comparability, 33% cited costs. Only 18% cited the lack of a formal UK-promoted template as the main difficulty.
12. For those respondent Scottish HEIs not issuing the Diploma Supplement, IT difficulties appear to be the main reason cited for not doing so.
13. Most Scottish respondents have sought advice to overcome difficulties in producing the Diploma Supplement and 67% sought help from other HEIs.
14. Two respondents in Scotland have received the Diploma Supplement from other HEIs, compared to twenty-eight in the UK, twenty-four in England and Northern Ireland, and three in Wales. Both respondents stated that the Diploma Supplement was useful in evaluating students' achievements and supporting admissions procedures. They also stated they had not experienced difficulties in interpreting information provided on the Diploma Supplement.
15. Nine out of thirteen (70%) Scottish respondents produce transcripts of graduates that accord with the Minimum Data Set provided within the Progress File Guide – the same rate as in 2005. 70% do so at UK national level, in England and Northern Ireland and 75% in Wales.

Credit

16. All Scottish respondents stated that their courses are credit rated (100% in 2005). The UK national average is 93% (84% in 2005). 78% of Scottish respondents with credit rated programmes use

² This survey was submitted prior to the publication of the final report prepared by the Measuring and Recording Student Achievement Steering Group – the Burgess Group.

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for either transfer or accumulation. All respondent institutions in Scotland use the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) for either transfer or accumulation.

17. 64% of respondents in Scotland who do not use ECTS as their main credit transfer system record ECTS equivalent credits against the credit system in use. The UK national average is 63%, 65% in England and Northern Ireland and 50% in Wales.

Joint degrees

18. 77% of Scottish respondents have the power to award joint degree or multiple/dual/double degrees (83% in 2005). The UK national average is 73%, 72% in England and Northern Ireland, and 83% in Wales.
19. Of those Scottish respondents able to award joint degrees, 90% do so in collaboration with an institution in the UK, 80% with an institution in one of the 46 other Bologna Process countries (33% in 2005). 50% do so with an institution outside the European Higher Education Area (8% in 2005).
20. Of those Scottish respondents awarding multiple/dual/double degrees, 40% do so in collaboration with an institution in the UK. 30% with an institution outside the European Higher Education Area (8% in 2005) and with an institution in one of the 46 other Bologna Process countries (25% in 2005).

Masters programmes

21. 92% of Scottish respondents offer Masters programmes - 92% in the UK, 91% in England and Northern Ireland, and all HEIs in Wales. The majority of Masters programmes in Scotland are one-year full time equivalent but in some disciplines up to 27% are two-year full time equivalent – up to 22% in the UK. Survey responses for the whole of the UK suggest that Masters degrees vary greatly in their duration. Programmes available range in duration from 15, 18, 19 and 36 months, to three or five year part-time or flexible distance learning.

Integrated Masters programmes

22. Nine Scottish respondents, 70%, offer full-time integrated Masters (67% in 2005). This is higher than the UK national average (60%), England and Northern Ireland (60%) and in Wales (50%).
23. 78% of Scottish respondents stated that they had not made changes to integrated Masters programmes in response to Bologna Process developments. This is similar to the UK national average (68%). In Wales 67% of HEIs made no changes and 70% in England and Northern Ireland.

24. Four Scottish respondents (45%) have incorporated teaching into the summer vacation. Six respondents (67%) have incorporated industrial placements with assessed and credit-rated outcomes and none have extended the timescale for submission of the dissertation to extend the duration of the programme.
25. 78% of Scottish respondents providing integrated Masters award a Masters qualification only at the end of the Masters stage of the programme - 81% in the UK, 78% in England and Northern Ireland and 83% in Wales. Two Scottish HEIs award the Bachelor qualification after the Bachelor stage and the Masters qualification after the Masters stage – three in England and Northern Ireland and one in Wales.
26. All respondents in Scotland providing integrated Masters programmes stated that they did allocate a minimum of 60 credits at Masters level. Results for the whole of the UK indicate that 15% (eight respondent HEIs) do not.

Recognition of Masters degrees

27. Eight of the Scottish respondents offering one-year full time Masters programmes, 67%, are not aware of any difficulties experienced by their graduates in gaining recognition of their award for access to further study or employment in either the public or private sector – the UK national average is 68%. One Scottish respondent indicated difficulties for graduates going on to further study. One respondent also indicated known recognition difficulties experienced by one-year full time Masters graduates for both employment in the private sector and employment in the public sector.
28. Five of the Scottish respondents offering Integrated Masters programmes, 25%, are not aware of any difficulties experienced by their graduates in gaining recognition of their award for access to further study or employment in either the public or private sector - the UK national average is 64%. No respondents indicated known recognition difficulties experienced by Integrated Masters graduates for employment in the private sector, in the public sector and difficulties for graduates going on to further study.³

Institutional Strategies

29. 77% of respondents in Scotland have an International Strategy (74% in the UK, 75% in England and Northern Ireland, and Wales) and 53% have a European strategy. Of those respondent HEIs with a European strategy, 46% have it embedded in their international strategy (29% in the UK, 28% in England and Northern Ireland, and 33% in Wales) and 17% have it separate from their international strategies (12% in the UK, England and Northern Ireland, and 17% in Wales).
30. Two respondents (15%) in Scotland have a Bologna Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce. A lower percentage compared to the UK where 22 respondent HEIs (24%) claim to have a Bologna

³ Four HEIs providing integrated Masters did not respond



Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce – 24% in England and Northern Ireland and 33% in Wales.

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