

EELISA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

10.3.25

Recommendations for joint degrees designers

Version 2.1

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Introduction

This document serves as a guideline for the development of **joint degrees** within the **EELISA alliance**, aligning with the **European Commission's 2024 blueprint for a European degree** and structured recommendations from **WP5 of EELISA**. It incorporates insights from the **JEDI pilot project** ([JEDI Project](#)), and the report on the final outcomes of the Erasmus+ policy experimentation projects: European degree (label) and institutionalised EU cooperation instruments.

A **European degree** ensures that learning outcomes from transnational programs are recognized through **common European criteria**. These degrees aim to foster **academic cooperation, innovation, and workforce skill development**, while reducing administrative barriers.

Framework for Joint European Degrees

The Joint European Degree framework is structured around:

- **Dimension 1: Learning Outcomes**
- **Dimension 2: European Degree Criteria**
- **Dimension 3: Quality Assurance and Accreditation**

Dimension 1: Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are jointly defined by partner institutions based on:

- For degrees in engineering:

- **EUR-ACE framework**
- **EELISA engineer profile**

For other degrees :

- **ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) alignment**

Dimension 2: European Degree Criteria

To ensure alignment with **European standards**, the **EELISA alliance** has established a structured framework of **minimum requirements, indicators, and compliance proofs** for joint degrees.

Specification	EQF Level	EELISA Minimum Requirements	Indicators	Proofs of Compliance
Minimum of two HEIs from different EU Member States	6, 7, 8	Minimum 2 EELISA HEI members, recommended 3 (degree awarding or mobility partner)	Signed agreements	Joint academic governance agreements
Jointly designed and delivered program	6, 7, 8	Required	Course catalogue, learning outcomes	Institutional validation documents
Leads to a joint degree	6, 7, 8	Use transitional label if national barriers exist	Degree certificate format	National accreditation evidence
Joint Diploma Supplement	6, 7	Required	Issued supplement	Supplement template
Learning outcomes aligned with ECTS Users Guide	6, 7	Required	Course descriptions, ECTS allocation	Validation by academic boards
Common policies and student participation	6, 7, 8	Transparency required	Published policies, student surveys	QA committee reports
Quality Assurance per ESG standards	6, 7, 8	Internal QA: EELISA Academic Board; External QA: EQAR agency	QA reports	Accreditation by EQAR-listed agencies
Graduate tracking system	6, 7, 8	Required	Alumni surveys, employment rates	Annual employment reports
Student-centered learning and active participation	6, 7, 8	Pedagogical innovation required	Use of active learning methods	Teaching evaluations
Interdisciplinarity components	6, 7, 8	ECTS recognition or structured incentives	Multi-disciplinary courses	Program syllabi
Labor market alignment	6, 7, 8	Use of ESCO framework	Employer feedback	Industry collaborations
Digital skills integration	6, 7, 8	Required	Digital competency assessments	Course records

Specification	EQF Level	EELISA Minimum Requirements	Indicators	Proofs of Compliance
Equal access to student/staff services	6, 7, 8	Required	Institutional policy documentation	Equality audits
Minimum mobility: 60 ECTS (EQF 6) / 30 ECTS (EQF 7)	6, 7	Bachelor's: two semesters abroad, Master's: one semester	Mobility reports	Erasmus+ records
Minimum mobility: 6 months	8	Flexibility in mobility periods	Exchange program agreements	Student logs
Joint dissertation supervision	8	Extended to bachelor's and master's	Co-supervised projects	Thesis committee documentation
Exposure to at least 2 EU languages	6, 7, 8	Encouraged	Multilingual course offerings	Language certification
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	6, 7, 8	Required	Institutional diversity reports	Compliance audits
Environmental sustainability	6, 7, 8	Integration of green transition-related learning	Sustainability projects	Course syllabi

For a complete breakdown of implementation strategies, refer to the EELISA guidelines for European degree criteria ([EELISA Guidelines](#)).

Dimension 3: Quality Assurance and Accreditation

The **European approach** to quality assurance follows **ESG standards**, ensuring continuous program improvement through **internal and external evaluations**.

- **Internal QA:** Managed by the **EELISA Academic & Scientific Board**.
- **External QA:** Conducted by **EQAR-registered agencies**, applying the **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs (EA-QAJP)**. The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes on EQAR's website outlines a framework to streamline quality assurance for joint degree programs across Europe. It includes agreed standards and procedures to facilitate cross-border accreditation, ensuring consistency and avoiding multiple evaluations by different national agencies. The approach supports the Bologna Process and promotes transparency in higher education.
- **National Accreditation:** If applicable, joint programs should align with **multi-country accreditation models** to ease recognition.

Conclusion

The **EELISA Degree Framework** aligns with the **European Commission's 2024 recommendations** and serves as a **practical tool for developing European joint degrees**. By integrating **collaborative program design, interdisciplinary education, robust quality assurance, and structured mobility**, this framework ensures the sustainability and excellence of **EELISA joint degrees**.

This document is developed based on the work of WP5 within the EELISA alliance.

References

1. European Commission's Blueprint for a European Degree (2024): [European Commission - European Degree](#)
2. JEDI Pilot Project : [JEDI Project](#)
3. EUA's European Degree Experiments : [EUA News](#)
4. Erasmus+ Pilot Projects : [Erasmus+](#)
5. EUR-ACE Framework : [EUR-ACE](#)
6. EELISA Engineer Profile : [EELISA](#)
7. ESCO Framework : [ESCO](#)
8. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG): [ESG 2015](#)
9. European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR): [EQAR](#)
10. European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (EA-QAJP): [EA-QAJP](#)
11. European Charter for Researchers : [European Charter for Researchers](#)