

Part-time Academic Programmes (Workload)

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) has introduced credits as a quantitative measure of a student's total workload. The system is based on the agreement which sets 60 ECTS credits as the quantity of work for one year of study by a full-time student. In Europe, the defined quantity of work for a programme of full-time study is 1500-1800 hours per year. One credit thus equals 25-30 hours of work. Quantity of work is derived from the time students require on average to achieve the results defined exactly for a lecture/seminar or teaching module. It includes the time spent in on-site learning, private study, and preparing for examinations, as well as any practical work. Credits will only be assigned to student work which has been evaluated.

Academic programmes are to be designed with feasibility in mind. In other words, the workload required for the academic programmes ought to be manageable for students.

For academic programmes undertaken while working (part-time), the quantity of work planned should be compatible with a (full-time) job. A full-time workload of 60 ECTS per year would create an unmanageable burden for a student who is also employed. In this context it should be noted that for continuing studies master programmes, a minimum of 120 ECTS is not required as it would be for a consecutive master programme. Depending on conditions of entry and the educational goal, a minimum of 75-120 ECTS is standard internationally.