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Credit Recognition in Kazakhstan

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Peer Learning Activity on Credit Recognition
with Erasmus+ Partner Countries

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KZ Higher Education: Facts and Figures

Kazakhstan joined the Bologna Process in March 2010

Student population of around 500,000

131 Higher Education Institutions

301 joint programmes with international HEIs

10 Kazakh universities are featured in QS World University Rankings

223 academic programmes are taught fully in English

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Academic Credit System in Kazakhstan

November 2007 - Revolutionary document

Order of the Minister № 566 – "Rules of the organization of educational process on credit technology" (amended in 2010 and 2016)

Academic Credit System was introduced

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Academic Credit System in Kazakhstan

The student workload of 1 Kazakhstani credit depends on the level of study and the type of academic activity

Academic activity	Student workload for 1 KZ credit (in hours)
Theoretical study	
Bachelor	45
Master (professional)	60
Master (scientific)	75
PhD	105
Practice	
Learning practice	15
Teaching practice	30
Internship	75
Research	105

Degree Programmes' Length and Workload

- **Bachelor** - at least 4 years (140-224 KZ credits, depending on the field of study)

- **Professional Master** – 1 year (28 KZ credits min.)

- **Scientific Master** – 2 years (59 KZ credits min.)

- **PhD** - 3 years (60 KZ credits min.)

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Credit Recognition Practices in Kazakhstan

In 2010 Kazakhstan joins the Bologna Process and the issue of credit recognition and compatibility with ECTS arose. The Credit Transfer Coefficients were developed.

Academic activity	ECTS Transfer Coefficient (k)
Theoretical study	
Bachelor	1.5 - 1.8
Master (professional)	2 - 2.4
Master (scientific)	2.5 - 3
PhD	3.5 - 4.2
Practice	
Learning practice	0.5 - 0.6
Teaching practice	1 - 1.2
Internship	2.5 - 3
Research	4 - 4.8

$$KZ\ credits = \frac{ECTS\ credits}{k}$$

k - ECTS Transfer Coefficient depends on the level of study and the type of academic activity

Universities include this system in their academic policies, sometimes narrowing down the range

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Credit Recognition Practices in Kazakhstan

The follwing Grade distribution table is used by the HEIs when transferring the ECTS credits into the student's transcript of records:

ECTS Grading Scale	Letter Grading Scale	4 Point Grading Scale	Percentage Values	Definition
A	A	4,0	100	Excellent
B	B+	3,33	85	Good
C	B	3,0	80	
D	C	2,0	65	Satisfactory
E	D	1,0	50	
FX, F	F	0	0	Fail

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Credit Recognition Practices in Kazakhstan

Departments involved
(example of L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University)

- Department of Academic Affairs

- Department of International Cooperation

- Registrar Office

- University ECTS Coordinator

- Vice-deans for academic affairs

- Advisors (programme coordinators)

Credit Recognition Practices in Kazakhstan

Full recognition

All credits for the learning outcomes gained in the partner university are transferred to the student's transcript of records
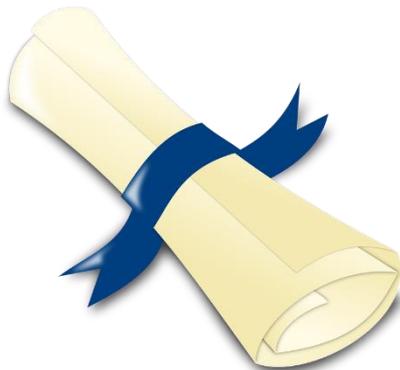
Partial recognition

Some credits are transferred to the student's transcript of records when

- additional training and/or passing final examination is required

- the student has brought "Fail" result on a course in the partner university

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Challenges of credit recognition seen during monitoring visits

- Change of the disciplines in the learning agreement can lead to partial recognition afterwards

- Delay with transcript of records from the partner university causes delay in paying stipend to the students (awarded each semester based on merits)

- No mark ("Pass") for some subjects in the partner university makes it impossible to recognize

- The existing range of transfer coefficients is confusing

- Some universities demand students to follow domestic courses online during mobility period, which doubles their workload

- Students have to take some compulsory courses during summer term in the home university upon finishing their mobility period

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Changes to come

In 2019, Kazakhstan adopts a new academic credit system, fully compatible with ECTS, with 240 credits for Bachelor, 60-120 for Master and 180 for Doctoral programmes