

ECTS

ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to facilitate planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning as well as student mobility. ECTS is widely used in formal higher education and can be applied to other lifelong learning activities.

ECTS credits

ECTS credits are based on expected learning outcomes and the workload students need to achieve them.

Learning outcomes describe what a learner is expected to know, understand or be able to do after successful completion of a process of learning. They relate to level descriptors in national, sectoral and European qualifications frameworks.

Workload indicates the time an average student needs to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, exams, self study, etc.) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.

60 ECTS credits are attached to the learning outcomes and the associated workload of a full time year of formal learning (academic year). Normally, student workload ranges from 1500 to 1800 hours for an academic year, and one credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work.

Use of ECTS credits

Credits are allocated to entire qualifications or study programmes as well as to their educational components (such as modules, course units, dissertation work, work placements, laboratory work, etc.). The number of credits ascribed to each component is based on its weight in terms of the workload students need to achieve the learning outcomes in a formal context.

Credits are awarded to individual students (full time or part time) after completion of the learning activities required by a formal programme of study or by a single unit and the successful assessment of the expected learning outcomes. Credits may be accumulated in view of obtaining qualifications as decided by the degree awarding institution. If students have already obtained the expected learning outcomes in other learning contexts (formal, non-formal or informal), the associated credits can be awarded after successful assessment, validation or recognition of these learning outcomes.

Credits awarded in one programme may be transferred into another programme. Such a programme can be offered by the same or another institution. This transfer can only take place if responsible staff recognises the credits acquired elsewhere. Partner institutions should agree in advance on the recognition of periods of study abroad. Credit transfer and accumulation are facilitated by the use of the ECTS Key Documents (Course Catalogue, Student Application Form, Learning Agreement and Transcript of Records) as well as the Diploma Supplement.