

**Articles**

## EUROPEAN UNION QUALITY SEAL FOR ECIU JOINT MASTER'S PROGRAMME

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The **Joint European Master's Programme in Materials Science** (EMMS), developed in the framework of the ECIU Graduate School, has been selected for funding within ERASMUS MUNDUS.

The programme was set up jointly by academics and administrators from Universidade de Aveiro, Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg, and Aalborg Universitet. Starting with a two day kick off meeting in Aveiro in September 2003, the involved academics and the Graduate School team worked intensively on establishing a course structure which makes best use of each partner's strength and the administrative framework.

A first milestone on a long and sometimes strenuous way was the signing of a letter of intent by the (Vice-) Presidents of the cooperating institutions in November 2003. Hundreds of emails, dozens of phone calls and various last minute actions later, a programme materialized that met unanimous approval by the boards of the three universities, and now also by the European Commission.



"I think we achieved something quite outstanding that could well serve as a model for further ECIU activities of this kind. It should be noted that the great enthusiasm of all partners involved in this project and the strong support of the ECIU Graduate School were vital for this success", UA Vice-President Professor Fernando Marques explained.

With its prestigious ERASMUS MUNDUS scheme, the European Union strives to enhance the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area world-wide. To achieve this goal, Erasmus Mundus was endowed with a budget of 230 million Euros. In the competition for these funds, the European Commission had to choose among well over 200 applications.

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## NEW ECIU ASSOCIATE PARTNER; SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AUSTRALIA

The ECIU has invited a new overseas university to join the Consortium following its strategy to invite a select number of institutions to bring a global perspective into the Consortium and also to have partners who are part of larger networks in their region.

From its establishment in 1908 in Melbourne's eastern suburb of Hawthorn, Swinburne has grown from being a local provider of technical education into a multidisciplined, multicampus provider of higher education of national and international significance.

Swinburne University of Technology is one of the few universities in Australia to offer a full range of programs from apprenticeships to PhDs. Swinburne gives their students the added flexibility in study options of following well-defined 'Pathways' between the TAFE and Higher Education sectors.

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The ECIU Executive Board will meet on 19 November in Barcelona for its 12th meeting.

Issues to be discussed are the innovation research proposal, progress within the ECIU Graduate School and issues related to Improved Student and Staff Mobility.

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All were assessed by independent academic experts. Finally, 14 programmes starting in fall 2004 were selected for immediate full funding, and another 5 have been granted a preparatory year with partial funding.

The EU reviewers did not only acknowledge the high quality of teaching and research within the programme, but also its “clear European dimension and the potential to attract graduates and scholars from third countries”. Moreover, it was pointed out that “the course is designed around a clear and effective strategy“ and that “mobility arrangements are well organized and described”.

It was also noted that “the consortium has a history of joint participation in scientific and academic undertakings”\*, clearly indicating that the fact that the programme grew under the umbrella of ECIU was seen as a significant advantage.

The decision of the Commission to place EMMS among the pioneers in Erasmus Mundus underlines the success of the cooperation of the three partner universities offering the joint programme, but also ECIU’s innovative role in higher education. The award of a Joint Degree, distinguishing the programme among most of its competitors, further underlines this notion.

Being the second of its kind within ECIU after “Industrial Design and Manufacturing” by Universiteit Twente and Universität Dortmund, EMMS has just

been launched and received its first students in October. The three cooperating universities will together receive up to 2, 2 million Euros over a period of five years, to be spent in particular for scholarships for students and lecturers from non-EU countries.

“This programme is an excellent opportunity to attract top level students and professors, which otherwise might not have chosen to study and work in the EU. It will also foster closer cooperation in research between our departments”, explained TUHH’s project leader Professor Karl Schulte.

In order to allow for outgoing mobility of graduate students and scholars from the three participating universities and to reinforce the presence of the programme in the international higher education arena, it is planned to establish special partnerships with third-country partner universities under Erasmus Mundus Action 3.

More information on EMMS and other initiatives to develop joint courses in ECIU:

[Graduate School Project manager Randolph Galla](#),  
tel. +49 40 42878 4263, email: [r.galla@tuhh.de](mailto:r.galla@tuhh.de)

\* *Quotations from comments by independent experts, as made available to the programme coordinators by the European Commission.*

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Undergraduate students have the advantage of working closely with industry through Swinburne’s Industry Based Learning (IBL) program. The IBL program not only provides students with paid work experience before graduating, it often leads to full-time employment opportunities with the same employer after graduation. Most degree courses include IBL which provides a free-flow information between the University and the future employers of our graduates.

Swinburne also offers a wide variety of postgraduate courses from graduate certificates through to PhDs in the areas of Applied Science, Business and Innovation, Design, Engineering and Technology, Health and Human Services, Informatics (Computing and Information Technology), Multimedia, and Social Sciences and Arts.

Swinburne’s strong vocational emphasis and its close links with business and industry ensure that postgraduate programs keep pace with change and remain firmly linked to the needs of the future. The University’s approach to applied research plus relevant coursework programs, and a firm commitment to postgraduates and their careers, have earned Swinburne a reputation as a university of distinction.

Much of Swinburne’s research is concentrated in their specialist centres which are noted for their industry and institutional links, community service and multi-disciplinary approach. Graduates who have worked in these centres are widely recognised for the contribution they are making to Australian and international industry, business and society through the solving of important practical problems by applied, interdisciplinary research.

Please read more on: <http://www.swin.edu.au/>

## NEW PRESIDENT AT TUHH

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Edwin Kreuzer is the new president of the Technical University of Hamburg Harburg. Professor Kreuzer was elected by a unanimous vote on 1 November 2004 in the "Hochschulsenat" and will take up his new office on 1 April 2005 for a six-year term. Professor Kreuzer was Vice-President at the Technical University from 1993 to 1995 and has done research at the TUHH since 1988 within the field of structure dynamics. Professor Kreuzer will replace Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Nedess, who leaves office on 7 April 2005.



*Professor Edwin Kreuzer to the left.*



*Frans van Vught*

## FAREWELL TO FRANS VAN VUGHT

Professor Frans van Vught leaves the University of Twente on 26 November after having been the Rector Magnificus from 1997 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2004 he has furthermore been the chair of the "College van Bestuur".

The University organises a series of farewell events allowing both staff, students and external parties to officially say goodbye to Frans van Vught.

Frans van Vught is one of the founding fathers of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities and chaired the consortium from 1997 until 2002.

## STRATHCLYDE MEANS BUSINESS IN SCOTLAND

University of Strathclyde students and visitors from outside Scotland generate £26m a year for the economy thanks to their off-campus spending, a new study has revealed.

The study into the major economic impact of the University also showed huge knock-on benefits to other Scottish industries with £63 being generated in a range of sectors for every £100 spent by the University.

Overall, the University's activities generated over £305m of output in Scotland in 2002/03, with around £210 m of that in Glasgow alone.

The study was carried out by Ursula Kelly and Donald McLellan, of the Information Resources Directorate of Strathclyde, working with Emeritus Professor Iain McNicoll.

The key findings were:

- With an annual turnover of £166m and over 3200 employees, the University is one of the largest businesses in the city.
- The University derived a considerable proportion (39%) of its total revenue from the private sector and overseas.
- The University is particularly successful in generating export earnings, attracting nearly 15% from overseas compared to 10% across the sector as a whole.

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- The University attracted over 3,600 students from outside Scotland into Glasgow (the majority from overseas), who spent a further £20m off-campus.
- Academic and other visitors spent an additional £6m off campus
- The University's overseas revenue of £24.4m together with the estimated off-campus expenditure of overseas students and visitors indicates the University generated nearly £45m of export earnings. This is equivalent to around 1.5% of all Scottish service sector export earnings.

Professor Andrew Hamnett, Principal of the University of Strathclyde, said: "The most fundamental contribution of any university is to transfer knowledge to the surrounding economy through graduates, research and innovation, however we have shown that higher education as an industry in itself is also key to the economy, and is playing a pivotal role in achieving a successful Scotland. The 2003 Lambert Report highlighted that the economic importance of universities within their cities and regions has grown substantially, particularly as more traditional industries have declined, yet there is still the perception of universities being bottomless pits of public money. This report shows the University of Strathclyde as a large business in its own right and a significant player in the Scottish economy. Other industries seek Government support based on the importance of jobs created and export earnings and policy makers are now starting to pay attention to the economic impact of universities."

Universities UK has agreed a contract with the report's authors and the modelling approach used by Strathclyde will now be rolled out across the UK allowing all universities the opportunity to establish the economic impact they make on their regions.



#### **Contacts**

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## **GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD 2004 FOR TUHH RESEARCHER GARABED ANTRANIKIAN AND ENTREPRENEUR ALFRED H. JUNG**

The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU – German Federal Foundation for the Environment) honours the commitment and the development of innovative technologies for environmental protection

This year's winners of the German Environmental Award are named: the with 500,000 Euro supremely endowed European environmental award goes to the microbiologist Garabed Antranikian (53), Professor at University of Technology Hamburg-Harburg (TUHH), and to the North Rhine-Westphalian entrepreneur Alfred Heinrich Jung (49).

Thus the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU acknowledges the achievements of two environmental pioneers:

Professor Antranikian, head of the Institute for Technical Microbiology of the TUHH, looks into extreme habitats and is awarded for his work in the field of white biotechnology with which chemical processes can be altered in a way that the environment is considerably relieved.

Alfred H. Jung, founder and head of the medium-sized company Jungtec, which is specialised on the manufacturing of gaskets, receives the award for an innovative technology leading both to an immense environmental relief and a reduction of health dangers.



*Professor and Microbiologist  
Garabed Antranikian, TUHH*

*Photographer: Jupiz/TUHH*

## ECIU LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Following the first pilot leadership training programme, the programme is currently running with a new cohort of participants. The programme has been slightly modified in accordance with recommendations made by the first group of participants. The Universities of Aalborg, Dortmund, Strathclyde and Twente are the main partners in the Programme. A total of 15 participants have been nominated, comprising 4 from Aalborg, 3 from Dortmund, 5 from Strathclyde, and 3 from Twente, representing a mix of senior and junior academic and administrative staff. In addition the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg has nominated a further individual.

An additional Workshop has been introduced this year, which will be held at the University of Twente, and the Programme has been modified to include four Workshops, each dedicated to a specific development theme. The Workshops take place at Strathclyde, Twente, Dortmund with the last Workshop preceding the ECIU Rectors meeting in Aalborg in May 2005.

The Leadership Development Programme involves attendance at the Workshops and work on Group Assignments, to be carried out in-between the Workshops, with a final presentation of the Groups' findings to the ECIU Rectors at the Workshop in Aalborg.

### Group assignments

The aims of the Group Assignment are to ensure that the participants will develop:

- ◆ An awareness of leadership traits and strategic management processes to provide effective guidance and organisational change.
- ◆ Knowledge of environmental and cultural influences on the university in its role as a regional, national and European entity.
- ◆ A network of managers who have an appreciation of governance and management challenges within the ECIU.
- ◆ Familiarity with bench-marking techniques for evaluating the managerial success and institutional achievement as a learning organisation.
- ◆ Insight into the dynamic and reinforcing relationships between research, teaching, learning and training.

Individuals from different participating universities have been allocated to each Group Assignment, to provide a healthy cross-university and inter-disciplinary perspective. The following topics have been chosen for the Assignments:

- ◆ *Role of universities in a Regional Context*
- ◆ *Review of internal Decision-making Processes*
- ◆ *Entrepreneurial university: Myth or Reality?*

For more information about the ECIU leadership training programme, please contact the ECIU Secretariat at Aalborg University (slh@adm.aau.dk).

The objectives of the Workshops are respectively:

- ◆ Scene setting and current issues in Higher Education
- ◆ Leadership and management issues facing Middle Management
- ◆ Addressing management tasks to meet the Third Mission of Knowledge Management
- ◆ Communicating and implementing Solutions in practice



*The 2004-2005 leadership training participants at the first workshop at Strathclyde*

## ECIU STUDENT WING

The Student Wing of the ECIU met in Aalborg on 22-24 October and had the chance to combine a good meeting with participation in the 30th Jubilee of Aalborg Universitet, attended by the Queen of Denmark.

The Student Wing discussed many issues e.g. barriers to student mobility within the ECIU and the need for better marketing and more information about the ECIU for students.

For more information about the ECIU Student Wing, please contact the President:

Alzira Peixoto  
aauav@ua.pt.



Queen Margrethe the 2nd of Denmark

## UAB CREATES THE FIRST INTERNET SERVER TO SEARCH FOR GENETIC DIVERSITY

Researchers from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona have developed the first international server that allows the user to analyze genetic diversity on a large scale. The web service, published in the special edition of *Nucleic Acids Research* on bioinformatics, will facilitate research about the genetic basis of hereditary diseases. The server is called PDA (Pipeline Diversity Analysis) and for the first time biologists around the world can search for small variations in the genomes of different individuals and different species using the data stored in large public genome databases, such as Genbank.

These variations are the key to understanding the great diversity in living beings on earth, as well as the large diversity that exists in individuals from the same species. In the case of our own species, these differences determine whether a person has blue or brown eyes, fair or dark skin, or a higher or lower risk of getting a certain type of cancer. This is why genetic variability, as well as being a key element in evolutionary biology and in biology in general, provides very valuable information for studying illnesses with a genetic origin, and it has become one of the main scientific research areas in the genomic field.

The web service, published this July in the special edition of the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*, consists of a set of programs that automatically search for genetic sequences in large public DNA databases. The sequences are grouped and the genetic diversity is measured in different regions, searching for what scientists call nucleotide polymorphisms. These are small variations in the "letters" of the DNA molecule that hold the genetic information of different individuals of a species. The creation of bioinformatic tools that can automate the process of searching for and analyzing data is now one of the priorities of biomedical research in order to deal with the avalanche of molecular data that is generated world-wide. The server PDA is available for use for the scientific community at the Internet address: <http://pda.uab.es>.



The ECIU Student Wing at the Jubilee festivities. After spending 1½ day in a meeting room, the social event was a welcome change. The meeting of the Student Wing continued for one more day, before the students returned to their home universities.

Alzira Peixoto from Aveiro was elected incoming President of the Student Wing. Maiken Sørensen from Aalborg will then (according to the constitution of the ECIU Student Wing) automatically become secretary of the Student Wing.

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## WARWICK STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

University of Warwick students have won a grant of £20,000 from the Department of Education and Skills to take forward Furthering Knowledge of Undergraduates in the Community (FKUC), a project that draws on the students' experience of raising the aspirations of young offenders and running a non-profit cooperative, to boost student involvement in the community.

FKUC is a unique new student run co-operative that is set to enhance the experience of university education for undergraduates by widening student involvement in the community, as an integral part of their course. The project builds on the experience of the students, who took part in Warwick Sociology Department's Sort'd scheme last year, which is run in partnership with the West Midlands Probation Service to raise young offenders' aspirations. The Sort'd project gives offenders the chance to develop positive ambitions and helps to break the cycle of crime through education.

The projects give the youth offenders involved, aged 18 to 24, a rare self-directed opportunity within Higher Education. Unlike other student entrepreneurial ventures Sort'd does not just focus on making money, but also raises awareness of the relationship between money and social justice, and has charitable status.

The £20,000 of funding will enable the students to expand on the project so that their knowledge, skills and experience are transferred to other courses throughout the UK in 2004/ 2005. The students are set to run 7 regional road shows covering 20 universities. The road shows will show how the skills developed through Sort'd can be transferred to other community focused initiatives, such as refugee projects, or schemes to develop adult literacy.

For more information contact: Dr Mike Neary, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Tel: 02476 523 964  
Email: [m.neary@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.neary@warwick.ac.uk).

Source: [University of Warwick website](#).

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## PROGRESS OF ECIU GRADUATE SCHOOL

Apart from the great success of obtaining the Erasmus Mundus seal for the joint master's in Materials Science, more work is going on with regards to developing other programmes.

The Technical University of Compiegne, Aalborg University, the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg and the University of Strathclyde are involved in the development of a joint master's programme within Technological Innovation. A group of researchers have met a few times to develop a curriculum and aim at offering this new programme as of fall 2005.

Another activity is currently going on within the field of Innovation. The University of Twente and Aalborg University is developing a joint programme on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which is closely linked to an envisaged joint research activity involving staff from all interested ECIU institutions. An outreach component is planned and the close collaboration with industry actors, which the two institutions are famous for, is intended.

Activities are going on within a number of other fields and staff from all ECIU institutions are welcome to contact their local coordinators or the ECIU Graduate School manager if they have ideas or input with regards to new joint masters initiatives.

Activities within the field of joint master's programmes are one of three core activities of the ECIU. The other two core areas are 1) Improved Student and Staff Mobility and 2) University Industry Interaction. The next ECIU newsletter will give examples of exchanges within the heading of staff mobility.

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Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg

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University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

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Universiteit Twente, The Netherlands

<http://www.utwente.nl/en/>

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

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Université de Technologie de Compiègne, France

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Monterrey Tech University System, Mexico

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## UNIVERSITY OF JOENSUU

By the end of the year 2004 Joensuun Yliopisto, Finland will be leaving the ECIU. Following the sharpened focus on three ECIU core areas (student and staff mobility, ECIU Graduate School and University Industry Interaction) Joensuu decided that based on its institutions profile its interests would be better dealt with in different international cooperations.

The ECIU thanks the University of Joensuu (Joensuun Yliopisto) for its participating in the cooperation of the consortium so far and wishes Joensuu the best of luck in the future.

Please read more about Joensuu on:

<http://www.joensuu.fi/englishindex.html>

## ECIU Activities

The ECIU is currently running a number of activities for students and staff at the ECIU institutions such as:

- the ECIU Graduate School
- a student mobility programme combining internships with studies abroad.
- an administrative staff mobility programme.
- a leadership training programme for prospective and current leaders.

Furthermore the ECIU has been involved in producing web supported learning modules and in developing a platform for a virtual European university.

Please read more about the ECIU and these activities on the website:

[www.eciu.org](http://www.eciu.org)