



Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative

Facilitating Mutual Credit and Degree Recognition

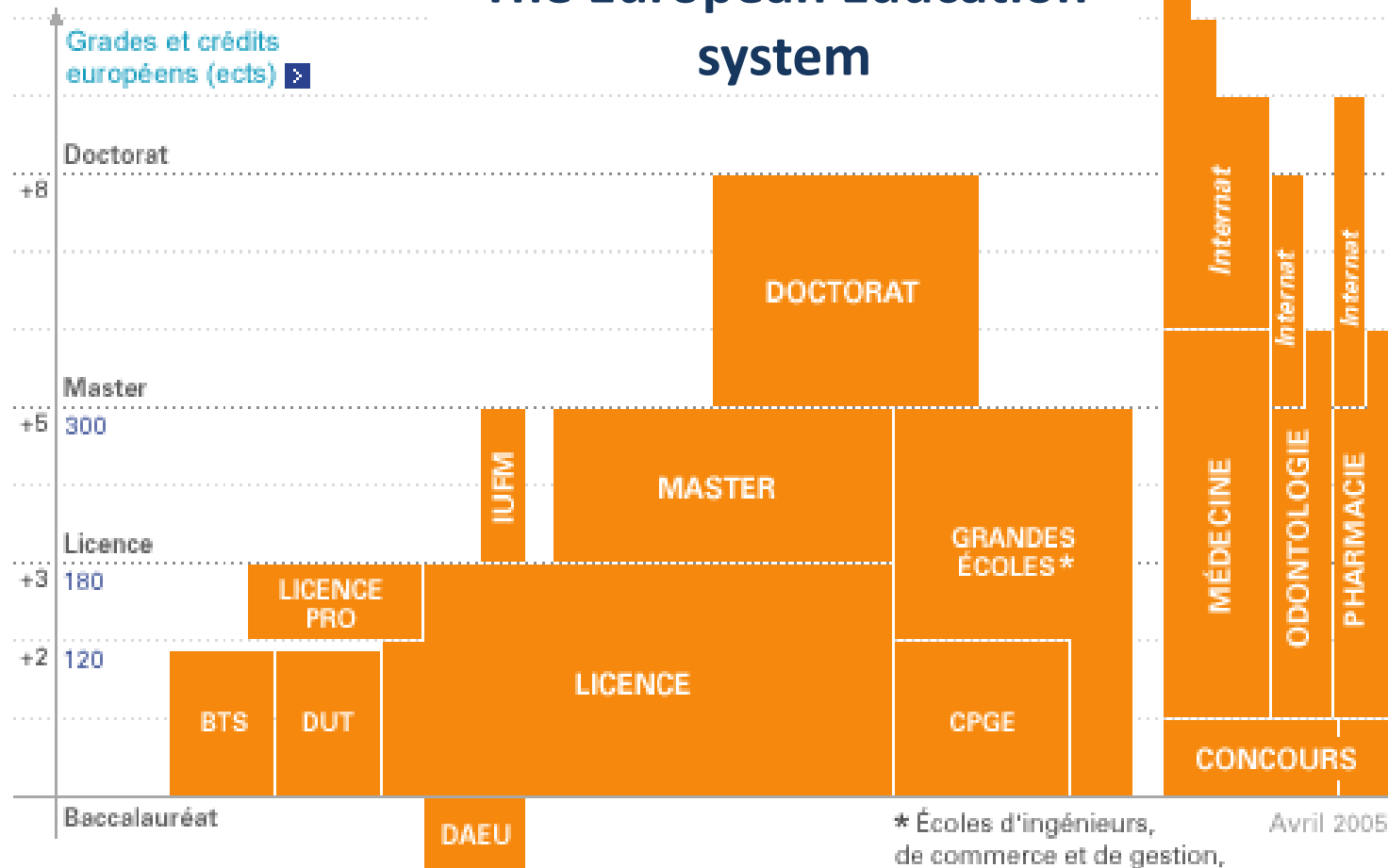
***Pr. Jean-Luc Clément
Advisor***

***Office for European and International Relations and Cooperation
French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research***



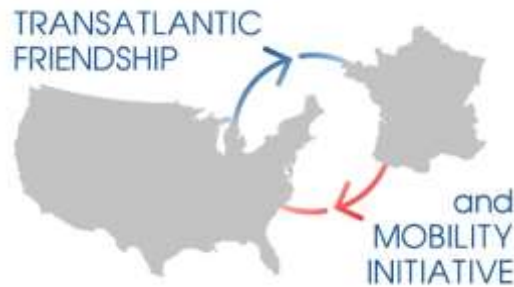
Années
post-baccalauréat

The European Education system



* Écoles d'ingénieurs,
de commerce et de gestion,
d'architecture, vétérinaires, etc...

Avril 2005



EUROPEAN CREDITS

- ❑ One semester = 30 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- ❑ 1 ECTS credit = 25-30 working hours per student
- ❑ One year = 60 ECTS = 1 500-1 800 working hours
- ❑ European System : L (B+3) : 180 ECTS / M (B+5) : 300 ECTS/ D (B+8)
- ❑ National accreditation in France and national diplomas



US CREDITS

- ❑ One class « hour » a week for a semester = one credit
- ❑ Typical three-period class (meeting three « hours » a week for a semester) = 3 credits
- ❑ US Bachelor's degree study : 1 semester = 15 hours a week of courses = 15 credits
- ❑ US Master's degree study : 1 semester = 10 credits



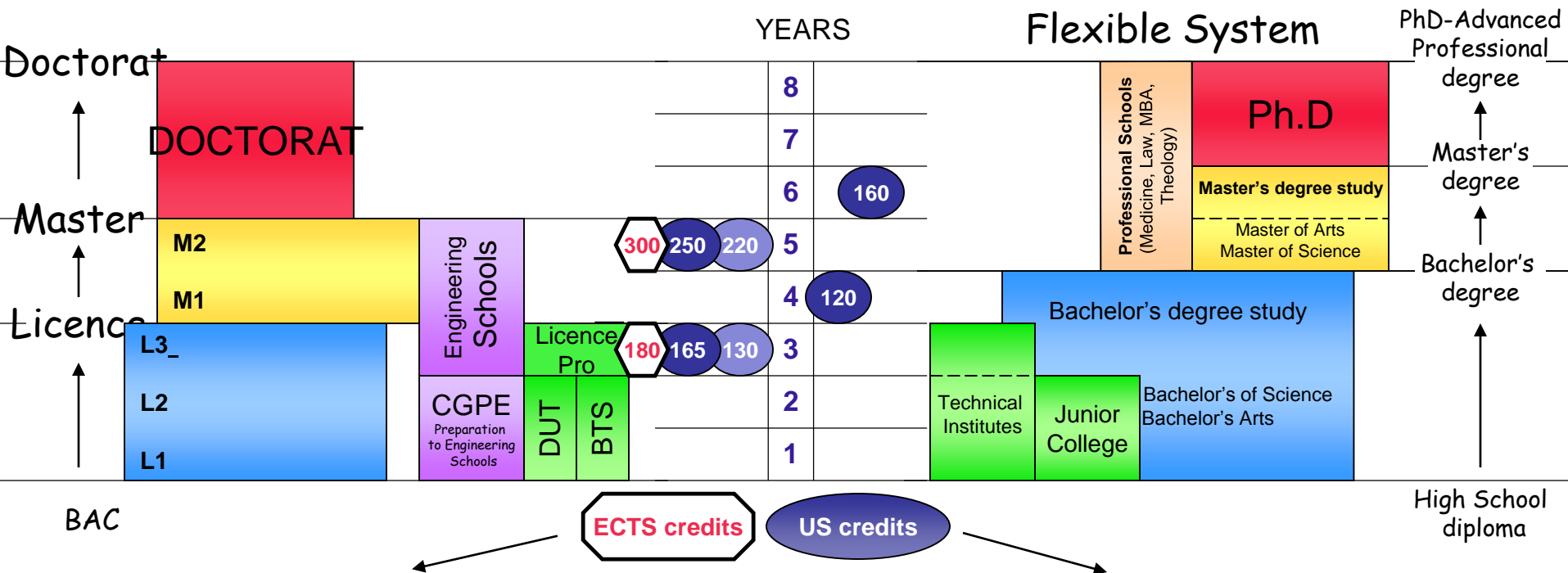
EQUIVALENCE

- ❑ **European Licence: 180 ECTS credits = 165 US credits for a BS in Chemistry and 130 US credits for a BS in Business**
- ❑ **European Master: 300 ECTS credits = 250 US credits for a MS in Chemistry and 220 US credits for a MS in Business**

European and US cursus

The Structure of Higher Education in Europe -LMD-

The Structure of Higher Education in the United States



One semester = 30 European Credit Transfer System 1 500-1 800 working hours
1 ECTS credit = 25-30 working hours

Licence: 180 ECTS credits ~ 165 US credits for a BS in Chemistry
130 US credits for a BS in Business

Master: 300 ECTS credits ~ 250 US credits for a MS in Chemistry
220 US credits for a MS in Business

One class « hour » a week for a semester = one credit
Typical three-period class (meeting three « hours » a week for a semester) = 3 credits

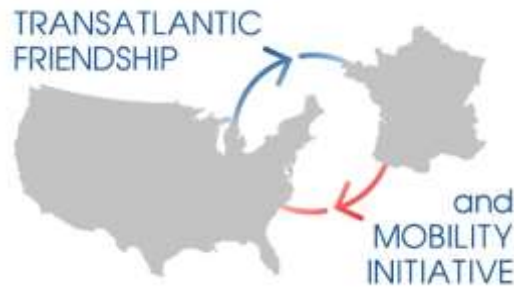
US Bachelor's degree study : 1 semester = 15 hours a week of courses = 15 credits

US Master's degree study : 1 semester = 10 credits



Questions 1/2

- **What level of equivalence is possible between our grading systems?**
- **How can grades from US high schools be recognized so that students can register in French universities?**
- **How can we move towards mutual recognition of university credits?**
- **How can we make the programs offered by US universities implanted in France more compatible with French university programs?**



Questions 2/2

- How can we reproduce the success story of the mutual recognition of the *diplôme d'ingénieur* and the Master of Engineering?
- At what level of study, could co-diplomas be offered (PhD, Masters)?
- Can French higher education institutions be approved by the U.S. authorities in order to enroll American students receiving financial aid?
- Specific case of mobility within business schools.



Deliverables 1/2

- Preparation of a chart with grade equivalencies, including converting from a letter scale to a number scale and vice-versa.
- Preparation of a document comparing the two higher education systems (simple bilingual guide with bibliography).
- Presentation of the procedure to join the list of foreign universities participating in the federal student aid programs maintained by the Department of Education, that allows American students to obtain their degree in France, while still receiving their federal student aid. Encourage French institutions to take the necessary steps to join this list.



Deliverables 2/2

- **Revision of AACRAO's recommendations for French programs in EDGE, especially business school programs.**
- **Analysis of European ECTS and American credits in order to establish equivalence.**
- **Creation of a French-American working group to help universities match European and American credits in order to encourage symmetrical exchanges between universities (one for one).**



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
INTERNATIONAL

TRANSATLANTIC
FRIENDSHIP



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE,
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
ET DE LA RECHERCHE

jean-luc.clement@education.gouv.fr

March 7-8, 2016 - Paris