



# The Bologna Process and its Impact on MS Programs in Turkey:

## A Case Study at Atilim University

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# Plan

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- A Case Study: Atilim University Software Engineering MS Program with ECTS Credits
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# Introduction

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- In line with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (2004), Council of Higher Education in Turkey adopted the regulations on May, 2007.
  - Credit conversion from the standard credit system to ECTS for Undergrad. Programs
    - Issues: Summer Practice, Non-credit courses
  - Produced diploma supplements accordingly to comply with the rules and regulations in the Bologna Process
  - Several workshops had been organized by the Council



## What about Second Cycle (MS)?

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- Only a few Turkish universities had considered the MS and PhD programs and their position in the Bologna Process.
- This study tries to identify the problems associated with the MS and PhD credit conversions and issues in general



# MS Programs: ECTS Credits in Europe

<b>#</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland	Electrical Engineering	90 or 120
<b>2</b>	Hauto Ecole de Gestion Fribourg, Switzerland	Business Administration	90
<b>3</b>	Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium	Computer Science	120
<b>4</b>	University of Lugano, Switzerland	Applied Informatics	90
<b>5</b>	University of Skovde, Sweden	Bioinformatics	60
<b>6</b>	Gotland, Sweden	Int. Management	60
<b>7</b>	Vestfold University College, Norway	Microsystems Technology	120
<b>8</b>	TU Berlin, Germany	Computational Neuroscience	120
<b>9</b>	The UPC. Barcelona Tech., Spain	Computing	120
<b>10</b>	Grenoble University, France	Informatics	120



# Barriers for adaptation to Turkish MS Programs

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- **Program characteristics:**
  - The duration of the MS programs is four semesters (two years).
  - Depending on the progress of the student, in certain cases, the program duration can be extended to three years.
  - The number of courses is at least 7 (21 standard credits) and 10 (30 standard credits) for the thesis and non-thesis options respectively.
  - For the thesis option, student should attend a seminar course, and deliver a speech related to his/her master's research topic.
  - In the case of the non-thesis option, there is no seminar activity, however, a one-semester graduation project work needs to be completed.
  - In many universities, 7 and 10 courses per program for the thesis and non-thesis option is very common



# Barriers

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- The post-graduate programs in Turkey, are managed by the Institutes of Social/Natural and Applied Sciences.
- Henceforth, the courses in institutes should carry the same ECTS units for interdisciplinary approach
- The number of courses to be taken in a program (7 or 10) is only the minimum requirement. What happens if these minimum requirements change?
- Thesis work, Seminar and Graduation Project (for non-thesis) is non-credit courses with a Progress, Unsatisfactory, or Pass/Fail grades respectively.
- So far, only a few universities produced Diploma Supplements for MS and PhD programs!



# A Case Study: Atilim University Software Engineering MS Program with ECTS Credits

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- MS in Software Engineering at Atilim University, Turkey
- **Graduate Program with Thesis (4 semesters - 120 ECTS)**
  - 7 courses (7 x 7.5 ECTS = 52.5 ECTS)
  - Graduation Seminar (7,5 ECTS)
  - Thesis Subject (60 ECTS)
- **Graduate Program without Thesis (4 semesters - 120 ECTS)**
  - 10 courses (10 x 7,5 - 75 ECTS)
  - Graduation Project (45 ECTS)



# MS in Software Engineering (Thesis) Atilim University

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## Semester 1

●	Course	Course Type	Crd	ECTS
○	SE	Software Group Course	(3-0)3	7.5
○	SE	Software Group Course	(3-0)3	7.5
○	CS	Group Course	(3-0)3	7.5
○	ELECTIVE		(3-0)3	7.5

## Semester 2

○	ELECTIVE		(3-0)3	7.5
○	ELECTIVE		(3-0)3	7.5
○	ELECTIVE		(3-0)3	7.5
○	SE 599-1	Thesis	(3-0)3	7.5



# Semesters 3-4

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## Semester 3

	<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Crd</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
●	SE 589	Graduation Seminar	NC	7.5
●	SE 598	Special Stud. on Thesis	NC	10.0
●	SE 599-2	Thesis	NC	12.5

## Semester 4

●	SE 599-3	Thesis	NC	30
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## Remarks

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- It is assumed that, this program will be a good example for the other universities in Turkey under the current restrictions set by the Council of Higher Education.
- A more realistic credit distribution is only possible if these restrictions are released from the system to allow better mobility within the European countries and Turkish universities.

# Dekuji....

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