



Trinity College Dublin

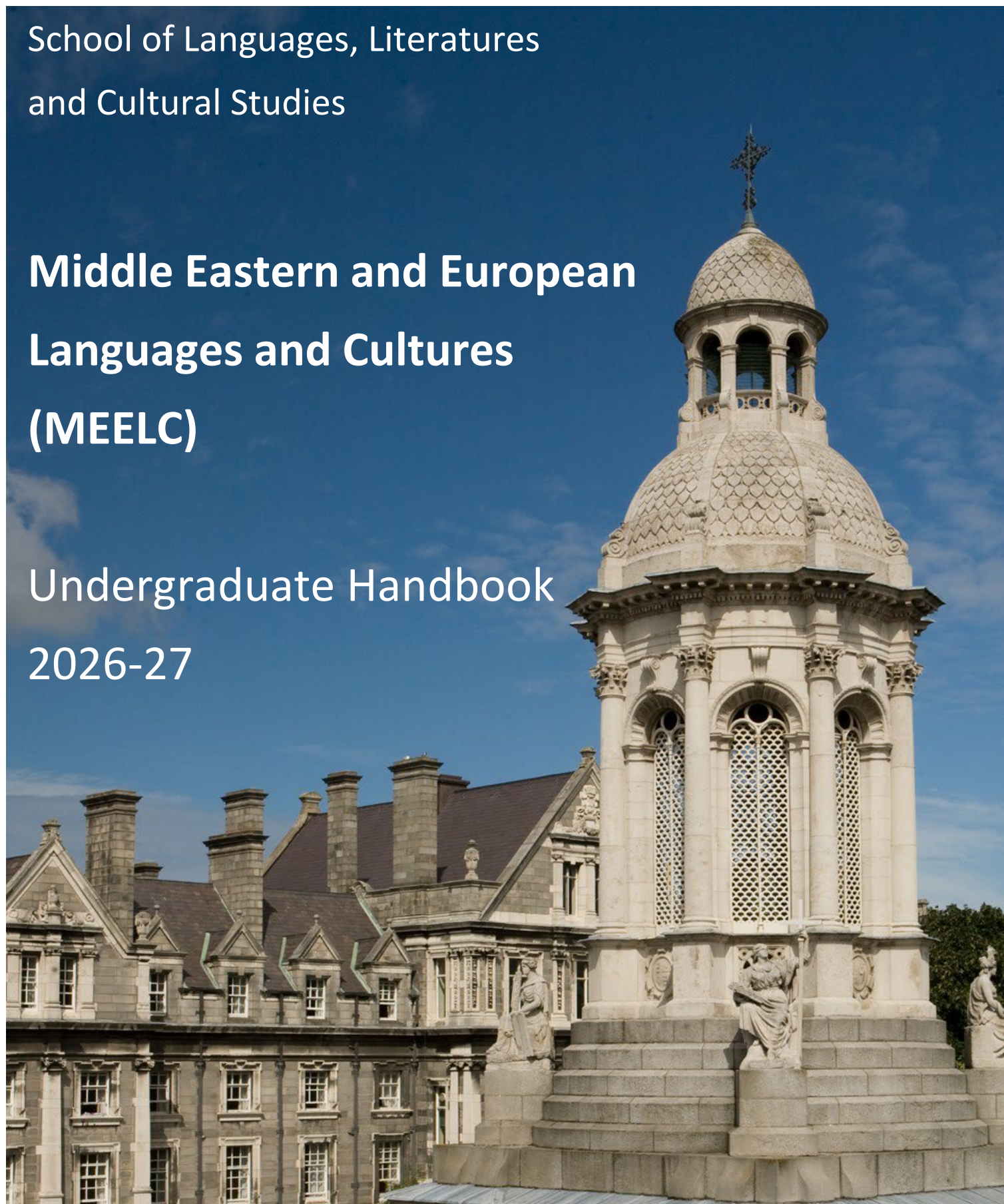
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

School of Languages, Literatures
and Cultural Studies

Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures (MEELC)

Undergraduate Handbook
2026-27



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1. GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The degree in [Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures](#) (MEELC) gives you a unique opportunity to study a language of the Middle East (Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish) combined with a European language (French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, or Polish). You further learn about the history, culture and literature of the two languages and their societies, developing a deeper understanding of both the Middle East and Europe.

The skills and in-depth knowledge acquired in this course prepare you to engage critically with, and contribute to, current discussions about the cultures, histories and religious affairs and of the Middle East and their relationship with European societies, as well as Europe's millennia-long history of engagement with this region.

1.2 Staff Contact Details

Staff Name	Role	Email	Office
Dr Mohamed Ahmed	Programme Director, MEELC	AHMEDM4@tcd.ie	Room 4042, Arts Building

The MEELC degree comprises a wide range of modules drawn from departments across the [School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies](#) (SLLCS). Each department has a member of academic staff who is responsible for coordinating Study Abroad programmes for that discipline.

The list of current MEELC Coordinators is also available on the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies' (SLLCS) [Study Abroad webpage](#).

For all other queries and supports, students are welcome to contact the MEELC programme team directly by email or by making an appointment during office hours.

1.3 Key Locations

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (SLLCS)

Office hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 12.30pm, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Undergraduate Office

The Undergraduate Office is located in Room 5080 on the 5th floor of the Arts Building, students are welcome to call in during office hours.

Nature of query	Office location	Email
Undergraduate Office: general undergraduate queries and transcript requests	Room 5080 5 th floor, Arts Building	undergraduate.sllcs@tcd.ie
European Studies		
Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures		
Undergraduate timetables	Room 5080	timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie
School Office: School operations, finance and HR	Room 5042	

Undergraduate Degree Programme Offices

It is advised that students make an appointment in advance, where possible. In the email subject line include your student number and course of study.

Programme	Office location	Email
<u>Trinity Joint Honours</u>	Room 3135, Arts Building (office hours)	joint.honours@tcd.ie
<u>TJH Open Modules</u>		open.modules@tcd.ie
<u>TJH Erasmus and Study Abroad</u>		tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie
<u>Business Studies and a Language</u>	Trinity Business School	business@tcd.ie

<u>Trinity Columbia Dual B.A.</u>	Room 3135, Arts	<u>ColumbiaDualBA@tcd.ie</u>
Dual B.A. Columbia University Officer	Building	<u>gsinternational@columbia.edu</u>
<u>Law and a Language</u>	School of Law, House 39, New Square	<u>law.school@tcd.ie</u>
<u>Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language (CSLL)</u>	Room 4091, Arts Building	<u>clcsinfo@tcd.ie</u>

1.4 Key Dates

A copy of the current [Academic Year Structure](#) is available on the Trinity website.

Professors will provide key assessment dates on Blackboard.

1.5 Timetables

Students can access their timetables through [My.tcd.ie](#) or the [Trinity Live app](#). If any timetable clashes occur, contact [timetables.slcs@tcd.ie](#).

1.6 Study Abroad/Erasmus

As a MEELC student, you must spend your Junior Sophister year abroad. You will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the language and culture you have studied by attending classes in a university abroad.

Students will research the universities that Trinity have links with, and contact the coordinator for their chosen language. For more details about the MEELC Study Abroad Year consult the [MEELC Year Abroad Handbook](#).

The [School's Study Abroad webpage outlines comprehensive information](#) relating to Erasmus/Study Abroad programmes, including the list of current Erasmus destinations for students, how to plan for your year abroad, the procedures for different pathways, and supports for students with disabilities.

2. Foundation Scholarship and Other Prizes

2.1 Scholarship Examination

The objective of the Scholarship examination which is held in January, is to identify outstanding academic potential in the complementary disciplines that make up the MEELC programme. The Scholarship examination in Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures includes material covered during the two semesters of the Junior Freshman year and the first semester of the Senior Freshman year.

Candidates are examined in:

1. **European Language Competence paper:** This paper tests your competence in your European language (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish). It includes a written paper (1 hour 30 mins) and an oral exam (30 mins). Together they constitute 25% of your overall Schols mark.
2. **Language Area Studies Paper for MEELC students:** This paper examines material covered in the area studies modules related to the student's European language (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish) (2-hour exam, 2 questions, 25% of overall mark).
3. **MEELC Paper Two:** This paper includes material from MLU11001 and MLU 11002 Cultural Encounters, EUU11001 Introduction to the History of Ideas, and MLU22001 Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (3 questions, 3-hour exam, 25% of overall mark).
4. **MEELC Paper Three:** This paper examines students on the material covered in the NMES modules in the JF year and requires that students demonstrate a profound knowledge of each subject and be able to assess critically the primary and secondary material. The paper differs significantly from the annual examinations since students need to demonstrate an ability to synthesise material when answering questions that cover a number of related topics from across the JF modules. (2 questions, 2-hour exam, 25% of overall mark).

2.2 Other Prizes

Gold Medal

Trinity has a number of prizes and awards available for academic achievement. For the MEELC programme, Gold medals may be awarded by the Board of Trinity College to candidates who achieve an overall first class degree with a combined award mark of 75% and higher. Recommendations are considered by the Board of Trinity College at a meeting in the Michaelmas term. Successful candidates are informed of their award in writing by the Senior Lecturer.

3. Academic Writing

It is the responsibility of students to read and take note of regulations about their programme. Alongside the information in this Handbook, you should also read carefully the information provided about individual modules. Information about MLU/NMU-coded modules will be available on [Blackboard](#).

You should further consult the [School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies Handbook](#) and information provided by the relevant department for important information about other modules, including assessment deadlines, how to submit written work, marking criteria, and other regulations.

If you are in any doubt about how these regulations affect you, [contact your module coordinator, College tutor, the School's Undergraduate team, or the MEELC Programme Director](#) for guidance. The [University Calendar](#) is the definitive authority on all matters of College/University regulations.

3.1 The Use and Referencing of Generative AI

The School's guidelines on the use of Generative AI (Gen AI) [are available on the School website](#).

3.1.1 Acknowledging and referencing AI

The Library of Trinity College Dublin has developed [guidelines on acknowledging and referencing GenAI](#). GenAI is evolving rapidly and there is not yet general consensus on how to acknowledge and reference it. This guidance will therefore continue to be reviewed and updated.

Resources

- The Library [guidelines on acknowledging and referencing GenAI](#).
- [Trinity's Generative Artificial Intelligence \(GenAI\) Hub](#).

- [College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research.](#)

3.2 Academic Integrity and Referencing Guide

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. However, it is essential that we do so with integrity, in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement.

Any action or attempted action that undermines academic integrity and may result in an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any member of the academic community or wider society may be considered as academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct can be found in the [College's curriculum glossary.](#)

3.2.1 Submission of coursework

Every piece of assessed coursework for an MLU/NMU-coded module must be accompanied by the appropriate coversheet which can be downloaded from Blackboard. All MLU/NMU-coded work should be submitted through Blackboard, which automatically runs the work through the plagiarism-detecting software *Turnitin*.

- For modules with other codes, follow the instructions of the relevant module coordinator.

4. Teaching and Learning

4.1 Programme Architecture

Students can access full module descriptors on their MyTCD [student portal](#) by clicking on:

Courses & Modules -> View Course and Module Descriptive information

4.2 Final Degree (Moderatorship) Mark

For those in their Senior Sophister (SS) year in 2026/27 and 2027/28, the final degree (Moderatorship) mark is decided solely by assessment and examination in the SS year (i.e. 100% year four assessment calculation).

The 100% SS calculation differs to other programmes in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, where the final degree class is based on grades achieved in the JS and SS years (30% on year three and 70% on year four).

The current MEELC derogation from this 30/70 assessment balance ended for new entrants in 2025/26 (and those completing their Degree from 2028/29 and onwards). This means that for students entering the MEELC programme in 2026/27, the final degree mark will be based on grades achieved in the JS and SS years (30% on year three JS and 70% on year four SS).

It also means that if you are a current Junior Sophister or Senior Sophister student and for some reason (e.g. off books, repeat years), you do not complete your Degree course until 2028/29 (or following years), your Degree will be calculated on the 30/70 year three and year four assessment balance.

To summarise, final degree (Moderatorship) marks will be calculated as follows:

- **Final Degree 2026/27:** 100% year four assessment
- **Final Degree 2027/28:** 100% year four assessment
- **Final Degree 2028/29 and onwards:** 30% on JS year and 70% on SS year assessment.

In order to pass the final degree examinations (Moderatorship), candidates must satisfy the examiners in the major language component. In calculating the moderatorship result, all modules are weighted according to their credit values.

4.3 Programme Structure

4.3.1. Junior Fresh Year (60 ECTS)

In the Junior Fresh year, you take modules that amount to 60 ECTS, which includes the choice of your language modules:

	Module Title	ECTS
One of:	One of: French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish	10
	Area Studies of chosen language	10
	MLU11011 - Introduction to the History of Ideas	5
	MLU11001/2 - Cultural Encounters between the Middle East and Europe 1 and 2	10
	NMU11051 - Introduction to the History of the Ancient Near East	5
	NMU11012 - Introduction to Islamic Civilisation (5 ECTS)	5
	NMU11042 - Introduction to Jewish History and Culture	5
	NMU11001 - Introduction to the Modern Middle East (5 ECTS)	5
	NMU11102 - Islamic Art: A Historical and Theoretical Approach	5

4.3.2. Senior Fresh Year (60 ECTS)

In the Senior Fresh year, you take:

	Module title	ECTS
One of:	Continued French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish	10
	Continued Area Studies of chosen language	10
One of:	Middle Eastern language from Arabic, Modern Hebrew and Turkish	5 (MT) + 5 (HT)
	MLU22012 - The Making of Modernity	5
	A Trinity Elective module ¹	5
	MLU22001/2 - Historical and Contemporary Perspectives: the Middle East and Europe 1 and 2	10
	A non-language SF module offered by NMES in any year	5 MT
	A non-language SF module offered by NMES in any year	5 HT

¹ MEELC students are not eligible to take Electives offered by the Dept of NMES

Online Module Enrolment (OME)

Over the summer after your first year, the School will email you a form which you complete to indicate the **NMES options** you are choosing. The **Trinity Elective** works differently: this you do through the College's Online Module Enrolment (OME), which works on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.3.3. Junior Sophister Year

You spend your third year abroad: either one semester in the Middle East and one semester in the country of your European language, or a full year in the country of your European language.

4.3.4. Senior Sophister Year (60 ECTS)

For the SS year, you must choose **one** of the following three pathways:

1. Continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years **and** the Middle Eastern language chosen in the SF year.
2. Continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years but **not** the Middle Eastern language.
3. Continue with the Middle Eastern language chosen in the SF and JS years but **not** the European language.

Pathway 1: (both languages)

Module title	ECTS
Continued chosen European language	10
Continued European language Area Studies ²	10
Continued Middle Eastern language	10 (MT)
SS module by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies	10 (HT)
Capstone Project	20

Pathway 2: (European language only)

Module	ECTS
Continued chosen European language	10
Continued European language Area Studies ³	10

² In the event that the European Language Department does not have the relevant number of area studies credits available, the shortfall will be made up in European language modules.

³ In the event that the European Language Department does not have the relevant number of area studies credits available, the shortfall will be made up in European language modules.

SS module by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies	10 (MT)
SS module by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies	10 (HT)
Capstone Project	20

Pathway 3: (Middle Eastern language only)

Module	ECTS
Continued Middle Eastern language	10
Three SS modules by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies – One in MT and two in HT	Totalling 30
Capstone Project	20

4.4 Coursework Requirements

There are varied modes of assessment in different modules in your programme. To understand precisely what is required of you in assessed exercises and in examinations, consult information provided by module coordinators. It is the responsibility of each student to establish the time and date of examinations, and to be aware of examination regulations, [through the Examinations Timetable \(my.tcd.ie\)](http://my.tcd.ie).

In each year at Trinity you take modules to a total value of 60 credits (ECTS). To progress to the next year, you need to secure an overall mean mark of 40 and to obtain 60 credits (45 for the year abroad), either by passing all modules (and in some cases also by passing required elements within modules), or by compensation.

- [Passing the year “by compensation” \(see ‘How do I pass the year?’\)](#)

Students who do not pass (whether outright or by compensation) at the annual examination session must complete the specified supplemental assessments during the supplemental examination period. Students who still have one or more failed modules in the supplemental period [will be required to go “off books”](#), or to repeat the year.

Failure to submit any outstanding work during the **supplemental period** thus has extremely **severe consequences**.

4.5 Marking Criteria

The classing scheme includes the following bands:

- First (I) = 70 -100
- Upper second (II.1) = 60-69
- Lower second (II.2) = 50-59
- Third (III) = 40-49 marks
- Fail.1 = 30–39
- Fail.2 = 0-29

Work not submitted receives a mark of 'zero'. For marking schemes pertaining to individual pieces of work, students should consult their module coordinator.

4.6 Attendance Requirements

In some modules and departments, students must satisfy an attendance requirement. Similarly, in some modules and departments, students must complete non-examined written work. Students are responsible for ensuring that they understand and meet the criteria required in all modules they study. Please consult your module coordinator if you are uncertain about what is expected.

4.7 Late Submission Policy

All students must fulfil the course requirements of the School or department, as appropriate, with regard to attendance and course work. You may be required to submit coursework according to agreed submission dates. If you have a problem keeping up with coursework or have an issue submitting coursework on time please contact your tutor and ask them to contact the Programme Director.

There are penalties for late submission of written coursework without an approved extension or acceptable explanation (e.g. Medical certificate). These are specified in the School Handbook.

4.8 Absence from Examinations

Students who may be prevented from sitting an examination or examinations (or any part thereof) due to illness should seek, through their tutor, permission from the Senior Lecturer in advance of the assessment session to defer the examination(s) to the reassessment session.

Students who have commenced the assessment session, and are prevented from completing the session due to illness should seek, through their tutor, permission to defer the outstanding examination(s)/assessment(s) to the reassessment session. In cases where the assessment session has commenced, requests to defer the outstanding examination(s) on medical grounds, should be submitted by the tutor to the relevant school/departmental/programme office. If non-medical grounds are stated, such deferral requests should be made to the Senior Lecturer, as normal.

References:

- [Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations and Information, 'Absence'](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)

4.9 External Examiner

[Contact MEELC Programme Director](#) for details.

4.10 Transcript Requests

If you wish to request a copy of your academic transcript, contact the Undergraduate Office (undergraduate.sllcs@tcd.ie).

Include the following information in your email:

- Full name (as it appeared during your time as a student)
- Student number
- Programme of study
- Years of attendance at Trinity College Dublin

For older transcripts, the following details may not be available:

- Module or course descriptions for each academic year
- Module names corresponding to results listed on transcripts
- Descriptions of module content or learning outcomes
- ECTS credits, contact hours, or workload per module

Transcript processing requires a **minimum of 10 to 14 working days**