

# Joint programmes, European Degree

Aalto Erasmus staff training

## Type of academic programmes (degree leading)

- Created in collaboration by two or more HEIs (international)
- Can be offered at any level (bachelor, master, Phd)
- JOINT PROGRAMME (JP)
  - JP ex novo: completely new degree programme
  - Creation of JP as dedicated curriculum of an existing degree programme → uniqueness?
- DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMME
  - Two separate curricula not integrated
  - Student complete the requirements of each institution
  - May have some coordination and coordinated elements

# Joint programme / Dual degree programme

## Features

### JOINT PROGRAMME

High level of integration in various aspects:

- Joint marketing
- Joint admission and selection procedure
- Integrated curriculum (coordinated, managed, developed)
- Joint courses/modules
- Joint exams, joint supervision of thesis
- Joint QA measures
- Leading to **double/multiple or joint degree** (= one single document)
- Compulsory physical mobility
- External funding instruments (EMJM, EIT...): joint scholarship pool & requirements

### DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMME

Less or no integration of curricula

Does not require joint international admission procedure → students are chosen from the students that have already been admitted to local programme → Students enrolled first at entry (home) university + nominated to exit (host) university

Each institution is responsible for its own degree and requirements

Compulsory physical mobility

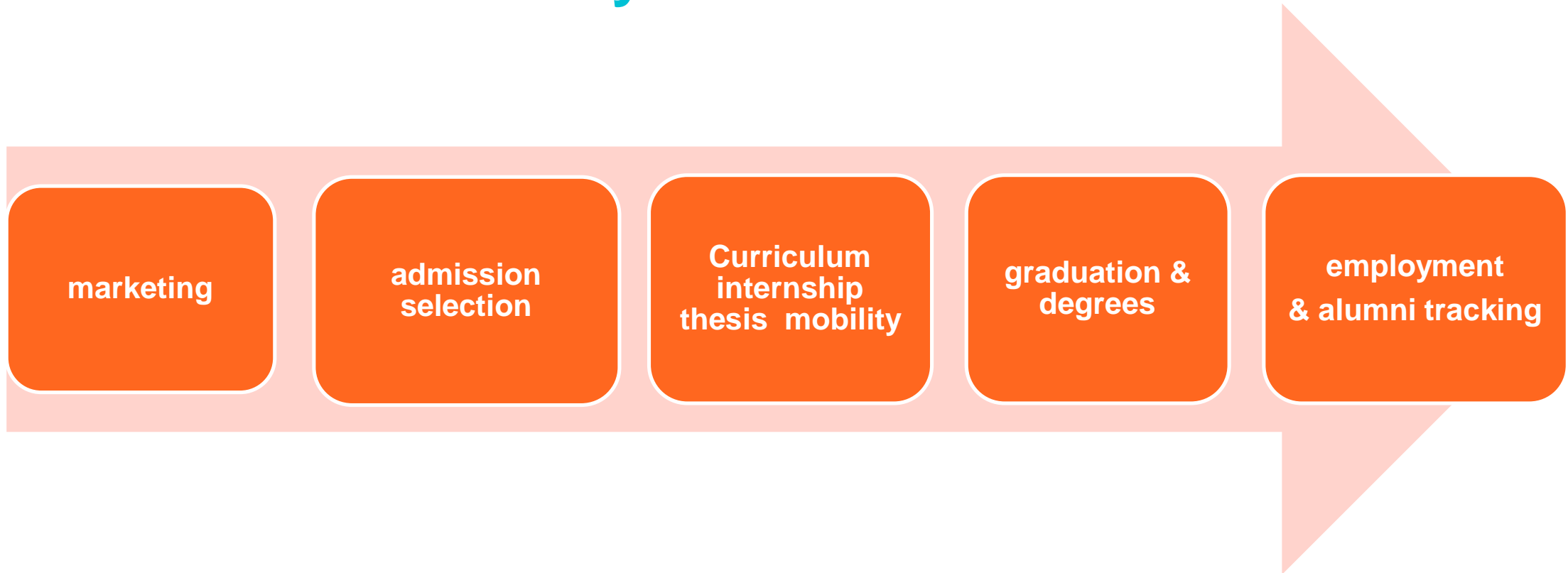
Leading to **dual degree**

## Type of awarded degrees: qualification & diploma

- **Joint degree**: a single document awarded by higher education institutions offering the Joint Programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised award of the Joint Programme (EQAR definition)
- **Double/multiple degree**: separate degrees (and documents) awarded by HEIs offering the Joint Programme attesting the successful completion of this programme
  - if two degrees are awarded by two institutions, this is a 'double degree'
  - More practical solution in diverse legislative landscape
- **Dual degree** (definition by ECA): two degrees awarded individually, attesting the successful completion of **two separate curricula**, with potential overlap and efficiencies in course-taking, and, if more than one institution is involved, each institution is primarily responsible for its own degree

# Programme life: how to create jointness?

## Where to add virtual/hybrid elements? M&M?



# Example of “traditional” mobility scheme in JPs

## 2- year Master, 120 ECTS

### FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SEMESTER 1  
UNIV A  
30 ECTS

SEMESTER 2  
UNIV A  
30 ECTS

### SECOND ACADEMIC YEAR

SEMESTER 3  
UNIV B  
30 ECTS

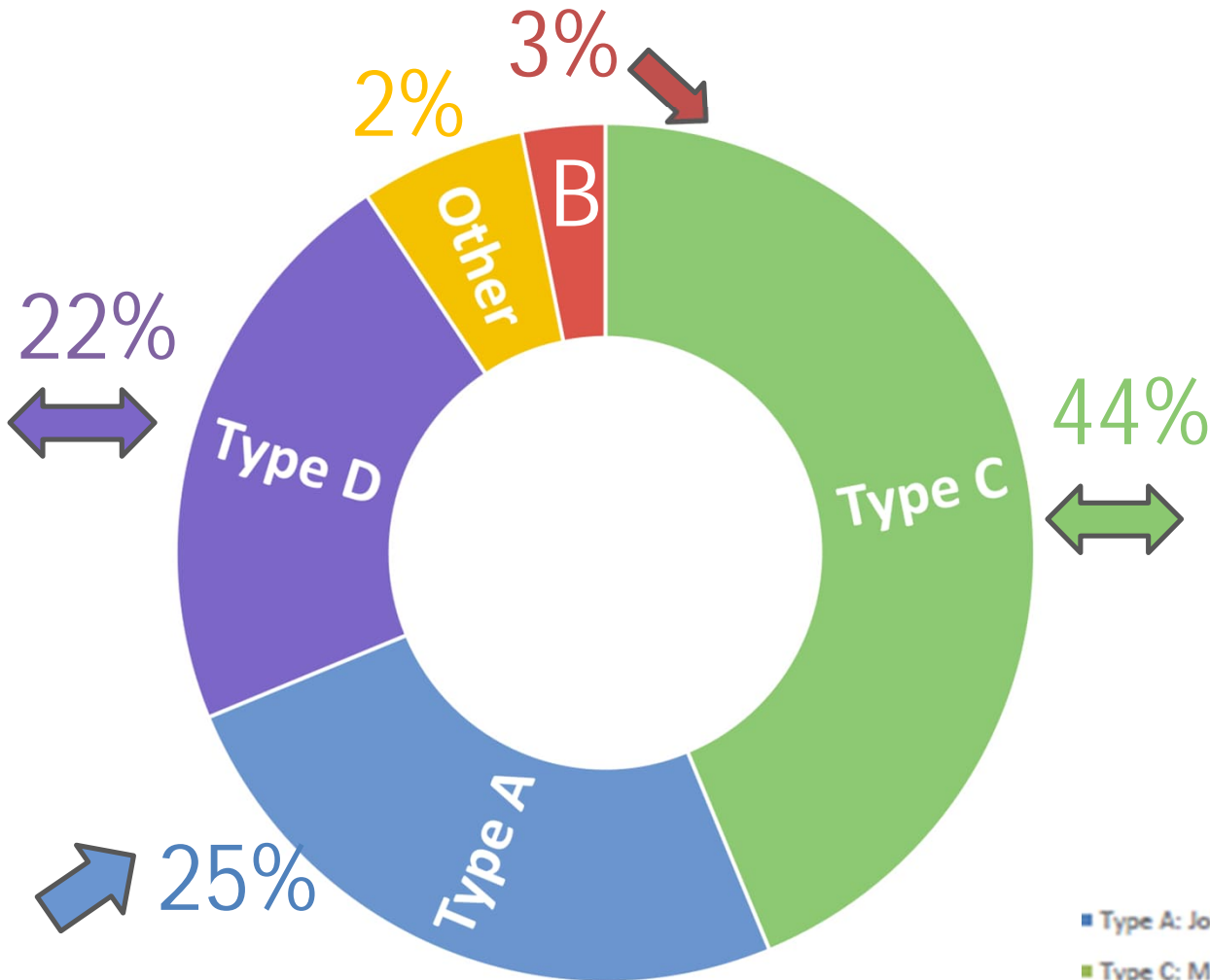
SEMESTER 4  
UNIV A (thesis)  
30 ECTS

SEMESTER 4 UNIV B  
(thesis)  
30 ECTS



# Type of joint degree awarded

64% is delivering a Joint Degree (A+B+D)

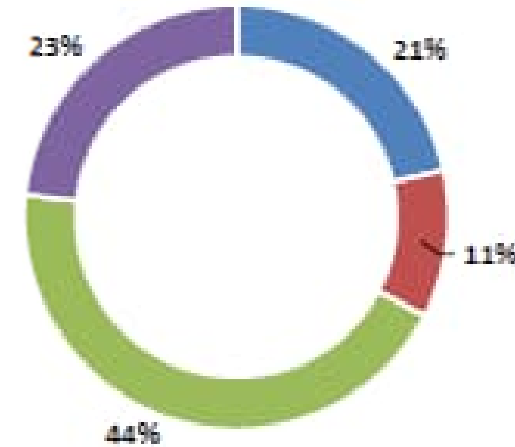


Type A: Full Joint Degree

Type B: Joint Degree per track

Type C: Multiple Degree

Type D: Combination

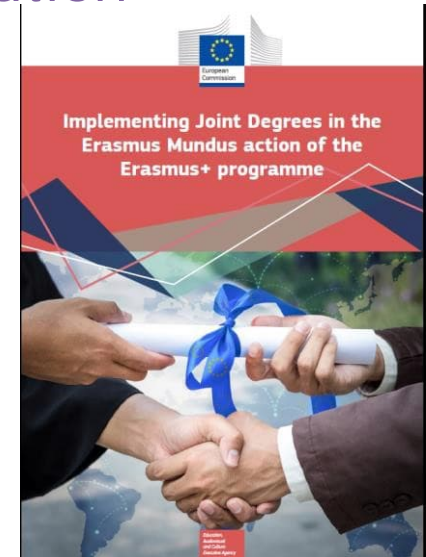


■ Type A: Joint Degree (23/107)

■ Type B: Joint Degree per Track (12/107)

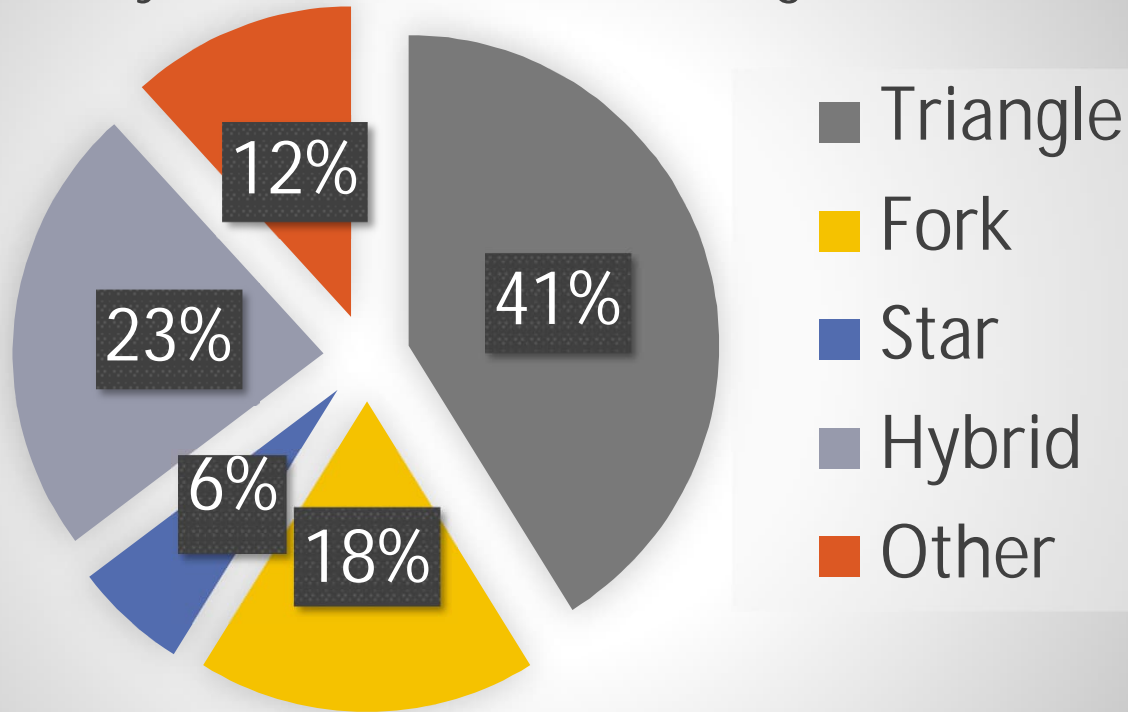
■ Type C: Multiple Degree (47/107)

■ Type D: Combination (25/107)



# The mobility scheme strongly influences the diploma awarding process

Mobility scheme of JD awarding EMJMD



Triangle: students start together at one university and move together from one university to the next

Fork: students start together at one university for a period and then are distributed among other partners

Hybrid: Triangle + Fork

Star: all students are separate and follow different mobility paths depending on their study track

Other: reverse fork; Hybrid: two first and two second year institutes, allowing for four different tracks in total; triangle for the first 1.5 years, then free choice for thesis; one semester together at coordinating institution, the rest free paths.



# Specific benefits of joint programmes

Institutions	Staff	Students
To strengthen existing networks, development of strategic partnerships	To test and experience new pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning	Transversal skills, soft skills, intercultural skills, time management skills → better employability skills
Visibility and attractiveness, reputation of HEIs and consortium, international/external recognition for the programme	To learn, to agree and to share best practices in joint prog administration	Compulsory mobility → to manage practical matters in at least two countries
To foster research collaboration	Deeper academic and administrative collaboration	Guaranteed credit transfer
Organization: structural/service model changes	Teaching in foreign language (English)	Degrees are recognized by multiple systems → wider opportunities for employment
Increased number of international degree students, potential recruitment pool of Phd students	Teaching in multicultural environment	Internships, thesis → industry placement connections → quick employment possibility
Integrated education links with private sector and companies		Improved language skills, learning of local languages
To develop better QA practices		Studying in multicultural environment
Harmonization of admin and academic practices		Learning of European values

**European Commission: To move towards European Degree/European Approach/Joint Degree**

## **Unite! Expert group in JPs**

- **1-2 experts in JPs from every Unite! European University Alliance member <https://www.unite-university.eu/>**
- **Was created Feb 2023 with the launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> project phase of Unite!**
- **To support the development of various types of JPs**
- **→ Produce online tool-kit to enable development of Unite! Joint Programmes and collaborative educational offerings**
- **→ Online Toolkit created and under development (June 2024 beta version)**
- **→ Testing!**

**Online Toolkit** <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/introduction>

- **Joint Programmes** <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/joint-programmes-handbook>
  - Handbook <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/joint-programmes-handbook>
  - JP Documents and Templates <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/joint-programme-documents-and-templates>
  - JP Design Filtering Tool <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/joint-programmes-filter>
- **Collaborative Courses**
  - How to create
  - How to teach

## Online Toolkit <https://joint-edu-offerings.unite-university.eu/introduction>

- **Virtual exchanges**
- **Other resources**
  - Upcoming Unite! events and (staff) trainings
  - JPROV (EU-funded project “Embedding Virtual Exchange” in JPs)
  - Digital toolbox
  - Teaching Excellence Webinar series
  - MOOCs & Open Education resources
- **Find partners** (only with log in): Unite! partner search function to develop JPs, collaborative courses (BIPs, COILs etc)

• **FEEDBACK button!!**



## Background and Introduction

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## Multilingualism & Multiculturalism

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## Definitions (joint programme, double/multiple/joint degree)

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## Quality assurance and Joint Programme Accreditation

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## European Degree Criteria and Label

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## Joint Programme curriculum design

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## Admission process

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## Joint programme and tuition fees

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## Insurances for international students

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## Grading

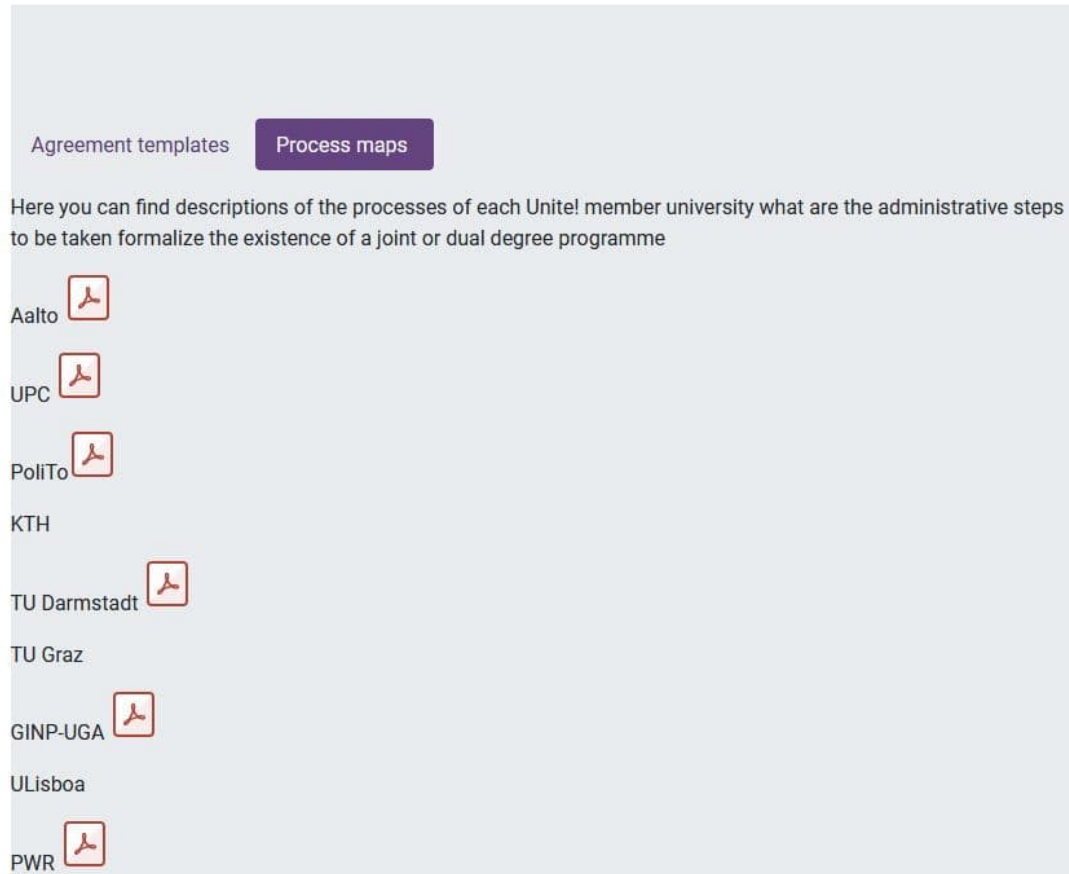
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# Joint Programme Handbook

- Multiple chapters on key issues when creating a JP or bilateral/multilateral collaboration leading to double/multiple/joint degree

## JP Documents and Templates

When planning a new joint programme or bilateral dual degree collaboration, there is a need to formalize the collaboration between the partners (with agreements) but also to complete and go through all required local administrative steps. You can find supporting documents below.



Agreement templates **Process maps**

Here you can find descriptions of the processes of each Unite! member university what are the administrative steps to be taken formalize the existence of a joint or dual degree programme

- Aalto
- UPC
- PoliTo
- KTH
- TU Darmstadt
- TU Graz
- GINP-UGA
- ULisboa
- PWR

## Agreement templates

- Consortium agreement
- Dual degree agreement
- Student agreement
- Initial JP development template

## Process maps

# Joint Programme Filtering Tool

Local rules and regulations of each Unite! partner with the purpose to support the design of JP

- Accreditation
- Local tuition and JP fees
- Entry requirements & admissions
- Study regulations
- Master thesis

Degree requirements & recognition

Degree certificate

Internal quality assurance

Termination of JP

Accessibility & student wellbeing

# Hands-on workshop

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# European Degree

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# unite!

University Network for Innovation,  
Technology and Engineering



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