

Enhancing international mobility and employability in Statistics programmes

Claire Miller,
School of Mathematics & Statistics

claire.miller@glasgow.ac.uk

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....a degree is not enough....

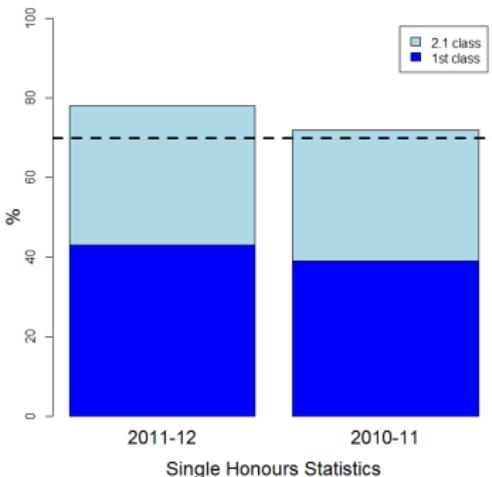
Co-contributors:

John McColl, Marian Scott and Adrian Bowman

Statistics at Glasgow University

A vocational programme, which can be done as a single or combined honours degree at BSc (Hons) or MSci level.

~ 40-50 students graduating each year.



69% of first degree graduates in Scotland obtained a first (17%) or upper second (52%) honours degree 2009-10 (HESA 2011).

Employers are increasingly favouring students with a minimum of one year's experience in industry when recruiting graduates - Huffington Post 2012.

MSci in Statistics with work placement (since 2012-13)

One third of employers viewed a graduate with any overseas study experience as more employable - Archer & Davison (2008)

Double degree in Statistics, University of Bologna (since 2010-11)

Both programmes developed as a result of academic staff links through research and GU graduates.

This presentation will describe:

- Set up/implementation and details of these programmes;
- Student engagement;
- Student support;
- Employer feedback;
- The challenges - academic and pastoral;
- The benefits - to students, employers and GU;
- Impact on student recruitment.



MSci in Statistics with work placement (since 2012-13)

“.. an amazing insight into how statistics can be used in the real world..”

“..(the placement) has definitely helped me with my career choices for the future..”

“..a life-changing opportunity”

“..an extremely rewarding experience”

- Third year at GU (BSc/MSci) - 40%

- Statistics work placement year - 20%

- Fifth year at GU (Level M year) - 40%
 - 5 courses (same as 4th year BSc Hons but at M level)
 - 5 courses (chosen from a list of options)
 - project (20 credits)

- Royal Bank of Scotland;
- Santander;
- Barrie & Hibbert;
- Information Services Division, NHS;
- Scottish Government.

Placements are currently Glasgow/Edinburgh and are set up between the employers and academic staff in Statistics at Glasgow.

2011-12

4 students at RBS for one-year internships.

2012-13

- First year of work placement degree;
- 4 students on placement: RBS, B&H, ISD, SG;
- 1 student on a one-year internship: Santander.

2013-14

6 students currently being allocated placements for next year.

These are specific to individual placements:

- *A salary of \sim £15,000*
- *A 35-37 hour working week*
- *Around 25-30 days annual leave and additional bank holidays.*

- Entry to the MSci at the end of second year;
- Successful application and interview with employer;
- Students apply for multiple placements, employer and student preferences are then matched;
- Minimum GPA of 15 at the end of third year.

- Progress reports completed by student and line manager at around 4-6 months (formative);
- Dissertation - 70%;
- Presentation - 10%;
- Final line managers report - 20%.

- Information booklet on the degree;
- MSci with work placement programme co-ordinator;
- Line manager in employment;
- Academic supervisor;
 - Regular email contact throughout year
 - At least two meetings with line manager and academic supervisor.

- Visa restrictions;

- Contractual requirements within companies;
 - Student agreements
 - Confidentiality (NDAs)

- Staff turn-over;

- Staff recruitment freeze;

- Appropriate level of statistical work.

■ **Students:**

- Enhanced graduate attributes;
- Develop statistical analysis and programming skills;
- Job opportunities.

■ **Statistics at GU:**

- Enhanced recruitment to MSci programmes;
- Employer engagement and partnership with our programmes;
- Student attitude and work ethic;
- Promoting our student's skills and capability in the work place.

- Employer engagement and partnership;
- Recruitment pool from our top students.

Employer feedback:

'very impressed with performance'

'All candidates were great, very well qualified for placements'

'An asset to the company' *'Excellent performance'*

Double Degree in Statistics with The University of Bologna, Italy (since 2010-11)

“.. Bologna is proving to be an amazing place to live..a great experience.. staff and students have made a huge effort to make us feel welcome”

“..a year abroad is definitely something you should have in your life”

“..the best thing I've done in my life”

- Memorandum of agreement for a double degree set up between Glasgow University and the University of Bologna;
- Exchange of up to 5 students per year under Erasmus conditions;
- Students selected on the basis of second year results at Glasgow, competitive selection in Bologna;
- University of Bologna teach in English;
- Students receive an Erasmus grant;
- Courses are matched with ‘equivalent courses’ at each institution.

Glasgow Students:

- Study at GU years 1 & 2
- Spend third year studying in Bologna;
- Return to GU for their final year.



Bologna Students:

- Spend years 1 & 2 studying in Bologna;
- Spend their final year studying at GU.

2010-11

5 students at GU from Bologna

2011-12

- 5 students at GU from Bologna
- 3 students in Bologna from GU

2012-13

- 5 students at GU from Bologna
- 2 students in Bologna from GU

■ **At Glasgow:**

- Dedicated adviser of studies/contact person for the Bologna students at Glasgow;
- Additional tutor for Data Analysis course;
- Dedicated contact person/adviser in Bologna for the Bologna students.

■ **In Bologna:**

- Skype calls;
- Staff visits to Bologna (once a semester);
- Dedicated adviser of studies for the Glasgow students visiting Bologna;
- Dedicated contact person/adviser for the Glasgow students in Bologna.

- **BSc (Hons) in Statistics** (Glasgow University)
 - Glasgow students - Bologna year 3, Glasgow year 4
 - Bologna students - Bologna year 2, Glasgow final year

- **Laurea in Scienze Statistiche (Classe L41)** (University of Bologna)
 - Glasgow students - Glasgow years 2 & 4, Bologna year 3
 - Bologna students - Bologna year 1 & 2, Glasgow final year

- Outward student exchange from Glasgow;
- Grade conversions;
- Different education systems;
- Language;
- Earthquakes!

- International partnerships/enhanced internationalisation;
- Enhanced graduate attributes;
- Strengthened research and teaching links;
- Increase in outgoing (and incoming) student mobility;
- Extremely high quality students joining our Honours class;
- Potential for postgraduate recruitment.

Both programmes:

- Relatively early in their implementation;
- Enhanced graduate attributes/employability;
- Student's have been excellent ambassadors for Glasgow;
- Have encouraged the top students from second year Statistics to undertake Single Honours Statistics programmes.

....In future....

- Is it feasible (and realistic) to extend the MSci with WP to placements outwith Scotland and then outwith UK?
- Continue to encourage GU student participation in the Double Degree.



Archer, Will and Davison, Jess (2008), 'Graduate Employability: what do employers think and want?', The council for industry and education.

HESA (2011), Higher Education Statistics Agency, Statistics first release 153, January 2011.

Sherriff, Lucy (2012), 'A Degree is not Enough, say Employers as Youths 'Encouraged' to Busk', The Huffington Post UK (20th Sept 2012)

