

**Learning outcomes based higher education: the Scottish experience**  
**21-22 February 2008**, at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh

**Purpose:**

To support the Bologna signatory countries by:

sharing the experience of higher education sector in Scotland in the development of policy and practice in the use of learning outcomes at national, institutional and programme level; focussing on the “how” to apply learning outcomes in a national context and highlighting the linkages between learning outcomes and curriculum design, assessment of student achievement, quality assurance, standards of programme and awards, and national qualifications frameworks.

To cover the following:

- Quality assurance national, institutional and programme level: the design and implementation of outcome based programmes
- Learning outcomes and the assessment of learner achievement
- Learning outcomes and information for stakeholders – public in general, employers
- The recognition of learning: informal learning; learning from work and the transfer of learning outcomes (credit).

To be delivered by and for: higher education institutions; students; national quality bodies and with a perspective from employers.

**Audience:**

The event will aim for a large audience of a range of constituencies from each of the 46 Bologna countries. Each country will be invited to send representatives from:

- Government Department(s) for Higher Education,
- National Quality Assurance Agency,
- body responsible for developing their national qualifications framework
- Higher education institutions
- Teaching staff
- National student body.

**Rapporteur:** Graeme Roberts, Bologna Expert and HE Academy

Time	Item	Chair/lead
<b>Day one</b>		John Harper, Universities Scotland
9:30 am	Arrival (coffee)	
10:00 am	Welcome	Prof Andy Walker, Vice Principal, Heriot Watt University
10:05 am	Sharing good practice	Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

10: 15 am	Learning outcomes: why are they important for higher education institutions?	Judith Vincent, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching, University of the West of Scotland
10: 30 am	Learning outcomes: why are they important for staff?	Alastair Hunter University and College Union
10: 45 am	Learning outcomes: why are they important for students?	Jill Little, National Union of Students Scotland
11: 00 am	Question and answer session	John Harper, Universities Scotland
11: 15 am	Coffee	
11: 45 am	Learning outcomes: current developments in Europe	Stephen Adam, Bologna Expert
12: 30 pm	Scene setting for workshops Question and answer session?	Norman Sharp, Quality Assurance Agency Scotland
1: 00 pm	Lunch	
2: 00 pm	Workshop session one (see below)	
3: 30 pm	Coffee	
4: 00 pm	Workshop session two (see below)	
5: 30 pm	Close	
<b>Day two</b>		Sjur, Bergen, Council of Europe
9:30 am	Learning outcomes: why are they important for employers?	Konica Stones, Student Recruitment Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers
10:00 am	Workshop session three (see below)	
	Coffee to be served in breakout rooms	
11:30 am	Panel session, and Question and Answer	Chair: Sjur Bergen, Council of Europe Members: Michael Horig, EUA Lucien Bollaert, EURASHE, Caroline Carlot, ESU, Séamus Puirseil ENQA, Jens Vraa-Jensen, Education International Norman Sharp, SACCA Cathy MacAslan, Vice Principal for Learning and Teaching, Aberdeen University
12 :45 am	Conclusions	Graeme Roberts
1:00 pm	Close with lunch	

## Workshops

<p><b>Workshop 1</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: programme design and staff development</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider: staff development on the development and application of learning outcomes in programme design, development and review: and developing the programme of learning to support achievement of the outcomes (to be illustrated through a few different subject areas - creative and performing arts/sciences/professional-competence based etc). Also to consider the concept of the types of outcomes that a 'university' aims for – what is distinctive about the <u>Dundee</u> etc Degree.</p>	<p>Chair Terry Brotherstone,</p> <p>Presenter Lorraine Walsh</p> <p>Rapporteur Una Bartley</p> <p>Twice on the Thursday</p>
<p><b>Workshop 2</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: recognition of prior learning</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the use of learning outcomes in the recognition of prior learning in the recognition of learning from and at work, the transfer of learning outcomes (reference to credit transfer – matching up achieved outcomes with those of the intended programme).</p>	<p>Chair Stephan Neetens</p> <p>Presenter Ruth Whittaker</p> <p>Rapporteur Tony Axon</p> <p>Friday only</p>
<p><b>Workshop 3</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: public information</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the role of learning outcomes in programme specifications, Diploma Supplements and other sources of public information</p>	<p>Chair Morgane Artacho</p> <p>Presenter James Dunphy</p> <p>Rapporteur Ann McVie</p> <p>Friday only</p>
<p><b>Workshop 4</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: learning, teaching and assessment of student achievement</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the use of learning outcomes in learning and teaching and assessment of student achievement, to be illustrated by different subject areas.</p>	<p>Chair Duncan Cockburn</p> <p>Presenter Elaine Payne</p> <p>Rapporteur Ward Poelmans</p> <p>Twice on Thursday</p>
<p><b>Workshop 5</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: national qualifications frameworks and levels</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the role of learning outcomes in the assurance of quality and standards, by reference to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), the Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions in Scotland, and internal and external review processes.</p>	<p>Chair Jens Vraa Jensen</p> <p>Presenter Norman Sharp and Janice Ross</p> <p>Rapporteur John Hardey</p> <p>All sessions</p>

<p><b>Workshop 6</b>  <b>Learning outcomes, workload and ECTS</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the relationship between learning outcomes and student workload.</p>	<p>Chair Michael Horig</p> <p>Presenters Gerard Madill and Anne McGillivray</p> <p>Rapporteur Margaret Irving</p> <p>Twice on Thursday</p>
<p><b>Workshop 7</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: employability</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider the role of learning outcomes in explaining to employers the skills and competences achieved by Bachelor graduates</p>	<p>Chair Richard Shearman</p> <p>Presenters Brent MacGregor and Shelagh Green</p> <p>Rapporteur Una Bartley</p> <p>Friday only</p>
<p><b>Workshop 8</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: transfer and accumulation between VET and HE</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider how learning outcomes facilitate transfer into and within higher education institutions.</p>	<p>Chair Anthony Vickers</p> <p>Presenter Dr Andrew Eadie</p> <p>Rapporteur Jill Little</p> <p>Twice on Thursday</p>
<p><b>Workshop 9</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: a case study on comparing nursing programmes</b></p> <p>Workshop to explore how Napier University cooperated with their Hungarian partners to give credit to their pre-registration nursing programmes and provide a Scottish top up to degree level. The case study will illustrate how learning outcomes enable comparison and will explore ECTS, Sectoral Directives, Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA, EQF, NQF, RPL, and comparing vocational and academic programmes.</p>	<p>Chair Tone Flood Strom</p> <p>Presenters Andy Gibbs</p> <p>Rapporteur Alex Young</p> <p>Friday only</p>
<p><b>Workshop 10</b>  <b>Learning outcomes: in quality enhancement</b></p> <p>Workshop to consider how learning outcomes feature in the Scottish approach to promoting and supporting enhancement, considering national and institutional levels, and staff and student perspectives. The Scottish Quality Enhancement Themes initiative will be used to illustrate how learning outcomes are being used to focus enhancement activities by institutions and their staff to benefit student learning and attainment.</p>	<p>Chair Robert Santa</p> <p>Presenters David Bottomley and Alan Davidson</p> <p>Rapporteur Liam Burns</p> <p>All sessions</p>