



University Mobility in Asia - Pacific (UMAP) and its Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)





Presentation overview

- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ University Mobility in Asia-Pacific (UMAP)
- ✓ Key issues in credit transfer
- ✓ UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)
- ✓ Potential benefits of using UCTS
- ✓ Discussion on using the UCTS



Objectives

Given that

- we see increased interest and volume of student mobility in the Asia-Pacific region
- credit transfer is a challenge
- UCTS is becoming an industry standard (~ECTS)

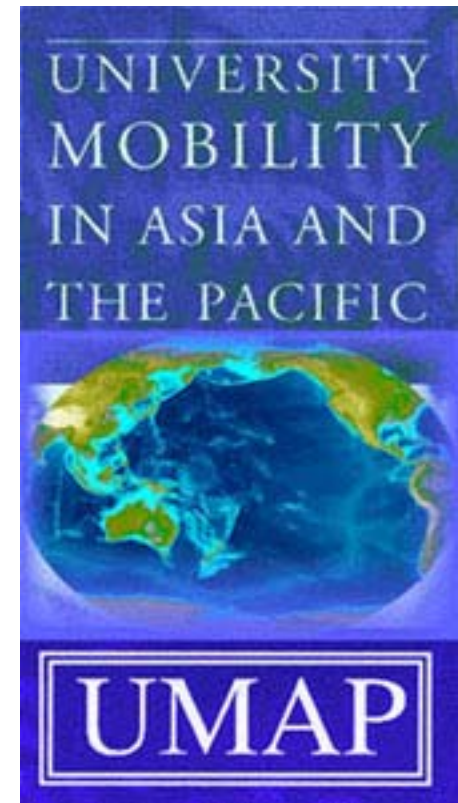
Today's objectives are

- to raise awareness about UMAP and the UCTS
- to engage in a dialogue about challenges, lessons learned and possible models with respect to credit transfer in the North American context



University Mobility in Asia-Pacific (UMAP)

- Aims to enhance international understanding through increased mobility of university students and staff
- 28 members (including Mexico, and the USA)
- Canada is a member since 1999
- AUCC is the national contact for Canada
- www.umap.org





Mobility in the Canadian context

- Canadian institutions have a high level of interest in providing study abroad experiences to their students
- Barriers to participation: lack of funds is key, but problems with credit recognition figure prominently
- History of AUCC on this issue:
 - 2 reports: *Credit Where Credit is Due* and *European and Asian Credit Transfer System*
 - Discussions on trilateral mobility
 - Proposal to UMAP for sessions on UCTS



Key credit transfer issues in the Canadian context (1)

Overall issues

- common practices in other parts of the world may begin to have a greater impact on Canadian institutions' approaches to this area
- wide variety of approaches and patterns exist within and across institutions

Students' issues are

- full academic recognition
- good information on programs (relevance to degrees)
- predictability of credit transfer process



Key credit transfer issues in the Canadian context (2)

Institutions' issues are

- trust and confidence in the quality of partner institutions
- workloads associated with the implementation of credit transfer schemes / strategies
- consistency, predictability and transparency of grade conversion and credit transfer processes
- broad base of expertise to encourage greater consultation
- institutional autonomy: paramount in determining credit recognition
- other ...



UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)

Objective is to increase student mobility by ensuring that students receive credit for study undertaken when on exchange with other universities

UCTS

- is a pilot mechanism
- is monitored by a UMAP steering committee
- must be used when students receive a UMAP scholarship



Components of the UCTS

The **credit point scale**

a conversion scale to record the student workload at the host institution in a form suitable for conversion to the home institution workload measure

The **grading scale**

a conversion scale to record host institution grades in a form suitable for conversion to home institution grades



Potential benefits of credit transfer tools

- Standard information about academic programs offered at partner institutions
- Certain level of predictability in credit transfer and grade conversion processes
- Requires relatively little investment of resources by universities since it is more ad-hoc and student-initiated
- Can help student recruitment
- Other ...



Discussion

- What have been some of the **key challenges, lessons learned and barriers** with respect to credit transfer in the Americas?
- Does the UCTS present a **potential model** for credit transfer in the context of mobility in the Americas?
- What would be the **key benefits** for the Americas to develop or use an international credit transfer tool such as the UCTS?
- What would be the **key obstacles** which would preclude your institution to use an international credit transfer tools from academic, administrative and financial perspectives?