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Royal Decree 1125/2003, of September 5, 2003, which establishes the European credit system and the grading system for official university degrees valid throughout the national territory.

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Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports  
"BOE" No. 224, of September 18, 2003 Reference:  
BOE-A-2003-17643

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Among the measures aimed at building the European Higher Education Area is the establishment of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in official undergraduate and graduate degrees. This system has been generalized since the Socrates-Erasmus student mobility programs, facilitating the equivalence and recognition of studies carried out in other countries. Its implementation has also been recommended in the successive declarations of Bologna (1999) and Prague (2001).

The European credit system is already in place in a large majority of member and associated states of the European Union and constitutes a basic point of reference for achieving transparency and harmonization of their teaching. The adoption of this system constitutes a conceptual reformulation of the organization of the higher education curriculum by adapting it to the new training models centered on student work. This measure of the academic credit entails a new educational model that must orient teaching programs and methodologies by focusing them on student learning, not exclusively on teaching hours.

The European credit transfer and accumulation system also offers the necessary tools to easily understand and compare the different educational systems, to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications and national and international mobility, with full recognition of studies completed, to increase collaboration between universities and the convergence of educational structures and, finally, to promote learning at any time of life and in any country of the European Union.

Organic Law 6/2001, of December 21, 2001, on Universities, in its articles 87 and 88, entrusts the Government, within the scope of its powers, with the adoption of the necessary measures for the full integration of the Spanish system into the European Higher Education Area. Among these measures is, in the first place, the determination of the necessary rules so that the European credit is the unit of measurement of the academic credit corresponding to the passing of each of the subjects that make up the study plans of the various courses of study leading to the awarding of official degrees valid throughout the national territory. The application of the European credit system is, moreover, a prior and necessary condition for establishing the

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new degrees that must be configured as a consequence of the provisions contained in section 2 of article 88 of the aforementioned organic law.

This objective of promoting transparency between the educational systems of the different Member States can be adequately achieved not only with the implementation of the European Diploma Supplement, but also with the establishment of easily comparable student grading systems that allow the calculation of the success rates of students in each subject.

The grading system in force in Spanish universities differs significantly from those advocated for the construction of the European Higher Education Area, so it is appropriate to modify it. The grading system should be quantitatively formulated to facilitate its comparison with the system of grades of the European credit system and the establishment of an internal distribution of the grades awarded.

This Royal Decree has been reported by the University Coordination Council.

By virtue thereof, at the proposal of the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports, in agreement with the Council of State and after deliberation of the Council of Ministers at its meeting held on September 5, 2003,

PROVIDED:

**Article 1. Object.**

The purpose of this Royal Decree is to establish the European credit as the unit of measurement of academic credit in official university education, as well as the grading system for the academic results obtained by students in this education.

**Article 2. Scope of application.**

The concept of credit and the method of its allocation established in this regulation shall be applied to the general guidelines corresponding to official university degrees approved by the Government as from the entry into force of this Royal Decree, as well as to the study plans that must be followed to obtain and homologate such degrees.

**Article 3. Concept of credit.**

The European credit is the unit of measurement of the academic credit that represents the amount of work of the student to fulfill the objectives of the program of studies and that is obtained by the overcoming of each one of the subjects that integrate the study plans of the diverse teachings leading to the obtaining of university degrees of official character and validity in all the national territory. This unit of measurement includes theoretical and practical teaching, as well as other directed academic activities, including the hours of study and work that the student must do to achieve the training objectives of each of the subjects of the corresponding study plan.

**Article 4. Allocation of credits.**

1. The total number of credits established in the syllabus for each academic year shall be 60.
2. The number of credits of each degree will be distributed among all the subjects integrated in the study plan to be taken by the student, according to the total number of hours involved for the student to pass or complete each one of them.
3. In the assignment of credits to each of the subjects that make up the study plan, the number of hours of work required for the acquisition by the students of the corresponding knowledge, capacities and skills will be computed. This assignment must include the hours corresponding to lectures, theoretical or practical classes, study hours, and hours dedicated to seminars,

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work, internships or projects, and those required for the preparation and performance of exams and evaluation tests.

4. This allocation of credits, and the estimate of the corresponding number of hours, shall be understood to refer to a student engaged in full-time university studies for a minimum of 36 and a maximum of 40 weeks per academic year.

5. The minimum number of hours per credit shall be 25 and the maximum number shall be 30.

6. The Government, following a report by the University Coordination Council, shall establish the minimum number of credits that must be assigned to a given subject in study plans leading to the award of official university degrees valid throughout the national territory.

**Article 5. Qualification system.**

1. In order to obtain the credits corresponding to a subject, the student must have passed the corresponding exams or evaluation tests.

2. The level of learning achieved by the students will be expressed with numerical grades that will be reflected in their academic transcript together with the percentage distribution of these grades over the total number of students who have studied the degree in each academic year.

3. The average of the academic record of each student will be the result of the application of the following formula: sum of the credits obtained by the student multiplied by the value of the corresponding grades, and divided by the total number of credits obtained by the student.

4. The results obtained by the student in each of the subjects of the syllabus will be graded according to the following numerical scale from 0 to 10, with one decimal place, to which the corresponding qualitative grade may be added:

0-4.9: Failure (SS).

5.0-6.9: Pass (AP).

7.0-8.9: Notable (NT).

9.0-10: Outstanding (SB).

5. The credits obtained by recognition of credits corresponding to training activities not integrated in the study plan will not be numerically graded nor will they be computed for the purpose of calculating the average of the academic transcript.

6. The mention of "Matrícula de Honor" may be awarded to students who have obtained a grade equal to or higher than 9.0. Their number may not exceed five percent of the students enrolled in a subject in the corresponding academic year, unless the number of students enrolled is less than 20, in which case only one "Matrícula de Honor" may be awarded.

**Sole transitory provision. Adaptation to the system.**

Current university courses leading to the award of an official university degree that are currently implemented must, in any case, be adapted to the credit system established in this Royal Decree prior to October 1, 2010.

**Sole derogatory provision. Repeal of regulations.**

For the purposes of the provisions of article 2 of this Royal Decree, section 7 of article 2 and sections one.4 and one.5 of the first paragraph of annex 1 of Royal Decree 1497/1987, November 27, 1987, which establishes general common guidelines for university curricula of an official nature valid throughout the national territory, are hereby repealed, first paragraph, of Annex 1 of Royal Decree 1497/1987, of November 27, establishing the common general guidelines for the curricula of university degrees of an official nature and valid throughout the national territory, in the wording respectively given to said paragraphs by Royal Decree 779/1998, of April 30, and Royal Decree 1267/1994, of June 10, as well as any other provisions of equal or lower rank that oppose the provisions of this regulation, are hereby repealed.

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**First final provision.** *Competent title.*

This Royal Decree is issued pursuant to the provisions of Article 149.1.30 of the Spanish Constitution and in accordance with the provisions of Article 87, Article 88.1 and 3 and the third final provision of Organic Law 6/2001, of December 21, 2001.

**Second final provision.** *Authorization for regulatory development.*

The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports is responsible for issuing, within the scope of his powers, the provisions necessary for the application of the provisions of this Royal Decree.

**Third Final Provision.** *Entry into force.*

This Royal Decree shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

"Boletín Oficial del Estado".

Given in Madrid, on September 5, 2003.

JUAN CARLOS R.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports,