

HOW FAR IS EHU FROM BEING A LIBERAL ARTS INSTITUTION?

Liberal Education is About...

- Developing the minds of individuals who can
 - think clearly, critically and creatively;
 - judge wisely;
 - communicate effectively;
 - act humanely and ethically.
- Preparing a person not simply for a job, but for a lifetime of learning

Basic Terms

Artes Liberales – historically, the basis for the modern liberal arts; the Quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) and the Trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric);

Liberal arts – Specific disciplines (the humanities, social sciences and sciences);

Liberal arts college – A particular institutional type - often small, often residential, that facilitates close interaction between faculty and students, and has a strong focus on liberal arts disciplines;

General Education – The part of a liberal arts education curriculum shared by all students. It provides broad learning in liberal arts and science disciplines, and forms the basis for developing important intellectual, civic, and practical capacities. General education can take many forms, and increasingly includes introductory, advanced, and integrative forms of learning.

4 Universities Comparison

	W&M (VA)	Oberlin (OH)	Earlham (IN)	EHU(LT)
established	1693	1833	1847	1992
students body	8000	2900	1200	1750
teachers body (full time)	596	270	97	100
student/faculty ratio	12to1	11to1	12to1	18to1*
degree programs	40	46	40	20
endowment	\$624 mln.	\$689 mln.	\$254 mln.	0
number of campuses/area	3/5.0 km2	1/1.7 km2	1/3.2 km2	0
alumni	90.000	50.000		1.800**

* extreme values: 5/1 at MA school, 31/1 at BA low resident form.

** total number of graduates from Minsk and Vilnius period.

4 Curricula Comparison

		US		Lithuania	
		W&M(VA)	Earlham(IN)	LCC(LT)	EHU(LT)
		Credits*/Subjects			
General Subjects of University Studies		72/11	60/13	51/10	42/13**
Core and Compulsory Subjects	major			165/29	141/31**
Optional Subjects				24/4	45/10
Thesis and/or Qualification Examinations					12/1
Optional Subjects	I major	72/12	70/11		
Optional Subjects	II major	72/12	56/13		
Off campus		24/4	54/7		
Total		240/40	240/44	240/43	240/55

* As far as 1 ECTS credit equal 0,5 US credit, I doubled the last one for a clearer picture.

** At EHU two foreign language (1st – 12 cred., 2nd – 18 cred.) are included respectively in the General and Special Studies Programs.

4 Curricula Comparison

	US		Lithuania	
	W&M(VA)	Earlham(IN)	LCC(LT)	EHU(LT)
Sum of credits	240 (120)			
Sum of disciplines	40 to 45			55
Sum of optional disciplines	60% to 75%			20%
Individual educational curriculum based on fixed course catalogue (1 year ahead)	+			-
Student supervising system	+			-
Foreign languages	**32 - 36 credits outside			*30 credits inside
General Subjects of University Studies (cr/#)	72/11	60/13	51/10	60/19
Number of majors for four years	two majors		One major for four years	
			+second major = five years	
Face to face + distance learning	-	-	-	+

* 30 credits inside (12 credits core curriculum + 18 "optional").

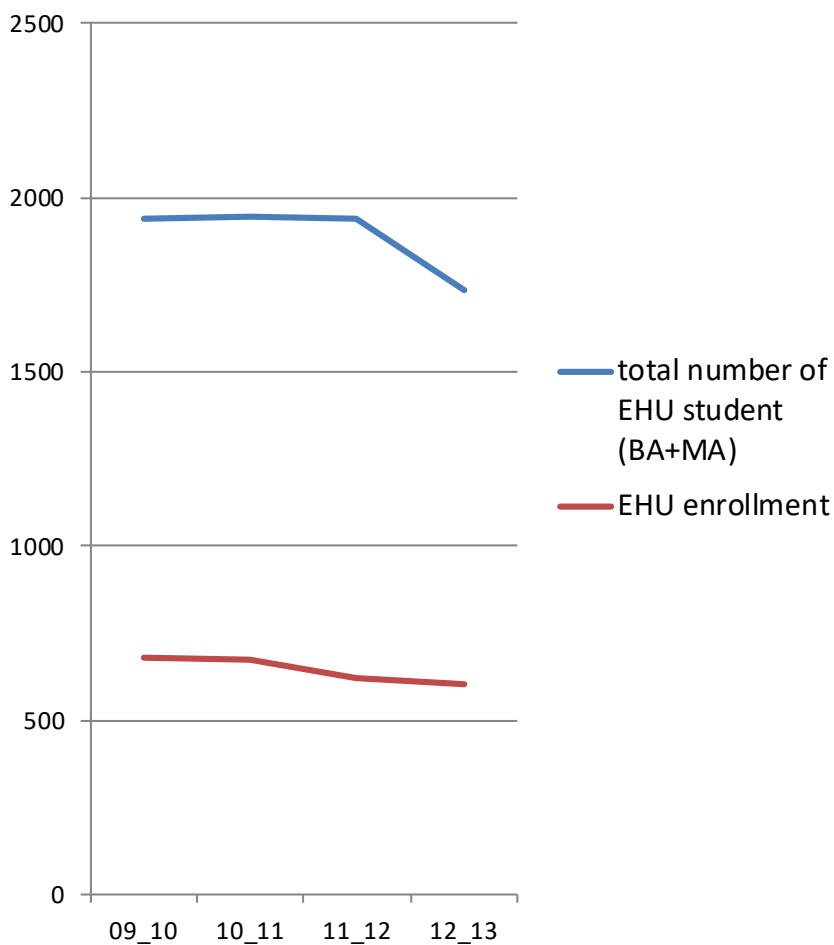
** 32 - 36 credits before or while staying at the university beyond the core curricular.

AY 2011-2012

EHU Core Curriculum. Total number obligatory authors and texts

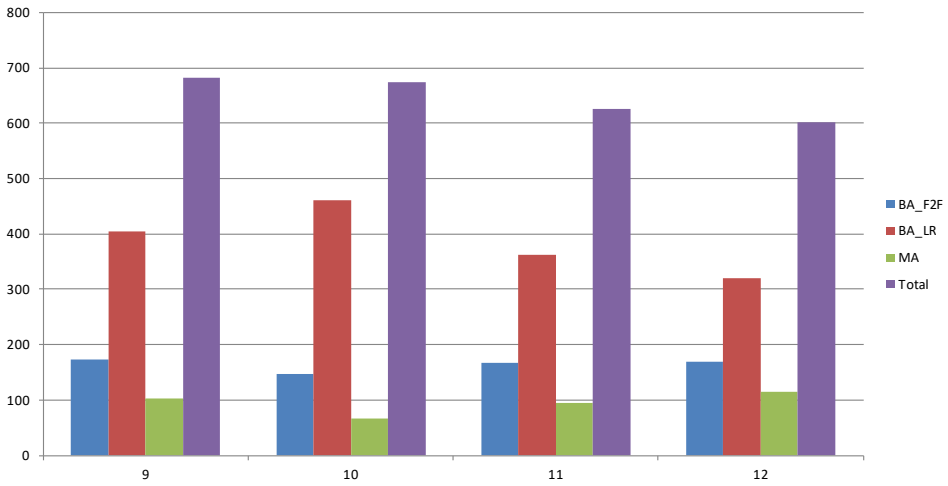
I semester 27	II semester 45
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Академическое чтение и письмо (8) 2. Политическая история Европы (15) 3. История Беларуси в контексте европейской цивилизации (4) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Практики коммуникации в современном обществе (11) 2. Европейское историческое сознание: прошлое и современность (16) 3. Религия в европейской истории и культуре (18)
III semester 59	IV semester 49
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Введение в философию (19) 2. Традиции европейского искусства (25) 3. Введение в современную социальную теорию (15) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Введение в европейскую интеллектуальную традицию (28) 2. Основы европейской правовой культуры (7) 3. Методы научного исследования (14)

EHU Negative Dynamics and Challenges

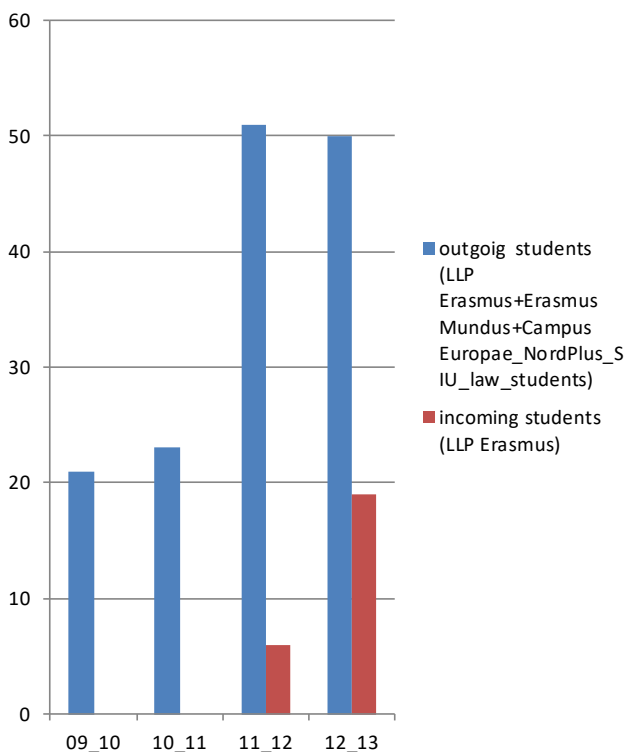


- demographic pit mid 90s;
- increased level of requirements for low residence students;
- a chronic shortage of 1st year students (12% for the last four years);
- undergraduate school has both face-to-face and low residence forms of education.

***EHU Negative Dynamics
New Enrollments AY
2009 – 2012***



EHU Positive Dynamics and Strengths International Characteristics and Challenges



International Characteristics

- 1st level of Internationalization (Belarus, Lithuania) – almost 100%;
- 2nd level of Internationalization (EHU – other EU Universities);
- **funds received** from Erasmus increased from €20,000.00 in AY 09–10 to €164,095.00 in AY 12-13;
- the number of **outgoing students** increased from 21 in AY 09–10 to 50 in AY 12-13;
- the number of **incoming students** increased for the last two years from 6 to 19.

Challenges

- we are foreigners in Lithuania;
- only Lithuanian residents are using Erasmus funds. 60% of students and 80% of faculty are Belarussian citizens;
- only **7,8%** of all courses are in English (AY 2011-2012).

EHU Test on Liberal Arts Attitude

Yes	No
Learning is interactive	The possibility to choose an area of academic concentration ('major') after entering the higher educational institution.
-Core curricula, -an academic calendar, -credit system is translatable across national boundaries	Students design (together with faculty) their major based on "Distribution requirements" = to take courses in different groupings of disciplines, but without necessarily specifying which courses are required
Evaluation of student work	Class schedule made 1 year ahead (in advance)
Students prepare for class by reading texts on their own, produce written work, provided with a detailed syllabus	Students need to be advised individually & effectively. Student transcripts should be available to advisers.
Assigned readings are available to students	Attendance at classes is obligatory
The admissions system is transparent, free and fair	

EHU Optimal Profile*

	A	B	C	Optimal profile
Number of educational levels	BA	BA+MA	BA+MA+PhD	
Number of joint programs	1	2	3	
Form of education	LR	F2F	blended	
Students enrollment	1000	1500	1800	
Full time teachers	100	150	200	
Teacher/students ratio	1:10	1:15	1:10 >1:30	
Degree programs	10	15	20	
Annual budget	€4 mln.	€4.5 mln.	€5 mln.	
Endowment	€0mln	€30mln	€70mln	
Campus	0	0.5	1	
Students admission	300	500	750	
Number of English language courses	10%	25%	50%	
Number of incoming/ outgoing students	5%	10%	20%	
Number of incoming/ outgoing teachers	5%	10%	20%	
Students fees	€5000	€3000	€2000	
Graduated	100	150	180	
Students dropout	10%	20%	30%	

* possible options to find optimal institutions profile.

Conclusions

1. Present stage of EHU is rather far from being a Liberal Arts Institution. Its statutes should be clarified and changed.
2. EHU's optimal profile still has to be selected and approved.
3. EHU's undergraduate education needs to be transformed:
 - Changing the content of the training;
 - Uniting face-to-face and low residence forms;
 - Students should choose their major *after* they have entered EHU while keeping the multi-disciplinary nature of studies;
 - Implementing "distribution requirements" & an academic advising system;
 - Moving foreign language training outside of the core curricula;
 - Rethinking the main research areas and tying topics for students' final thesis more closely with core curricula disciplines.
4. Combining EHU's graduate programs more closely with the main research areas.
5. Receiving accreditation from the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

References

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