

Guidance services in higher education



University of Jyväskylä
Guidance in Higher Education
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National legislation

- ◆ According the new legislation for universities (2005) the institutions must have procedures on how to support students in making **personal study plans** with portfolio approach taking into account both **learning and career management skills**.
- ◆ The Ministry of Education supports the implementation of this approach with national pilots and in-service training for faculty members (<http://www.w5w.fi/>).

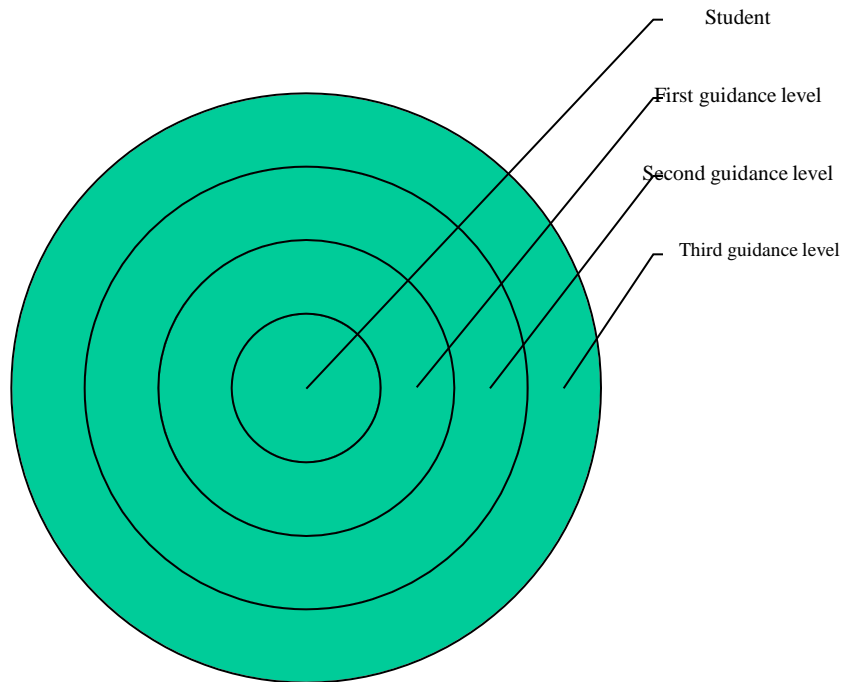


The overall plan for study guidance at the JyU

- ◆ Basis for all guidance action
- ◆ First version in December 2002, updated in October 2006
 - holistic, student-centered model (based on van Esbroek & Watts 1998)



Holistic model



- ◆ Student in the center
- ◆ 1st level: personal study plan, teachers
- ◆ 2nd level: other guidance staff (department & faculty)
- ◆ 3rd level: external guidance (Careers Service, International Office, Office for Student Services & Affairs, Students' Union, Finnish Student Health Service)



University level regulations

- ◆ The Senate Decision of the University of Jyväskylä on the principles of preparing study guidance plans and the definition of HOPS* policy at the University of Jyväskylä:
http://www.jyu.fi/hallinto/opiskelijapalvelut/opintohallinto/psp/index_html

(*HOPS = personal study plan)



1. Guidance for applicants

- centralised: Office for Student Services and International Office, but also faculties and departments in special cases
- web: <http://www.jyu.fi/hae> & <http://www.jyu.fi/en/study/degree/apply/>
- printed material: Guide for (international) applicants, application forms, brochures
- student fairs (1-3/yr)
- open doors for applicants & student counsellors



2. Guidance for new students

- **Orientation courses** in every faculty & department
- **Student tutors** (senior students): their task is to acquaint new students with the system of studies and campus life and to help them with practical questions, such as planning a timetable for studies and finding the way around the campus and the city centre.





- ◆ ***A personal study plan*** (*HOPS* in Finnish) will be prepared with help of departmental study counselling coordinators or teachers for all degree students who start their studies at the University of Jyväskylä.
- This will help students to determine which subjects to take in order to earn a degree.
- Career planning and international studies can also be taken into account in 'HOPS'

Teacher tutors & departmental study counselling coordinators

- collegial basis (The relationship between students and teachers in Finland is quite informal. Both students and teachers treat each other as equals.)





Other services for new students

- Faculty offices
- Guilds
- Student Union
- Office for Student Services & Affairs
- International Office
- Careers Service
- Finnish Student Health Care
- University Library, Computing Centre, Language Centre

Study guidance for new students is emphasized:

- ◆ Entry into university society
- ◆ Guidance for studies
- ◆ Educational benefits





3. Study guidance in Bachelor's phase

- ◆ "risky phase": Without a firm counselling the student is rudderless
 - > study counsellors & teacher tutors are responsible for good guidance
 - at its best: enhance the sense of community -> collegiality
 - also contains a lot of informal guidance

Study guidance in Bachelor's phase is emphasized

- ◆ choosing minor subjects from subjects (called “free minors”), or applying for the right to study a particular subject as a minor -> Bachelor's Degree
- ◆ international student exchange
- ◆ internship -> employment opportunities
- ◆ Considering different possibilities after Bachelor's Degree (MDP's, employment)



4. Study guidance in Master's phase is emphasized

- ◆ Master's thesis: Independent work in conjunction with the research seminar and supervising sessions
- ◆ deeper career planning
- ◆ to ensure that all studies included in degree are done
- ◆ to consider possible doctoral studies
- ◆ attendance to alumni activities



5. After studies

- ◆ Feedback and follow-up system
 - 1) Enquiry of employment for graduates
 - Nationwide
 - Sent from Careers Service of JyU to all graduates after 5 years of graduation
 - Quality of employment in focus
 - 2) Feedback system for guidance is under construction
 - 3) Quality system for teaching including guidance is almost ready



6. Development actions

- ◆ Coordination of guidance operations
 - cooperation and distribution of work
- ◆ <= Coordination workgroup of guidance issues
- ◆ Student admissions
 - quality guidance for applicants -> motivation for studies remains
- ◆ Continuity of guidance: reports / researches from functionality of guidance
- ◆ Resources for guidance: time must be reserved for guidance
- ◆ Training is available for teachers
- ◆ Best practices are written to into the guidance plans
- ◆ Research and evaluation are done systematically



7. Summa summarum

- ◆ Creation of a circle of development for best practices
- ◆ More and more students will graduate in target time (Bachelor's & Master's = 3 + 2 = 5 yrs)
- ◆ A degree of a good quality is worthy both in the labour market or postgraduate studies



Thank you for your attention!

