DOUBLE DEGREES AT UT CAPITOLE

FOREWORD

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Double degrees are a popular form of university cooperation for student exchanges. In contrast to traditional mobility, double degree students are enrolled at both universities and thus graduate from both universities involved in the double degree. In addition to enabling student mobility and enrichment of the curriculum, double degrees are an opportunity to bring together the entire university communities around these internationalization projects. This is because beyond student travel, these agreements allow the organization of teaching visits to partner universities and facilitate increased collaboration between the different administrative services involved.

University Toulouse Capitole has a long experience of double degrees. Under the impulse of the international relations team and the governance team, double degree projects have been underway since the end of the 2000s in Law, leading to the creation of the European Law Institute within the International Office that was responsible for managing double degrees in Law. This institute was transformed into the European School of Law, which is now attached to the Faculty of Law. At the beginning of the 2010s, double degrees in Management were developed at Master’s level and quickly became a success. Today, many the Masters offered by the Toulouse School of Management have a double degree path. Professors and student can count on the dedicated support of the TSM-RI team.

More recently, the Toulouse School of Economics and the Faculty of Computer Science have also developed their double degree programmes, further reinforcing the attractiveness of the double degree offer at University Toulouse Capitole. Our university is able to offer its students double opportunities in Europe, but also in North America and Asia.

Overall, thanks to the efforts of the teaching and administrative teams, University Toulouse Capitole can showcase innovative double degree projects that allow students to benefit both academically and personally.

In addition to these already remarkable successes, University Toulouse Capitole will increase its efforts to develop these forms of cooperation and to offer its students even more international opportunities, for example by further exploring opportunities for joint programmes with our ENCAGE partners. University Toulouse Capitole wishes to maintain its leading position and become a real laboratory for double degrees.
THE BENEFITS OF A DOUBLE DEGREE

An international double degree is a training pathway organised by two universities that includes study mobility.

The pace and organisation of studies vary from one programme to another. The years of study are alternated: for example, the student spends four semesters in a French institution and then goes abroad to complete the third year in the other institution. At the end of the programme, students who meet the validation requirements laid down in the agreement between the two institutions are awarded two national diplomas issued by the University of Toulouse Capitole and by the partner institution in which they have taken courses.

Double degrees allow students to benefit from complementary academic approaches and to develop their language skills. In addition, they aim to provide students with a multicultural experience to facilitate their integration into the European and International socio-professional environment.

Within the Faculty of Law, the European School of Law offers 17 double degrees with the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, Republic of Ireland, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain. These courses combine the legal dimension of both countries with the cultural dimension to train European lawyers.

Students learn how to deal with legal issues in each of the target legal systems and in the language of those countries, through a comparative analysis of law and a varied methodological approach, all of which are skills highly valued by recruiters.

ESL’s double degrees enable students to consider international careers: law, corporate legal services, national and European civil service competitions, expertise in international institutions, etc.
How many double degrees at UT Capitole in 2022-23?

- Toulouse School of Economics: 1
- Toulouse School of Management: 7
- Faculty of Information Technology: 1
- European School of Law: 17

Top 3: Our main double degree partners: where do they come from?

- Spain
- Germany
- United Kingdom

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Professors Involved in a Double Degree Programme

Could you please introduce yourself and your mission at TSM?

I am a professor of marketing at TSM where I lead the International Marketing of Innovation (IMI) Master’s degree and the TSM-Research Marketing Laboratory. In 2014, I created the IMI Master’s degree which offers double degrees with Assumption University in Bangkok, Tongji University in Shanghai, Hong Kong Metropolitan University and the Catholic University of Innsbruck. In Germany, I created the Franco-German University of Science and Technology (Ecole Polytechnique). Professors at TSM are research-oriented. My research focuses on customer relationships, and how smart technologies, such as autonomous cars, smart cities, chatbots, and big data management, impact positively or negatively the well-being of consumers. Short-term, I am interested in how these technologies impact the well-being of consumers. Besides, I integrate my research into the IMI Master’s degree to transmit this knowledge at the cutting edge of technology.

What is the major challenge of studying a Double Degree (DD)?

Students learn about digital marketing management and disruptive technologies such as AI, IoT, autonomous cars and smart cities in an international environment. They work in international teams on technology projects as well as on sustainability projects and business models for the well-being of consumers and society. Our students therefore live and work in a truly international Euro-Asian context. This year we counted no less than 10 nationalities in our batch, from Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Through full integration of double degrees, students study management and marketing for a year in existing cities in South East Asia and Germany. They learn languages such as German, Mandarin, alongside their working language which is English. They then have the opportunity to pursue international careers in Europe or Asia in digital marketing, product marketing, innovation, customer relationship management.

What did you learn from your experience as a DD Coordinator?

I worked to develop a multicultural environment with our students coming from many different countries and cultural backgrounds. Also, when you work with international universities in South East Asia, you learn how your colleagues work differently, so you have to adapt to their perceptions and needs. In South East Asia, you need a less direct management and communication style; the concept of losing face is very important, Kevin must be applied and must be applied every time you interact with Asian students and colleagues. If you don’t respect these cultural boundaries, you can very quickly destroy a relationship, which can have a disastrous impact on the double degree. Relationships and loyalty are built; absolutely over the long term and must be nurtured with care. Over time, the excellence of the partner universities and students has made the management of this double degree a very interesting and exciting adventure.

Could you please introduce yourself and your mission at UT Capitole?

I was recruited in 2009 at UT Capitole as an Associate Professor of Spanish. In 2013, after defending my thesis on an Aragonese autonomist political party, the same Department of Languages and Civilizations (now Languages and Cultures, DILC) recruited me as a lecturer. Since then, I have taken on several administrative responsibilities: director of the DILC and co-director of the Language Resource Centre (CRL), located at the BU Amerind between 2017 and 2021, and I am a pedagogical manager (for language and civilization) of the two Hispanic courses at ESL: Llicenciatura en Esquema Hispánico (since 2013) and Double French-Spanish diploma in law (2013 and 2017) and again in 2022.

Tell us about your experience as a pedagogical coordinator of the French-Spanish double degrees (DD) at ESL? What did you take away from this experience?

The fact that ESL’s double degrees have one person in charge of the legal subjects and another for the linguistic and cultural subjects taught in the target language (political culture, recent history, current legislation, etc.) shows the real emotion of our courses. I am delighted to help them to get to know Spain in all its diversity as well as possible, particularly Catalonia and the Valencian Country, where they will be studying for two years and even beginning to prepare a career. For the most determined, an introduction to the Catalan language is offered, a language that I learnt at their age and which also helped me a lot in my university career. What would you say to our students who would be interested in applying for these DD programmes? What are the benefits?

This is a perfect way to spend two years in Spain, with some guidance, and to complete a course with two diplomas, one French, the other Spanish. There is no need to obtain approval to continue your studies in the fifth year: the universities of both countries are accessible. Also, in DO, the student is immersed in both university systems, he/she is constantly in a bi-national dimension, French and Spanish. During four years, the student compares the two countries, weighs the pros and cons, can make a choice or, quite the opposite, decide to live between France and Spain. The binational dimension does not detract from the "domestic" law content. If you want to study law, have a good level in Spanish and are motivated by a two-year university experience in Barcelona or Valencia, do not hesitate to apply!

Double Degree Programmes: A Student Interview

Could you introduce yourself?

I am Elliot Baude from Béarn (Pau). I arrived to study in Toulouse at the end of 2020.

What year did you enter the University? Why did you want to pursue a double degree program?

I am in my 3rd year of the Toulouse-IUC double degree, so this is my first year abroad. I was originally in the Bangor degree but because the bilingual degrees didn’t fill my schedule, we applied with a fellow student and Mrs Rudd gave us the opportunity to study in the Irish capital.

Tell us about your learning experience in both countries and universities.

I would say that the French, UK and Irish systems are very different. In France, we had a lot of hours, lectures, tutorials and otherwise personal work, but the French system, in my opinion, provides a better framework for people who find it difficult to work on their own and who need to be given real support. In Ireland, there are not many hours on campus with 12 hours of lectures per week and 3 hours of tutorials on average, which is equivalent to almost half the hours of my second year in France. There is more freedom; I appreciate it because it allows me to work at my own pace, which was not always possible in France. In addition, the relationships between professors and students are different. In Ireland, there is a real continuous interaction with the professors whereas in France it was quite rare which unfortunately often results in deserted lecture halls.