

The Faces behind the Documents – Some Insights from Trainees

These profiles represent two trainees from each team. For more profiles visit “JOI.CON people”.

Dr. Muriel Helbig

muriel.helbig@uni-weimar.de

Institution

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, DE
Head of International Relations

Name of your JOI.CON Team

Master Team *Green Chemistry*

Your Role in the Team

coordinator phase "graduation"

What will you keep in mind when you remember the whole JOI.CON training period?

That mutual understanding and liking is the key to the Setting up of a Joint Programme.

Why did you apply for the JOI.CON training?

The development of Joint Programmes is one of the goals of our institution's internationalisation strategy.

What parts of the training did you enjoy most?

The teamwork during the training sessions in Leipzig and Bologna.

What was the greatest challenge and how did you solve it?

The training was very time-consuming. Solved with discipline and a wonderful student assistant.

Which insights surprised you most?

Insights I gained about my own university and how different the rules are from country to country.

How does - or will - JOI.CON affect your daily work?

I am now part of a network and know where to find information and ask for help.



Arne Van Overloop



Institution	University of Antwerp, BE Internationalisation expert
Name of your JOI.CON Team	Master Team <i>European Integration</i>
Your Role in the Team	Overall Coordinator
What will you keep in mind when you remember the whole JOI.CON training period?	I met many enthusiastic people trying to find solutions to everyday problems to make Bologna really work.
Why did you apply for the JOI.CON training?	My international office encouraged me as we were preparing an Erasmus Mundus proposal. Good practices were beneficial.
What parts of the training did you enjoy most?	Getting together on the video calls inventing a virtual programme with any feature one would want in reality.
What was the greatest challenge and how did you solve it?	Combining law in Flanders, France, Slovenia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic was actually not so hard. Probably actual dissemination of information between partners could still be difficult. We agreed that all partner institution had to really support the programme before starting the development. We based sharing information on mutual trust.
Which insights surprised you most?	That we are doing it all a bit different, but always having in mind good education for our pupils.
How does - or will - JOI.CON affect your daily work?	I familiarized myself with the internal structure of my university. This will help me solve problems faster in the near future.

Véronique Debord-Lazaro

veronique.debord-lazaro@u-bordeaux2.fr



Institution

Université Bordeaux Segalen, FR
International cooperation officer

Name of your JOI.CON Team

Master Team *Yellow Submarine*

Your Role in the Team

Coordinator phase
„selection/registration/enrolment“

What will you keep in mind when you remember the whole JOI.CON training period?

JOI.CON has been a very rewarding programme, in terms of acquired professional competences as well as networking. It was also a great personal experience that gave me the opportunity to try out my intercultural skills.

Why did you apply for the JOI.CON training?

When I applied, I had been only recently appointed at the university to follow the development of international joint degrees. Even though there was already expertise within the university on this subject, I felt that I would really need to get external in-depth training to be able to pertinently support our teachers/researchers in the setting up of Joint Programmes (administrative issues, budgeting, relations with partners). I expected from my participation to the training to identify the critical steps in the development of a joint degree and to benefit from the experience of others as regards the management of transnational consortia.

What parts of the training did you enjoy most?

The lively, sometimes harsh discussions with my team partners to overcome institutional difficulties while preparing our consortium agreement.

What was the greatest challenge and how did you solve it?

The time-consuming nature of the project was real and it was sometimes hard to accommodate the demands of the programme with our already fully booked agendas. However, I believe you only get from training what you are willing to put into it, and JOI.CON was definitely worth the efforts!

Which insights surprised you most?

I guess I wasn't expecting to feel that involved in the programme, considering its mainly virtual nature. In the end, I did truly feel part of a JOI.CON community.

How does - or will - JOI.CON affect your daily work?

I believe my understanding of international study programmes has significantly improved, which of course helps me a lot when discussing with teachers who wish to develop this type of degrees. I also feel that JOI.CON has given me a reliable methodology to implement within my home institution.

Ian Jones

inj79@btinternet.com



Institution

University of Nottingham, UK
International officer for partnership
development

Name of your JOI.CON Team

Master Team *JEMToM*

Your Role in the Team

Overall Coordinator

**What will you keep in mind
when you remember the whole
JOI.CON training period?**

The fantastic training team.

**Why did you apply for the
JOI.CON training?**

To learn more about the opportunities for UK institutions to
collaborate with European universities.

**What parts of the training did
you enjoy most?**

Working with a small team of European colleagues.

**What was the greatest
challenge and how did you
solve it?**

The greatest challenge was overcoming differences between the financial
arrangements for Higher Education in the United Kingdom
and those in most other European countries.

**Which insights surprised you
most?**

The extent to which European countries currently work together.

**How does - or will - JOI.CON
affect your daily work?**

It has given me a much clearer idea of what countries in Europe – outside
of the UK - see as important when developing joint masters degrees.

Mireia Galí

mireia.gali@uab.cat



Institution

Autonomous University of
Barcelona, ES
International welcome point coordinator

Name of your JOI.CON Team

Doctoral Team Joint Degree *JoDiss*

Your Role in the Team

Team member

What will you keep in mind when you remember the whole JOI.CON training period?

Team working, improvement of my skills, great trainer, great colleagues from whom I learnt a lot.

Why did you apply for the JOI.CON training?

I already have certain experience in developing Joint Master Programmes. Yet in my country, doctorate studies are currently being adapted to the Bologna process and this implies the start of developing new Joint Doctorates. I was highly interested in knowing how these Doctorates are being developed in other countries and learn from their experience.

What parts of the training did you enjoy most?

Discussions and trainer inputs.

What was the greatest challenge and how did you solve it?

Fees policy. We solved it in a way that did not satisfy myself very much, but it was the only acceptable one for the most part of the partners: Separate fees.

Which insights surprised you most?

The wide experience in Doctoral Schools in other countries. Especially Career Development Plans were new to me, among other interesting tools that I did not know.

How does - or will - JOI.CON affect your daily work?

It will facilitate my daily work, as now I have a wider knowledge of possible resources.

Randolph Galla

randolph.galla@rub.de



Institution

Ruhr University Bochum, DE
Staff member of Quality Assurance
in education

Name of your JOI.CON Team

Doctoral Team Double Degree *Joi.Doc*

Your Role in the Team

Team Member

What will you keep in mind when you remember the whole JOI.CON training period?

Besides learning a lot: Interesting discussions and interesting people, energetic project end, fun of intercultural learning, reflecting and giving value to the process (as opposed as being too strongly focused on producing results).

Why did you apply for the JOI.CON training?

To enhance my competences in setting up joint degree programmes.

What parts of the training did you enjoy most?

The final two training days in Bologna.

What was the greatest challenge and how did you solve it?

Getting rid of the idea to develop a blueprint - accepting that a lot of compromises are needed to find solutions – you don't end up with the perfect solution, but you find one, and that's what matters at the end of the day.

Which insights surprised you most?

Learning that if we join our different views and expertise, we will find a way around challenges which seemed far too big at the beginning of our discussions.

How does - or will - JOI.CON affect your daily work?

Positively, I assume. Let's see...