

THE BRIDGE

*Savonia University (Savonia UAS)
of Applied Sciences "Tourism and Hospitality Department" - Finland
and*

*Brussels Business Institute (BBI)
"School of International Hospitality Business" - Belgium*

Are proud to announce

Today, BBI and SAVONIA UAS, enter into an agreement for the establishment of a **Double Degree** for the Bachelor program. **This represents an important step in the history of our institute.** This new dimension broadens our scope. However, this recognition will serve to strengthen our institution's sense of purpose and bring to light its image both internally and externally in the eyes of those who recognise our significant impact upon national and international higher education.

The European Commission drew attention to joint programs and degrees and expressly calls upon the higher education sector to increase the development of modules, courses and curricula at all levels with "European" content, orientation or organisation. This concerns particularly modules, courses and curricula offered in partnership by institutions from different countries and leading to a recognised **"DOUBLE DEGREE"**. This commitment had already been highlighted in the "Bologna Process" which explicitly set as an objective the promotion of the necessary European dimension in higher education. Double Degrees are an important part of international cooperation in higher education. It means a degree program which is developed and provided by two institutions in cooperation and which awards two degrees.

SAVONIA UAS & BBI decided to collaborate further on since the successful existing **"bilateral agreement"** established in 2005, based on students and professors exchange. With the objective to develop further international opportunities for their students and to strengthen the international ties between the two institutions, BBI and SAVONIA UAS, have decided to enter into an agreement **for the establishment of a DOUBLE DEGREE** for the Bachelor program. **This agreement shall be in effect from academic year 2011/2012.**

The term DD refers to an arrangement agreed on by both institutions in which the student completes the studies agreed in SAVONIA's degree program as well as in BBI's degree program. This combination leads to a degree at both higher education institutions. This agreement permits BBI students, upon **the successful fulfilment of the requested conditions** the opportunity of receiving by a DD, both the academic degree of SAVONIA UAS and the legal effects of the corresponding academic degree at the partner institution (BBI) by equivalence.

Applying for the DD registration is facultative; it's of the student choice. Students registered as degree candidate in the BBI and SAVONIA UAS shall have access to the DD specific program. The selection of students embarking on a DD is made at the home institution. Students shall register at the partner institution only for the parts of the study program which will be carried out under the responsibility of the partner institution (one semester at the host institution – 60 ECTS).

DD Core Modules

The program of each institution offers a high number of similarities which facilitates their equivalence. In order to offer to the students a qualitative adequacy of the programs, the pedagogic board of each institution selected in common a number of **CORE SUBJECTS** in each programs. The methodology of the **CORE SUBJECTS** is based on the existing syllabi and will be teach in each institution by the professor titular of the module.

