

OURA Online International Admissions Placement Guide June 29, 2006

Tammy Chan - University of Toronto
Chris Goody - University of Guelph
Shari Hodges - Ryerson University
Jeanette Nugent - University of Waterloo
Peter Self - McMaster University



History

- 1994 Original Guide produced with
 103 countries
- February 2005 Discussions begin at OURA conference to update the guide
- June 2005 Proposal to OURA Executive for Online guide



History - continued

- August 2005 OURA Executive approves proposal
- August 2005 to February 2006 –
 eight sub-committee meetings
- March 2006 to present –
 eight additional meetings



Online Advantages

- Updates available immediately to all member universities
- Change in staff does not affect the availability of information – i.e. the printed copy cannot be found
- Individual countries will be reviewed and updated periodically
- Information is available from multiple locations work (departments, faculty, central), home, conference, etc.



Challenges What project managers call "Scope Creep"

- The guide will now include 183 countries. We now see applicants from more countries than ever before – internationalization of our student body
- Significant changes in educational systems
 e.g. Bologna Process currently affects 45
 European countries
- Ontario Graduate Expansion admission pressure mounts



Bologna Process An update

Margit Schatzman
Vice-President – Educational Credential
Evaluators (ECE)

- One European Degree?
- Legislation versus Implementation



Challenges - continued What project managers call "Scope Creep"

- Addition of Ontario Admissions Equivalent (OAE) proves challenging
- Lack of grading system uniformity within countries. E.g. Canada (alpha, percentage grades, 4, 4.33, 7, 9, 10, 12 point scales)
- Scope creep results in the need to identify and make decisions regarding time, resources, and costs

2006 Conference

Where are we now?

- 112 countries completed to date additional 30 reviewed the end is near.
- additional funding approved this month to complete project
- August 2006 Projected completion of Online Guide



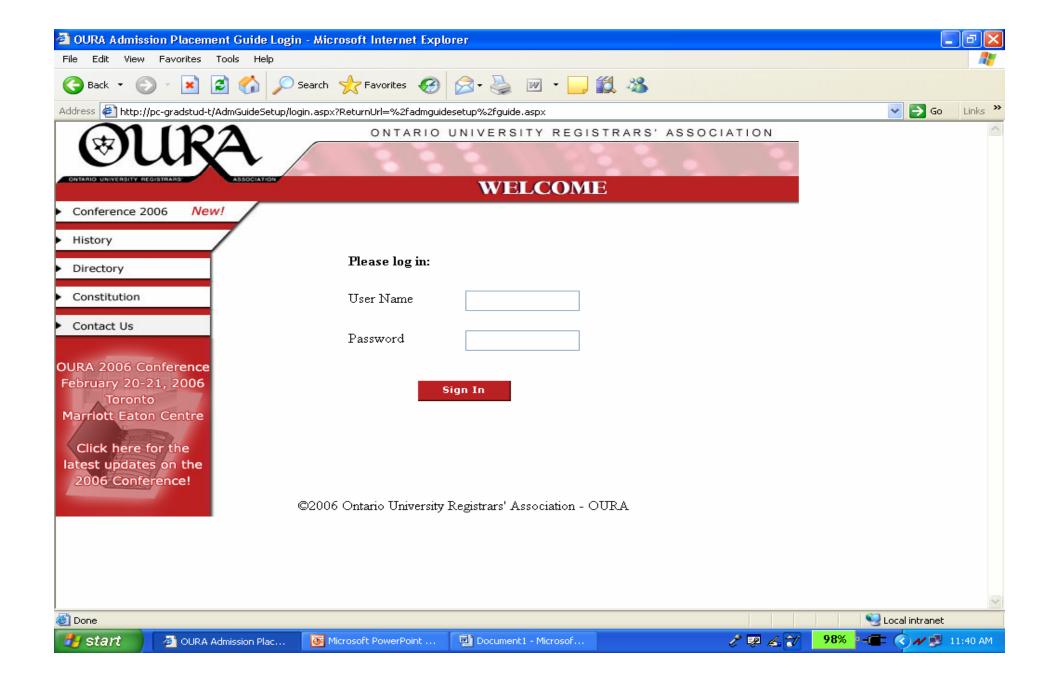
The Techie Stuff

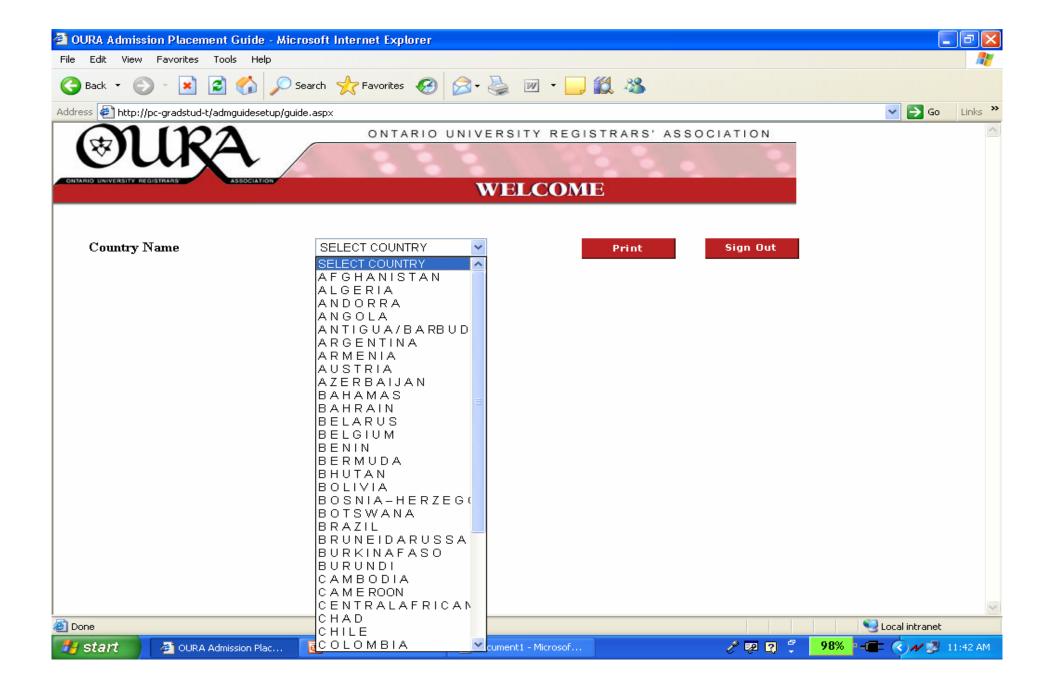
- Data stored in ACCESS database to allow easy updating
- ASP.NET is utilized to generate web pages which display the information from the database
- Single login and password per institution. Each institution can determine who will be granted access
- Each country has a printable PDF page



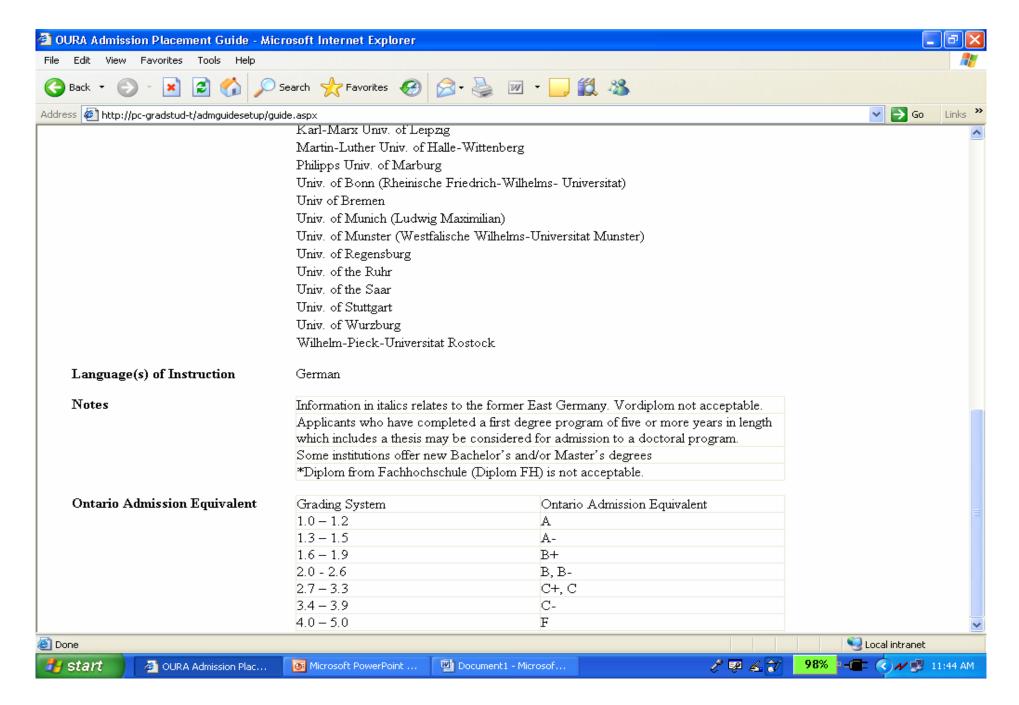
The Big Reveal

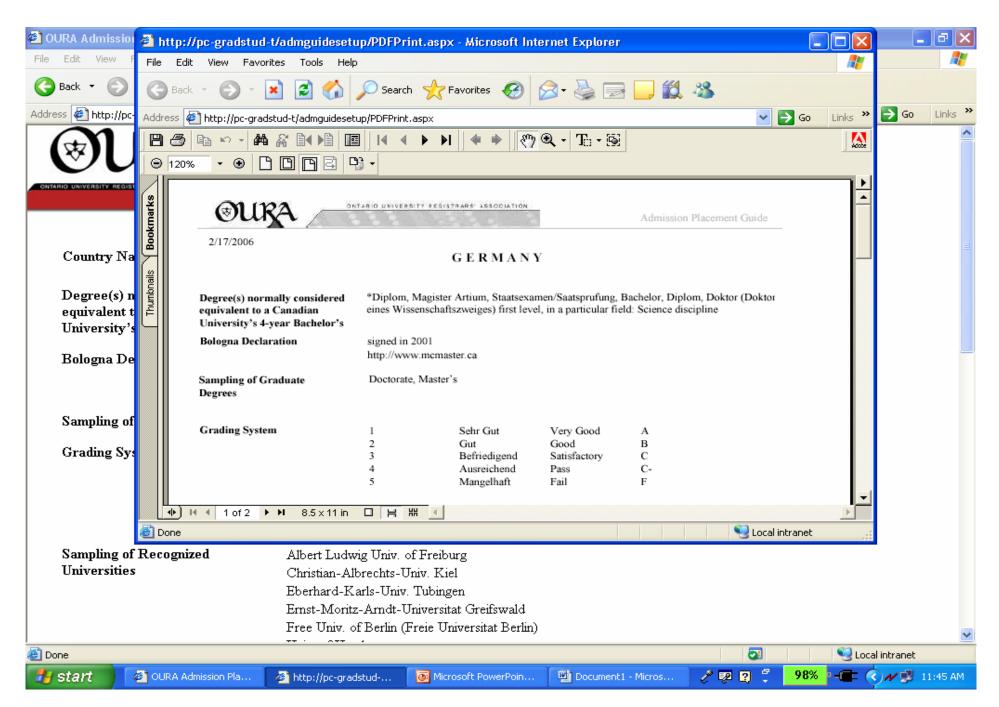
- Password Access
- Select the Country
- Print PDF













OAE as a Scholarship Tool

- Two different standards may be used for admission and scholarship applications
- The *Ontario Admissions Equivalent* table will allow departments to calculate scholarship averages for students with international transcripts on a more equitable and consistent basis



What have we learned?

- Grading Practices
- The project has taken much longer than initially anticipated
- Next steps will involve tracking student progress after registration to verify if the admissions standard is appropriate



2006 Conference

The End