

Peerreview Master of Laws – public report and quality assurance decision

Most important conclusions of the peerreview

The report of the peerreviewteam identifies a number of strenghts of the programme, as well as suggestions for further improvement. These suggestions have already been incorporated into the programme development plan for the coming period. The most important conclusions of the peerreview are summarized below.

Strengths of the programme

The peerreviewteam was impressed by the **well thought-out educational concept**. The focus on knowledge and skills, departing from a strong competence-oriented education is an asset of the programmes in law. The master's programme is distinguished by a compulsory **internship** that students can complete in different areas of law, several sectors and even abroad. In addition, the extensive **attention for the students**, especially the newly starting students, has also been noticed. The entry-level tests, the mentorship and many other initiatives support the students.

The programmes are carried out by a **powerful and dedicated team**. This team is continuously working on shared policymaking, for example by developing well thought-out policy plans, but also by focusing on a well-established culture of consultation and conversation. In this way, the programmes are built on a high-performance culture of quality. Moreover, the programmes can be proud of various good practices in their educational practice.

The substantive choice for a strong branch of **tax law**, including an advanced master's programme, but also a specialization in the regular master's programme, offers a certain profile to the law programmes at UAntwerp. The European recognition as a state-of-the-art Customs academic programme is an extra asset.

Internationalization is clearly highly regarded in the study programmes. The English-taught master's programme, Master of Laws, certainly enhances the international image of the law faculty in Antwerp. The effort to maximize quality internationalization opportunities for students is certainly an asset.

Suggestions for further improvement

The programmes are currently preparing a thorough curriculum reform of the **bachelor's degree programme**. The peerreview has shown how important and complex this exercise is. The programmes are therefore encouraged to tackle this thoroughly and thoughtfully and to thoroughly investigate some specific bottlenecks – such as the right position for the course judicial law.

Law degree programmes at UAntwerp face a **high study load**. In particular for the *grondige studies*, one of the good practices of the study programmes, the study load is diverse and often very large. The programmes are therefore encouraged to monitor this closely and adjust it if necessary. The programme has already started working on uniform guidelines for all courses.

The **language skills of students** remain a major concern. The programme has already put a lot of effort into a language proficiency programme, including entry-level tests and remedial measures. Nevertheless, the programme is encouraged to continue its efforts and to make the expectations of students explicit. In the meantime, she is already updating her policy memorandum on language skills.

The programs are also continuing to further embed **feedback** (amongst others in the context of developing a feedback portfolio) and to work on optimizing the **master's thesis**, the **assessment policy** and an integrated **alumni policy**.

Most recent peerreview Law

Timing

The site visit of the peerreviewteam took place on **3 and 4th of May 2022**.

Peerreviewteam

The programme suggested external and internal candidates as members of the peerreviewteam. The student member was suggested by the Departement of Education, with approval of the Student association of UAntwerp. Chair of the peerreviewteam was the vice-rector Education. The composition of the peerreviewteam was validated on November 19th 2021 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peerreviewteam Law:

Chairwoman:

- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:

- Petra Foubert, professor social law & dean (UHasselt)
- Mark Delanote, teacher tax law (UGent)

Internal member:

- Nathalie Holvoet, professor (IOB, UAntwerp)

Student member:

- Thomas Voet, student Political Sciences (FSW, UAntwerp)

Result Peerreview

The peerreviewteam decided to **confirm confidence** in the programme Law.

Creation

With regard to the peerreview, the programme made a self-assessment report, describing its vision, good practices, challenges and future prospects. The Department of Education developed a datasheet in consultation with the programme, containing both qualitative (learning outcomes, study programme, staff information, etc.) and quantitative data (amount of enrolments, student success rates, cohort analysis, etc.) about the programme. In consultation with the Department of Education the programme created a time schedule to interview the staff responsible for the programme, students, lecturers, assistants, external partners and alumni. During the interviews between the peerreviewteam and the programme the CIKO staff member of the Faculty was present.

The peerreviewteam evaluated the programme based on qualitative and quantitative information, as the interviews and the preparatory documents: the self-assessment report, the datasheet and the education portfolio of the programme.

The peerreview took place conform to the [European Standards & Guidelines](#).

Report and follow up

All findings of the peerreviewteam are written down in a review report. The review report names several strengths of the programme, and some suggestions for further improvement. The programme incorporated these suggestions in a development plan.

The integrated report – review report and development plan – was validated together with the public information by the Board of Programme Evaluation on October 27th 2022 and was presented to the Education Board on 15/11/2022 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 22/11/2022.