

Peer Review bachelor and master in de informatica and the Master of Computer Science – public report

Most important conclusions of the peer review

The report of the peer review team identifies a number of strengths 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 peer review are summarized below.

Strengths of the programme

Students and alumni are **very satisfied** with the programme and indicate that **problem-solving** skills are a strength. Students are led step-by-step to plan and work **independently**. Lecturers are **easy to approach** and, with teaching in small groups, there is immediate feedback and sometimes individual guidance.

The programme **supports the student association WINAK**, which, among other things, provides workshops around practical issues (such as installing the necessary software) to properly participate in the programme. The programme is **open to student concerns** and input from student representatives and is self-critical and improvement-oriented.

The Bachelor programme offers **well-balanced fundamentals** of mathematics, theoretical computer science, software development, systems and networks in which **cybersecurity** is also covered. There is a good balance between theory and practice. The three specialisations in the **Master** focus on subjects in which the Department of Computer Science is strong in terms of research. There are plenty opportunities to make **choices**, both in terms of content and of courses, and to customise the programme into one's own pathway.

The programme places strong emphasis on **group and project work** where collaboration and working with milestones (e.g. via Scrum) are taught alongside technical skills. Alumni indicate that the developed skills are a **good preparation** to start working in the professional field.

Suggestions for further improvement

Year after year, there is an **increasing interest** in the programme and the number of new students is rising. However, there appears to be a high drop-out rate of students who often underestimate the theoretical basis (specifically mathematics). In the coming period, the programme will work on **communicating** even more clearly about the programme and what makes it **unique**, with attention to achieving a better gender balance.

During the programme, students regularly come into contact with the professional field through guest speakers, research projects, internships and master's theses. In order to systematise and expand **the link with the professional field**, the programme will work on regular contact with alumni to organise job events, among other things, and will investigate whether **company internships** can be offered in addition to research internships.

To prevent the **scheduling of (elective) courses** in the master's programmes over the semesters from causing fewer choices and study delays, the curriculum structure will be reviewed for possible problem scenarios.

In consultation with a number of universities of applied sciences and arts, entry possibilities into the master's programme via a **bridging programme** will be investigated.

In the Master's programme, the English-language programme has a strong international appeal and a relatively large intake of students. The **intake procedure** will be further refined. Enrolment figures for the three specialisations show cyclical variations, which will be periodically monitored.

Opportunities to experience international mobility and **internationalisation** in the programme ('internationalisation@home') will be further developed and promoted.

Finally, to grow further in group collaboration, practices and experiences around **peer feedback and peer assessment** will be explored and streamlined in dialogue with students.

Most recent peer review bachelor and master in de informatica and the Master of Computer Science

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on **13-14 December 2023**.

Peer review team

The programme suggested external and internal candidates as members of the peer review team. The student member was suggested by the Departement of Education, with approval of the Student association of UAntwerp. Chair of the peer review team was the vice-rector Education. The composition of the peer review team was validated on 22Paril 2024 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team:

Chair:

- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:

- Arend Rensink, professor Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, Universiteit Twente
- Kelly Casal Mosteiro, programme coordinator bachelor Applied Computer Science and associate degree programming, AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp
- Paul Poelmans, manager business development innovation, Verhaert

Internal member:

- Nathalie Dens, full professor and chair Education Committee, Faculty of Business and Economics, UAntwerp

Student member:

- Thomas Chovau, student master internationale betrekkingen en diplomatie, UAntwerp

Result Peer Review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programmes bachelor and master in de informatica and the Master of Computer Science.

Creation

With regard to the peer review, 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 peer review team and the programme the CIKO staff member of the Faculty was present.

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

Report and follow up

All findings of the peer review team 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 22 April 2024 and was presented to the Education Board on 4 June 2024 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 2 July 2024.