

# Peer Review of the Advanced Master of Governance and Development, the Advanced Master of Globalisation and Development and the Advanced Master of Development Evaluation and Management – public report

## Most important conclusions of the peer review

The report of the peer review team identifies a number of strengths of the programmes, 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

The Institute of Development Policy (IOB) brings together **students** from many countries and different backgrounds for frank exchanges to enhance their competences. The student diversity is both a strength and a challenge in teaching.

The quality of the three advanced master **programmes** of the IOB is impressive, concludes the review team. The coherence of the curriculum, the quality of teaching, the input from guest lecturers and the balance between in-depth focus and broad overviews and between theory and practice is remarkable. The shared value-based approach without imposing limiting paradigms creates safe spaces for respectful discussions in class on complex issues like decoloniality, growth/de-growth strategies, values, etc. The curriculum is research-based and much attention is paid to research methods. The dissertations sampled from the three programmes selected for the review are interesting and of good quality.

The **staff** – both academic and administrative – are highly engaged, dedicated and accessible for students.

The IOB is a **dynamic learning organisation** willing to embrace change in a courageous, creative and pragmatic manner. There are ongoing attempts to revise the programmes in the direction of more globalisation, in increasing the partner network, in decolonisation and in closer connection with the work field, e.g. in the action labs.

IOB has a strong international **network** with civil society structures and with universities in Asia, Central America and Africa. The alumni networks are well-elaborated and nurtured.

### Suggestions for further improvement

As advised by the review team, IOB - as a dynamic learning organisation - continues to **discuss** issues like decolonisation, co-creation, values, multi-perspectivity, global challenges, the role as agents of change and collaboration with northern partners. The IOB also engages to further diversify the **staff**.

To counter the high **workload** for students, the IOB follows the advice of the review team to explore ways to transform assignments to become more efficient and effective, by providing more free moments in the schedule of students and by checking the workload of courses. IOB explores more **group work** for assignments and the master dissertation to strengthen interaction between students. More visits to professional organisations and inviting practitioners from the field reinforces even further the **interaction with the professional field**, as requested by the review team.

To follow up on the review, IOB engages to better inform students and communicate extensively on **mental health** counselling possibilities. The programme also explores to provide more systematic support on **publishing student work**. More opportunities for students from southern partners for exposure at IOB (field research, internship, etc.) are being explored.

## Most recent peer review Advanced Master of Governance and Development, the Advanced Master of Globalisation and Development and the Advanced Master of Development Evaluation and Management

### Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on **10 and 11 May 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 Department 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 by the Programme Evaluation Board on 27 October 2022.

Composition of the peer review team:

Chair:

- Prof. Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:

- Prof. Melanie Walker, Senior Research Professor at the University of the Free State, South Africa.
- Prof. Henning Melber, Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria and the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa; Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies/School for Advanced Study, University of London, United Kingdom; Nordic African Institute Associate, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Mr Jean Bossuyt, senior executive and head of the European Centre for Development and Policy Management's inclusive governance and accountability team, Flanders, Belgium.

Internal member:

- Prof. Gert Verschraegen, professor at the Department of Sociology, UAntwerp

Student member:

- Miss Luísa Rodrigues Rocha, Master of Laws student, UAntwerp

### Result Peer Review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programmes Advanced Master of Governance and Development, the Advanced Master of Globalisation and Development and the Advanced Master of Development Evaluation and Management.

### 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 Institute 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 7 November 2023 and was presented to the Education Board and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 19 December 2023.