

Peer Review Advanced Master in Water Sustainability: integrating Technology and Nature-based solutions (Think Water) (former: Advanced Master in Technology for Integrated Water Management) – public report

Most important conclusions from the peer review

The report of the peer review team mentions a number of strong points of the programme, and also includes suggestions to improve the programme. These suggestions are already processed by the programme in the development plan for the coming period. Below the most important conclusions of the peer review are given.

Strengths of the programme

The programme of the Advanced Master in Technology for Integrated Water Management has a strong concept that focuses on the multidisciplinary study of water and water management. The multidisciplinary includes the disciplines sciences and engineering sciences. The Advanced Master in Technology for Integrated Water Management has acquired its own position in Flanders and internationally. The peer review team states that the content of the programme is of a high scientific level and up to date and shows a strong link with research. The personal contacts of the lecturers with the business community bring interesting guest lecturers or company visits to the programme, which the students greatly appreciate.

The students are very satisfied with the programme. The diversity of students is a specific feature of the programme, which mainly offers added value in the integrated projects such as the Case River 21. The programme seizes the presence of international students and international research projects to create a fascinating learning environment.

The peer review team appreciates the time and energy that the coordinators of UGent and UAntwerpen and the other employees have invested in the programme in the past.

The integrated Case River 21, in which the challenges of the Scheldt basin are central, is the flagship of the programme. Students come into contact with stakeholders and experts, take part in excursions and work intensively together for two weeks to develop a sustainability vision on the Scheldt. The 'case River 21' will be further strengthened from the academic year 2018-2019 through the integration with the course unit 'Integrated case study' to a new compulsory course 'Advanced Case River 21'.

Suggestions for further improvement

At the request of the peer review team, the programme will immediately start working on a vision for the future aimed at the financial feasibility and minimum intake of students in the programme. To this end, the peer review team has given the following points for action: expanding the number of partners, investigating financial input from the work field, determining the annual minimum inflow and the desired progress of students. For its financial feasibility, the programme also continues to focus on structural support, including Flemish and European funds, chairs, private funding and finances from the university. The programme may attract more professionals from the work field if the programme places its integrated approach to water management more centrally in the programme or offers it separately. Even more European students can be attracted. The education committee has to discuss this vision of the future with the Advisory Board in the short term, which will be reactivated.

Just before the peer review, the news was received that Ghent University is no longer engaged as a coordinator. The programme will therefore reshape the partnership of UGent and work out solutions that are as efficient and effective as possible.

Furthermore, the peer review team asks that the focus of the programme be strengthened by better targeting the target students and better attuning to the prior knowledge of students. Theory and integrated applications can be interwoven even more so that theory is offered 'just in time' and the programme becomes more problem than content driven, according to the peer review team.

The Advanced Case River 21 will be strengthened as a flagship to attract even more new students and interested parties from the business world. The coordination within and between modules will also be optimized. More blended learning will reduce commuting between campuses and the diversity in the student group can be used even more as an asset in education.

Most recent peer review Technology for Integrated Water Management

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on 9th May 2018.

Peer review team

The programme suggested external and internal candidates as members of the peer review team. The student member is suggested by the Department of Education, with approval of the Student association of UAntwerp. Chairwoman of the peer review team was the vice-rector Education. The composition of the peer review team was validated on 22th November 2017 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team Technology for Integrated Water Management:

Chairwoman:

- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:

- Prof. Dr. Jean Berlamont, Em. Full professor KULeuven
- Dr. Marc Huygens, DEME Dredging, Environmental & Marine Engineering

Internal member:

- Steven Van Passel, Professor, Faculty TEW, Dept. Engineering Management

Student member:

- Sofie Van Waes, Alumna 2017 Farmaceutische Wetenschappen, student UHasselt

Result Peer Review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programme Technology for Integrated Water Management .

Creation

With regard to the peer review, the programme made a self-reflection report, describing her vision, good practices, challenges and future prospects. The Department of Education developed a data sheet in consultation with the programme, containing qualitative (learning outcomes, study programme, staff information...) and quantitative data (amount of enrolments, student success rates, cohort analysis,...) about the programme.

In consultation with the Department of Education the programme drew up 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-reflection report, the data sheet and the education portfolio of the programme.

The peer review took place conform 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 took these suggestions into account 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 25th October 2018 and was presented to the Education Board on 18th December 2018 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 22nd January 2019.