

Peer review Master Epidemiology – public report

Most important conclusions from 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 from the peer review are given below.

Strengths of the programme

The programme is supported by a **passionate, dedicated and caring educational team**, whose members bring a wide range of expertise to the programme. This is certainly an asset to the programme; one that is highly appreciated by the students. The programme is valued for its **strong and specific profile**, which it has managed to achieve despite its relatively young age. In addition, the programme is unique in Flanders and can be proud of its accreditation for professional recognition in the Netherlands.

The programme has a **diverse (international) student intake** and can pride itself on an **international classroom** with a healthy and strong mix of students. Despite the diverse intake, the programme manages to achieve a **strong student success rate** due to its **student-centered approach**.

Throughout the programme, activating and interactive education methods are used to stimulate students and personal guidance is offered in the form of an *academic advisor-coach*. The programme's **competence-oriented attitude** is an additional strength and of great added value to this multidisciplinary programme.

Suggestions for further improvement

In the near future, the programme will mainly work on aligning the **bridging and preparatory programmes** with the master's programme. For example, these programmes will be adapted to better prepare students for the master's programme. In order to further strengthen the master's programme, **learning pathways** for epidemiology, statistics and research will be developed and the integration of electives into the core programme will be examined in light of the planned curriculum changes.

For further improvement, the programme is encouraged to investigate the possibilities of **blended learning**, for example to reduce the workload of the educational team, to facilitate interaction between students and to possibly develop a system for peer feedback.

The start-up of a strong **alumni organization** has been initialized to maintain good alumni relations and to increase alumni involvement. To involve the **professional field** even more, the programme is investigating how it can set up a sounding board group of professional field representatives.

Finally, the programme will also experiment with the four-eyes principle when assessing student assignments, it will communicate with students earlier about the master's dissertation process and will further develop and deepen international cooperation.

Most recent peer review Epidemiology

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on **27 October 2020**.

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. The composition of the peer review team was validated on 8 November 2019 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team Epidemiology:

Chair

- Ann De Schepper, vice rector education, UAntwerp

External members

- Mary Dankbaar, team leader educational advisors, Department Education & Research, Erasmus Medical Centre Rotterdam
- Tim Nawrot, professor environmental epidemiology, UHasselt

Internal member

- Wim Van Hul, professor biomedical sciences, Faculty of Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, UAntwerp

Student member

- Paulien Decorte, doctoral student communication sciences, UAntwerp

Result Peer review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programme Epidemiology.

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 data (learning outcomes, study programme, staff information...) as well as quantitative data (enrolment, student success rates, cohort analysis,...) about the programme.

In consultation with the Department of Education the programme created a 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 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 23 April 2021 and was presented to the Education Board on 29 June 2021 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 6 July 2021.