

Peer Review Bachelor in Social-Economic Sciences – 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

The programme has **enthusiastic and motivated lecturers** with a passion for socio-economic sciences (SES). The programme trains **bridge-builders** who can combine insights from **different disciplines** to tackle social and economic problems and policy challenges. Students develop **problem-solving skills**, especially in courses where integrative assignments are addressed (e.g. in the Bachelor thesis and other integrating courses). In the English Bachelor SES-students are already **in the first year** introduced in social-economic topics, which is very motivating. All this gives graduates a unique and wanted position in the labour market.

A unique selling point of the programme is its **great freedom of choice**. Because students in the past experienced many problems with the freedom of choice, more support for students in their freedom of choice has been developed, e.g. by fixed examination timetables, by a specific mentor for international SES-students and by structuring part of the programme into domains, majors, electives and integrating courses. The students are particularly satisfied with the freedom of choice as it allows them to follow their interests.

The English SES-programme mainly attracts **international students**. The programme already puts a lot of effort in supporting the integration of these students. Nevertheless extra effort will be invested for even more cohesion and cooperation between Flemish and international students.

The review team has seen interesting examples of **activating teaching**, even in large groups. Interactive exercises have been developed for the Accountancy course. In Community Service Learning, students engage in small groups to research a concrete problem in a social organisation.

Suggestions for further improvement

The programme is still considering how to ensure that students can become sufficiently familiar with **qualitative research methods** throughout the programme if they want to use them in their master's thesis.

According to the review team, the policy on **activating education and internationalisation** can be developed even more on interfaculty level by the education committee. The programme is therefore committed to anchoring the student-oriented and international character even more by, better coordinating course units and deadlines for assignments, standardising communication and stimulating contacts between Flemish and international students.

Most recent peer review Master of Political Science

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on **24 and 25 October 2022**.

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 Walter Daems, professor and vice dean Faculty of Applied Engineering, UAntwerp. The composition of the peer review team was validated on 22 April 2022 and by email procedure on 6 July 2022 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team:

Chairwoman:

- Walter Daems, professor and vice dean Faculty of Applied Engineering, UAntwerp (deputy chair of the peer review)

External members:

- C.L.J. Caminada, Vice Dean Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs and Professor Empirical Analysis of Tax and Social Policy, Faculty of Laws, University Leiden.
- Mark Andries, administrateur-generaal van VLAIO (Vlaams Agentschap Innoveren en ondernemen).

Internal member:

- Tom De Herdt, professor extraordinarius Institute for Development Policy (IOB), UAntwerp

Student member:

- Malika Belrhazi, Student Ma Mathematics UAntwerp

Result Peer Review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programme Bachelor of Social-Economic 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 8 May 2023 and was presented to the Education Board on 4 July 2023 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 4 July 2023.