

Peer Review Bachelor and Master of Bachelor of Linguistics and Literary Studies (NL), the Master of Theatre and Film Studies (NL) and the Master of Digital Text Analysis (ENG) – 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 areas of improvement and suggestions. These 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 programmes

The cluster of Linguistics and Literary Studies programmes consists of four **strong and coherent programmes**. There is a significant degree of **mutual influence** between the programmes, such as a shared focus on literature, language technology, and cultural studies.

In the bachelor's programme of Linguistics and Literary Studies, students can enjoy a **wide range of choices** between different languages, with an option for theatre, film, and literary studies (TFL) or language combinations, to subsequently specialise in the master's programmes. **Pathways on digitalisation, diversity, and modern culture** have been developed and are further discussed in the master's programmes. Diversity is addressed through intercultural communication, postcolonial literature, and global language studies. Students are familiarised with tools and technologies essential in contemporary contexts and prepared for future challenges, such as digital text analysis, programming, and data modelling.

In TFL in the bachelor's programme as well as in the master's programmes, **internships** are offered, providing valuable practical experiences and excellent preparation for the labour market. Specifically, the master's programmes in **Theatre and Film Studies** and **Digital Text Analysis** distinguish themselves through their strong connection between academia and the professional field and are innovative. In addition to practical experiences and skills, the programmes also offer a solid **theoretical foundation and research skills**.

The programmes are composed of **academics from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds** who regularly engage in international collaborations and publications. These **networks** also benefit students' academic careers. Students regularly attend classes in small groups, allowing for a high degree of **interaction and personal guidance**. The lecturers are **enthusiastic, passionate, and approachable** for questions and advice. The programmes make significant efforts to achieve a broad and diverse intake, with an eye for cultural diversity. Flexible study paths enhance the **accessibility** of the programmes.

The programmes have developed a strong **quality culture** with cycles of evaluation, reflection, and improvement, partly based on student feedback. They score highly in terms of **student satisfaction**. Teachers and student representatives are actively involved in the education committee. Important educational aspects are systematically discussed, fostering good dialogue between the programmes.

Suggestions for further improvement

The programmes will soon organise periodic consultations with the professional field as a '**sounding board group**' to receive feedback on education. Additionally, the programmes will work on a **methodological learning sequence** by reviewing the courses of quantitative and qualitative research methods and mapping and streamlining existing lessons and courses that teach methodological competencies.

Inter-university discussions, such as through the 'Vlaams TalenPlatform', will be continued to, among other things, increase enrolment in the programmes. The programmes will use their networks to reach **new target groups** who wish to follow specific courses (e.g., through the system of microcredentials).

On the UAntwerp website, the **interdisciplinarity** and the **strong and unique profiles** of the programmes will be made more visible. The **various emphases within the programmes**, where one language option focuses more on oral proficiency and another on writing skills, are strengths that will be highlighted more prominently. To promote the appreciation of the **teaching profession**, the website will highlight the possibility of becoming a teacher through the master's programme of Linguistics and Literary Studies with a shortened Master of Teaching.

The **annual monitoring of the curriculum** will be continued with the aim of avoiding overlap between courses. There will be a screening, based on recent research, of where **professional competencies** are taught in the programmes.

Efforts will be made to enhance **communication** on changes occurring in the programmes (partly based on student surveys) and on certain courses that students need to follow at other institutions.

The programme offers many opportunities to practice **language skills** alongside lectures and will continue to do so. Opportunities for voluntary internships will also be maintained and communicated, as well as the possibility to **combine the internship and the master's thesis content-wise** in the master's programmes Theatre and Film Studies and Digital Text Analysis. As measures against the perceived **study pressure** in the master's programme of Digital Text Analysis, prerequisites will be refined and an admission test will be developed.

Most recent peer review of the cluster of Linguistics and Literary Studies programmes

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place on the **18th and 19th of December 2024**.

Peer review team

The programmes suggested external and internal candidates as members of the peer review team. The student member was recruited by the Department of Education in collaboration with the UAntwerp Student Council. Chair of the peer review team was the vice-rector Education. The composition of the peer review team was validated on the 22nd of April 2024 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team:

Chairwoman:

- Ann De Schepper, full professor faculty of Business and Economics, UAntwerp

External members:

- Prof. dr. Eline Zenner, associate professor Dutch Linguistics, KULeuven
- Prof. dr. Lars Bernaerts, associate professor Dutch Literature, UGent
- Jo Roets, lecturer/director 'Toneelacademie Maastricht' and artistic leader 'Laika'
- Prof. dr. Véronique Hoste, full professor Computational Linguistics, UGent

Internal member:

- Prof. dr. Walter Daems, professor faculty of Applied Engineering, UAntwerp

Student member:

- Marjan 't Syen, student Master of Medicine, UAntwerpen

Result Peer Review

The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the cluster of Linguistics and Literary Studies programmes.

Creation

With regard to the peer review, the programmes made a self-assessment report, describing their vision, good practices, challenges and future prospects. The Department of Education developed datasheets in consultation with the programmes, containing both qualitative (learning outcomes, study programme, staff information, etc.) and quantitative data (amount of enrolments, student success rates, cohort analysis, etc.) about the programmes. In consultation with the Department of Education the programmes created a time schedule to interview the staff responsible for the programmes, students, lecturers, assistants, external partners and alumni. During the interviews between the peer review team and the programmes the CIKO staff member of the Faculty was present. The peer review team evaluated the programmes based on qualitative and quantitative information, as the interviews and the preparatory documents: the self-assessment report, the datasheets and the education portfolios of the programmes.

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 programmes, and some suggestions for further improvement. The programmes 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 the 28th of April 2025 and was presented to the Education Board on the 24th of June 2025 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on the 1st of July 2025.