

Public report on the quality of the bachelor and master of biology

Most important conclusions from the external visitation and the internal process monitoring and control (IPS) of the bachelor and master of biology.

The [visitation report](#), published in 2014 mentions some strong points and contains some recommendations for further improvement that have been implemented by the programme after the visitation through a follow-up plan. This plan was submitted to the Education Board of the University of Antwerp. The study programme was accredited by NVAO on the basis of the visitation report. In the autumn of 2019 the programme went through the internal process monitoring and control.

Below are the most important conclusions from the visitation, the follow-up plan and its implementation and the internal process monitoring and control.

Strengths of the programme

The **profile** of the bachelor's degree in biology is very broad and covers various organizational levels: from the sub-cellular, through the organism to the ecosystem. The programme focuses on internship opportunities and work experience from the first year on. The integrated practicals are a first step towards a stronger **interdisciplinary approach** of biology. The **fieldwork courses/laboratory work** and the design of the **bachelor's thesis** - a combination of fieldwork and data collection and the subsequent processing and reporting - are strengths of the program.

The four specializations in the master's programme are all oriented towards the **study of organisms and biological processes**. The ambitions regarding **internationalization** are most clearly expressed in the two English specializations: Biodiversity, Conservation and Restoration and Global Change Biology. The bachelor's programme also clearly focuses on internationalization, for example via the presentation of the bachelor's thesis in English. The fieldwork courses take place abroad. The tropical fieldwork course is taken together with Tanzanian students.

Recommendations for further improvement of the programme

The recent curriculum changes to improve the integration of classical knowledge with contemporary developments, have led to the introduction of a new specialization: Global Change Biology. In this new specialization the most recent molecular biological and biotechnological developments are being implemented in Global Change research. The programme has introduced **consultations** between lecturers to, among other things, check whether new developments in biology or at the interface between biological disciplines are adequately addressed in the programme.

The committee asks to structurally embed **sufficient, substantive feedback** in order to effectively support student-centered learning. The bachelor's programme already aims at providing substantive feedback on reports, practicals and portfolios in a timely manner. The programme will check whether sufficient and timely feedback is also given in the master's programme.

The **focus on entrepreneurship** within the study programme, through the option Management & Entrepreneurship, is a good example of how the student's view on the professional field can be broadened. In additionally the programme organises a **Research Day** where researchers, students and alumni meet. All classes are suspended that day to give students the opportunity to participate. An alumni club will also be established to promote contact between students, alumni and the programme. With these initiatives the programme wants to show students the possibilities in the work field after graduation.