

Peer Review Biomedical Sciences – 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

Biomedical Sciences is a well thought out and **well-structured programme**. The Bachelor programme is structured around 6 learning paths in which students learn about the human body, but also learn to use research and academic skills. The Master programme gives students the possibility to specialize in a certain area. Students can also choose an **English Master programme**: Infectious and Tropical Diseases or Neurosciences. The peer review team appreciates the efforts the programme makes to prepare Bachelor students to read, write and speak in English.

The programme gradually focusses more on integrated education. The peer review team mentions the **integrated practice sessions** as an asset of the programme. Within an integrated practice session components of different courses are combined and applied in one experiment. The peer review team also thinks the offer of **assistance with the study career** of students is remarkable. From the moment students enroll in the programme, they're supported to search for their strengths and working points to create an optimal flow through the programme. Students also receive (individual) feedback on a regular basis and from different courses.

Entering an **internship** in the Bachelor programme is a great asset and a good addition to the preliminary literature study. The long internship of 7 months in the Master programme offers many possibilities for the students as well as for the research group/company where research is done. This way the internship is a reinforcement of the master thesis. The possibility to do the internship and the master thesis **abroad**, is also a strength of the programme.

Suggestions for further improvement

The peer review team considers the courses *Studium generale* and *State-of-the-art lectures* to be an added value for the students. In these courses guest lecturers introduce the students to the workfield. The peer review team suggests to invite even more business guest lecturers to visualize the offer for biomedics in a **non-academic setting**.

The peer review team appreciates the wide offer of possibilities to gain experience **outside the university**. It seems however students have a certain threshold to seize these opportunities. The review team encourages the programme to keep stimulating students to look beyond university walls.

The peer review team suggests to monitor the enrolment of **international recruited students** and to extend the **selection process** with a test. On the long term these suggestions could make the selection process of international recruited students for the English Master programmes less labor-intensive. The programme will read through the entire selection procedure within UFOO 2018-2020.

The programme also keeps monitoring the **outflow** by creating a database and organizing a survey every three years after graduation. The programme also remains involved in the activities of **Ambiant**, the alumni association of Biomedical Sciences.

Most recent peer review Biomedical Sciences

Timing

The site visit of the peer review team took place **October 23-24, 2017**.

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 April 24, 2017 by the Board of Programme Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team Biomedical Sciences:

Chairwoman:

- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:

- Harry De Koning, Parasite Biochemistry and Pharmacology (Parasitology), University of Glasgow
- Dirk Pollet, General Manager Multiplicom NV en Managing Director DIRCS

Internal member:

- Vera Meynen, department Chemistry

Student member:

- Leroy Smid, student Ma1 Medicine

Result Peer Review

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

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 7 May 2018 and was presented to the Education Board on 3rd July 2018 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 28th August 2018.