

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

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

The [visitation report](#), published in 2016 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 spring 2018 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 visitation committee finds that there is a good balance between the legal courses, the auxiliary sciences, exercises and skills training in the **curriculum** of the master and bachelor programme. The lecturers use various **interactive** teaching methods, which in itself is commendable in generally large-scale education. The visitation committee praises the focus on **skills** in the programme and the **internship** in the master. To support students, there are web lectures and interactive revision, feedback and practice lectures. The programme puts in extra effort for supervision and support of **first-year students** with entry tests and mock exams. Every starting student also gets a coach, to facilitate the transition from secondary education to the university ("mentoring"). Following a recommendation of the visitation committee, extra attention is also paid to the follow-up of weaker students by testing and supporting them on language skills, and study progress counselling. For stronger students, the trajectory of prospective researchers and the English master's programme is an extra challenge.

The programme has a good vision on **internationalization**, with clear results such as for instance an annual summer school. The faculty maintains good contacts with the French-speaking sister faculties in Belgium, at home and abroad, with a view to exchanging students. The Erasmus Belgica exchange programme in the bachelor's programme gives students the opportunity to follow a Dutch-French programme.

There is a good spread between oral and written **exams**. The visitation committee finds it positive that mere multiple choice exams are not allowed in the faculty.

Recommendations for further improvement of the programme

Following the visitation report it was considered how to make the study programmes more **flexible** without affecting the coherence of the programme. As a result there is now a new structure in the Dutch Master of Laws. Giving feedback to students was a concern for the visitation committee. By using standard evaluation forms for oral and written skills, an attempt is made to facilitate and streamline providing **feedback** as much as possible. In order to ensure uniformity, for specific courses, such as the Legal practical, a detailed guide with specific evaluation criteria is provided.

Both the visitation report and the programme evaluations show the need to focus enough on the (expectations with regard to) **language knowledge** of the students. The faculty regularly reflects on how to tackle this issue. This has led to a number of improvements and the reformulation of certain learning outcomes. In the bachelor's degree, for example, special attention is paid to the coordination between the language courses and the course "Foreign legal systems". Additionally, students are taught basic terminology in different languages in the compulsory legal compulsory courses of both the Bachelor's and Master's programmes. The use of foreign-language literature is strongly encouraged in all courses. From 2020-21, two compulsory foreign-language courses will be introduced in the Master of Law (in French and English). The possibilities to expand the foreign-language offer in the bachelor's program are also being investigated. The focus on foreign languages in the (bachelor's) curriculum also provides a good basis for deepening international competences and the competences related to comparative law in the master's degree.