

## Public report on the quality of the bachelor politieke wetenschappen and master of political science

Most important conclusions from the external visitation and the internal process monitoring and control (IPS) of the bachelor politieke wetenschappen and master of political science.

The [visitation report](#), published in 2016 mentions some strong points and contains some recommendations for further improvement that have been implemented by the programmes after the visitation through a follow-up plan. This plan was submitted to the Education Board of the University of Antwerp. The study programmes were accredited by NVAO on the basis of the visitation report. Afterwards, the English-taught master's programme was introduced, replacing the Dutch master's programme. In the autumn of 2018 the programmes 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 programmes

The bachelor's programme in political science aims to train students who can critically examine politics and the master's programme in political science turns students into critical, socio-scientifically trained analysts. The bachelor's programme is praised for its **broad and clear profile**. One of the strengths of the two study programmes is the close, **cumulative and clear structure** through different learning tracks.

The recently designed **English-taught master's programme** is without a doubt a major asset for the programmes at UAntwerp. It gives a strong boost to the **international character** of these programmes and the faculty. The fact that this programme is new, comes with many challenges. Nevertheless, the way in which the programme has been designed thoughtfully and self-consciously is considered commendable.

Previous concerns about insufficient practice and **activating educational methods** have been dealt with. Various initiatives were put in place in the bachelor's programme and in the recently designed English-taught master's programme, there is a focus on practical relevance in various ways. The master's programme also offers its students a **skills lab** and a **research internship**, which can be considered a major strength of the programme. More so because in the past the programmes were often asked about the possibility of doing an internship.

### Recommendations for further improvement of the programmes

The main challenge for the study programmes in political science is to ensure a sufficient link with the **professional field** and its **alumni**. The **sounding board group** with representatives of the work field was regularly consulted in the past, but these days it doesn't have an active role. With the introduction of the new English-taught programme, the programmes intend to re-establish a sounding board group.

Although the **profile** of the bachelor's programme is considered to be very clear, the visitation panel feels this does not apply to the same extent to the master's programme. However, with the start-up of the English-taught master's programme, this concern was certainly addressed.

During the visitation, it appeared that the **student representatives** seemed isolated from the students they represented. It was therefore recommended that the programmes should give more importance to the focus groups, which they have taken to heart.