Peer Review Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy – public report

Most important conclusions from the peer review

The report of the peer review team mentions a number of strengths of the programme, and also includes suggestions to strengthen 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 collected.

Strengths of the programme

The bachelor’s and master’s programme Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy are carried out by a motivated and competent team with a clear and ambitious vision. This vision is characterized by competence based education, an active academic and student centered education, attention for a multidisciplinary integrated health care, an international dimension and the importance of evidence based practice. The programme succeeds in bringing together a practice-oriented and academic approach. There's an extensive, high-quality internship offer and the peer review team appreciates that the internships are logically built up through the bachelor’s programme. The clear vision on evidence based learning can be found through the entire programme. Research competences are taught gradually from the first year of the programme and result in the master dissertation. For each course interaction is assured between profession-specific competences, clinical input and available scientific evidence.

The idea and approach of coaching the study career of each student is a strength. Each year of the bachelor’s programme has their own coach guiding students in his/her choices and supporting them with the development of their professional competences. Coaching each study career is embedded in the programme. After the successful integration within UAntwerp, the programme make many efforts regarding internationalisation. The programme keeps setting in on student mobility, f.e. by offering internships abroad. From 2017-2018 on the programme starts with an English master’s programme, which is seen as an added value by the students as well.

Suggestions for further improvement

The programme wants interdisciplinarity to be more explicit in the curriculum; interdisciplinarity plays a major role in the programme. Therefore the programme will review the core competences with attention for the vision of the programme, the link between the bachelors and masters curriculum and the policy themes of the universities. The programme wants to give the learning paths more recognition within the curriculum. And the coaching of the study career of each student will become more visible. The programme continues to follow and evaluate the coaching of the study career to perfect the implementation.

In consultation with the Antwerp student association the programme shall develop a communication plan to obtain a faster and more frequent communication for the students. The behavioral indicators will be clearly communicated, linked to the associated competences. To obtain a better monitoring of the study load, the programme creates an overview of all the tasks and assignments in the context of permanent evaluation. Thereby the programme aims an optimal spread of the study load over the academic year.

The past years the programme started up different trajectories using blended learning. These trajectories will be further implemented and evaluated. Regarding internationalization the programme initiated a new bridging and master’s programme in English. The existing international cooperation agreements will also be evaluated and (re)activated. The programme will thoroughly follow up the clinical internships for the English-speaking students.

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1 Evidence based practice combines evidence from scientific research with clinical expertise and the judgement of the patient.
2 Using Blended learning the lecturer combines online learning and class teaching moments in his/her course.
Most recent peer review Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy

**Timing**
The site visit of the peer review team took place **May 10-11, 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 Departement 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 Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy:

**Chairwoman:**
- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

**External members:**
- Barbara Cagnie, chairwoman educational board Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy, UGent
- Lennard Voogt, lecturer Physiotherapy, graduate school Rotterdam

**Internal member:**
- Cedric Vuye, tenure track lecturer Engineering (TI), UAntwerp

**Student member:**
- Laura Bessems, student Ma1 Commercial engineering (TEW), UAntwerp

**Result Peer Review**
The peer review team decided to **confirm confidence** in the programme Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy.

**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 22 November 2017 and was presented to the Education Board on 19 December 2017 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 23 January 2018.