Peer Review Master of Chemistry – public report

Most important conclusions from the peer review

The report of the peer review team mentions a number of strong points of the program, and also includes suggestions to improve the program. These suggestions are already processed by the program in the development plan for the coming period. Below the most important conclusions of the peer review are given.

**Strengths of the program**
The master's degree in chemistry at UAntwerp offers a solid and qualitative program in the basics of chemistry and a combination of fundamental chemistry and more business-oriented and applied components.

Given the small scale of the program, most teachers know all students by name. Students’ questions and concerns are discussed by their class representative with the professors who are always willing to listen and adjust the program, where possible.

The many guest lecturers from business bring business context, industry and entrepreneurship into the program, which according to students is a major asset for the program. The peer review team judges that the input of guest lecturers enriches the program and gives it its own profile.

In the Master’s program, students have the choice to take an international research internship (30sp) or a company internship (15sp). In the company internship they will work in a company for 7 to 10 weeks under the supervision of an industrial promoter. The internship gets students out of their comfort zone: they learn a lot and grow as a person.

The peer review team appreciates the transition to the English Master's program and believes that the program has developed an adequate preparation in the Bachelor's program.

**Suggestions for further improvement**
The peer review team challenges the education committee to make the program future proof and even more future oriented with an eye for developments such as life cycle assessment, sustainability and interdisciplinarity.

She asks to think even further and with a broader view on what the labor market and society expects from graduate chemists in the future concerning professional competences but also on generic competences such as creativity, critical thinking, leadership, team work, flexibility, entrepreneurship, computational thinking, ... At the moment these generic competences are addressed in the program, but students can also avoid them. Many of these competences also remain implicit. Based on an analysis of the curriculum, the study program will develop this in the near future and will further strengthen itself.

The study program commits itself to assessing the vision on the program with all stakeholders (the business community, the students, the guest lecturers and the internship companies).

The peer review team advises to make the company-oriented profile of the program even more visible in the program and in the communication.

The peer review team is very positive about the English Master's program and believes that the program has developed an adequate preparation in the Bachelor's program. She therefore also proposes that this program be played out fully internationally in the short term.
Most recent peer review Chemistry

Timing
The site visit of the peer review team took place on 23rd and 24th May 2018.

Peer review team
The program 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 22nd November 2017 by the Board of Program Evaluation.

Composition of the peer review team Chemistry:
Chairwoman:
- Ann De Schepper, vice-rector Education at UAntwerp

External members:
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Cleij, Full Professor Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Katrien Strubbe, Hoofddocent UGent

Internal member:
- Prof. Ir. Elsje Pauwels, Full Professor Faculty Applied Engineering, Dept. Chemistry/Biochemistry, UAntwerp

Student member:
- Geert de Hoon, Student MA1 Law UAntwerp

Result Peer Review
The peer review team decided to confirm confidence in the program Chemistry.

Creation
With regard to the peer review, the program 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 program, containing qualitative (learning outcomes, study program, staff information…) and quantitative data (amount of enrolments, student success rates, cohort analysis,…) about the program. In consultation with the Department of Education the program drew up a time schedule to interview the staff responsible for the program, students, lecturers, assistants, external partners and alumni. During the interviews between the peer review team and the program the CIKO staff member of the faculty was present.

The peer review team evaluated the program 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 program.

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 program, and some suggestions for further improvement. The program 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 Program Evaluation on 25th October 2018 and was presented to the Education Board on 18th December 2018 and the Executive Board of UAntwerp on 22nd January 2019.