

Internal and external evaluation of studies: experience of Vytautas Magnus University

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VYTAUTO
DIDŽIOJO
UNIVERSITETAS
MCMXXII

Išsilavinimas 360°

Two components:

Evaluation of new study programmes

Evaluation of study fields (including all programmes of the same field)

Initiation of new study programme

New study programmes may be initiated by
the University's researchers, teachers, students,
alumni or employers
regarding the University strategic priorities of studies

Conception of new study programme

- The need for the programme based on research results, internal surveys and insights on future labour market demands.
- Draft of the learning outcomes and the study plan of the programme.
- Estimation of resources (material and human) for the programme and a plan of their development.

Stages of new study programmes' evaluation at University



Evaluation by
Faculty
Council.
Improvement



Evaluation by
Quality Unit.
Improvement



Evaluation by
Rectorate.
Improvement




Evaluation by
Senate.
Improvement

Improvement: by programme developers

Procedure of new programmes' external evaluation



Evaluation of
programme
documents'
completeness



Analysis of
documents by
external
experts



Site/online
visit by
experts



Preparation of
programme
evaluation
report

New programmes' external evaluation decisions

- ✓ To evaluate the study programme **positively** – when no shortcomings are identified or they are found to be minor.
- ✓ To recommend **revision** of the study programme – when shortcomings of programme are easily eliminated without serious changes (corrections by HEI within 10 working days).
- ✓ To evaluate the study programme **negatively** – when significant and serious shortcomings have been identified (grading scale – 1 and/or 2).

External evaluation: 7 areas

1. Study Objectives, Outcomes and Content.
2. Links between science (art) and study activities.
3. Student admission and support.
4. Studying, academic achievements and graduate employment.
5. Teaching staff.
6. Study facilities and learning resources (material resources).
7. Study quality management and publicity.

Grading scale for external evaluation

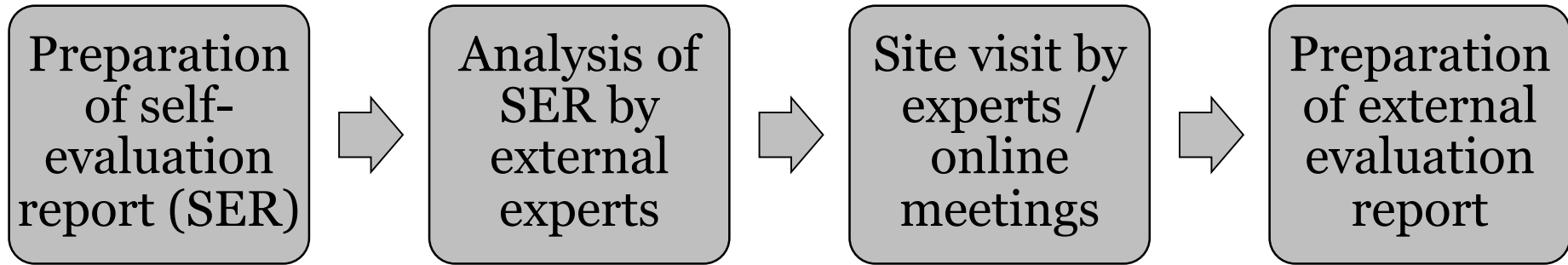
EVALUATION	DESCRIPTION
5 exceptional quality	The area is evaluated exceptionally well in the national context and internationally.
4 very good	The area is evaluated very well in the national context and internationally, without any shortcomings.
3 good	The area is being developed systematically, without any fundamental shortcomings.
2 satisfactory	The area meets the minimum requirements, and there are fundamental shortcomings that need to be eliminated.
1 unsatisfactory	The area does not meet the minimum requirements, there are fundamental shortcomings that prevent the implementation of the field studies.

Examples of indicators for external evaluation

1. Study Objectives, Outcomes and Content:

- the conformity of the aims and outcomes of the programme to the needs of the society and/or the labour market;
- the conformity of the programme aims and outcomes with the mission, objectives of activities and strategy of the HEI;
- the compliance of the programme with legal requirements;
- compatibility of aims, learning outcomes, teaching/learning and assessment methods of the programme;
- consistency of the programme subjects/modules;
- opportunities for students to assure their individual study needs.

Procedure of study fields' evaluation



The main peculiarities of external evaluation of studies

1. Studies are evaluated at least once every 7 years.
2. Separate evaluation decision for different cycles.
3. All studies of the same field are evaluated at the same time.
4. Data cover 3 academic years.

Expectations for self-evaluation report

The document
of an **analytical** nature,
with **critical** analysis of studies,
insights for their **perspectives**
and suggestions for **improvement**.

Preparation of self-evaluation report (by Dec 31)

ACTIVITIES	DATES
1. Approval of self-evaluation group.	February 12
2. Sharing of responsibilities, planning of time for interim results and group meetings.	February 26
3. Revision of learning outcomes and study plan, if needed.	March 31
4. Meetings of self-evaluation group, consultations.	As needed
5. Collecting and analysis of data under evaluation areas and indicators, initial version of self-evaluation report (SER).	October 18

ACTIVITIES	DATES
6. Discussion of initial SER with social stakeholders.	October 25
7. Corrections of initial SER.	November 08
8. Revision of SER by Study Quality Unit.	November 29
9. Preparation of final SER and its submission for evaluation agency.	December 20
10. Dissemination of main SER findings for social stakeholders.	December 30

External experts

- A group of 5 persons: academics, students, social partners.
- International experts: various countries, different institutions.
- Training of experts, supportive material.

Site visit / online meetings

Meetings with:

- Administration.
- Self-evaluation group.
- Teachers.
- Students and student union representatives.
- Alumni and social partners.

Revision of material resources.

Preparation of external evaluation report

- Within 1 month after site visit / online meetings.
- Possible comments by university regarding inaccurate facts.
- Revision of evaluation report by national commission.

Accreditation decisions based on external evaluation of studies

- 7 years' accreditation when all areas are evaluated with 3-5 points.
- 3 years' accreditation if any area is evaluated with 2 points while other areas stand for 3-5 points.
- No accreditation if any area is evaluated with 1 point.

Follow-up on external evaluation

Evaluated area	Expert recommendations provided during the last evaluation	Scope and time limits for the implementation of recommendations	Actions planned by the HEI within the evaluated area and time limits for the actions	Comments
1.				
2.				
3. ...				

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION