

Bestuurlijke reactie BA Urban Studies 2023

The assessment panel concluded that the programme meets the four assessment standards of the accreditation framework and reached a positive general final assessment. Below are some recommendations of the committee and the responses of the study programme to them:

Increase the emphasis on humanities perspectives on urbanity further, as that is the unique selling point of the programme. In addition, reflect more explicitly on the absence of disciplines like Social Geography or Urban Planning and Design.

The programme board agrees that the humanities profile of the programme can be further developed. It propose two concrete actions:

- Assign the humanities character of the programme a central place in the planned redevelopment of our methodological learning trajectory in the second year; we will integrate humanities methodologies in our new BA1 methodological seminar.
- Explore possibilities to introduce a course on Urban Planning and Design, and consider options to make better use of existing expertise on these issues within the university in BA2 and BA3 courses.

Strike a more even balance between introducing the broad palette of relevant methodologies of the disciplines that have their place within the programme and the subsequent acquiring of more specialised expertise in at least one disciplinary subset of methodologies.

The programme board agrees with this suggestion and will implement it in a revision of the methodological learning line and the BA3 graduation trajectory. It will develop more focused methodological tracks that offer more disciplinary depth to our students.

Consider diversifying the assessment mode in courses with a heavy emphasis on a final written exam, and make sure assessments (of some courses) do not rely too much on group work.

The programme board will, together with the Board of Examiners, revise the assessment plan of the programme, and will structurally link certain types of assessment to certain types of courses. The programme board will implement ways to limit the amount of group work per semester.

Conclusions of the development dialogue

The development dialogue was held on 9 May 2023. During the dialogue more specific ways to further strengthen the humanities core of the programme were discussed. In addition, the assessment panel and the programme board exchanged views on the way the methodological learning lines could be revised. The panel emphasized that it is important to tie methodology always directly to the themes of Urban Studies. To do that properly, it is important that all staff members are aware of their role as teachers in a multi-disciplinary programme, which includes an awareness of academic fields outside their own.