



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVO

Comments on the Review Report of the Expert Panel

International University of Sarajevo

Bachelor programme: "International Relations"

Master programme: "International Relations"

1 Standard 1: Study programme and programme management

1.1. Conditions and recommendations

Standard 1 for bachelor level is met without conditions.

Master programme: "International Relations"

Condition 1

The MA thesis must be made mandatory for all IUS students wishing to graduate with MA degree in International Relations.

Condition 2

Revise the structure and contents of the programme to ensure that it provides good education at MA level that focuses on some major fields within IR disciplines and is not limited to international economics. Alternatively, allow for a specific focus in terms of teaching, eg. Conflict resolution and peace building, the Balkan region, international security etc.

1.2. Opinion of IUS on the Conditions

The IUS fully agrees with the proposed conditions for Standard 1.
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1.3. Activities of IUS to fulfil the conditions for Standard 1:

The MA thesis must be made mandatory for all IUS students wishing to graduate with MA degree in International Relations.

Action: Through the curricula restructuring, MA thesis will be made mandatory, with 18 ECTS credits.

Revise the structure and contents of the programme to ensure that it provides good education at MA level that focuses on some major fields within IR disciplines and is not limited to international economics. Alternatively, allow for a specific focus in terms of teaching, eg. Conflict resolution and peace building, the Balkan region, international security etc.

Action: The IUS will make revision of the 2nd cycle curriculum in a proposed way.

1.4. Opinion of IUS on the Recommendations for Standard 1

The IUS fully agrees with the recommendation for Standard 1

1.5. Activities of IUS to fulfil the recommendations for Standard 1:

Bachelor and Master

R1) Course syllabi should specify the way of demonstrating the achievement of learning outcomes, in what way they will be verified: eg. Learning Outcome 1: final exam, LO2: essay, LO3: final exam, presentation, etc.

Action: Syllabi of all IR offered courses in the coming two semesters will be re-checked and each assessment component will be assigned corresponding learning outcome(s).

R2) Instead of a university-wide Freshman English IR students should be offered a more specialized Academic English course consisting of at least 45 teaching hours and taught in small groups (15-20 students). This course would include instruction on academic writing as well speaking, presentation and research and would be offered in the first or second semester as mandatory.”

Action: Instead of “Freshmen English”, a course titled „Academic English“ or similar will be introduced to the curriculum in a manner proposed in the recommendation.

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R3) The number of ECTS credits awarded upon completion of a BA thesis should be higher than 6 ECTS credits (at least 10-12 ECTS credits).

Action: IUS will make thorough revision of the BA thesis learning outcomes as well as the workload and increase the number of ECTS credits accordingly. The implementation is expected in AY 2017/2018

R4) Close attention should be paid not only to the language skills of the students but also of the lecturers to assure the quality of teaching and the achievement of the programme objectives

Action: This recommendation will be implemented through altering conditions for the job.

R5) Provide a list of learning outcomes associated with 6 ECTS credits that IR students will acquire upon completion of an internship.

Action: The IUS has already made revision in a proposed way and its implementation will commence in AY 2016-2017.

2 Standard 2: Staff

2.1. Conditions and recommendations

Bachelor

Condition 1

Increase the number of fully employed holders of PhD degree by two to three staff members and thus enhance the teaching and research capacities of the IR programme.

Master

Condition 2

Increase the number of fully employed holders of PhD degree by two to three staff members and thus enhance the teaching and research capacities of the IR programme

2.2. Opinion of IUS on the Conditions for Standard 2.

The IUS fully agrees with the proposed conditions for Standard 2.

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2.3. Activities of IUS to fulfil the conditions for Standard 2:

C1) Increase the number of fully employed holders of PhD degree by two to three staff members and thus enhance the teaching and research capacities of the IR programme.

Action: The IUS considers this condition to be in full compliance with the IUS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The IUS will hire more academic staff in line with the curriculum restructure.

C2) Increase the number of fully employed holders of PhD degree by two to three staff members and thus enhance the teaching and research capacities of the IR programme.

Action: The IUS considers this condition to be in full compliance with the IUS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The IUS will hire more academic staff with focus on teaching and research excellence (potential for excellence).

2.4. Opinion of IUS on the Recommendations for Standard 2.

The IUS fully agrees with the recommendation for Standard 2.

2.5. Activities of IUS to fulfil the recommendations for Standard 2:

Bachelor and Master

R1) The IUS should cater to introducing more favourable teaching arrangements (limited number of teaching hours) for those lecturers who are in the stage of completing their PhD theses, finalising research publications or wishing to focus on research.

With the increase in number of PhD holders in the Programme a new teaching Schedule should be elaborated and introduced allowing staff members to allocate more time for research.

Action: This recommendation is fully aligned with the IUS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. This proposal will be discussed on the level of the top management and decided accordingly. Actions listed under 2.3. above will contribute to achievement of this recommendation.

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3 Standard 3: Quality Assurance

3.1. Conditions and recommendations

Standard 3 is met without conditions.

4 Standard 4: Funding and infrastructure

4.1. Conditions and recommendations

Standard 4 is met without conditions.

4.2. Opinion of IUS on the recommendations for Standard 4

The IUS fully agrees with the recommendation for Standard 4.

4.3. Activities of IUS to fulfil the recommendations for Standard 4:

Bachelor and Master

R1) Students' and lectures' access to IR books published in English must be extended through the acquisition of a significant number of the most recent publications in most areas taught as part of the IR curriculum. This will vastly facilitate good quality of teaching and learning as well as research. We strongly recommend purchasing of at least a hundred volumes.

Action: IUS considers this recommendation to be in full compliance with the IUS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Considering the fact that the funds have been already approved for this purpose, IUS will fully comply with this recommendation, as per the adopted Action Plan for the Strategic Plan implementation.

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5 Standard 5: Research and development and appreciation of the arts

5.1. Conditions and recommendations

Standard 5 is met without conditions.

5.2. Opinion of IUS on the recommendations for Standard 5

The IUS fully agrees with the recommendations for Standard 5.

5.3. Activities of IUS to fulfil the recommendations for Standard 5:

R1) Ensure the implementation of the new University plan 2016-2020 (strategy) in the field of research and develop a) an active strategy for the implementation, and b) a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to accompany the implementation of the plan.

Action: IUS will take actions as proposed above.

R2) Develop an internal research strategy for the Programme of International Relations and identify main areas of research.

Action: IUS agrees that the internal strategy for the Programme of International Relations with identifying main areas of research is needed. The Programme will be supported to accomplish this goal.

R3) Increase the visibility of correlation between research and teaching.

Action: With larger number of PhD holders (Conditions stipulated under the Standard 2) it will be more realistic to follow on this recommendation.

R4) Make a specific and transparent allocation of budget for the research dedicated to the Programme of International Relations.

Action: IUS considers this recommendation to be in full compliance with the IUS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The actions will be taken to accomplish this recommendation.

R5) With the increase in number of PhD holders in the Programme a new teaching schedule should be elaborated and introduced allowing staff members to allocate more time for research.

Action: With larger number of PhD holders (Conditions stipulated under the Standard 2) it will be more realistic to follow on this recommendation.





6 Standard 6: National and international cooperation

6.1 Standard 6 is met without conditions.

6.2 Opinion of IUS on the recommendations for Standard 6

The IUS fully agrees with the recommendations for Standard 6.

6.3 Activities of IUS to fulfil the recommendations for Standard 6:

R1) Teaching staff in the Programme is aiming at memberships in important international networks in the field of political science and international relations. After joining ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) in 2016 it is recommended to intensify these efforts and to join in the next step IPSA (International Political Science Association).

Action: This recommendation will be taken on board and discussed on the study programme level as well as faculty and top management level.

R2) Make better use of the existing Memoranda of Understanding and make them functional.

Action: This recommendation will be taken on board and discussed on the study programme level as well as faculty and top management level.





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7. Other Recommendations of the Panel

Rules of admission and criteria that candidates need to meet for both BA and MA level should be stated more clearly and unambiguously. It was difficult for the panel to establish what exactly is expected from candidates to the IR programmes, eg. What additional criteria (if any) graduates of a three-year BA programmes should meet to be admitted for the MA programme in IR.

Action: This recommendation will be taken on board and discussed on the study programme level as well as faculty and top management level.

8. Comments and Objections to the text of the Report

1. The Review Report of the Expert Panel, Section 4, Preliminary Remarks by the expert panel, pg 9, reads as follows:

135 out of 221 students (all levels) of the IR programme are of Turkish origin, there are also Turkish teachers and Turkish founders among those who have founded the University. However, during the site visit we did not meet any Turkish students or members of teaching staff, and the only Turkish partners we talked to were at the management level. It would certainly be of help if the expert panel had a chance to talk to partners of Turkish origin, especially students. As we were told, it is the Turkish students who have more problems with the language skills than other students, especially those of Bosniak origin. We understand that the absence of Turkish interview partners was largely due to the timing of the site visit which was scheduled for the period of summer holidays.

Comment/objection 1

IUS does not see the relevance of some statements in the above paragraph. IUS provided relevant partners to meet the Panel. Furthermore, IUS is an international university and accordingly the teaching staff is international. This information is clearly presented in IR self evaluation document.

Comment/objection 2

In addition it is not true that the panel “*did not meet any Turkish students or members of teaching staff, and the only Turkish partners we talked to were at the management level.*” The Panel met Assist Prof. Dr. Aliye Mataraci, who is Turkish and a member of academic staff.

Comment/objection 3

In the above paragraph, the implication to the language skills of student of two different nationalities is being made, namely of “*Turkish*” and “*Bosniak*” origin.

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IUS does not see the point of this statement when it comes to the accreditation process. The students are admitted to IUS under the equal conditions.

The term "Bosniak", used in the sense of the above paragraph is not correct.

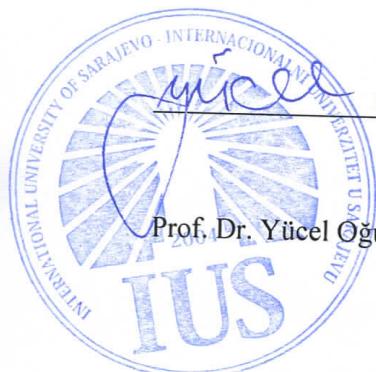
Recommendation

IUS recommends re-phrasing the above paragraph.

RECTOR



Prof. Dr. Yücel Öğurlu



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Sarajevo, 26 August, 2016