



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
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Comments on the Review Report of the Expert Panel

International University of Sarajevo

Bachelor programme "Genetics and Bioengineering"

1 Standard 1: Study programme and programme management

1.1. Conditions and recommendations

Condition 1

Assure the thorough use of the European Credit Transfer System for all courses and correct the courses listed in this report by either changing the workload/learning outcomes or the ECTS credit points received after course completion.

Condition 2

Define learning outcomes and workload for the work placement/internship. Assure issuance of individual learning agreements for every internship taken.

1.2. Opinion of IUS on Conditions

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the stated Condition 1 and 2 for meeting requirements of the Standard 1.

This will be done through the following actions:

- 1- GBE programme staff will carefully check the courses learning outcomes (LOs) in relation to course workload /ECTS credits and propose changes accordingly.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

- 2- GBE programme staff will define clearly learning outcomes and workload for the work placement/internship course.
- 3- GBE programme will define clearly the regulation of validating of internship course for every internship taken and making it accessible for all GBE students.

1.3. Opinion of IUS on Recommendations

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the listed recommendations through the following actions:

- The expert panel recommends further developing and diversifying internships outside the IUS, establishing more partnerships and obtaining additional offers associated with more practical experience.
- IUS will establish an internship and career office to help students choose their internship place through large diversification of institutions, universities, organization and companies' database in BiH and outside the country.
- IUS will organize a yearly event ("Meet industry") which will put IUS students and industrial representatives face to face; to obtain additional offers associated with more practical experience.
- The name of the study programmes ("genetics and bioengineering") is relatively broad and carries with it possible ambiguities but also opportunities. While "genetics" is a purely biological discipline, "bioengineering" connotes with more diversified tools. There is an opportunity to evolve the course to tackle the variable societal challenges and hence, the name of the course may be adjusted to better fit the expectations of students but also the deliverables of the courses. Nevertheless, the expert panel recommends that the course description should be rigorous and adjusted to its reality, correctly informing the students on the nature and expected outcomes of the courses.
- IUS agrees that the current name of the study programmes ("Genetics and Bioengineering") is relatively broad therefor, more intensive discussion in GBE council will be devoted to change or keep the current name taking into consideration non-harmful effect on student's expectations and job opportunities of our graduates.
- The expert panel feels that the learning goals can be attained with the present conditions but strongly recommends that further support for more practical studies should be considered/implemented. We also recommend that BSc thesis work should be carried out in the laboratories, with the proportion of theoretical studies of about 50% being too high for a BSc. Furthermore, we recommend improving the course descriptions with regard to the prerequisites and course names.
- See point No. 1 of **1.2. Opinion of IUS on Conditions**. In addition more practical studies will be considered and implemented for study programme courses. Chemistry and physics courses practical work will be increased.
- We will encourage students to select topics of their graduation thesis course which needs a practical work in the laboratory.
- We will check carefully the course names, course descriptions and defining precisely their prerequisites. In addition, Bioethics course will be considered in GBE Curriculum.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

- The expert panel recommends the implementation of a survey addressing the possible replacement of some university and/or faculty courses by modules with a stronger emphasis on bioengineering or related subjects.
- Faculty courses in GBE curriculum are 48 ECTS of 8 courses; 6 of them are required and 2 are electives. We will take into consideration adding at least one course focusing on bioengineering or related subjects.
- The expert panel acknowledges that important ties between the IUS and the Turkish nation are rooted in the genesis of IUS, that substantial IUS funding originates from Turkey and that many students from Turkey are attracted by this programme. It is important that these relations can be kept and further explored, and the funders have of course in mind that many graduates may proceed their studies in Turkey, which also fosters the internationalization of institutions of higher learning in Turkey. Nevertheless, the consultation to a large audience of students for matters that are of wide concern should be carried out.
- The expert panel recommends the implementation of standardized questionnaires for the application interviews to achieve objective assessment of candidates.
- GBE programme with legal department will establish a standardized questionnaires for the application interviews to achieve objective assessment of candidates.
- The expert panel also recommends that rules for validation and recognition of prior non-formal and informal learning be clearly defined.
- The legal department will come up with clear guidance.

2 Standard 2: Staff

2.1. Conditions and Recommendations

Standard 2 is met without conditions.

2.2. Opinion of IUS on Recommendations

- The expert panel recommends the recruitment of additional professors, not to replace the classes given by external lecturers, but to reduce the current teaching burden of the existing professors. This hiring can be progressive, also to meet with the predictable increase in the number of student in the near future.
- IUS Rectorate in consultation of GBE programme coordinator decided to hire two professors in the field and one professor in chemistry. This hiring will serve the above recommendation.
- The expert panel recommends that the question of leadership and coordination should be solved in the shortest time-frame possible.
- The statute of IUS- Article 37, describe clearly the procedure of appointing Head of the department and Programme Coordinator positions.
- The expert panel recommends that all important information on human resource development and further education support be made available in a simplified and accessible form for fast consultation.
- Informal learning recognitions guidance: the legal affairs will be asked to come up with clear guidance on this.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

3 Standard 3: Quality assurance

3.1. Conditions and Recommendations

Standard 3 is met without conditions.

3.2. Opinion of IUS on Recommendations

- The expert panel suggests that the way pre-requisites are written down should be clearly defined, and to implement one standardized nomenclature for all pre-requisites.
- GBE Programme staff will check carefully the course names, course descriptions and defining precisely their prerequisites.

4 Standard 4: Funding and infrastructure

4.1. Conditions and Recommendations

Standard 4 is met without conditions.

4.2. Opinion of IUS on Recommendations

- The expert panel views the rooms and technical facilities as adequate for the programme at this stage; however, it encourages the IUS to consider further investments in laboratories and equipment to improve the level of permanent research and training.
- IUS agrees with this recommendation and further actions will ensue.

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

5.1. Conditions and Recommendations

Condition 1: *The GBE programme shall provide a strategic research plan (define objectives for research and development) with schedules for implementation in the following years and elaborate a budget to support the proposed activities. On this basis, a suitable organizational and structural framework can be assessed.*

5.2. Opinion of IUS on Conditions

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the stated Condition 1 for meeting requirements of the Standard 5.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

This will be done through the following actions:

- The GBE programme shall provide a strategic research plan (define objectives for research and development) with schedules for implementation in the following years and elaborate a budget to support the proposed activities. On this basis, a suitable organizational and structural framework shall be further assessed.

5.3. Opinion of IUS on Recommendations

- The expert panel recommends that the scientific activity be monitored for pre-determined timeframes of, for example, 5 years. GBE Professors and the IUS management should determine specific goals for research, followed by an evaluation of performance. The analysis needs not to be necessarily punitive but as a form of assessing the needs for research and the balance with the teaching load, to optimize the human resources and identify further needs.
- GBE Programme is currently discussing the specific goals for research of GBE programme in time frame of five years.
- New recruitments in the near future will enable teaching/research balance workload.

6 Standard 6: National and international co-operation

Standard 6 is met without conditions

Master programme: "Genetics and Bioengineering"¹

1 Standard 1: Study programme and programme management

Condition 1:

Assure the thorough use of the European Credit Transfer System for all courses and correct the courses listed in this report by either changing the workload/learning outcomes or the ECTS credit points received after course completion.

Opinion of IUS on Conditions

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the stated Condition 1 for meeting requirements of the Standard 1.

¹ All recommendation related to Master study cycle which are similar to Bachelor study cycle and will be taken into considerations.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

1.1. Activities of IUS to fulfil the condition

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the above conditions through the following actions:

- GBE staff will carefully check the courses learning outcomes (LOs) in relation to course workload /ECTS credits and propose changes accordingly.

2 Standard 2: Staff

Standard 2 is met without conditions.

3 Standard 3: Quality Assurance

Standard 3 is met without conditions.

4 Standard 4: Funding and infrastructure

Standard 4 is met without conditions.

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

5.1. Conditions and Recommendations

Condition 1:

The GBE programme shall provide a strategic research plan (define objectives for research and development) with schedules for implementation in the following years and elaborate a budget to support the proposed activities. On this basis, a suitable organizational and structural framework can be assessed.

5.2. Opinion of IUS on the Conditions

IUS fully agrees to fulfil the Condition 1 for meeting requirements of the Standard 5.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

5.2. Activities of IUS to fulfil the conditions


IUS will take the following actions:

- IUS/GBE programme will provide s strategic research plan with clear objectives for research and development in time-frame of 5 years.
- IUS/GBE programme will provide schedule of budget related to research activities which will be carried out during the mentioned time-frame.

6 Standard 6: National and international cooperation

Standard 5 is met without conditions.

RECTOR


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