

Educational assessment: An evaluation of the higher education offered at Belgium Campus ITversity

Executive summary

In October 2018, a joint KU Leuven - UAntwerpen commission performed an educational assessment of the South African higher education institution Belgium Campus ITversity, in compliance with the institution's external quality assurance policy.

Task description

The external commission was expected:

- to provide peer-to-peer feedback to allow quality improvements to be made where possible, related to institutional processes as well as existing programmes;
- to express substantiated and well-founded opinions (1) on the content, level and quality of in particular the Bachelor Degree of Computing, using the assessment framework; as well as (2) on the potential for a future master's degree programme.

Global impression

Overall, the commission had a very positive impression about the education offered by Belgium Campus. The members were impressed by the disciplined and enthusiastic students, especially the student representatives. Discussing the programme in depth with the passionate and inspired lecturers, support staff, management and their partners made the commission confident about the level and quality of the educational offer. The commission deemed the institution meets all quality standards, and surpasses these in specific areas (e.g. inclusive education for students with disabilities).

In the opinion of the commission, from an international perspective, the Bachelor Degree of Computing (situated at the South African National Qualification Framework level 8) is comparable to an academic bachelor programme or even slightly more advanced according to European standards (e.g. from the commission's perspective NVAO Flemish Qualification Framework level 6). Admirable is how the institution genuinely addresses societal needs with all its current programmes. It moreover not only manages to cope in the challenging circumstances of a country in full transition, but actually turns these into catalysts for change to benefit individuals and industry as well as society in general. The overall judgement of the commission on the Bachelor Degree of Computing was satisfactory, and the commission judged the programme able to provide a sound foundation for a master's programme.

All in all, the commission believes there to be potential for Belgium Campus to start offering master's programmes in time as well. The most important step towards this goal will be to strengthen the research capacities on campus through capacity building as well as the partnerships at an international level, and to intensify the link with the curriculum. It was satisfying to see that this process has been set into motion.

The commission would in conclusion like to express its gratitude for the warm welcome and open communication at all levels before and during the site visit, which facilitated providing feedback and recommendations to those involved.

Prof. dr. ing. Jeroen Boydens
Chair external commission, on behalf of the commission

