

Decision Regarding the Assessment of the Sports Study Programme Group

Tallinn University

28/01/2015

The Quality Assessment Council of the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency decided to approve the assessment report by the Assessment Committee and to conduct the next quality assessment of the Sports study programme group in the first and second cycles of higher education at the Tallinn University in seven years.

Tallinn University submitted for evaluation under the Sports Study Programme Group the following study programme:

- Physical Education BA

Assessment Committee

Karen Petry (Chair)	German Sport University Cologne, Deputy Head of the Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies (Germany)
Susan Capel	Brunel University London, professor (UK)
Hans Hoppeler	University of Bern, Professor (Switzerland)
Jan Te Kloeze	Chairman of the Foundation WICE-DSL: Wageningen International Centre of Excellence on Development of Sustainable Leisure (Netherlands)
Alexandra Raijmakers	University of Amsterdam, student (Netherlands)
Toomas Tõnise	Estonian Olympic Committee, Vice-President (Estonia)

The Committee's Comments on the Study Programme Group and the Study Programme

Physical Education BA

Strengths

- *Both the University leadership and the Faculty are well aware of the challenges arising from demographic trends in Estonian society.*
- *Interdisciplinary approach to the teaching and learning is applied at Tallinn University.*
- *The structure of the study programme is very flexible and a large proportion of electives allow students to design their own programmes according to their personal preferences.*
- *The teaching and learning environment and educational materials are excellent.*
- *Modern and flexible teaching methods are used in educational activities. Learning outcomes are adequately assessed and students get the necessary feedback on their performance.*
- *The teaching staff are motivated and innovative, and have adequate professional backgrounds. There is an excellent relationship between students and the teaching staff. Students are also highly motivated.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *Although the study programme has served the needs of students and Estonian society well until now, further development is needed. It is recommended that Tallinn University and the University of Tartu together discuss the future directions of the study programmes and agree upon a common approach for sport education in Estonia. It is also advisable to promote cooperation between these universities and to reach an agreement on the further distribution of tasks.*
- *It is necessary to improve collaboration with the Estonian Olympic Committee, sports federations and sports clubs.*
- *It is necessary to expand cooperation with foreign universities. Staff and student mobility in both directions should be increased; for example, offering some modules in English could be considered.*
- *The teaching staff should be provided with more opportunity for participation in research (time and other resources). It is necessary to determine a focus for research activities and set up research groups. Research requires collaboration with the more research-oriented University of Tartu and with others, including international research institutions. Current laboratory equipment and research directions are purely functional and descriptive. The Assessment Report in 2006 also pointed out as a concern the lack of adequate research by the teaching staff and publication of the results, and the lack of adequate time needed for*

research activity.

- *The very liberal structure of the study programme scatters resources and may not be sustainable in view of demographic trends in Estonia. It is necessary to critically review the number, focus and orientation of the elective modules with regard to the resources available and the evolving needs of society.*
- *Health-related aspects of physical activity should be represented in the study programme more strongly with a special focus on lifelong physical activeness and physical activity for the aging population. Besides the discipline of physical education teachers, more consideration should be given to health and exercise science in the study programme.*
- *To make optimum use of staff resources, synergies between full time studies, cycle studies and Open University studies need to be strengthened.*
- *It is necessary that the excellent quality of the teaching and research infrastructure will be maintained when the Institute completes its planned move into another building.*
- *The current system of student electronic feedback must be changed in order to guarantee its transparency and anonymity.*
- *Due to a large number of electives in the study programme, students need more counselling on planning their individual programmes and on making their choices.*

Further information: [Assessment Report](#)