

15th June 2020

Aalto University

Teaching and Learning Evaluation Exercise - TEE 2020

International review

Pre-task for the international panel

Introduction

This document gives a short description of your pre-task with the main aim of giving an estimation of the work and input needed before your site visit to Aalto University in December.

The target of the international review is an assessment of Aalto's degree programme portfolio which include various degree programmes. The programmes under evaluation are assessed from an international perspective. This means that the programmes should be compared to international education within the same field of higher education, keeping in mind that Aalto University has multidisciplinary interactions between art, science, business and technology.

The focus of the review is on i) the current state of education at Aalto and ii) Aalto's potential for futures foresight and strategic renewal.

Teaching and Learning Evaluation Exercise — TEE 2020

The target of TEE 2020 is to identify needs for future development in education at Aalto, and to make visible and evaluate Aalto's achievements during the 10 years of its existence. TEE 2020 is part of an evaluation continuum in which a more comprehensive education evaluation was conducted in 2011. TEE 2020 will serve as a means for supporting the strategic development of education at all degree levels.

TEE 2020 focusses on

- Programme (portfolio) management, including Aalto's capability to anticipate the future requirements for work and knowledge
- Competence accumulation in the degree programmes
- Ways of implementing multidisciplinary in education
- Fluency of student progress through studies

The TEE 2020 project consists of four evaluation phases. The first two are internal and the last two are external. The first phase is a programme self-evaluation, carried out in January–May 2020. The second phase is a programme peer review, carried out in May–September 2020 and resulting in a summary of the review and a vision for each degree programme of university. The first external phase is a stakeholder review carried out in October 2020 with a site visit by stakeholder panels. The final phase of the evaluation is an international review, which includes a site visit by the international evaluation panel in December 2020.

You will also find information about the evaluation on Aalto's webpages

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/programme-directors-handbook/teaching-and-learning-evaluation-exercise-tee>

Pre-task for the international panel

The deadline for the pre-task is 31 November 2020.

The panel is requested to contribute to an understanding of the current state of education at Aalto University, based on the eight themes of the self-evaluations conducted by the bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes. The panel will identify the most central issues, best practices and most pressing development needs.

The eight themes of the programmes' self-evaluations are as follows

1. Purpose and overview

What are viewed as the reasons the programme exists or has been established – what larger purpose does it serve, what self-assessment practices does it have, and what developments has the programme undergone?

2. Objectives of the programme

Does the programme have well-defined objectives that support its development, provide a basis for planning the curriculum and teaching, and can be used as benchmarks for monitoring to provide feedback about the success of the programme?

3. Learning outcomes

Are the outcomes defined and monitored, and does the programme use this information to gauge regarding how well it is meeting its objectives?

4. Recruitment and intake

Does the programme have efficient and manageable sources of admissions? Does it have a clear student profile? Is the programme competing for students against other Aalto programmes?

5. Learning

Are the learning objectives of the programme evidenced in students' learning outcomes? Does the programme and its learning environment support positive student experiences?

6. Teaching

How well is the teacher community functioning? Can the teachers work towards the programme goals? What is the role of the programme director in the development of teaching?

7. Student, alumni and stakeholder communities

Does the programme have a functioning student community? Is it cooperating with the community in developing the programme? Is there a functioning alumni and stakeholder community, and does the programme cooperating with it in developing of the programme?

8. Management and operations

Do the management procedures support the programme and its development? Is the resourcing supporting the programme and its development? Is the connection between the programme and the organising department(s)/school(s) beneficial to the programme and conducive to its development? For the pre-task, the panel is asked to use the following evaluation materials. Programme visions, peer reviews and self-evaluation statistics are the most important

- Programme visions (1 page)
- Programme peer reviews (1–2 pages)
- Statistics of the programme self-evaluations
- Access to all the programme self-evaluations

Each panellist will be working in two areas: his/her own research/education area and one other peer area. There are approximately 10–15 degree programmes in different research/education areas at Aalto University. The evaluation materials, and the division of the peer areas between the panellists are to be completed by the beginning of October 2020.

More detailed instructions and the material for the pre-task, together with a preliminary information and scheduling of the site visit in December, will be sent to you at the beginning of October.

If you have any questions about the pre-task or about the evaluation in general, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be on summer vacation between 22 June and 31 July. However, I will read my email during this time, though perhaps somewhat more irregularly, and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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