Doctoral programme review

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Framework for the validation, monitoring, modification and accreditation of recognised degree programmes (VSMA)

Approved by the AQU Board of Management: 02/07/2010
Framework for the validation, monitoring, modification and accreditation of recognised degree programmes (VSMA)

Validation

Plan

Do

Check

Act

Plan

Do

Check

Act

Plan

Do

Check

Act

Plan

Do

Check

Monitoring

Accreditation

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Requirements for the validation report


1. Description of the doctoral programme
2. Competences
3. Access and admission
4. Study and learning activities
5. Programme organisation
   1. Thesis supervision
   2. Monitoring of student progress
6. Human resources
7. Physical resources and support available to students
8. Programme revision, Improvement and outcomes
   1. Outcomes
   2. Improvement and revision
Validation criteria

Pursuant to Spanish legislation (Annex I, Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January, regulating recognised doctoral programmes), the following aspects stand out:

IN REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAMME:
- Existence of an internal QA system to manage the running of the doctoral programme.
- High-level internationalisation of the programme (students, teachers, etc.)
- Clear mechanisms for the recognition of thesis supervision by teaching staff.
- Employability of doctoral students.

IN REFERENCE TO THE TEACHING STAFF
- 60% of the participating faculty staff involved in accredited research.
- Research groups with at least one active, competitive research project.
- Quality of scientific contributions, including joint research with foreign researchers.
- Researchers with recognised experienced in thesis supervision during the last five years.
Programmes validated: 191 out of 210 applications
Validation: NUMBER OF PLACES OFFERED

Average number of places offered: 20
Validation: NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS

Average number of students enrolled: 42
Validation of both new and existing programmes

91% already existing
Validation: TEACHING STAFF

Average number of teachers: 37
Average number of thesis supervisors: 24
Validation:
THE ACCREDITATION OF TEACHING STAFF

Average % within the last six years: 67%
A survey of doctorate holders who read their theis three or four years ago (in 2009 and 2010), which was carried out in February-March 2014.

The survey has been carried out regularly once every three years since 2008 (2008, 2011 and 2014).

All of the public universities participate in the survey, which in 2014 also included the Catalan Open University (UOC).

The survey is funded by the social councils of the public universities in Catalonia, the private universities and AQU Catalunya.
In 2014, the survey population was 1,426 people, or 69% of all doctorate holders.

The findings are representative according to subject area and university.

All together, the graduate destinations (outcomes) of 3,585 doctorate holders have been tracked since 2008.
Where to find the results and findings?

www.aqu.cat
Thanks very much for your attention.
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Guidelines for doctoral programme monitoring

- The monitoring progress report is the **main evidence** in the process of doctoral programme accreditation.
- The monitoring progress report should abide by and follow the **same standards, evidence and indicators** as the accreditation procedure itself.
- Indicators in the monitoring guidebook should be aligned with those given in **WINDDAT**.
- The focus is on **continuous improvement**, the monitoring of such improvements and enhancements, and submission of the report on time. In other words, integrating the process into the system’s improvement.

Whether or not a doctoral programme is functioning correctly should be detected in the monitoring process, not accreditation. If this is not the case, it means that monitoring has not been designed properly.
PERIODICITY:

- Given that monitoring is an **internal tool**:
  - Each university has to define how often this takes place, although AQU Catalunya will only request evidence of this once every **three years**.
  - This means that, in the **accreditation procedure**, use is made of the information from:
    - Validation
    - The monitoring progress report in the third year
    - The accreditation self-evaluation report in the sixth year (very similar to the monitoring progress report in the third year)
    - Evidence
  - The assessment reports for monitoring progress reports will be produced by AQU Catalunya until programmes are accredited (according to budgetary allocations).
Monitoring and accreditation reports

Monitoring progress report on the doctoral programme

- Presentation of the programme
- Drawing up the report
- Assessment/standards
  - 1. Quality of the programme
  - 2. Public information
  - 3. Teaching staff
  - 4. Learning support
  - 5. Internal QA system
  - 6. Outcomes
- Assessment and the improvement plan
- Evidence

Accreditation self-assessment report

- Presentation of the programme
- Drawing up of the report
- Assessment/standards
  - 1. Quality of the programme
  - 2. Public information
  - 3. Teaching staff
  - 4. Learning support
  - 5. Internal QA system
  - 6. Outcomes
- Assessment and the improvement plan
- Evidence